

ExComm Meeting Minutes—June 15, 2013

Attendance

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

ExComm member absent: Audrey Silver

Others present: Sylvia Zadorozny (scribe), Jay Johnson, Hillary Miller, David Schwartz

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM.

Previous minutes approved.

Reports

Scribe

Sylvia emailed before the meeting:

“April's ExComm meeting minutes went out later than usual, but included all emailed reports (even those received after the meeting) with the exception of the Treasurer's Report which is not compatible with Word. No one sent me any corrections or changes. The minutes were re-sent the Wednesday before the June ExComm meeting.”

Treasurer

Kathy passed out her report, said she will send out PDF version on Monday.

[Note from Scribe: Kathy's report cannot be incorporated into this document, as the formats are incompatible.]

Kathy: We had an RG net loss of \$566.28. We're on track for most everything but proctor revenue. We haven't been testing as much this year as last year, but more will come in June. Miscellaneous expenses includes about \$800 from deposits for Games Weekend, so when people pay for cabins, that money will come back in. *Sounding* printing is up because of the bylaws printing. Cash flow includes transfers from one account to another to keep the bank happy. Account Balance is down from last year by about \$2500.

Testing Coordinator

Thomas: Jay has been doing testing in Holiday—3 tests at the RG and 2 since. Kay is now one test closer to getting her certification as a proctor. She has an office in Oldsmar where she can test.

Jay can test in Oldsmar if Kay has too many.

To be a proctor, you need a college degree, watch 2 tests being given, then be observed giving 2 tests.

Scholarship

We have identified the recipient of our local scholarship, and 2 of the essays we submitted to national got awards from national. There is one \$300 scholarship from national given to every chapter which participates. This year there was a great variance in scoring among the judges. Thomas wondered how to make sure people stick to the listed criteria. If we had more judges, it would even it out. National requires proof that the award winner has registered before we can give them any money.

Gifted Youth

Melissa: We are getting more interest from kids in the 8-13 age range. Jay commented about National Mensa providing resources for youth. Nicole is looking for people to attend her comedian performances; she's eight years old.

Publicity

Audrey was absent. No report.

Program Officer

Melissa: We've had more people stepping up to do activities. New: Movie night and pottery lesson. On Facebook Melissa put an inquiry about activities, and people have added their own interests.

Summer Social

Melissa: We're still looking for a location. I'm talking to the same place as last year, but we never did the volunteer hours to pay for last year's use; we're looking for something we can do for kids who participate in the community center. We were going to help kids review applications for schools. On site they have a special needs daycare, an arts program, theater classes, dance classes, etc. Art suggested we do science party. Other ideas: craft project, decorate cookies, bring animals. On Wednesday Melissa will find out more details. For the scholarship thing last year they never came up with kids for it. If it falls through, we need to come up with somewhere else.

Calendar Editor

Sylvia emailed:

“Since our last ExComm meeting, we had a very successful Spring Picnic, a trip to Busch Gardens, and our Regional Gathering over Memorial Day weekend, as well as the usual regular monthly events. Scrabble Night may be off the calendar, as the initiator is moving (has moved?) out of our area. Shakespeare Watch has been canceled a few times, but hopes to resume in July. A wine-making event and a ceramics class have been added in the coming months. The online calendar is becoming increasingly important, as events are amended or added after the print deadline.”

Barbara said she is willing to do a second games night, but needs help getting games up; she won't do Scrabble. Ronan said Anell is starting a Citrus county games night and will schedule July's, even though she hasn't yet held the June one.

Editor

“Everything is proceeding as expected.”

Webmaster

“I am working on several items in conjunction; site redesign, mobile-friendly site (alternate presentation, actually), and the website bios.”

We still need to turn off RG registration.

Membership

Nothing to report.

Circulation

“June Soundings have been delivered to the post office. Additionally I mailed copies of the ballots to members who are 2nd in household and would not get a copy of the Sounding. I am also posting the Circulation officer tasks as a knowledge share. [task details not included in report, need to be added to job description]”

We needed extra copies for the ballot, and a second mailing for the “seconds”. Next time we'll probably allow for electronic voting. Art made an informal task list.

Deputy LocSec

Nothing much happened, and Ronan looks healthy.

LocSec

“We will learn shortly about election results. I attached a self-nomination form to this agenda, so if there are any positions that you are interested in, please indicate your level of interest. Is anyone interested in serving as

LocSec in the upcoming year? While I encourage a new LocSec to also act as Editor, I guess that is not required. ^^ ”

RG

Thomas: From all feedback received, people had a good time. We had no national publicity, but it didn't make a lot of difference. 58 attendees, and some of those were day trippers. We needed more hotel room-nights to get the group rooms comped, which accounts for our loss. We needed 20 room nights for each room. The banquet room was paid for by meals. We paid for the 2nd floor Tarmac room. The majority of people who registered did so online. We had a lot of volunteers, which helped a lot. Melissa's cooking took over Ronan's house. Swag bags were provided by Kathy McDonald. Presenters were all Mensans, mostly from our group. Diane found TED talks on the internet to cover the topic that Dave Bryant would have talked on, but he was sick. Kyle was a first-time presenter. It was all written up on our Facebook page. I received no negative feedback about the hotel.

Art: For next year, we're looking at new hotel in Oldsmar. They have one large meeting room that can be partitioned. It's centrally located, may lead to more driving from home.

Thomas: Commuting takes something out of the experience.

Kathy: This year each room cost \$200 per day.

Sylvia emailed:

“Games and tournaments at our Regional Gathering went very well. We offered tournaments in Double-Deck Cancellation Hearts, Boggle, Settlers of Catan, Trivial Pursuit, Dominoes, Texas Hold 'Em Poker, Quiddler, Dominion, Werewolf, and THE Game. Most of those are worth repeating as tournaments in the future; a couple might be improved with a little tweaking, but with some creativity we managed to make them work anyway.

“There was a plethora of casual games to choose from. The only games that seemed to be missed were Scrabble, which was there but had not been noticed amid all the others, and Cribbage, which I had not brought but now know to bring in the future. Also I need to remember to bring a couple of jigsaw puzzles to keep people occupied while they are waiting for others to join them in a game.

“Having separate rooms for casual games and tournaments helped both run easily.

The Chocolate Orgy was a great success. The chocolate fountain flowed-- spillage was minimal--and there were many other chocolate desserts to choose from too. Plentiful leftovers were available throughout the weekend

for those seeking a chocolate fix. Bringing my microwave oven simplified chocolate melting, and the microwave was also then available afterwards for meal preparation in Hospitality.”

Fall picnic

Ronan: “According to our Gantt chart, I should find a venue between now and July 13th. That sounds doable, and everything should stay on track. I intend to do postcards (despite the cost), because they do seem to increase turnout.”

Pinellas makes it easy to reserve; Hillsborough makes it hard; Pasco is in between. Maybe Philippe Park?

Spring Picnic

Sylvia emailed:

“TBM's Spring Picnic had a fabulous turnout, estimated at about 70 all together, based on RSVPs plus members I recognized who had not RSVPed. (I did not take a head count during the event due to its spread-out nature.) The weather was perfect, the scenery picturesque, the food delicious and plentiful, outdoor games merry, and the company was, naturally, charming. I took photos during the event and posted many on Facebook. It appears to me that seasonal picnics greatly enhance our group's spirit, and thus are a good investment for TBM.”

Election Supervisor

Jay Johnson emailed:

“All election material was published in Sounding. Ballots are due Saturday, June 15, 11:59pm. A/o June 12 I have received 16 ballots. I have a copy of the latest membership list and will meet with Eloise Hurst and Kay Shapiro on Sunday, June 16 for the ballot count.

Following the count I will contact all candidates and will report my results by email to the ExComm as soon as possible. I will prepare a notice for Sounding. I will hold all ballots for at least 30 days and then I will destroy them.”

Jay: I received fewer than 20 ballots before this meeting. Kay Shapiro and Eloise Hurst will help count. I will send an email to the ExComm and write up the results for Sounding.

The ExComm took a break from 2:22 PM to 2:32.

Old Business

Appoint ExComm replacement

Barbara nominated David Schwartz, Melissa seconded. David Schwartz has now been appointed to replace Forrest Ford on the ExComm.

ExComm Retreat

Melissa: We'll start at 9:30 AM, till 5 PM. Both Saturday and Sunday. It's on the 6th floor at Barbara's complex. Send email? Packets have already been printed; we can take them now. Bring your packet with you, if you take it now. We have open Wi-Fi here.

Art: Ronan sent links to webinars—maybe useful—on how to attract new members, motivating volunteers, and not losing momentum.

LDW

Planned for October. Can we get RVC funds? Broward and Orlando have also expressed interest.

Website Bios

Ronan is still working on it.

Other

None.

New Business

Winter Social director

Art had already volunteered for that.

Other new business

Barbara: We could buy coupon books to resell as a fundraiser. There's a Tampa and a St. Pete edition. Jay: Do we take orders? Barbara: Take on consignment. Thomas: We have a fairly healthy bank account, so the need for fundraising is not great. What's our motivation? Most are 2 for 1's. Need more information. Probably not until next January. Last time restaurants stopped honoring the coupons.

Kathy: I got a check from Art Kelland. Thank him in Sounding?

Tangential discussion of the cost of stamps.

Date/Time/Place for next meeting

National will tell us if it's the new or the old ExComm.

Next meeting August 17, 1 PM, at Barbara's.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM.