

California Men's Gatherings

Annual Business Meeting News

Mike Fahy, CMG President

On January 14th and 15th, 2012, the California Men's Gatherings held our Annual Business Meeting (ABM). We met in San Francisco. We had another great CMG visioning and decision-making meeting. We worked in formal session from 10AM to 9PM on Saturday and 10AM to 4PM on Sunday.

Our Voting Members make the decisions at the ABM. In general, the Voting Members of the CMG are those men who have done a recent year of volunteer work for the CMG on:

- 1) the Planning Committee of one of our three Statewide Gatherings, or
- 2) as a volunteer attending Local Events Committee meetings in one of five areas of the state, or
- 3) as a volunteer director on the Board of Directors.

Twenty-six Voting Members from across the state took part, along with four CMG non-voting members.

At the ABM each year, we consider issues of concern to the Membership, do Member visioning, amend the by-laws, and elect officers of the statewide CMG.

The board of directors also meets during the weekend and decides on issues. The CMG board consists of the four executive officers, the eight Gathering and Event committee reps, and six appointed directors with specialized statewide service functions.

Here is a summary of some of the 2012 ABM decisions and topics:

CMG Officers Elected:

- Mike Fahy, president
- Steve Ibarra, vice-president
- Mohabee Serrano, secretary
- Eduardo Perez, treasurer

Retiring Board Members - They have our deep gratitude for CMG service:

- Ben-Andy Hein, from vice-president (but reappointed as registrar)
- Dave Clark, from director of development

Initiatives Adopted:

Integral CMG Vision and Mission

-We committed to a statewide year-long study project to create a new integral CMG vision of supporting the integral growth of men in community. We will integrate our CMG cultural heritage and human development heritage, with our new developmental potentials as CMG men of today.

We will study Integral Theory and Spiral Dynamics and their implications for the CMG at workshops at all the Gatherings and at Local Events in 2012. We will re-write the Mission Statement and Motto to communicate our new integral vision. Our first-year results will be reported at the ABM in January 2013.

New Outreach

-We adopted a new project of outreach to new men in new groups to bring diversity and new blood into the CMG. This project is led by our new director of outreach, Gregg Casson, and supported by our new vice-president, Steve Ibarra. Both men were part of the great outreach done for the 2011 Santa Rosa Gathering that led to over 200 men, including over 70 new men, having a transformative CMG experience.

Gregg will have a team of regional CMG outreach representatives and CMG regional youth outreach representatives. We cancelled one of the 2012 quarterly board meetings and allocated most of the cost savings to outreach expenses.

Revised By-Laws effective January 15, 2012 (led by Dave Clark, to be posted in February)

-CMG Membership Changes

The title of "Members" qualified to vote at the ABM (please see above) was changed to "Voting Members" and a new class of membership was created called "members" composed of all men signed up to receive CMG E-notifies. We hope this change avoids some past confusion about who we call a "member." Now, if you're getting email notices, you're a member, and if you qualify to vote, you're a Voting Member at the ABM.

-CMG Local Events Committee Elections

Annual election of all Local Events Committee leadership positions was established, including chairs, treasurers, or similar roles, to take place the first quarter starting in 2012.

-Election by Individual Office of Executive Officers

The annual election of men to each of the four executive offices by title, instead of as a panel, was made permanent. A man may serve on the executive committee in any office no more than three consecutive years.

Discussed:

-Ed Wahl brought the question: How does the CMG define success? The strong consensus was that we care a great deal about the quality of our events and we are aware that reaching for quantity has, at times, caused a drop in quality. We also emphasized our commitment to personal growth in the safe space of community, such as occurs in Community Gatherings, in a Ropes Course, through volunteering, and through the love of brotherhood. We want to be mindful of this.

-Steve Ibarra brought the question: How will we do better outreach to new men? We had a strong consensus on the goal of reaching new men belonging to new groups - men of color, of all generations, with HIV, and others. This has been a longtime CMG goal, championed by Michael Bell three years ago. We now have new leaders and resources.

Policies Approved:

-Out of concern for maintaining CMG standards, three communications policies were confirmed by the board of directors. When Barry Schoenfeld was communications director two years ago, he obtained board approval for quality policies that required

- 1) approval by the communications director of all E-notify messages before release,
- 2) use of a statewide template and format for all CMG enotifies, and
- 3) control and prior approval by the communications director of all CMG surveys sent out.

The board reviewed and confirmed all of these policies.

2012 Budget

To fund our vision for the year, Treasurer Ed Perez recommended a reduction in the allowances for board member travel to board meetings of approximately 50%. This, along with foregoing the Fall Gathering board meeting, balanced the budget and allowed us to provide funds for outreach programs. The board approved.

The corporate budget also provides liability insurance for all CMG committee members doing CMG work.

Full ABM 2012 and Board Meeting Minutes

These will be posted at thecmg.org in February, along with the new By-Laws and the 2012 corporate budget.

Next year, the ABM will be held in San Diego, again on MLK weekend. I encourage CMG members to get involved and help create the future of the CMG. When you are ready, step forward and volunteer.

CMG Hugs,
Mike Fahy

CMG Board of Directors

Mike Fahy, president

Steve Ibarra, vice-president

Mohabee Serrano, secretary and archivist

Ed Perez, treasurer

Robert Burnham, Spring Gathering Planning Committee Representative

Chris Magnani, Summer Gathering Planning Committee Representative

Phil Darby, Fall Gathering Planning Committee Representative

Norman Skonovd, Sacramento Local Events Committee Representative

David Senk, Bay Area Local Events Committee Representative

Thomas Nicholson, Los Angeles Local Events Committee Representative

Jamie Simmons, Desert Cities Local Events Committee Representative

Milo Shapiro, San Diego Local Events Committee Representative

Jim Ruboyianes, webmaster

James Badberg, communications director

Ben-Andy Hein, registrar

Ed Wahl, arts coordinator

Lee Usher, technical advisor

Gregg Casson, outreach director