

ExComm Meeting June 9, 2012 held at home of Sylvia Zadorozny

Present: Thomas Thomas, Sylvia Zadorozny, Kathy Crum, Ronan Heffernan, Art Schwartz, Dan Chesnut, Melissa Stephens

Absent: Barbara Loewe

Officers: Audrey Silver, Jay Johnson

Meeting Called to order 3:22pm

Motion: To accept the Minutes as previously emailed to all members, SZ, 2nd AS. Passed.

Reports:

Scribe:

JJ: Minutes of the April meeting were prepared and sent to members of the ExComm prior to the June meeting. Relevant actions of the April meeting were sent to *Sounding* for publication. I attended both meetings of the read-through of the proposed bylaws but my participation as Scribe was not needed. The August meeting will be my last meeting as Scribe; I am leaving the position because I no longer feel I can do the job properly. I would like to continue as Assistant Scribe.

Treasurer:

KC: Budget Report: 44% of the year has elapsed. Income is up, Expenses are less. Advertising income is up due to an unexpected ad. RG Net Profit is \$895.84 which is less than we budgeted. We had 69 attendees including 4-5 day people. I had one request for a refund that will go out next week. Four paid but did not show up, no refunds were requested, and our policy is to refund only if requested prior to the event. Outflows show the bank fees and I am working to get our account set up at Wells Fargo so fees will be eliminated. The 5th 3rd account is closed. I broke out line items for printing of Crewe List and Handbooks but everything is still in line. Publicity is up because we hadn't budgeted for Google AdWords but that will be lined in. Refreshment reimbursements are lower. The Socials amount is just for the Spring Picnic.

The Banking Summary shows the same information including the transfer of funds and closure of the 5th 3rd account. The Account Balances sheet shows that we are up from the end of the year; that is primarily the RG. The post office balance looks high at \$153 because we are spending less than \$50 a month on postage. Itemized Categories follow that page. The RG report is on a separate page so you can see at the end we made \$895.84 as well as the break out. The major costs were the 3 rooms: the speaker room, the video game room and the other room for storage. Total registrations is \$4782.

Testing:

TT: We had 8 tests in May, 7 at the RG so the RG is a good place to test. We do much better getting people to contact us about tests by going through our website rather than national.

Scholarship:

TT: We don't have one. Theresa is not available. They are giving out scholarships this month but I don't know how that will affect us. Kids can now submit their essays online and we can go in and paste it. Judges can submit their assessments online.

GCC:

MS: When Theresa gets back we want to do a teen meet-and-greet, a pizza party. David Schwartz did an amazing job getting the kids together at the RG and now we are looking around for activities for them.

TT: Gerri Almand, a Toastmaster, might have an idea to work a program with GCC and she will let me know in a few weeks if she can get it going.

Publicity:

AudS: I put together a sample piece to submit to local media re: the RG. I got some finishing ideas from the committee and submitted it to media but I was unable to follow up. I sent to BayNews9, Tampa Bay Times, Tampa Trib, Creative Loafing, and WUSF.fm. (See appended)

TT: I didn't see anything either but we did have some walk-ins at the RG to test so someone saw it. I hope to be able to plan further in advance, we have the big Testing Day coming up in October.

Take-Aways:

MS: Art has been sending out the calendar of the week's events on Yahoo! Lists on Monday. Ronan has been working on the area codes. There will be a Casablanca event at the Tampa Theatre in August and I am arranging a tour for us at that time.

Calendar:

SZ: I put in the MHunch and PigSIG for 2 months ahead.

Editor:

RH: Nothing exceptional to report. There was a small (odd) glitch on the Officers Page of the June issue of *Sounding*, that resulted in the left-hand column being blank and the data that should have gone into the right-hand column being missing.

Webmaster:

RH: There have been no substantive changes to the website. I did prepare a whitepaper to help other groups investigate using Google AdWords for recruiting, based on our recent experience. The paper can be downloaded from the "Officers' Sharehouse" on the national website (<http://community.us.mensa.org/media/p/496794.aspx>) and a link was sent to the national Webmasters email list.

Membership:

RH: Erica gave me the Membership Officer materials, since she had to resign the office. The ExComm should appoint a Membership Officer, to serve until the next round of post-election appointments in August

Circulation:

ArtS: Nothing important. We spent about \$45 last month on *Sounding*. We should have enough for 3 more months before we have to add to the account. (see full report appended)

KC: We got a letter from the post office, they want to switch to intelligent bar codes. It will effect national on how they print them out.

TT: It's a question as to whether they can. They were looking at it before but the difficulty is that each post office has its own codes; it is not a universal code anymore. Even if the post office provides each group with their source codes, national doesn't have the resources to deal with that.

Deputy LocSec:

SZ: Nothing to report.

LocSec:

TT: I have been busy and I am grateful to all the others who are pitching in with their committees and events.

Members-at-Large:
DC: No report.

Committee Reports:
Summer Social:

MS: Dan called to give me some details on the church. We are still thinking about barbecue and perhaps ice cream. The date is August 11. We want to make sure we give plenty of notice for the Annual Meeting.

Election Committee:

JJ: All election material including Candidate Statements, Instructions and Ballot were published in the June *Sounding*. The date and location of the count has been set for Sunday, June 17, at a Starbucks - a midpoint between Eloise Hurst and Cindy Weatherby. They have both confirmed they will be there. To date (June 4) I have received 5 ballots. I have received the current list of active members.

Bylaws Committee:

RH: We had two walk-throughs. Proposed bylaws have been sent out to all members of the ExComm except for one minor change. Anyone wants to review the changes refer to your binder with the red-line changes.

SZ: I have a question regarding Article 7a. I think it should be 'as many as'. To say the NomComm has to provide more and if they don't they violate the bylaws and shut the whole thing down. I want to change it to read 'as many' not 'more'. I don't think it should be a requirement.

Motion: That Article 7a be changed so that it no longer reads the NomComm has to provide more candidates than open positions, but read they have to provide at least as many candidates as there are positions. SZ, 2nd RH.

Discussion: If the bylaws do not require they put more the tendency will be for the NomComm to ask the people who are currently running and that will be it. We want them to be proactive. Make it clear to the committee what we are expecting. As long as it doesn't say 'bylaws say', what are the consequences? What if they can't find that many? We have to be sure we have a quorum. Bylaws won't fix low participation within the group. Need firm language. 'shall solicit' could be changed to 'should' not 'must'. We could do 'should' and leave 'more candidates' so you are still trying to overshoot but have flexibility. The only change would be to add the word 'should', everything else stands.

Amendment to Motion: That we amend 7a to add 'should' before 'place candidates'. RH

Full Motion with Amendment: That Article 7a of the proposed bylaws be changed to read: "The NomComm should solicit candidates for the upcoming election and place candidates on the ballot so that there are more candidates than open positions." Motion passed, unanimous.

RG 2012:

ArtS: Theresa will do the report. (See ArtS' notes appended)

Fall Picnic:

RH: Nothing to report. I will look at Lithia Springs in SE Hillsborough. We were there 5 years ago, people enjoyed it. We have been to Pinellas the last 2 times so it is time to move down.

RG 2013:

TT: I have been in discussion with the St Pete/Clearwater Holiday Inn on Ulmerton. Thank you, Dan, for starting that conversation. This deal is close to the deal we had last time we went but we

do not have a contract yet. It is a better deal than a lot of what the other chapters are currently offering at their RGs; hotel costs, etc. We used it once before for the 2005 Oktoberfest and they have done some remodeling. There are two rooms on the 2nd floor by the elevator that can be used separately as games and hospitality. They are wheelchair-accessible but I thought it looked a bit tight. There is also a large ballroom on the 1st floor.

The costs of the rooms is \$360 plus tax for the weekend, \$150/day plus service charge plus tax/room so \$381 for The Tarmac and The Landing each for the weekend. For 20 rooms (60-room nights) they will waive The Tarmac. For 40 rooms they will waive The Tarmac and The Landing. The ballroom is \$1400 plus service charge, plus tax, that is if we don't do food and beverage. If we do food and beverage which is \$1095 we get the room for free. We should be able to get that if we do a Monday Morning Brunch. We would get the whole room which will not be partitioned unless we need it, and we will need it. They will give us space in the restaurant for sitting when there is no meal. If the meal deal is smaller than what we had to pay before I think we can work with it. We can still bring our own food and beverages. We will have no kitchen facilities, no refrigerators except the small refrigerators and microwaves in each of the rooms.

Our contact is Carolina and she is a reasonable person to work with. She says we can do with the rooms as we want. She is trying to put our entire block on one floor – walk down the hall and there is hospitality and games. Registration is very close.

We have a lot of ideas about this. Ronan came up with some theme names. He came up with nRG as in solar and high Make it enRG. People pronounce the RG. No one has used nRG for a few years. We need to get approval from Mel and start to publicize which we missed this year and the year before.

The guest rate for the hotel is \$85 for a single/double with complimentary hot breakfast buffet and wi-fi access, and attendees can stay pre and post the event. They will hold 35 rooms for us. If they wind up offering a lower rate somewhere then we get the lower rate.

We will go to every RG in Florida, SCAM is in October. To make sure we get the people we will advertise the cut-off date before the actual cut-off. We will open registration as soon as we get the hotel contract, I think we can plan on September. I may not be able to bring the contract to the new ExComm for approval but I have been given permission by this ExComm to sign it so that is what I will do.

Old Business:

Google AdWords:

RH: At the last meeting we voted to authorize them indefinitely, it is added in the budget.

CultureQuest:

TT: We got 144 out of 256 and we had fun. I won't be looking for any awards at the AG but we can get things together for next year.

New Business:

Winter Social:

TT: We need someone to take the Winter Social. I want to be sure we can get space.

ArtS: I will take it but it has to be in January.

Lapsed Members:

TT: We have 111 on our list. National has not given me any information about incentive but I anticipate getting a letter in my packet next week.

Discussion: Cost to contact. Which mode is best? How far back to go? FaceBook potential. Other social networking potential.

Ronan, Dan, Art and Audrey will help with contacts.

A Manisota/TBM joint RG:

Discussion: Logistics would be an issue - having meetings. Planning discipline. Benefits of having it in that area. Clear expectations. Mutual interests.

ArtS will approach them to test for interest. Plan for 2014.

Discussion: Might Gainesville be interested since they are getting bigger? Orlando will do just their own, but they are interested in doing a mutual MindGames event.

Bylaws:

Motion: That we send the proposed bylaws to National for their approval so we can send it to our membership for approval. SZ, 2nd MS.

Discussion: We will send them the red-line if they want it, otherwise we will send them just the proposed bylaws. Vote: 6 aye, 1 abstention, motion passed.

Vacancy:

There is one vacant seat that will exist for the remainder of this term.

Motion: To nominate Audrey Silver to ExComm, KC, 2nd MS. Passed, unanimous.

Discussion: Testing. Networking friends and asking if they would be interested in testing? What if they fail and blame you? National does not like individual chapters changing the pricing schedule. Cost is not usually an issue.

Youth:

ArtS: I was wondering if we could get the ExComm to sponsor a few events such as a canoeing event for the older teens.

Discussion: GCC already has a budget what is it? Have an adult canoe trip as well? Not simultaneously, in sequence. Parents have to accompany kids. Hire a canoe company? DC teaches canoeing. Budget? Tampa BayWatch is non-profit, they have canoes. Might be able to get 55 participants under 18, 20-30 for each event. Won't get that many. Pizza party is probably \$10/person. A boat at Weeki Wachee is \$18, and there are no alligators, there is swimming. Need a liability waiver, check for the official Mensa waiver.

Kids love texting, they won't answer their phone. Texts by email. Try to establish a database. FaceBook messages.

Motion: That we authorize a budget for two teen events, one for teens 13-18 and one for those 12 and under. The younger group would be budgeted at \$10/person and the older group at \$20/person. Individuals would be responsible for overage. RG, 2nd DC. 6 aye, 2 abstention, motion passed.

Mensa Singles:

Discussion: Too few people, so far only 4 men, one woman. Nothing to do with national's M-Available. Older than 50. Want to put advertising off until August when we have more time. Small blurb in *Sounding*? ArtS will put it in his column to see if it generates any interest. Do we set it up and let people get excited? How can we get more people interested? Email to groups!. FaceBook? People are willing to seek out but not willing to be sought, so they repress their information

RH handed out sign-up sheets for jobs.

Next meeting:

Discussion: If we do it at the Summer Social we can introduce new members of the ExComm. Is it better to have the new ExComm in charge of the Annual Meeting?

Next meeting: August 4, 2:00pm at home of Ronan Heffernan.

Motion to adjourn, KC.

Meeting adjourned 5:58pm

Appended reports and notes:

From page 2:

June 2012 circulation report

The Sounding FSM for June was completed at the RG. Thanks to Thomas T. Melissa S. and Kathy C for their assistance.

The June issue of the sounding was delivered to the post office on 5/29. The cost of postage for this month's mailing was 45.97. The post office account has about \$193 left in it.

Here is the output for the June 2012 Sounding

```
epub = 314
count_secondary = 16
count_336 = 79
count_336_nbc = 0
count_337 = 91
count_337_nbc = 0
count_335 = 56
count_335_nbc = 1
count_346_incounty = 31
count_346_incounty_nbc = 0
count_346_outcounty = 43
count_346_outcounty_nbc = 1
count_346_error = 0
zones:
count for zone 1 = 1
count for zone 2 = 0
count for zone 3 = 1
count for zone 4 = 0
count for zone 5 = 1
count for zone 6 = 0
count for zone 7 = 0
count for zone 8 = 0
count for zone 9 = 0
```

count for zone 10 = 0
zones (no bar code):
count for zone (nbc) 1 = 1
count for zone (nbc) 2 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 3 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 4 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 5 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 6 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 7 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 8 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 9 = 0
count for zone (nbc) 10 = 0
automation = 1

From page 3:

ArtS Notes re: RG2012: We did not have enough volunteers working. It showed at times. It looked as if we were a bit disorganized. My recommendation is that we have a larger group volunteering even if they don't want to be involved in the planning and preparation. I think the whole committee is at fault for not being better organized.

The people got the impression we were not well prepared. Set-up was not as it should be. I don't think we communicated very well. People did not know what was happening far enough in advance. The location hurt us. With the Spaghetti Warehouse dinner, people did not know that was included in the cost of the RG. I knew it but I don't we told people that was being included. If we are going to give away a free meal we should make that known. We could have done better on communication, publicity. The location was 'been there, done that'.

On the upside, I thought we had a good youth turnout; 25 and under which was a high percentage of the people there because it was a small group. That was a good thing for us.

Hospitality takes a lot of work and as a person who spent almost the entire RG cleaning the hospitality room, people didn't seem too concerned. It is a small area and there were games. It was distracting trying to get garbage out of the place. People who were preparing food were hard-pressed to keep up with demand. More hand would have helped.

Upside, I got feed back, people enjoyed coming here. We got good reviews for speakers. There have to be enough speakers to provide activities. That is a good thing if we can keep that going to get more people from our group. the peanut butter cups were great. Some thought we had a lot of the same thing and could have had less of one thing and more variety. We probably still would have had complaints.

Let's get started on 2013 as soon as possible. We got one voucher from all we offered. I think we should do vouchers again but we need to publicize it better, more outreach. I would communicate any way we can. You need someone with the right personality, not high-pressure, to make phone calls, to encourage, because this is a good opportunity to get people involved. We had left-over snacks etc, so others should have taken advantage of the two-fer voucher. The new-member voucher was just for Saturday.

They never came to the room to collect garbage. They are usually the ones providing the food and they keep things up. In order to control costs we take on trash movement ourselves. We need to better police ourselves. We did not have enough receptacles and they were too small. Every few hours. We need to consider larger bins, moving to the hallway so they can be removed with minimal interruption. Bring personal recycling bins. If people see those they use

them. We had a delightful array of bottles piling up under the window in an attempt to recycle. It think it is important that we do a self-criticism so we can do it better in the future, especially since we saw a decline in our attendees. We want to become more popular, not less. There were only about 4 people who were day-trippers. Two were registered 12 and under.

From Page 2:
For Immediate Release
May 19, 2012

What do the geodesic dome and *The Clan of the Cave Bear* have in common?

They were both created by members of the same international organization. If you guessed both author and inventor Buckminster Fuller and best-selling author Jean Auel were members of Mensa, you are right!

And if you're wondering what Mensa is, you might be in the majority of people who have never heard of the organization of members whose common feature is having very high IQs, in the top two percent of the population as measured by standardized tests. With a 2012 U.S. population of approximately 313,000,000 people, there would be approximately 6,260,000 people in the U.S. who could be members of the group.

The local group, Tampa Bay Mensa, will soon have its regional gathering or RG on May 25-28, 2012 in Ybor City. For more information about Tampa Bay Mensa and the RG or "c-YboRG" as this year's event is called, see the Tampa Bay Mensa Site at tampa.us.mensa.org. Members enjoy monthly events, as well as Regional Gatherings where there are many activities including attending lectures, meeting Mensans from throughout the U.S. and sightseeing in the host city. If you're interested in finding out if you qualify to be in Mensa, there will be a testing session at the RG on May 26, Saturday, from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information on joining, contact the testing coordinator Thomas Thomas at testing@tampa.us.mensa.org.

Local media contact: Audrey Silver at 813-786-0906 or audreys@tampabay.rr.com