

## **California Men's Gathering Board of Directors Meeting Teleconference Sunday, April 5, 2009**

Meeting started at 6:00 PM

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

Absent: Mohabee, Uncle Drew, David Iglesias

1. Roll call commenced.

2. Approval of the January Board Meeting Minutes.

**Lee motioned to approve, Ed seconded, minutes unanimously approved**

3. Reminder to all committees on the proper way to submit their minutes.

How to keep track of which committees are sending in their minutes, and which ones we are missing (Lee).

Mohabee receives committee minutes received, Joe will send email asking Mohabee to communicate the process. Planning and Events committees please continue to submit to BOD.

4. Treasurer Report (Dave)

Dave Clark's attachment included 1 pager showing Board expenses YTD. The final approved budget was \$22,000, we've only spent 13% YTD. Cash accounts are running at around \$100,000, no big additions or drainage is occurring so far. I will be asking the committee treasurers to submit quarterly updates. Barry moved to accept, Lee seconded,

**Motion unanimously approved.**

5. Job Description Update \*. (Joe)

Job descriptions have been received and will be returned to the current positions for revisions.

6. Gathering Registration Process Update \* (Ben~Andy, Lee, Barry)

Ben-Andy, this will fall to Barry. There was a short window and limited cooks to limit chaos.

Barry said that the Spring Committee used Activa for registration, this was a learning curve, live on 4/1 with a couple of hiccups and we have registered over 60 men in a matter of days. The new process has been excellent so far. The expense of using Activa on average is about \$10 additional cost per registrant. There is a credit card processing fee. For the CMG Activa doesn't cost anything the majority of the cost is being passed onto the registrants. There is a 2.5 or 3.5% fee. Limited time registration for check payers (four business days). It would be interested to find out how effective this new system will be. The rate of booking is similar so far.

7. Logo Registration/Trademark Update \* (Barry)

Initial conversations with David, a lawyer but not much else to report.

8. Vision Statement revision Update \* (Barry)

Barry has drafted a process for looking at and possibly revising the process. He is planning on having it

done in June. There will be a presentation at the JBM as well.

#### 9. Web Update \* (Barry, Jim, Lee)

Barry stated that the web team has had two or three productive meetings. The E-Notifys are now being posted on the web. Jim's load has been decreased. Since Barry has taken on this responsibility, the web posting can take five minutes. Virsil wants to know how the process should work and should contact Barry. Online presence – The Facebook page will probably launch on Monday (4/6/09) night.

10. Visibility Update: It is strongly suggested that the CMG EC and PCs are encouraged to annually select a cause or issue to do fundraising and to create brand recognition. \* (Joe)  
PCLA – Barry- we had discussed this concerning several causes and it was shut down.

Buzz – Lifeworks mentoring and several other organizations have been contacted.

Virsil – Would like to get back to this and it ties in to the six month planning concept. We hosted a meeting with all of the gay youth groups for questions and possible capacity building.

11. Establish a regular communication schedule between each of the local event committee BOD representatives to share ideas on how to "spread the word" of who and what we are. \* (Michael B, Barry)

Michael said that a couple of times a year, we think that the EC BOD reps should have a conversation about what we could do to get the word CMG word out in your own communities. Barry – add first EC congress as a workshop at the Malibu Gathering. Dave recommends that someone from the different ECs, if not the representative, someone else from the committee should be present. Barry suggests that this be open to future EC participants.

12. Discuss the new eNotify system and schedule a training session for EC's. (Barry)

Barry said that the new E-Notify system is through Constant Contact, they are absolutely uniform but not where we need to be design wise. We have an automatic sign up system for our database, addition and removal of users is automatic and various links are inside the emails. So far the process is working well but the design is still evolving. Training sessions need to be held with the EC members and my goal is to decentralize this step so that one person from each EC is trained and can submit their own events. Barry is hoping to start this training at the EC Congress. Christopher, we have had problems getting events posted and what is the process for submitting posts for the website. Jim replies that the events are listed by geography and by calendar order so that someone can look down the list to see when an event is occurring. Barry is accepting the blame for not posting in a timely manner but will address that from this point forward.

13. CMG Float Update (Michael B and Ben~Andy)

Michael said that he has become convinced over the course over the last few years that if you staff the booths in your areas with the right kind of people, this can be an effective contact with potential participants. We should do the booths and more one-to-one support. The float budget can be moved over to manning the booths. It will be up to the Event Committees to make this happen.

In the bay area the booth has been shifted to the Planning Committee while the EC will man the gates of SF Pride (\$2600). In LA we have made an investment in a better tent. Please let Dave know what kind of money that you will need for the booths.

14. Confirm BOD meeting schedule for 2009

Board Meetings will be held at Malibu, Santa Rosa and San Diego

There will be an optional phone meeting scheduled for sometime near the end of the year.

15. Location of 2010 JBM: Sacramento

16. Proposal: The location of the JBM to rotate between Northern California, (even years), and Southern California, (odd years). The Events Committees in the respective areas will select the general location of the meeting. The location of the city or town of the next JBM will be announced by the close of the current JBM. (Joe)

**Unanimously accepted.**

17. Board Officer Liaison Program (Joe)

Each Board Officer will work with some EC/PC as a direct liaison.

18. Discuss a policy to allow committees, other than event committees and planning committees, to spend money with approval of the Treasurer and board liaison or board officers. (Dave)

**Joe moved to Malibu Meeting.**

19. Discuss the sending out an e-notify, with approval of the Board, with a list of the out-sourceable jobs to seek more help from other CMG men for the PCSD. (Michael V.)

Michael Varnen – the Planning Committee currently consists of two people and one possible interested. We are going to circulate a document of tasks for editing to people who have had considerable experience and will possibly need to send out an E-Notify asking for other Planning Committee experienced people to help us. A number of the men that were on the committee in previous years have decided to not be on the committee this year. Joe suggests that we talk about this at the Malibu meeting.

**Joe moved to Malibu Meeting.**

20. Discuss the establishment of the Mentor Men committee of CMG. (Buzz)

Joe asked Buzz if they can discuss this at a different time. Buzz is very excited about what's going on and states that Mentor Men and Matthew Sunderland are doing a great job to be reported in Malibu.

21. Discuss the proposal that the YCMG outreach program be eliminated in its present form and replaced with a more generalized outreach to the 25 thru 39 year old group of men that will bring men directly into the CMG directed by our Director of Outreach. (Michael B)

Michael states that the YCMG was a great idea and that he has learned a lot over the last few years. He believes that this needs to come to an end because the efforts are not producing the results that we expect. After discussions with Virsil and Stephen Jimenez, that these guys feel that their outreach needs to reach to our inner generational selves. They can do this in LA and the other regions. Michael thanks David for what he has done.

Virsil says that he understand what it's like to mentor young men and without men stepping up to mentor these men. There are organizations that specifically target younger groups. The work being done with Buzz and Matthew is very important and must continue. Buzz stated that there will be activities for younger people included in the new outreach programs. Barry seconded

**Motion approved: 10y,3n,0a**

22. Discussion about the possibility of a one day CMG Board Retreat (Barry)

Michael Bell seconded. Barry will follow-up in terms of a date in July.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

23. Update about women at CMG Events (Joe)

**Joe moved to Malibu Meeting.**

24. Proposal: No man with a restraining order against him by another CMG'er can serve in CMG leadership on any level. (Ben~Andy)

Barry – In summary, Brian Best has a restraining order against him. When Brian joined the PC we did not know this would be a problem. Since both men wanted to attend the Gathering we would not take sides and they would have to provide a court order saying that they could attend. When Brian received this information at the PC he violently accused me of several things that weren't true and threatened me. The PC sent Brian a letter that his behavior was not acceptable and he is not welcomed to attend the CMG or future PC meetings. He used someone else's email account as well. Lee seconded,

**Motioned approved: 12y, 1n, 0a**

25. Proposal: No man with a restraining order against him by another CMG'er may attend any CMG activity. (Ben~Andy). Michael Bell seconded.

**Motion approved: 12y, 0n, 1a**

26. Discussion of Brian Best and the PCLA, ECLA and attendance at other gatherings and events. (Dave, Ben~Andy, Buzz)

27. Check outs.

\* Items from the JBM requiring follow-up throughout the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm