

ExComm Minutes, 2-16-13

Attendance

ExComm Members present: Ronan Heffernan, Art Schwartz, Thomas Thomas, Melissa Stephens, Dan Chesnut, Barbara Loewe (hostess)

ExComm members absent: Kathy Crum, Audrey Silver, Forrest Ford

Others present: Eloise Hurst, Sylvia Zadorozny (scribe)

Meeting called to order at 1:33 PM.

Previous minutes approved.

Reports

Scribe

Sylvia sent via email earlier this week: The minutes from the December meeting were sent out to the ExComm on December 20. Ronan was the only one who submitted any suggestions for rewording, and his changes were incorporated into the minutes that were emailed February 13, a few days before this ExComm meeting.

Treasurer

Kathy is absent, but Ronan attached a copy of the Treasurer's Report to today's agenda.

[Note from the Scribe: Due to computer format differences, I cannot insert attachments from the Treasurer's report into these minutes; however everyone on the ExComm should have gotten a copy via email directly from Kathy early this morning. Below is the non-attachment portion of Kathy's email.]

Here are my reports for the ExComm meeting. They are the 2012 year-end report, and the 2013 year to date report. I'm not sure if I will make it to the meeting or not. I apologize for the delay in getting this out to you. Just a few comments...

1. The first RG registration cutoff date was 2/15, so we got quite a few registrations over the past few days. Total registered to date is 28. More than half were on-line registrations with PayPal payment.

2. 2012 year end total showed a profit of \$3029.33, which is good and bad. Good in that we didn't lose money. But bad in that we didn't spend enough on the members. Still need to come up with ideas on how to use some of the funds.

3. To have a no-fee account with Wells Fargo, we have to make a recurring transfer to a savings account each month. For now, I'm just leaving the transferred money (\$150/month) in the savings account. There's no real reason to move it back, as there is little risk of overdrawing the checking account. Granted, we earn interest (albeit at a pitiful rate) on the savings account. We may want to consider moving \$10,000 to the savings account to get some interest on it, but still maintain a respectable balance in the no-interest checking account. Just a thought.

4. No 1099-INT for 2012 (yay!) because we had a whopping \$1.50 in interest for the year (boo!).
5. Ann Flynn renewed her subscription to the Sounding.
6. Lori Puterbaugh is due for her Sounding ad renewal.

Ronan still has *Sounding* receipts that have not been included, and Thomas still has test facility receipts from last year. No questions or further discussion.

Testing

Thomas: We now have 763 prospects, over 100 were just added in 2013. Many new ones are from the Mensa home tests; they may or may not be interested in joining. Scheduling issue—people don't come downtown on Saturday. Kay is interested in becoming a proctor but she still has to give supervised tests, and no one shows up. She does have a small office space in Oldsmar. Thomas has been getting phone calls from people who are interested in testing.

Dan: Is downtown the problem?

Thomas: People think we are an organization with officers and administrators. A prospect apologized for calling Thomas at home. People want to test during the day. They don't want to take their evenings.

Ronan: Has Jay talked about her availability during the day?

Thomas: I'll talk to her about it.

Barbara: We have space here, meeting rooms we could probably use.

Thomas: Is there restricted entry?

Barbara: We can put a sign on the door.

Eloise: Libraries are now centralized. You have to be on the list.

Ronan: If people prepay on the National website, we don't collect funds on the premises.

Eloise: For libraries, you can't restrict public access.

Dan: It's open to public anyway. No other group that uses libraries collects dues?

Eloise: That's one reason they centralized it.

Melissa: We've now got 2 locations.

Thomas: Kay needs to show me her location. ***We need to find a new testing coordinator.*** Testing coordinator communicates with testing prospects and proctors.

Melissa: Ask Maran? Ask her tonight.

Dan: Maybe get Maxine back? I can't; I've been stretched too thin.

Thomas won't officially resign until Kay gets certified. We need to clarify who can authorize (supervise) a new proctor. Now there are no longer proctor coordinators, just testing coordinators.

Scholarship

Thomas: We just finished the scholarship program last night. (Thomas will send me his report.) He sent several essays on to National for specific scholarships. The way we've been doing scholarships has been wrong. National gives awards certified by

MERF. They want as many submissions as possible, not just one. Those are the National scholarships.

Our TBM scholarship we can give however we want. It's not tax deductible, because it's not through the foundation. We don't have to wait until the AG.

Some groups have national do their local scholarships, where validation of enrollment occurs. We could tell someone they've won our scholarship but not give them a check until they provide proof of enrollment.

Barbara: I think our scholarship should go to a Mensan or the child of a Mensan.

Thomas: That's up to the scholarship coordinator. I disagree, but that's my opinion. We could do fundraisers. If we go through National, it's tax deductible and takes the paperwork out of our hands.

Melissa: Can we pick a winner and have the Foundation administer it?

Thomas: Uncertain what the restrictions are. This year we're on track with National, but we have not yet decided what to do with our money. We had 7 volunteer readers; I used 4. This wasn't something I was supposed to be doing in the first place. The Scholarship Chair post is moot in a month, so I'm not resigning now. Emails go to Forrest, but the website is still set to Thomas.

Gifted Youth Coordinator

Melissa: Chocolate festival—no kids came, but the adults enjoyed it tremendously. TV tour was scheduled for today, not enough reservations, so it's canceled; maybe reschedule it for another time. We're going to the Medieval Fair (Renaissance Fair) on March 9; it's on the grounds beside MOSI.

Publicity

Audrey's not here. No report.

Program Officer

Melissa: Ditto the gifted kids report.

Calendar Editor

Sylvia emailed: I've scheduled a wine tasting on March 9; I'm really hoping people will show up, since a wine distributor is coming out specially to present this event for us.

March's TLC will occur during Games Weekend at Lake Louisa, somewhere completely different for a change.

I've had a little trouble with the automated calendar again—this time I wasn't able to change one month's event description for the Metaphysical/Paranormal Discussion Group without the description changing for every event in the series—the hostess of the event is working with me to solve the problem.

I've added our RG to the May calendar with a makeshift description; I can change the description when I get something better to replace what I made up.

The Sunday Team Trivia at the Thirsty Marlin has been canceled henceforth.

Thomas: Right now Jay's tests are Thursday, they should be first and third Wednesday.

Barbara: This facility has space for speakers and interesting people who live here, e.g., Judge Castor, whose daughter is Betty Castor, Terrill Sessoms (sp?), and Roy Leep, the weatherman.

Melissa: Barbara, if you can get them, we'll put them on the calendar.

Dan: Roy Leep is a hero of mine. Global warming might get more attendees than weather.

Barbara: I could approach him. Not sure if he would.

Ronan: Does the auditorium have a sound system?

We went to NOAA event, so there is interest in weather.

Ronan: Weekend afternoon or weekend evening?

Barbara will test the water on a couple of things.

Editor

Ronan: Quietly looking for an editor. In August I'll do another batch of Crewe Lists. I have some here to take.

Webmaster

Ronan: RG form is out there and working. AdWords on Google gets people to our website. There is a list of key words. Clicks: 67 in Jan, 45 in Feb. We only pay when people click on our ad.

Membership

Thomas: We currently have 719 members, with 382 scheduled to expire March 31. Last year at this time we had 746. Four years ago we had 701 and thought that was good. We are not getting new members because we are not getting people to test. Rates are now higher. Some people renewed early to take advantage of lower rate. We have 95 life members.

Circulation

Art: We do have intelligent barcodes on labels. The dispenser makes applying stickers less tedious. Barbara offered this place for TLC.

Ronan: We need to fix the P.O. form, python program.

Deputy LocSec

Art: How are you feeling, Ronan? No plan to relocate? All is well.

LocSec

Ronan: Thomas has won election for RVC 10 and needs to get rid of local jobs.

Thomas resigned as Volunteer Coordinator and Membership as of today, and gave notice on Testing Coordinator—Scholarship will end soon anyway—and resigned his assistant positions now.

Election supervisor

Eloise: Jay has been keeping us informed, and got the “Call for Candidates” in the March *Sounding*.

Winter Social

Art: I got positive feedback. It was more expensive than picnics or socials—we spent \$850. I heard some sentiment that we should do it again. I used Survey Monkey; it’s a good tool.

Any feedback from non-attendees?

One date conflict and one antisocial. How to entice the shy antisocials? For 30 years Art did nothing in Mensa. The 2009 Summer Social got Art involved (write confessions of a lurker?). Dan tiptoed in, starting with showing up late at Phoebe’s dinner and just getting a glass of water. Barbara could do a games night here, but we’d have to bring games; this has the advantage of not being a private home. At a speaker social, Mensans can talk or not.

Spring Picnic

Sylvia emailed: I have reserved Shelter #2 in R.E.Olds Park for the afternoon of April 7 (2-5 pm). That is a Sunday (Saturday was not available). The address is 107 Shore Drive West in Oldsmar. More information about the park can be found at http://www.myoldsmar.com/Pages/Depts/OldsmarFL_Leisure/Parks/REOldsPark . Some of the amenities listed include: free parking, restrooms, scenic water views, dog area, fishing pier, handicap accessible, playgrounds, and trails. The park is not huge and parking is somewhat limited, so I'd like to encourage people to carpool to this event, if possible.

Question: Are we going to mail postcards for the picnic? If so, can someone get labels, and where did you get the pretty postcards made last time?

Ronan suggested renting a second shelter to get a second grill.

Postcards? Cost \$285 last time. We can put an RG announcement on the back. It’s up to Sylvia.

RG

Thomas: 20 people registered online, plus 2 just now. Kathy said 28 (maybe another 6 by mail?). At least 28 registered. Rate has gone up to next pricing level — 4 tier pricing. Now \$85 until April 26, which is the deadline for hotel room reservations. It’s better to be at the hotel. A couple of people have committed to programs. Diane Ocampo will do a “Mr. Tampa Bay Mensa 2013” contest. Sylvia will do a chocolate event. Sylvia and Art will do games.

We need to update the rate on the website to take off the first rate.
Art: Maybe a mixer on Friday. Chocolate on Friday.
Barbara: Boomers. Discussion.

The ExComm took a break at 3:15, and reconvened at 3:34 pm.

Old Business

Leadership Development Workshop

Melissa will run it. Ronan talked to Mel—if there's money in the National Budget, it's ours, as no other group in our region wants to do it. Even if there isn't money, we can afford it. Barbara offered her place. 25 people. When? Talk to other groups. Maybe October?

ExComm retreat

When? New ExComm is seated in August. All members can be invited. Starke Park? Commit funds? Sequestered overnight. Any time after June. Melissa will organize if people will commit. 2 day event. Cost of rooms. Barbara's place, request meeting room. Details to be worked out later.

New Business

Volunteers

Melissa was already appointed Summer Social director. Barbara will check into catering at her place.

We need to appoint the fall picnic director at the next meeting.

Dan: Have you called anyone outside this group?

Art: I want to recruit at the picnic.

Thomas & Melissa: Dan, would you be volunteer coordinator?

Dan: No, but ...

Sapir might help with RG registration.

CultureQuest

Team? Authorize payment?

Thomas: Move to authorize as many teams as we can get to participate in CultureQuest. Seconded by Melissa. Last year's team won \$75. 4 in favor, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

Other New Business

Photos on TBM website

Dan: Are you interested in having ExComm photos on website?

Ronan: This doesn't need to be official.

Dan: Picture and blurb?

Ronan: We want Audrey and Kathy involved.

Barbara: Let's postpone it to the next ExComm meeting.

Art: I think we should do it.

Thomas: There's not much traffic there.

Ronan: Newbies and recruitment go there.

Dan: Let's start today.

People will send in own photos, write their own blurbs.

RG 2014 Honcho

Thomas: Move that we have an RG on Memorial Day weekend in 2014. Melissa seconded. Unanimous.

Art: Do you plan to send out interest survey to get people involved?

Teen Liaison

Melissa: I would like to see position for a teen or child on the ExComm.

Our bylaws don't allow for that. There's a minimum age for Treasurer, LocSec, Deputy LocSec, but not otherwise. Some groups do have one. Teen liaison? Under 18, a minor.

Art: It would give us a window on what interests younger people to get them more involved.

Ex officio, not member of ExComm. Promote teens running.

Next ExComm meeting: Saturday, April 6, 1 PM, at Barbara's.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.