

**California Men's Gatherings  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Nov. 26, 2010  
Pathfinder Ranch, Art Room**

**In Attendance**

14 Board Members:

Joe Wagenhofer (President), Mohabee Serrano (Secretary/Archivist), Ben-Andy Hein (VP), Dave Clark (Treasurer), Jim Ruboyianes (Webmaster), Jamie Simmons (LEC-DC), Zac Zoah (substitute, LEC-BA), Steve Fiechter (LEC-LA), Al-Binky Hoch (substitute, LEC-Sac), Milo Shapiro (LEC-SD), Robert Burnham (70<sup>th</sup> CMG), Steve Anderson (71<sup>st</sup> CMG), Phillip Bowden (69<sup>th</sup> CMG), Ed Wahl (Arts Coordinator),

4 Absent Members:

James Badberg (Communications Director), Christopher Johnson (Development Director), Lee Usher (Technical Coordinator), Drew Blanchar (LEC-BA) , Richard Farshler(LEC-Sac)

5 Visitors:

Drew Searing, Mike Fahy, Andy Bussey, Virsil Mitchell, Mike Fahy

**Meeting Called to Order: 1:20 PM**

Joe opened the meeting, and asked each participant to share what he's thankful for.

**Summary of Policies Enacted or Changed**

No ByLaws were considered; all policies which were considered at this meeting are CMG Operating Procedures.

***CMG Operating Procedures:***

- Posting of CMG Board Minutes to Website--passed by consensus
- Program Book Attendee Photos (requirement for all PCs)-- passed by consensus.
- Women And The CMG--report approved by consensus.

***Closure of 2010 CMG Programs and Committees***

These items reflect programs begun or continued, at the 2010 JBM, which were concluded, by Board consensus:

- Green Committee
- CMG Resource Library
- CMG Retirement Community
- 5 Bold Steps
- Website Revision Committee

***OLD BUSINESS***

**Secretary's Report (Mohabee)**

***Meeting Minutes***, Sept. 5, 2010 (Joe)

Mohabee moves, Steve seconds--unanimous approval

***Posting of Meeting Minutes on the CMG Website*** (Mohabee) *Passed by Consensus.*

Mohabee indicated that the CMG Board Minutes could be made available via the CMG website, for the convenience of the public. He thinks that posting Board Minutes of the past two years,

would likely provide the timeliest proceedings of the Board. Joe indicated that he likes this idea, and supports its implementation. Concerns about security were addressed, including blocking out names in “sensitive” matters, and also not posting the minutes of special meetings which are held in a “closed session.” Jim Ruboyanes, CMG Webmaster, and Mohabee will work on the details of posting the 2010 minutes on the CMG website. The minutes will be available in a PDF format.

### **Treasurer’s Report (Dave Clark)**

#### ***Budget and Financial Report (Document 1)***

Dave Clark presented the current financial status of the CMG. As of Nov. 25, 2010, the 2010 CMG Expenditures was discussed. \$20,213 has been spent out of \$25,811 budgeted in January. D& O Insurance was paid for (\$1500). Ben-Andy says we’re now covered for frivolous lawsuits; Travel expenses for Board Members are in good shape, despite more requests than usual for Board Member Gathering registration comps. I-Contact is costlier than what was budgeted--we were charged for unforeseen usage (\$792.00 over the \$1500 in the budget for this service). Communications Director, James Badberg, is working to find a less expensive service for the CMG announcements, in 2011.

#### ***Preliminary Budget for 2011 (Document 2)***

Dave Clark’s preliminary budget for 2011 is based on several factors, described below. Dave will present the finalized budget to the Members at the 2011 Annual Business Meeting.

Based on the higher price of the Nature Friends Camp, Dave increased the budget for the 2011 Annual Business Meeting, from \$500, which was already approved by the CMG Board in the 2010 Budget, to \$3,500, with \$500 in 2010 and \$3,000 in 2011. The consensus was that we could not afford \$3,500 for the 2011 Annual Meeting, and that a total budget of \$2,000 would be more in line. Dave agreed to lower the Annual Meeting cost in the 2011 Preliminary Budget to \$1,500. Along with the \$500 budgeted in 2010, this will be a total of \$2,000 for the 2011 ABM. There is uncertainty about the costs of I-Contact, so \$2500 is allotted for this service in 2011. The total preliminary Board Budget is \$25,725.

Dave indicated that he prepared the 2011 budget with caution. Referring to the second page of Document 1, Dave demonstrated that the budget for 2011 is based on dwindling profits, which the CMG has endured since 2008. Dave is in favor of increasing the fee to Planners from 10% to 15%, to help stem the profit drop. Dave noted that the 68<sup>th</sup> CMG (Summer, 2010) profit was lower, due to lower prices and a change of the sliding scale rates. There is a distinct “drop” of profit from 2008 to 2009, and the three-year average profit of the three years is less than 2008 alone.

#### **AIDS Walk(s) Update (Joe):**

2010 closed with all five areas of the state which have CMG LEC presence participating. Despite Jim Hoffman’s cancellation of making a movie about the CMG and the 2010 AIDS Walks, and poor centralized planning after the cancellation, the CMG had presence in the areas it serves, and attracted hundreds of men in total. The schedule and possible plans for future CMG Aids Walk participation will be discussed at the 2011 ABM.

#### **2011 ABM Update. (Ben~Andy):**

***Proposal: Increase the budget for the 2011 ABM to \$3,000. Unanimous consent.***

***Proposal: Revise the total budget for the 2011 ABM to \$2,000 - \$500 in the 2010 Board Budget, and \$1,500 in the 2011 Board Budget. Unanimous consensus.***

Nature Friends, in Sierra Madre, is the planned location for the 17<sup>th</sup> CMG Annual Business Meeting. There is a “no inclusive” price--\$17/per day plus \$25 per night/per person; there is also a daily kitchen use fee and other expenses, which can be costly when totaled up. Ben-Andy thinks there may be options, such as in-town meetings.

Joe proposes that we limit the budget for the meeting. Dave moves that the budget for this meeting be lowered, to \$2,000--Mohabee seconds. Ben-Andy will work with Barry Schoenfeld, who is directing the planning of this meeting. The Board heard comments, most of which agreed with keeping to a smaller budget. Plummer Park, in West Hollywood, is a possible alternative location. Barry and the LEC-LA will make a decision by next Tuesday, November 30, 2010, and will announce any changes to the ABM plans, via the Executive Committee.

**D&O Insurance Follow-Up (Ben~Andy)**

Ben-Andy has been working on changing our agent for this insurance. Ben-Andy plans to transfer our current policy to Paul Waters, an agent for 1<sup>st</sup> Community Insurance.

**Medical Marijuana At Gatherings (Steve Anderson)**

Amend the CMG registration agreement, to include “medical marijuana” to the check list..  
*(Proposal withdrawn by its author)*

**Discussion**

Jim wants a policy that standardizes medical use of marijuana. Dave thinks that we can't deny someone from using a prescription; it's a non-issue-wait until this becomes a greater issue. Jamie says “no” to planning committee mandates. Ed says it's a non-issue. The Board generally agreed that it's not a major issue. Jim favors a policy, or a written rule, requiring ID for use of Medical Marijuana. Drew supports the use of marijuana by everyone.

This proposal is withdrawn by its author, and will be presented to the 2011 ABM.

**By-Laws/Policies and Procedures Committee Update (Joe)**

Dave shows the binder he is making, Joe and Dave will work together, to update and fine-tune the bylaws and Procedures, for presentation to the 2011 ABM.

**Development Director-Financial Assistance (FA) Report (Dave Clark, on behalf of Christopher Johnson)**

Dave says that the Members at the 2010 JBM voted to establish a separate bank account to specifically deposit FA funds. CMG 67 raised \$522, plus a surplus of \$3K. 68<sup>th</sup> CMG: \$873 from Silent Auction. So nearly \$5K has been collected so far for FA, which can be used if needed, for any future Gatherings, of the same season. The system is working well. Dave says each PC will disperse and keep track of, its FA disbursements.

**Update Of The Online registration system (Ben~Andy)**

B-A says this was the first time we had decimals after the dollar amount, for Gathering registrations. Steve A. didn't think that the notice about receiving the 35-cent reimbursement for check writing was clear, and asked for clarification. B-A says PayPal changed the rate for using their services--3% plus 60cents usage fee, for each CMG registration. We actually net the 50%

upcharge; we'll likely cover our costs by making a "favorable budget variance." This is a part of the budget making process, when using an online payment service, such as PayPal.

### **Web Master's Report (Jim)**

#### ***Web Committee Disbanded***

The Web Committee disbanded after the web revision occurred. Jim says there is completion. Phase two is possible, but is not in process. Central desktop has been discontinued. We no longer need a project making system.

#### ***Hot-Linking Process***

Hot-linking was briefly noted; it's unacceptable for the CMG LECs to "hot-link" images, which ultimately tie up another website's bandwidth, in order to "use" images from that website. Jim says there's no need to hot link--we now have twice the image storage space for each IContact account. Jim has found a photo service that has a "plethora" of free public domain images. This "photo bank" is a better source of images, which Jim will acquire and place in service, in the near future.

### **Green Committee Update (Joe)**

Despite the lack of a Green Committee, in 2010, Planning Committees have worked on making Gatherings "green." The Board agreed on closure of this matter.

### **Resource Library Update (Joe)**

Due to inactivity, this matter is closed.

### **Retirement Community Update (Joe)**

No action in 2010; hence, the issue is completed for this year.

### **Five Bold Moves Update (Joe)**

Joe thinks we've worked on this matter, to a successful completion; thus, this program is concluded.

### **69<sup>th</sup> CMG Report (Zac Zoah)**

The Planners want to bring balance and harmony in a trusting environment. The concern of the forthcoming Gathering is to provide a weekend of peace to men whose lives are "stressed out" due to the recession.

### **71st CMG Report (Steve Anderson)**

The committee is enthusiastic and is working well. 12-14 men are on this committee.

### **Women And The CMG-(Joe)**

***Proposal: Female attendees are allowed, in both Gatherings and CMG Events. Adopted by consensus.***

Legally, we can't restrict women from the Gatherings or attending LEC workshops. We can't reject workshop proposals by women, either. We've had a small number of women leading workshops since 1995. The year when women were last invited to attend a Gathering, was in 1994 (25<sup>th</sup> CMG). Though it's unlikely that a woman might want to attend a men's gathering, the

Unruh Act prohibits discrimination during events offered to the public, by a non-profit public benefit corporation. Joe suggests that allowing women to attend freely will diffuse women from making political statements by attending.

Mike Fahy thinks this needs to be in the institutional memory, so that PCs and LECs can handle workshop proposals and registrations from women properly. ED: In terms of the trans-gender community, we offer a place for male-identified people.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

### **Program Book Photos (Milo Shapiro)**

The existing database of attendee photos, which are submitted for inclusion in the CMG Gathering Program Booklets, will be shared amongst the three Gatherings in a calendar year. This policy requires full participation by all Planning Committees. *Unanimous approval.*

### ***Discussion***

Milo will oversee the initial process of entering new “face” photos, and replacing old ones, and collaborating with the Planning Committees.

B-A: Is there an expiration date of a returning attendee’s image?

Milo: Pictures will last for up to 9 Gatherings, or three years. At that time, an attendee can submit a new head shot of himself. There will be an attendee photo file backup, with Jim, CMG Webmaster, collaborating. CMG Planning Committees are required to use and support the sharing of the photo files, if attendee photos are used in program booklets.

### **The Use of Copyright Materials at CMGs (Ed)**

Ed led a discussion about the use of copyrighted materials. When we publish something on the internet, there needs to be acknowledgement of the author, song writer, photographer, or artist. Ed is concerned that while the CMG is growing, there is a possibility that we could be held liable if we use unauthorized copyrighted materials.

### ***Discussion***

Jim thanks Ed for bringing this matter to the Board’s attention. Jim observed, that in our personal lives, we don’t ordinarily think of these things. Dave says we need to obey copyright laws. Joe thinks a performance license might be procured. Ed says we don’t need to have licensure for the talent shows, since there’s no admission charge. Ed will use the discussion notes to form a policy about use of copyrighted materials.

### **E-notify Database (Milo):**

The email databases for I-Contact don’t automatically update; there is a backup of new names, and Milo has been manually adding new names. Joe suggests taking this to the EC Congress; however, Communications Director James Badberg is absent, so we’ll need to look into this, after this weekend. Jim says it’s unacceptable that we are paying for a service that won’t update itself after new names and info are entered into the system.

### **Circle Of Concerns At The 69<sup>th</sup> CMG--New Time And Date (Joe)**

Joe asked the 69<sup>th</sup> CMG Planners to move the Circle to 9:00 AM, Sunday morning. This was approved. Joe and Mohabee will represent the CMG Board at this meeting.

### **Next CMG Board Meeting:**

Date and location will be announced. This meeting will occur during the course of the 2011 Annual Business Meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned**

3:29 PM, after a round of check-outs.

**CALIFORNIA MEN'S GATHERINGS - STATEWIDE BOARD EXPENSES  
PRELIMINARY 2011 BOARD BUDGET - REVISED (□)  
COMPARED TO 2010 FULL YEAR BUDGET AND YTD THRU 11/25/10**

**12/15/2010**

(□) - **2011 ABM Budget Revised at 11/26/10 Board Meeting**

	<b>APPROVED 2010 BUDGET</b>		<b>ACTUAL SPENT THRU 11/25/2010</b>		<b>PRELIMINARY 2011 BOARD BUDGET</b>
<b>General &amp; Administrative Expenses:</b>					
2010 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Expenses	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,325		\$ -
2011 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Expenses	500		150		1,500
2012 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Expenses	-		-		500
Archive Storage & Supplies	1,100		858		1,000
General Insurance	1,200		983		1,200
Director & Officer Liability Insurance	-		1,500		750
Computer & Internet Expenses	1,500		1,133		1,300
New Registration System - Ennect Event	1,536		1,763		1,600
Upgrade to "iContact" Email Service	1,500		2,292		2,500
Telephone (800 service)	1,000		681		900
Printing/Publications	250		-		100
Supplies & Office Expenses	125		99		125
Corporate Filing Fees	200		70		100
Postage & Shipping	50		3		50
<b>Total General &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>11,461</b>		<b>11,857</b>		<b>11,625</b>
<b>Travel and Gathering Fee Reimbursements:</b>					
Board Member Travel To JBM	1,800 (A)		585		1,800 (A)
Board Retreat Expenses	-		487		500
Board Comps & Travel to Meetings at Gatherings	1,800 (B)		2,857		1,800 (B)
Other Travel / Gathering Reimbursements:					
Archivist	1,100 (C)		1,074		1,100 (C)
Arts Coordinator	900 (D)		831		900 (D)
Development Coordinator	900 (D)		225		900 (D)
Communications Director	-		195		900
Outreach Coordinator	900 (D)		-		- (D)
Registrar / Database Manager	900 (D)		225		900 (D)
Technical Advisor	900 (D)		225		900 (D)
Webmaster	900 (D)		852		900 (D)
<b>Total Reimbursements for Travel &amp; Gathering Fees</b>	<b>10,100</b>		<b>7,556</b>		<b>10,600</b>
<b>Advertising &amp; Development Expenses:</b>					
Pride Festival Booth Expenses	1,500		750		1,500
Outreach Materials	750		50		500
Special Projects	2,000		-		-
<b>Total Advertising &amp; Development Expenses</b>	<b>4,250</b>		<b>800</b>		<b>2,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 25,811</b>		<b>\$ 20,213</b>		<b>\$ 24,225</b>
<b>Percent of Annual Budget</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		<b>78.3%</b>		

**Footnotes:**

- (A) 9 Board Members @ \$200 each = \$1,800
- (B) 9 Requests @ \$200 each = \$1,800
- (C) 3 Gatherings @ \$200 each = \$600; plus \$500 travel = \$1,100
- (D) 3 Gatherings @ \$200 each = \$600; plus \$300 travel = \$900