

CMG Board Meeting

Teleconference

Nov. 11, 2014

In Attendance: Matthew Sunderland, Dave Clark, Jamie Simmons, Mohabee Serrano, Jim Ruboyianes*, Tony Clark, Cat Walker, Fabian, Frank Hermann, Joe Wagenhofer, Ben-Andy Hein, Drew Blanchar, Al-Binky Hoch, Charlie Malarkey, Blaidd Peisinger, Alan Weaver

**Non-voting Board Member.*

Visitor: Milo Shapiro

In attendance, but with tech difficulties (mike not working, but hearing OK): Mohabee Serrano. In addition, it was noted that Blaidd Peisinger could not be heard, as well.

Note: due to technical difficulties, Matthew was unable to begin the meeting, due to a microphone malfunction. The meeting began about 15 minutes late, at 8:15 PM, when Matthew fixed his problem. The Secretary, unable to speak to the Board, due to a technical difficulty, was able to hear the entire meeting nonetheless.

Upon the President's arrival, Dave Clark, who was absent at the August Board Meeting, at Camp Newman, asked about how the Board decided to hold the November Teleconference, since the Minutes of the previous meeting indicated that the next meeting occurs in Julian. Matthew replied, saying that the Board chose to hold a meeting prior to the 81st Gathering, and a short meeting during the Gathering. The date was selected through a polling process, and was announced in early October, 2014. The short meeting, to be held during the 81st CMG, will last only 45 minutes, during breakfast, so that members of the Board can attend Gathering functions.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the August 29, 2014 Board Meeting (Camp Newman). A tally was taken, and all Board Members with

voting privileges, voted in favor of this motion.

Ben-Andy requested that everyone's phone or online connection be placed on "mute," since there was an unexplained background noise. Due to the delays that were attributed to technical problems, the President decided to forego his report to the Board.

Vice-President's Report (Jamie Simmons)

Jamie says he sent out word to LECs and PCs, regarding inviting eligible members to the coming AMM. He's reaching out to LEC-BA, and the 83rd PC. He needs names and email addresses of potential new Voting Members, for the coming 2015 Annual Member's Meeting. Charlie asked when the request was sent out. Jamie sent the requests both earlier today, and a week ago. Charlie also asked about who the requests will cover. Jamie indicated that he's focusing on just Planners and LEC Members at this time. Milo interjected, saying that the PC in San Diego recognised several volunteers who were not committee members, but will be eligible for Voting Membership. Jaime stated that volunteers who have served 25 hours or more, in the past 3 years will be eligible.

Drew asked about the time for an announcement for the coming AMM. Matthew says it will be sent out soon, after the possible Voting Members are identified, and he will contact Drew once the announcement is ready.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Clark)

Dave says he sent out his financial report and proposed budget for 2015, in two separate emails, both earlier this week, and earlier today. The reports included the actuals, and the total corporate spending records, for 2014. Dave predicts that at the end of the year, the CMG expenses will be slightly over budget, at \$16,000, due to an insurance bill, which may be higher than expected, and other unforeseen price hikes.

There is good news: we didn't spend money in several categories, which led to a savings, and this balanced out what was over-spent on the urgent Civi CRM support, conducted by Giant Rabbit.

Jim R. reminded the Treasurer that the Giant Rabbit people suggested that we spend more on Civi CRM programming and system maintenance,

which needs to be updated regularly, through the year. Dave says he covered this, in the budget for the coming year.

Dave referred to another document, which shows the actual cash on hand, also known as the “reserve.” Dave says we have just over \$98,000 in our bank accounts to this date, and around \$10,000 will be spent, for the 81st CMG camp rental. Dave indicated that we're on track with our outflow at this time.

Budget for 2015: Dave says this is reviewed by the Board, along with any amendments, at the Board Meeting prior to the AMM, and will be considered by the Members of the CMG at the 2015 AMM, for discussion and approval.

Dave says this budget will cover the CMG's expenditures for the coming year. It's a bare minimum budget, to keep the operations alive and well, and is less than the 2014 budget. \$2,000 is allotted to CIVI CRM maintenance, provided by Giant Rabbit. There is travel reimbursement money, for Board Members planning to travel to the AMM, or to Board Meetings held at Gatherings. \$125 per meeting is the cap on Board travel for next year.

At the end of Dave's discussion, he told the Board that the budget for 2015 could be amended, prior to its presentation at the 2015 AMM.

Al-Binky asked about accommodations at the meeting; Matthew indicated that there will be shared rooms for 18 attendees at the meeting house, plus additional spaces with CMG men, who offer couches and spare bedrooms, in Palm Springs. It is hoped that no one will need to reserve a hotel room, since January is at the height of the winter tourist season, in Palm Springs.

The 2015 Budget; to be presented at the coming AMM, was approved by the Board, unanimously. Matthew encouraged the Board to email Dave if there are any changes or additions to this budget.

Tech Report (Tony Clark)

A glitch occurred recently, with our registration system. Giant Rabbit (“GR”) is and has been working on keeping the CMG's Civi CRM system healthy. Several “hicups” occurred over the last few months, and we are now

secure and working smoothly. The cost of this maintenance has been reasonable, according to Tony. We'll continue to use GR for system maintenance, security, and updates to the system software.

80th CMG Finances (Dave Clark)

Dave is concerned about the accounting for the 80th CMG (Summer, 2014 Gathering), which he reported to the Board. Dave said he contacted Clay Kilborn, the treasurer for that Gathering, who agrees with Dave's findings. To this date, there was no money transferred to the Corporate Bank account, though there still is time for this to occur. Dave says that he wasn't at this Gathering, but he's aware of an attendance shortfall, and instances of "over zealous" spending that may have occurred. The 80th CMG budget was based on the 2013 Summer Gathering, which itself fell short of expected returns.

Dave sent Steve Ibarra (80th CMG Board Rep.) and Clay his findings, and he'll work with them, to resolve this matter.

Charlie Malarkey indicated to the Board, that he'll attend the first Planning meeting for the 83rd CMG (Summer, 2015), which occurs later in November. He says both Steve and Clay plan to attend this meeting, but isn't certain whether they will serve in the same capacities (Board Rep., and Treasurer, respectively), for the 83rd Gathering..

Jamie noted that some money was donated to FA, for attendance by DC attendees, but this wasn't accounted for. There were three scholarships, at \$125 each, which Dave indicated will help offset the losses for the Summer Gathering.

81st CMG (Tony Clark)

Tony, substituting for Ernie Elliot, says there's a bit of nervousness, perhaps typical at this time, but he's experienced some good vibes with the Planning Committee. Tony is the workshop coordinator, and says that more workshops are needed, for the Fall Gathering.

Dave asked about the attendance figures. Ben-Andy says the number of men who have registered, up to today, is around 50. That's a bit low for

attendance around this time, nine days prior to the Gathering date. 90 is the camp minimum, and we're coming up on the deadline. Discussion continued, for possible promotion of this Gathering. Tony requested that a FB ad be paid for, but he was told other advertising was in progress. Jim said that the Gathering will be advertised this week, via the print media. A 1/2 page ad will be published in *Rage*, which has local editions in San Diego, Orange County, Long Beach, and Palm Springs.

82nd CMG (Frank H)

Frank says the planners are working well together, during the four monthly meetings so far. A budget may be forthcoming at the coming short meeting, for the Board to consider. There are some difficult issues, which the board will be largely responsible for. The budget is much like the past Spring, 2014 Gathering, which Frank described as "bare bones."

Milo inquired about the location for the 83rd CMG. Frank says that Camp Shalom had several other groups that want to use the camp over Memorial Day weekend. If the CMG leaves Camp Shalom, we give it up for good. So we're planning to sign a contract with Shalom, since there really are no other camps which can realistically accommodate the CMG.

Frank says we're committed to Camp Shalom, and Dave says we were able to negotiate the same contract as last year. No contract has been signed yet, and Dave plans to pursue the contract for signature this coming week. Frank says it's a "bare bones" budget, with few frills, and a flat fee will be repeated this coming year.

Jim asked if the prices will be the same, and will a flat fee be offered? Frank said that the flat fee will be offered. The Planners will work with Dave Clark, to determine the actual price for 2015.

Regarding the early discount of 2014, it won't be offered in 2015. According to Frank, the people who took advantage of the discount were (all but one or two) men who would have attended anyhow, at a higher rate. There was a loss of about \$1800, in discounts that were granted to early registrants, Frank said.

Frank ended the discussion with a comparison to previous Gatherings: the flat fee offered in 2014 was actually about \$10 greater than the lowest of the sliding-scale fees offered in 2013. The difference was that the 2014 Spring Planners cut way back on their budget, eliminating decorations and frills, thus allowing the flat fee of 2014 to be that low.

Registration-General (Ben-Andy Hein)

Ben-Andy (“B-A”) is working steadily to transfer the registration functions to Clay Kilgore. Clay has already taken on the registrations for the Fall, 2014 CMG, and it's expected that he will continue to serve as Registrar, for the coming Gatherings in 2015 and later. B-A says he'll help Clay with the complex matters, and will receive the payments as they come in. B-A expects that Clay will be selected to take over as Registrar, at the 2015 AMM.

When asked what he'll be doing after stepping down from the Registrar's position, B-A says he'll devote time to watching porno and masturbating! (*Secretary's note: B-A requested that this be included in the Minutes.*) On the serious side, B-A will continue to serve both the LEC-LA and the Spring Gathering PCs. This will reduce his workload with the CMG. from 95% to around 87.5%, according to B-A.

Development Director (Joe Wagenhofer)

Amazon Smile is set up, as is the car donation program.

Letter to be sent out for the annual donation appeal: Joe says he sent out a mock document, which can be read and approved. Dave moves to approve the letter and webpage; Frank H. seconds. Frank suggests adding the IRS number to the documents that will be sent out. Joe says he can add this to the appeal matters. Dave says there is standard language that can be used, and he'll share this information with Joe.

Tony, Cat, Fabian, Frank, Joe, Jamie, B-A, Dave, Drew, Alan, Charlie, Al-Binky, all yes.

Clay, Jim, and BA are thanked for thier help in the annual appeal documents. Thank you notes are needed, for donors who contribute. Dave is

enthusiastic about doing this.

Jim asks about Amazon Smile. Joe says it will take six months after the first donation. Joe also added that a car donation made by Mohabee, is in the works for receiving funds.

Notifications Proposal, for Gatherings (Milo Shapiro)

There is no one to sign off on notices for Gatherings, according to Milo.

Milo will send out a proposal, regarding the policy regarding notifications for Gatherings, which was sent out to the Board. Milo read the entire proposal.

Charley asked if there was consideration of overlap, so that the announcement made by Planners of the forthcoming seasonal Gathering won't be downstaged by an announcement by a Gathering that occurs later in the year. Ernie indicated that the Fall 2014 Planners considered this, when they announced the 81st CMG, right after the end of the 80th CMG. Drew Blanchar, CMG Communications Director, says he wrote up, and distributed announcement guidelines for this year's Gatherings. Milo says his consideration was that there was no "sign off" standards, when he was requested to place an announcement for a previous Gathering.

This will be tabled to the AMM, pending further editing. Jim thinks a definitive policy will help assure branding and consistency in our promotions over the www. Tony moves that this policy be approved, Milo seconds vote: Blythe, Tony, Cat, Fabian, Frank, Drew, Joe, Jamie, BA, Dave, Alan, Al-Binky, Charlie, Ernie, all vote yes. Unanimous (13 Votes Yes).

Elders Autonomy (Jim Ruboyianes)

Elders came together after the 80th CMG, and decided to become autonomous for the first time, and the Elders also conducted the closing for that Gathering. Matthew said that Jim had some ideas, and also the Elder Council. The Elders want a presence at the beginning of Gatherings, perhaps a ritual, with the men present, either at a Community Gathering, or

just the first-timers. Joe thanks Jim for this report. Al-Binky says there are seven in the Elders circle. Al-Binky would like a method of knowing who is severely ill. He also didn't know that Randy Harrison died last week. We now have six on the Elder's Circle. Communication with Al-Binky about deaths of Members.

Matthew also reiterated about Randy's death. He and Jamie drove out to see Randy, before he died last week. Randy was an original member of the Elder's Circle. Matthew said that he left word about Randy's death with the Jim, and on Facebook, but wasn't aware that there is no process to inform Al-Binky of these matters. This matter will be considered for future conversation and possible process-making.

2015 Annual Member's Meeting

Notification about the 2015 AMM will be sent out after the coming Gathering. Vincent Cursaro will lead a visioning session. LEC-DC is looking forward to hosting this event.

Technical Difficulties

There were some tech difficulties noted, for those who attended this teleconference. There are Board Members present at this meeting, who can't use their microphones. to speak during the meeting. This tech problem will be looked into, by members of the Tech Committee. A reminder was made, for Board Members to provide feedback about future Teleconferences.

Next CMG Board Meeting

A short meeting will be held Sunday, Nov. 23, at 8:00-9:00 AM, during breakfast, during the 81st CMG. Ernie says this was updated to last 45-minutes, but the full hour is possible. Matthew says this meeting will be a short face-to-face kind.

Elders in the Spring Gathering

Frank requested that the Elders contact him, so that an arrangement with the Elders can be made, to lead the Opening Ceremony for the 82nd CMG (Spring, 2015). The goal is to hold this meeting for 45 minutes, to meet on a

non-business level.

Bay Area Community Forum

Matthew is thanked, by Charley for leading this meeting. Matthew responded, saying that he and Jamie met with the Bay Area men, for a Community Forum, in San Francisco, and was pleased that this event, planned by LEC-BA, was well-planned.

Logo Contest

Milo says there is interest in the contest. Four submissions have been received.

Adjourned: 9:00 PM