

In attendance:

Byron Postma: Chairperson

Ritch Barron: Secretary

Richard Debner, Corporate Treasurer

Kyle Richards: Wilderness Education

Ed Emond: Webmaster

Brian Miller: Outings Chair (Acting SB/VC Board Rep)

Steve Sisneros: Board Representative –LA

Cliff Clue: Board Representative – PS

Mark Chandler: Board Representative – SD

Greg Papin: Board Representative – OC/LB

Delegates :

Guests: Wes Stieringer, LA Treasurer

Members Absent: Gordon Gerbitz: Board Representative – SB/VC

George Lapole, Archives

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am April 5, 2014.

Officer Reports:**Secretary:**

The minutes of the January 11 Board Meeting were distributed by email and copies were made available at the meeting. The secretary asked for any changes that needed to be made. No changes were requested.

Motion: Accept the minutes from the January 11 Board Meeting.

The motion carried.

Report Status of Old Logo and Registration of the new

The old logo is registered until October 2014 as long as it is being currently used. During the discussion, the cost of registration was questioned. Accurate information was not available at the time. The Chair will send the registration for the new logo next week. ¹

Treasurer's Report:

The All Chapter Ending Balance as of March 31, 2014 is \$44,994.06. There is \$4,462 in the Corporate Checking Account and \$6,644.32 in the corporate CD for a total of \$11,106.34.

Membership is at 493, down from 536 on December of 2013. There is some question about the Orange County membership but it is being reconciled.

Chapter Status:

- LA: Chapter Summaries have been submitted to March 2014
Dues have been paid to December 2014.
- OC/LB: Chapter Summaries have been submitted to February 2014
Dues have been paid to September 2013.
- PS: Chapter Summaries have been submitted to February 2014
Dues have been paid to February 2014.
- SB/VC: Chapter Summaries have been submitted to February 2014
Dues have been paid to February 2014.
- SD: Chapter Summaries have been submitted to March 2014
Dues have been paid to September 2013.

Several notes:

1. LA owes Dues: please send as soon as possible and a check for the storage.
2. OCLB is currently reviewing their financial and membership information. They are attempting to improve the accuracy of said information. What we are currently showing for them is a work in progress. There should be more information at the next meeting.
3. PS is also investigating an inconsistency in figures. This is believed to be an incorrect transfer of information from one source to another. It is being researched.

¹ The cost for registration is \$70.00 per class. Class 41 "Education and Entertainment" seemed to best describe our services. The services listed on the registration form are "Outdoor Education, Recreation in the outdoors, and Social activities". It costs \$30.00 to renew the old service marks.

4. Your Treasurers need all the help your chapter can give them. It is not an easy job and it is labor intensive. All chapter Presidents should be carefully reviewing the monthly financial reports before signing them, then providing any feedback necessary to the Treasurers.

See the financial report from the Corporate Treasurer for more detail and notes.

The CD for Los Angeles does not earn much. The Corporation also has a CD that earns some small amount. It is unknown why the CDs were originally purchased. It is possible that this was purchased when interest on them was significant and it was a way to have reserve cash earning money rather than simply sitting in the bank.

The Treasurer was asked about his backup process. He uses a multi-layered system where the documents are on several different devices.

Motion: Accept the Treasurers report.

The motion carried.

Report on updates to the expense account standards

There has been some discussion with OC to what expenses go into which category. The process will continue.

Action Item: The Treasurer and the Chair to continue working together on this update

Chair:

Report on OC/LB membership and finances

Dennis has been working very hard. They have determined that error was not due to malfeasance. They will now adjust their records to the bank balance and bring their reports up to date. Their membership is being investigated as well. It is believed that the new meeting place is helping the effort to increase their membership. They are also planning to be involved with the Long Beach Pride Festival and Parade and try to increase the membership this way.

Report on status of the San Diego Treasurer Report

The chair talked with The San Diego Treasurer and requested a report along with membership figures, but these have not been received yet.

Action Item: Mark to follow up with Danny.

Report on the design of the Corporate Banner

The Chair handed out images of preliminary ideas to the party and Brian suggested that we solicit ideas from the other members and then meet to make a recommendation to the board.

Action Item: The committee is to come up with no more than three proposals for the banner.

Committee Reports:

Archives:

George has resigned as the archivist. It was suggested that the best approach would be we keep the storage site. Inventory the contents and make it a Library item. They could also be digitized. The known content of the storage locker is:

- Multiple CDs containing available newsletters and trip notes
- Ten years of information
- programs

It was suggested that there be an archive party. Make it a trip that could be fun and informative or a social event – a way to inventory it. The history is very important.

This has often been discussed with no action taken. One thing that is needed is a policy: what is to be kept and what discarded. One concern that was expressed was who is going to use the archives? Does anyone use the newsletter? The idea of the policy is popular.

Action Item: Cliff will collect ideas for an archive policy and report back. This is to establish the reason rational for keeping any documents. This should also include Chapter archives. Ideas can be emailed to Cliff.

Outings:

There have been many cancellations, which is a concern. One beach trip was canceled because the leader could not attend. We need to be careful when we cancel trips; some people take time off to attend and are disappointed when they cannot.

Publicity/Outreach:

Currently two chapters are working together for the Long Beach Pride Parade and hosting a festival booth. This should be on the calendar and all chapters are encouraged to get involved. Trip notes for the event are being prepared. Registration will be done after this meeting.

Volunteers are needed to operate the booth and as many as possible should march in the parade. There is hope for some support from Corporate for finances. A marching Unit costs \$65.00 and a Vehicle costs \$90.00. Other chapters can also sponsor a vehicle if they contribute the funds. Brian will discuss this further with Kyle after the meeting. There is a cost for everything in the LB parade. There is corporate money for this. May 2 is the deadline. Please contact Steve Sisneros. Daryl Arthur is spearheading the OCLB portion of the event.

Webmaster:

There are no issues at this time. Changes to the calendar should go to Brian first and then to Ed. All our Domain names are current. There is a need to monitor Facebook. Members should not be able to post unauthorized trips. Something needs to be done to protect against this. It could be a liability issue and a brand issue.

There is a Great Outdoors disclaimer on Facebook to go to the G.O. website to see event information. A link to the calendar could be helpful.

Wilderness Education:

This year's program has been cancelled because of lack of registrations. There were only 5 sign-up two weeks before the start of Phase I. The Wilderness Education Chair has decided to do more outreach for next year. New locations are being sought. For Phase I, a cabin would be better for those not into camping. Otherwise, we will find a camping location. There will be an updated version of the manual for next Board Meeting. There may be a need for assistance such as with graphics. The cancelled attendees were refunded by check.

Someone should analyze the reason for such a low turnout. Marketing may have been an issue and there seems to be a need for a one-day Hike leader program. In the past Wilderness Education was not held every year. Perhaps it should be held periodically.

Perhaps a mentoring program for hike leaders could be initiated. Safety is the primary issue. Having the classes creates some cohesion between the chapters. Phase I is about gear and hiking.

Wilderness Education Chair will start working on next year's program.

It was suggested that a different method to certify hike leaders be explored.

Action Item: Ed and Kyle to come up with proposed hike leader education ideas.

New Business:

Loss of Historical Material

Recently, a box of archive material was shipped to the Chair, UPS left it at the gate and it was stolen. Some of the information can be replaced as it was in electronic form, and the plaque could be replaced. The corporate minutes were a loss. The reason for the plaque was discussed as well as alternative ways to honor the work of the volunteers. One suggestion was to have a group shot, taken at conference after the election, of the incoming board and post it on the internet. Consensus is that there was not a major loss in this theft.

Proposal to Develop New Motto to Replace “Out of the Bars and Under the Stars”

A proposal was made to update the motto from “Out of the Bars and Under the Stars”. Times have changed and there are many other options than just Bars. There was general agreement with this. The motto should reflect what the club does.

One suggestion was “Come OUT into the sun and under the stars Relax, Enjoy, Renew”. To some this sounded like a spa.

Some are already using “Hike in, Camp Out, Play on”.

It was mentioned that some chapters might not like the new Motto. However, this is a corporate branding issue. If there are concerns from the chapters, we will consider the matter.

Motion: to solicit ideas from the chapters for replacement of the existing motto. Options will be presented at the next scheduled board meeting.

The motion carried.

Action Item: The Chair will be point for collecting ideas.

Liability waiver:

Amending the By-Laws is a complex and confusing procedure. The amendment is submitted to the board at the third regularly scheduled board meeting. The Board then makes a recommendation regarding the amendment. This is shared with delegates at conference and a vote is taken. If the amendment is submitted at the fourth regularly scheduled board meeting, the board cannot make a recommendation; it simply passes it on to the conference, without comment, for the delegates to vote. These are the parameters surrounding the discussion of the amendment.

Minutes – General Business Meeting, April 5, 2014

An amendment to the By-Laws was submitted to the board by the Representative from Palm Springs. It is intended to update the Liability Waiver contained in Appendix C of the By-Laws.

There has been considerable email discussion of this already. There were two issues regarding the amendment as submitted:

- There is a small typographic mistake in the amendment.
- Some suggested that using the term “Event” leader would be more inclusive of all activities rather than the use of “Hike” leader as included in the amendment.

Because these seemed to be minor changes, the originator of the amendment was asked to make changes. He referred it to the attorney who wrote the revised Liability Waiver. There has not been a response from the Attorney to date.

The discussion included the fact that this board cannot edit what has been submitted and it must go forward. It is shorter than the original and does not contain the Medical Release and Assignment.

There was general agreement that the typographical error could be correct in the copy forwarded to the conference, but that further action was required to change the actual wording.

Motion: To recommend this amendment to the By Laws as it is with grammatical corrections for approval by the membership.

The motion did not carry

Further discussion suggested that the change of wording from Hike leader to event leader was important. It was felt that the waiver should include all activities not just hikes. Others felt that this wording was general enough that it could proceed without change. It was also discussed that the originator of the amendment was a long time member and an active leader and that he should have ownership of any changes.

Motion: To forward the proposed amendment with recommendation for approval as presented with the following changes from hike leader to event leader and correction of type errors.

The motion carries.

Another issue that arose during the discussion was that this new waiver did not include the agreement to follow the directions of the leader. This was not considered a large problem. It

was felt that a trip sign-up form could include the “I agree to follow...” condition along with the waiver.

It was believed that if asked, the originator would willingly make the changes. If he were to resubmit the amendment to the board at the next meeting, it would be forwarded to the conference without formal recommendation in accordance with the by-laws.

Motion: The Chair will ask the originator to change the amendment to use Event rather than Hike and to eliminate the typographical error and the Palm Springs Core Group will resubmit it to the Board.

The motion carries

Other New Business:

It was suggested that we look into using Skype as a possible conferencing method. The banner committee is going to experiment with this before the next meeting and report back on how it could work. We could also decide, but email, whether to make the next meeting online. Skype is free if you have a computer with internet access. You have to set up an account. Former Great Outdoors Chairperson, Chris Fava, is talking to someone in San Francisco who wants to start a chapter up there and this would make it easier to have their board rep attend the meetings. Great Outdoors used to have over 30 chapters and one of the primary reasons they dissolved was the need to drive very three months to a single location for the meeting.

With video conferencing, there is there some control over who gets to speak. How do you know who is talking? There is a column of icons with the name of each person on the conference and it flashes when that person is talking.

It is possible that Board members who are close could meet and others could teleconference. Even if there is a fee, it is probably cheaper than paying mileage. It could be a possible method but would require policy changes. It would not require a By Laws amendment.

Another possibility is Go-to-meeting.

Action Item: Banner committee will investigate the ability to Skype conference.

Lunch Break: 11:35-12:30

Report on Jamboree

The Chair noticed that the party who had booked the Lobo Group Camp at Big Bear had released it, so he reserved it for Jamboree for the 4th of July weekend. The total fee for three nights is 929.00. He did this because it seemed a consensus at the last Board Meeting to have a Jamboree. Some concerns were expressed such as conflicts with other trips already on the calendar. The Outings Chair expressed concern there have been several trip cancellations (two by San Diego), he feels that perhaps since we have many other free weekends it should not be on that weekend. The Quaking Aspen trip, that was discussed, is in a beautiful campground. Mammoth was cancelled due to wind damage and this was reserved in its place. It was suggested that we cancel Big Bear and reschedule Jamboree on a free weekend or perhaps use Quaking Aspen. One issue with following this suggestion is that one location is close and one is not. Quaking Aspen is located at the southernmost end of the Sequoia. It has great hiking and the falls are beautiful and there has been skinny-dipping in the creek. One reason to keep Big Bear is that it is very difficult to reserve group sites. Are there weekends available that are closer to Conference, but not too close? Quaking Aspen is a long drive, and the campsites are narrow and only accommodate RVs to 20 feet. May 30-June 1, July 11-13 and August 22-24 are all newly available. Jamboree should have 100% support and due to the conflict, this would not get that. Jamboree could be used for marketing the club. Charge a very low fee and advertise it as widely as possible. If we use it for marketing, having it local would be better than a long drive. It was suggested that the two trips even though they conflict appeal to different people. Palm Springs would have trouble supporting it because many of their members camp in RVs. So the question is, do we go ahead with the Jamboree or not. The Hurkey Creek trip was changed earlier to avoid conflicts.

There was not a lot of enthusiasm for Lobo. Several felt that Big Bear has been visited too often and too many of the activities require driving into town. There was also the question of who would organize the trip.

Motion: Cancel the Big Bear reservation and reimburse the Chair for the cancellation fee.

The motion carried.

The discussion to use Quaking Aspen as the Jamboree was limited because of the RV situation. The outings chair visited it in 1996 (in a covered wagon, and Moses was there with his big stick) and it is a beautiful area.

The discussion continued and a group site was mentioned above Ojai. It is up in the pine forests so it is very pretty, but has pit toilets and there is no water. This might limit its usefulness as a Jamboree, especially for marketing. This site is up past Wheeler Gorge. Several alternate places were mentioned, none of them for this summer. One group site was mentioned which has a unique fire pit, hot springs, and a large (apparently very large) pergola. Both Thanksgiving and New Years were mentioned as possible times.

We could look into a winter Jamboree, November, December, or New Year's Eve. Someone could monitor the group sites for a cancellation.

Another suggestion was Stagecoach Trail, in the Anza Borrego area for a Winter Jamboree. They have a beautiful clubhouse.

There is also Agua Caliente Hot Springs group camp. It has hiking nearby, cabins, and an oasis. They send the general public home at 5:00 and the campers have the large hot tub area for themselves. The area is not beautiful, but the group site is away from everyone else. The elevation is a little bit higher and it is not expensive. There are RV spaces very near the group site. They may also allow RVs in the group site with no hook-ups because it does have a pretty big area. There is a huge waterproof pergola on a cement slab and the slab is something like 50 X 100. The temperature in the winter is cold.

Would Thanksgiving be a good time for a Jamboree? This has been done in the past very successfully.

Action Item: Steve and Cliff will explore Stagecoach Trails by next meeting.

Chapter Round Robin:

Santa Barbara/Ventura County:

This chapter is hosting the Conference this year. They have 3 group campsites reserved to make certain to have enough parking. They may not keep all three. One site holds 65 people. The other two were either 25 or 35 people, so they have enough space for people, but parking could be an issue. There is overflow parking at additional cost.

Currently the reservations are for Friday and Saturday nights. Should we also get one of the smaller sites for Thursday night? The cost for one of the smaller sites is \$150.00 per night. There would be some interest in an extra night. Kyle could lead a day hike on Friday. There was a suggestion of charging differential rates, such as extra for people with RVs, maybe less for

people who carpool taking the train. There is an Amtrak Train Station right there. Kyle thinks it will be a popular conference. There are great antiques stores for the gay guys and motorcycle shops for the lesbians. Adding the additional night will be proposed to the committee, which will meet soon. They are fairly certain that it will be available as the demand is for the weekend. If they offer it there will probably be interest. There are some RV sites in the area and they may get some of these. The suggestion was made to include the expected overflow parking costs into the price. There may be 8-10 RVs.

The Morro Bay trip last weekend that Joe Dominguez led had about 18 people there. It was a good turnout. The membership is holding steady. Finances are good. They average around 8-11 people at the monthly meetings. The new Logo has been adopted by the chapter.

Orange County/Long Beach:

They are doing the Long Beach Pride festival and parade. We need volunteers to help with the booth. If you do booth duty, you will get an armband that allows you to leave and reenter the grounds without paying again. If you take part in the Pride, you will be a t-shirt with the new logo on it.

Daryl is the contact person. His number is 323 825.8423. Daryl wants to thank Ed, Richard and Wes for the help they have given in the recent financial and membership issues.

Los Angeles:

Their membership is 145 and is holding steady. The bank account is holding steady at about \$13,000. One of their members has a Gay History Downtown Tour that is being scheduled and they go to all these places of historic significance to the gay community. It costs about \$45 per person. The date was not known at the meeting. You can contact Steve for more details.

They have had some good day hikes; back up to Sandstone Peaks over near Circle X ranch – Archive Going-Through social event that was supposed to be this month, but it will happen. They will drag out their archives and have an organized inventory of the archives.

Mammoth was cancelled due to damaging winds now they are going to Quaking Aspen. The trip notes will be out soon.

They are co-leading a trip to Santa Cruz Island. They have just reduced the price by \$55.00, because they decided not to gouge. It is a great trip but so far there have been no sign ups. It is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. Many activities are planned.

They are still focusing on membership so that is part of why they are doing the Long Beach Pride. It is local to LA, we are going to promote heavily, and like last year, help man the booth. They had over 300 people sign up and 160 or so were from LA. They would like to encourage all the chapters to attend and send a contingent for the parade. Bring the chapter banner. If you want to enter a vehicle, contact Steve soon.

The LA Treasurer stated that the Agua Caliente Group site is available for New Years. So, cold or not we are going to grab that and hold it for either a Jamboree or an LA event.

The chapter is moving along well. They are focusing on new members.

Palm Springs:

We had a trip to Gay Archives in LA. It was very informative. It is probably a place where we should turn over any of the Great Outdoors archives that we no longer want to keep. They want everything; so anything we want to get rid of them we can give them. It was well attended we had a bus of 54. They had 9 items of Great Outdoors in their catalog. This would be a good place for the old corporate banner. Please include a donation.

We have had a number of day hikes.

The Calico trip was actually fun in spite of cold and rain. There was a hike in Rainbow Basin, near there, that was a beautiful place to hike. There are caves, tunnels, and amazing geography. There were a few cancellations due to the rain, but by Saturday evening, it cleared up and we had a wonderful campfire.

Coming up is the 4x4 trip to Sedona at the end of the month. 45 people have signed up for the trip.

There is also the Silver Lariat Train Trip coming up. IT goes from San Diego, through LA, up to Santa Barbara, then returns. It is a little pricey, \$190.00, including all your meals. There are 11 seats left out of forty-eight. The trip is on Saturday June 7. Kyle has volunteered to lead a walking tour of Santa Barbara.

The membership is at 246 and the finances are steady.

San Diego:

They are doing really good. Right now, some of their members are on a trip to Tequate, Mexico in conjunction with CMEN Gathering and the Great Outdoors. There are probably about 12 on the trip.

The membership is holding steady. One of the reasons that on our last report our finances were low is because there was a lot of money in Pay Pal and was not captured into our bank account. It is believed to be about \$3,000.00 to 3,500.00. Danny should have all the information.

Death Valley trip is coming and several other trips coming up in the fall. They have a couple of new day hike leaders.

Next Board Meeting:

The next board meeting will be held at Steve Sisneros' house in Pomona on June 28, 2014 at 10:00 AM

The address is:

Steve Sisneros

373 San Francisco Ave.

Pomona, CA 91767

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 am

Minutes written by Ritch Barron, Secretary