

California Men's Gathering Board of Directors Meeting
Palm Springs, CA (Desert AIDS Project)

January 17, 2009

Meeting started at 5:10 PM

Attendees: Joe Wagenhoffer (President), Ben Andy Hein (Vice President), Lee Usher (Secretary), Dave Clark (Treasurer), Rich Farshler, Mohabee, Christopher Johnson, Michael Varnen, Uncle Drew, Andrew Miklusicak, Buzz Young, Michael Bell, David Iglesias, Jim Ruboyianes, Ed Wahl, Barry Schoenfeld, Jamie Simmons

Non-voting visitors:

Frank Rothacker, Robert Ames, Virsil Mitchell, Ed Monie

Check-ins

I. Approval of the minutes from Camp Newman Board Meeting, Aug.29, '08

Mohabee moved to approve minutes, seconded.

8y/0n/7a

II. Approval of phone conference minutes from Nov. 16, '08

Mohabee moved to approve minutes, seconded.

12y/0n/2a

III. Treasurer's Report – Dave Clark

Dave Presented 2008 report

Presented 2009 report to be modified

Dave moved to approve the 2009 budget with the adding of 1,000 for 2010 JBM and change pride festival budget to 1,500

13y/0n/2a

IV. Data Diva Report – Ben Andy Hein

Midweek online registration the server went down because the hosting company changed database and language platform.

Float Evaluation – spending less money this year

V. Director of Outreach report – Michael Bell

Michael passed out videos of CMG experience. Our outreach is going to be done at the EC level and when they go to the website, we need to know who they are and the ECs need to contact them. 85-90% of our membership is in the 40s, we need to push into the 30 something year olds. Facebook is an example of potential website presence. No one contacted the people that expressed interest in serving on the local committees. Problem with the Northern voice mail system, Christopher will talk with Jim.

CMG Political Activism – we can discuss at a later time.

VI. PLANNER COMMITTEE REPORTS

63rd San Diego – Michael Varnen

Michael reported that It was a great gathering, we returned over \$8,000. More people paid at the higher rate, fewer people requested scholarships and no significant budget overruns. Food was better.

64th Malibu – Buzz Young

Buzz reported that over 30 people on the committee and they will all pay \$150 to ensure that we come in on budget. Theme “Men for all Ages” lots of challenges and PC recommendations. Subcommittee meetings are producing fantastic programs.

65th Santa Rosa – Christopher Johnson

Christopher reported that the committee met total of three times. Have not decided on a theme and have renegotiated with the camp on the fee. If our individual attendee price needs to be around \$150 - \$200 we need to consider other campgrounds. We are exploring other potential weekends. We will now take over the pride booth. We have about eight core members and a number of people that will support us. We don't know if we are doing open space.

Budget – presented and Dave motioned to accept budget as presented with the opportunity for the board treasurer to rework it with the committee.

13y/0n/2a

66th San Diego – Michael Varnen

Michael reported that the committee has not met yet. Last year's committee wrote recommendations for going forward. A number of people stepped up from other areas to assist.

Dave requested that the budget be presented by our next board meeting in April.

VII. Events Committee

ECLA – Barry Schoenfeld

Barry reported that the EC served almost 1,900 men with a YES attitude. Surplus of money besides what was returned to the board and 26 events planned this year. We created our own Polo shirts and business cards.

ECSD – Michael Varnen

Michael reported that last Saturday they did a multi group bon fire with over 80 people. We have a number of ideas and the guys in SD want more social events. CMG goes to theatre, museum, potluck in the park. For publicity we have a contact at the Gay and Lesbian Center and Times.

ECDC – Jamie Simmons

Jamie reported that they are very energized here in the desert with 14 events planned. Our events build from the Heart Circle. Served 600 men in 2008.

ECSA – Rich Farshler representing Norman

Rich reported that three new members and that's added some life to the group. We have 20 events scheduled through October and have taken advice from other ECs and have incorporated a Hearts Circle.

ECBA – Drew Blanchar

Christopher – we are transition with the committee the elected board member dropped out and we are trying to revitalize with new people. We are also considering changing our name to EC Golden Gate or EC Barbary Coast. The bay area has many options for gay men, we are trying to work on more quality events. We are looking at Healing Circle versus Heart Circle. We have had successful events with Front Runners and a desire to get an YCMG-BA. The committee will continue to do the Pride Gates and with the PC taking on the booths we think we can generate enough support. EC Sac needs to cash a check from last year. Meeting every other month because there is a lot of cross-over.

YCMG – David Iglesias

David Congratulated ECLA and ECDC for their accomplishments. David reports that in 2007 YCMG had a thriving year and we brought core groups of people. We had a successful outreach effort and that helped us bring the 26 people to Malibu. The feedback was that the youth were glad that they participated. We had a difficult time putting together events in late 2008. My professional career limited my time to participate. We now have low number and gay youth are transitional. We find that we have to recreate the YCMG and had created a new committee later. Our 2009 events start next Saturday and I'm getting a lot of ideas from other events. We need young volunteers to attract young volunteers. I've heard the stories of the youth and there's a lot of work to be done. Budget needs to be emailed to Dave

VIII. Web Master/Communications updates – Jim Ruboyianes

Nothing to say.

IX. Director of Development Report – Andrew Miklusicak

Please read the survey results.

X. Arts Coordinator Report – Ed Wahl

Ed reports that he would like to sit down with Joe Wagenhofer to discuss goals. I would like to add more enrichment to the Gatherings. Marine museum event in Long Beach was quite successful. We had events going on with music, painting, technology and we have new guys that come every year. Contributions have involved things such as providing fireworks, auctions that brought in funds, coordinating talent shows. One of things I would like to offer is to do more events, specifically up North.

Saturday Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

XI. Archivist report – Mohabee

Mohabee reported three Roadshows were completed in 2008 celebrating the 30 year anniversary. Doing two this year because of conflicts – perhaps someone can cover summer. Some of molded archive t-shirts were not recovered.

XII. Secretarial guide – Mohabee

Mohabee will write up a secretarial guide. Will be for note takers and Board Secretary. Minutes are very important like other officer reports. Therefore I will be redoing the Secretarial guide with templates probably by the middle of the year.

XIII. Research & Survey – Barry S.

Jim and I have done a lot of surveys in the last six months. Survey Monkey is the software that is incredibly easy to use. SWAT surveys, web surveys and more. We need

this Marketing Director position because the surveys are uncoordinated and lack consistency about our mission. There is an art and science to research.

XIV. Co-Hosted EC Events – Christopher Johnson

Christopher asked Barry S. - The LA event with Jason Stewart seemed similar with events with Joe Westin. LA policy is if anyone wants to invite CMG people to an event and give them discounts, we would allow it. Christopher says that was not his understanding of the policy.

Joe read the policy that stated that these events must be brought to the Board for approval. The EC planners manual is updated manually however, Barry stated that he's never seen them. Barry requested that Mohabee send this manual to Jim to be posted on the web site.

Virsil passed around an example of an event that the YCMG is attending "The Sermons of John Bradley". The event was approved. In the case that we were not at the JBM the process would be to email the board and the board has three days to respond and if there are no objections than you can proceed with your event.

XV. Board Meetings

We will wait until after the JBM discussion item.

XVI. Direction of Board Meetings – Michael Bell

Michael reports that we come in and reports are laid on the table and time is limited for discussion, future thinking, etc. We have become so regimented that we are not allowing ourselves creative time in Board meetings. Christopher says that we don't need to hear reports from each of the ECs every time. Joe will be reviewing our meeting process and changing the format a little to allow for more creative thinking time. We need to consider webinars and wikis and the website can be utilized to facilitate more of our business.

XVII. Float – Michael Bell

Michael reported that Ben Andy has done an excellent job with the float for two years. Five thousand dollars is a lot of money and we need to more understand the value of this. I think that we need to have a booth at every gay pride festival throughout the state. I'm not saying let's ditch the float but let's spend money on one to one situations. High heels, floating scarfs and Precilla of the desert is in contrast with "Men mentoring men to be men". Andrew suggest that Ben Andy ask the event committee if they are committed to take more of an active role in having the float in their area. Christopher add PC will now support the booth so that the EC can support the gates and float this year. The next pride event does not take place until May.

Joe suggests that we table this item until the next board meeting.

Mohabee motions that we adjourn the board meeting, seconded.

Sunday board meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.