

CMG Board Teleconference

August 13, 2015

These Minutes are taken from an audio recording of the meeting.

In Attendance: Matthew Sunderland, Jim Ruboyianes, Joe Wagenhofer, Blaid Peisinger, Cat Walker, Tony Clark, Frank Hermann, Alan Weaver, Karim Christopher, Jamie Simmons, Norman Skonovd, Jeffery Rykhus, Clay Kilgore, Fabian Maes

Visitors: Traye Turner, 83rd CMG "Deputy" Representative

Absent: Charlie Malarkey, Mohabee Serrano, Dave Clark, Steve Ibarra, Drew Blanchar, Rick Steadman,

Matthew Sunderland brought the meeting to order, and determined that a quorum has been reached.

83rd CMG Report (Summer, 2015 Gathering) *Traye Turner*

Matthew introduces Traye, who is substituting for Board Representative Steve Ibarra, to provide info about the Summer Gathering. He says that the Planners are working on a number of aspects for the Gathering, with the most recent focus on the program booklet.

The registration numbers as of last Saturday, were (sound quality interference) 70. There is a new storage place for N. CA Gatherings. There is a need for the name on the new contract to be with the CMG, and not in a person's name. Matthew will note this, and will then present it to the Treasurer, Dave Clark. Insurance coverage info, for the contents of the storage locker, will also be provided at that time.

Jim asked what the target population number for the 83rd CMG was--Traye says it's been lowered to 170. Clay checks in, and says the latest attendance figures are 83. Jim asks Clay and Traye if there's anything the Board can do to help promote the Gathering. Traye will check with the Planners, and will contact the Board, if further help is needed. Jim also asked about the attendance at the pre-gathering pool party. Neither Clay nor Traye were in attendance, and they haven't yet spoken to the men in the Planning Committee who may have attended the party.

Joe says that at this time last year, the registration figures were 109 men, for the 2014 Summer Gathering. Another question was raised, in relation to the current registration: Alan asks if the Planners have a strategy for increasing the number of attendees. Clay says that we are budgeted for 170, and not 200 men, unlike last year. There is a minimum that the camp contract requires: 75 men. We have made that mark.

Traye says the Planners are working hard to outreach to men, for more attendees. Matthew says he got a "cold call" from Sam, on the Planning Committee, which was an outreach

effort by phone. Traye says the calling program was focused on men who didn't attend recently, but may want to plan for Labor Day activities. Matthew praised this effort in promoting the 83rd Gathering. Jim thinks that the phone promotion which has been made are quite important, and this is a good idea, to maintain connections with CMG men.

Joe pointed out that the Northern Gatherings' registration is slow normally, up until the two weeks prior to the Gathering. He added that the 2015 Summer Gathering is one week later in the month of September, which means that last year's figures, at this same date, would have been smaller, nearly matching the figure that Clay presented earlier. Joe thinks that the attendance figures are OK at this time.

Traye is thanked for presenting the report, and for answering the questions.

Registrar's Report (Clay Kilgore)

83 men are registered for the 83rd Gathering; a few have requested to pay later. Clay thinks that all is going well. An old web browser kept a few men from registering online, but these admissions were made by phone. Clay is still learning about the process, and is working hard.

Jim says the Naked Bowling event has a link to the Fall Gathering. Jim asks if there is a registration form for the Fall Gathering? Clay says the Fall Gathering registration is in operation, but no notifications have been made publicly. Jim wants to announce this on the website. Matthew says the announcement is a "soft opening," which began at SD Pride, but due to the inclement weather there, no men signed up at the booth. The official opening will be announced after the Summer Gathering.

Jim asks if the Fall Planners need help from the Board, for promotion. Matthew says that the Planners will be queried, and will contact Jim later.

Clay is thanked for his report.

Traye leaves the meeting, thanking the Board for the invite to attend the meeting.

Archivist Report (Cat Walker)

Cat is continuing on the Archives, adding local items to the physical archive storage. Cat is working on scanning documents and photos that were in the physical archive, and is continuing along slowly. Several Gathering-related documents and items are now in the Board's Google Drive, and more items are to be added, in the near future. Cat is thanked for his efforts.

Jeff Rykhus checks in.

Development Director's Report (Joe Wagenhofer)

Joe changed the Amazon Smile account, to reflect the new bank accounts. He says the last payment to the CMG will be delayed, due to the change-over. There is a passive giving plan, which is being set up, and a new active donation program will be set up, too. The focus of the annual giving program will be discussed at the September meeting. Joe wants the Board to determine if the annual drive shall be for Financial Assistance, or for a "general funds" contribution this time.

Clay says the donations for the Summer Gathering FA have been "trickling in." He says he'll work on making the donation requests more visible, at the registration pages for the Summer, and upcoming Gatherings.

Joe is thanked for his work as the Development Director.

Webmaster Report (*Jim Ruboyianes*)

Jim says there's a new "my profile" option on the website, which will help a member focus on what he might want from the CMG, through the website. A number of changes were made to the FAQ page, too.

Tony asked Jim about the transition in his position, with Fabian Maes. Jim says that he hasn't had time to make this transition. Tony is concerned about this, since the Members, at the 2015 AMM, voted to have a transition, with Jim training Fabian to become the Webmaster. Matthew says he's been talking with both Jim and Fabian about updating the website. The work on the transition is slow, but ongoing.

Clay is wondering about the switch-out on the photos for the website. Jim replied, saying Milo is apparently working on this. Clay compliments Jim for the website. Jim says that a photo collage is in progress. Clay offers to help Jim with this, but Jim declines. Jim is thanked for his report.

Tech Report and 84th CMG Report (*Tony Clark*)

Giant Rabbit: all accounts are now paid up, and will be paid in the future, with the CMG credit card. There is a new project, to provide a searchable database, for the skillset(s) of members. This will be for both skills that one can offer, and what one might be interested in, and this will be made on a searchable statewide database. Tony thinks this will aid the Board in finding men who have certain skills, such as technical or in outreach. It is estimated that GR will need 3-5 hours to make this occur.

Fall Gathering: A logo has been selected, for the theme, "True North." The 84th Gathering occurs Nov. 20-23, at Camp Stevens. Tony says the marketing for this Gathering will begin soon. Ernie Elliot is helping in promotions, which will include ads in mostly San Diego-based gay newspapers. Newcomer outreach will be done individually, at the camp. This will help newcomers feel welcome and included. Tony is thanked and praised for his reports.

Vice-President's Report (*Jamie Simmons*)

Insurance: The new CMG business address was updated with the insurance company.

Newcomers: Newcomer experience is most important to keep the organization strong. Fall Gathering will focus on the new men. Jamie is thanked for this report.

Spring Gathering 2015 (*Frank Hermann*)

Due to the lack of info from the 82nd CMG, Frank is not ready to make a report at this time. He'll provide a full report in September. Frank says that it's critical that we welcome newcomers when they arrive in the camp. He emphasized, "the moment they arrive is the best time." The 82nd Gathering tried this, but it wasn't as successful as was hoped. Many of the new men felt like it was a "reunion" for returning CMG men, and thus, they felt un-included. The 85th Gathering will continue this program, with some adjustments. Frank was thanked for his report.

LEC-Sacramento (*Norman Skonovd*)

Norman reported that the Raft Ride was fairly successful. Many men came from San Francisco, and a few came from Sacramento. A post-ride party was held, afterwards. Norman was thanked for his report.

2016 Spring Gathering Camp Search (*Matthew Sunderland*)

At the last meeting, a Camp Search Task Force was formed, to find a camp for Spring Gatherings. Ten possible camps were discovered in S. CA.. Two camps in the mountains were visited, but they had several downsides, including the lack of meeting spaces and the quality of the accommodations.

Pathfinder Ranch was selected, since it's available over Memorial Day, and it now has new facilities. There was a reasonable rate for renting the camp, perhaps better than Camp Shalom. There was a conversation with the food facilitator, and sample menus were offered. The pool heater is one possible problem--the CMG and the camp will share the cost of repairing the pool's heaters. Pathfinder's location is closer to the Inland Empire, which is a possible new market for the CMG to reach out to. The camp wants to host the Spring CMG, and is ready for us. Pathfinder has a low minimum, a low deposit, and charges "per person per night," which is different from Camp Shalom. Frank Hermann recommends: Don't add the "extras" such as canoeing, to the budget, or make the order for this option, until we have assessed whether anyone wants to participate in the optional activities. Matthew informed the Board that any optional activities are available to order a day or two in advance of the activity date, and the participants can pay the camp directly, so we can arrange this "on the fly," and not set aside a budget for camp-led activities.

Matthew thanks Tony and Mike for their visits to the camps. The Board will approve the camp for Spring Gatherings at the Board Meeting in September.

The Camp Selection Task Force will meet one last time, prior to the next Board Meeting. The date of this meeting will occur once Pathfinder Ranch has provided it's figures, and has answered the pool heater question, to the Task Force.

Next Board Meeting: Sept. 5, 2015, 12:30 PM, at Camp Newman.

Secretary's Note: this has been changed to 7:30 AM, and will take place in the Library at Camp Newman.

Meeting Adjourned 8:05 PM