

## Minutes – General Business Meeting, June 28, 2014

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### **In attendance:**

Byron Postma: Chairperson

Ritch Barron: Secretary

Richard Debner, Corporate Treasurer

Kyle Richards: Wilderness Education (Via Skype)

Ed Emond: Webmaster

Brian Miller: Outings Chair

Steve Sisneros: Board Representative –LA

Cliff Clue: Board Representative – PS

Gordon Gerbitz: Board Representative – SB/VC

Brendon Johnson: Acting Board Rep for SD

Greg Papin: Board Representative – OC/LB

Members Absent: Mark Chandler: Board Representative – SD

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM

There were no objections to having the meeting recorded

### **Old Business:**

The minutes were emailed to the board but not available in printed form at the meeting. It was impractical to read 13 pages of minutes at the current time. One correction mentioned by the Secretary: The minutes, indicate that the last meeting adjourned at 1:47 AM rather than PM. A few typing and spelling error were also found in the last section. These will be corrected.

**Motion:** to accept the minutes once the errors in the last section are corrected.

Motion carried.

### **Quarterly Financials:** Richard Debner, Treasurer

This is the third quarter of fiscal year 2013-2014. We are missing reports from San Diego and also the third quarter report from Los Angeles. The LA representative indicated that he believed that their Treasurer is just late in sending in the report. The current balance for all the chapters is \$40,378.72. Our membership is 570 up from 493 on March 31 2014. The GO corporate checking account is \$5,350.07, our CD is at \$6,644.81, making our total \$11,994.88. Keep in mind this is all as of May 31 since the meeting is early. The Treasurer has contacted San Diego regarding a couple of issues. Currently, membership dues are collected by Santa Barbara. We need an address where to send the chapter portion of the dues. The Treasurer has not gotten a response about that yet. The Treasurer received the

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Palm Springs check yesterday so they are up-to-date though the printed report indicates their last report as April, 2014.

Detail reports for each chapter are attached to the printed report. Peruse them at your leisure, if there are any extra questions, contact the Treasurer. Money was received from LA for their half of the storage unit. That was the only outstanding business that the Treasurer had.

We seem to have settled our problems in Palm Springs and Orange County. Both of those treasurers have been working very hard, so we shouldn't have any more variances this year. The Treasurer worked with Dennis, the OCLA Treasurer, to bring their records current to through the second quarter. The Board expressed Thanks to the Treasurer for working so hard and getting their accounts straightened out and to Orange County who did most of the work.

**Motion:** to accept the quarterly financial reports

Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Service mark registration

The registration forms which were initially returned due to discrepancies between the words used to describe the mark and the graphic example. The variances were corrected and returned to the Secretary of State. Notice that the service mark has now been successfully registered was received recently. The previous service mark was renewed last year and is good for 5 years. It was again pointed out the previous service marks can be used by any chapter.

**Webmaster Report:**

There are no issues to report of which the webmaster is aware. The calendar is being maintained and updated regularly by the Webmaster and the Outings Chair. Each of the chapters maintains its own FaceBook updates. Any questions should be directed to the Webmaster.

**A New Motto:**

At the Palm Springs parade last year the announcers repeatedly stated our motto: "Out of the Bars, and under the stars". This seemed rather out of date and it does not reflect the nature of the current club. At the last board meeting the chair suggested that the Board Reps consult their members and core group for a new motto. To date, only the Santa Barbara chapter has sent the chair any suggestions. Other suggests were taken during the discussion and the following were placed under consideration:

1. Come out and play in YOUR Great Outdoor (SBVC)
2. Come out and play (SBVC)
3. Hike in, Camp out, Play on (PS)
4. Out under the stars (Board Chair)

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5. Out, under the stars (Board Chair)
6. Come into nature and come out to the stars (LA)
7. Come out into nature and come out to the stars (LA)
8. Come outdoors and come out to the stars (LA)
9. Great Friends, Great Times, Great Outdoors (LA)

During the discussion it was determined that the motto would be used in promotional materials similar to the use of “Hike in, Camp out, Play on” which is used on various chapter’s t-shirts and banners. One suggestion was to assemble a list of the proposed mottos and refer it to the membership. But the board needed to determine who would vote on the motto. Perhaps we could include them in the minutes of this meeting and get core group input on how they would like to proceed. Some felt that a vote would be too early because a better motto than the ones so far suggested might still be out there. Perhaps it could be a contest with the membership polled and an award. Get the core groups involved and make the decision with the delegates at the Conference. Others weren’t sure that all of the membership should be involved. This could make it cumbersome and become a popularity contest. Some felt that coming OUT was an important concept which should still be included, others disagreed that this was much of an issue in 2014. Finally it was suggested that the board should get this done before Conference so that the new motto could be on a new banner before that time.

Two directions were offered: The board could vote on the new motto or they could pick, perhaps the top three and refer these to the core groups for their input.

**Motion:** to vote for the top three and refer them to the core groups who will recommend their favorite from these three.

The motion carried

Further discussion narrowed the list to just three: “Come out and play in YOUR Great Outdoors”, “Hike in, Camp out, Play on”, and “Great Friends, Great Times, Great Outdoors”.

**Motion:** to refer these three slogans to the core groups for their recommendation and report back to Byron by email by the end of **July**.

Motion carried

### **By-Laws changes:**

During the last Board Meeting an amendment to the By-Laws was submitted and discussed. Later it was thought that this might be a good time to propose other changes that could clarify and improve the By-Laws. The Chair and Ed Emond have proposed seven other changes and are presenting them at this meeting. Under the current By-Laws, *“Amendments not brought to the third regularly scheduled meeting may be brought (typed) to the fourth regularly scheduled meeting for submission, but the board will not*

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*take any stand on the amendment.*” While these additional seven amendments are being submitted under that above restriction, the Chair and Ed are willing to modify or remove any of them if there are significant objections. A packet which included the eight amendments was distributed to the Board members. The packet is prepared to be distributed the delegates to the conference with a ballot page at the back.

The first proposed amendment was submitted by the Palm Springs chapter to the last Board meeting. The board voted to recommend this amendment for passage. This format is a suggestion and can be changed to provide better clarity.

### **Board of Directors - Filling a Chair vacancy:**

This proposal reiterates the current language found in the duties of the Corporate Secretary but stipulates that the replacement Chair be elected from its own ranks. This is a completely new sentence in the list of the duties of the Chair and a modification of the sentence in the duties of the Secretary.

#### Discussion:

It was clarified that “from its own ranks” would limit the choice of a new Chair to the current, remaining members of the Board of Directors: Secretary, Treasurer, and the duly elected Representative from each chapter.

This proposal narrows the pool of people from whom a new Chair can be selected. It would prevent someone from outside of the current Board being elected and preserve the continuity of leadership which is important. This new Chair would only serve until the next Conference where they would be confirmed in the position or replaced with a different person by the delegates to that conference. It was felt that a permanent chair, especially one from outside the current governing Board be elected by more than just the Representatives of the chapters. It is the most important position on the Board.

Some felt that this could narrow the pool of candidates too much. There could be a good candidate that could maintain the continuity but that was not a current board member. There was a concern that the points being raised at this meeting would not get to the delegates to the conference. However, nothing prevents any member, delegate, or board representative from speaking for or against any of the proposed amendments when they are presented at conference.

### **Chapter Officers – Filling Vacancies**

Currently the Great Outdoors By-Laws do not have any process for filling a vacancy on the chapter core group level. This proposal adds language at the end of the duties for each of the four elected chapter officers: President, Vice-President of Outings, Treasurer, and the Board Representative, that says: **In case of a permanent incapacity or resignation, the Core Group shall elect from its own ranks a new**

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**President (Vice-President of Outings, Treasurer, Board Representative). The {Officer} may be removed from office at any time by a unanimous vote of the other Core Group members.**

Discussion:

The current situation could result in chaos since a chapter would be free to do whatever it pleased. It was felt that the By-Laws should define this process. Some felt that *from its own ranks* should not be applied to the chapters. This could limit the pool too much. For example, a Treasurer requires certain skills and experience that might not be represented at the core group level. It was also pointed out that the By-Laws allow the chapter to hire certain functions to be performed, but that would not be “from its own ranks”. Actually, you would hire someone to do the work, but you would still need to elect a Treasurer. Some suggested that the stipulation could be applied to the chapter President to preserve the continuity of leadership, but not to the other offices. The wording in the other officer duties could be *from its own membership*.

The consensus of the Board is that for the chapter VPO, Treasurer, and Board Representative positions, the words *from its own ranks* be removed from the proposed amendment.

### **Removal from office – Corporate level**

This proposal is to add a section 10 to Chapter IV: B of the By-Laws:

**10) Removal from Office: The Chair, Secretary and/or Financial Officer may be removed from office at any time by a unanimous vote of the Chapter Board Representatives, or at Conference by a majority vote of the delegates. Appointed positions and committee chairs may be removed from their positions by the Chair or a majority vote of the Chapter Board Representatives.**

There is no mechanism in the current By-Laws for removal an officer who, in the opinion of the Board, is not fulfilling the duties of the office. This proposal offers a very requirement for this action. There must be a **unanimous** vote of chapter board representatives.

Discussion:

The consensus is to remove the wording about conference as this is the normal time when officers are elected. Some were reluctant to create a punitive measure in the By-Laws. But it was also felt that there needed to be a mechanism to hold officers accountable to the responsibilities involved in their position. There has been several times where such a mechanism would have eased a chaotic situation which damaged the club and caused it to lose valuable leaders.

The removal of committee Chairs by the Corporate Chair was also questioned. The current By-Laws state that “*The Chair shall ensure that the officer of the Board of Directors and committees are performing their duties.*” This proposal adds a formal mechanism for removing a non-performing appointed officer. The second part was illustrated by the example of the Chair appreciating the work of the Webmaster,

but if the representatives found the officer unresponsive to the needs of the chapters, they could vote to remove the officer without the input of the chair. This provides better balance.

### **Board of Directors - Committees**

This proposal adds **The Chair appoints committee chairs and members of committees** to the duties of the Chair. This is to clarify who appoints committee Chairs and members of committees. The current By-Laws indicates that the Chair creates committees but is unclear who decides will be members and chair of the committees.

The consensus was to strike *members of the committee* from the proposed amendment.

### **By-Law Revision Procedures**

Currently the By-Laws mandate a complicated mechanism for changing the By-Laws. This includes the provision that the amendment must be presented at the Third regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The board may then make a recommendation to the conference regarding the amendment. However, if the amendment is presented at the fourth regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, no recommendation can be made. This would allow someone to bypass the Board and go directly to the delegates at conference. The new language is: ***“Proposed amendments, repeals, or revisions to these By-Laws must be submitted no later than the last Board of Directors regularly scheduled meeting prior to the Annual Conference. The Board of Directors shall include a recommendation to pass, fail, or take no position on the proposed amendments, repeals, or revision.”***

### **Appendix B – Fee Structure:**

This proposal is to let the chapters decide how much they want to charge for membership. This led to a discussion regarding the fee structure. It was pointed out that most chapters already modify the fee by offering discounts and other incentives such as T-shirts and special activities like pool parties. One concern was that the proposal could cause a price war between the chapters. While it is unusual for membership fees to be hard coded into the governing documents of an entity, some felt that to make the change in some ways damaged the corporate identity.

The consensus was to not include this proposal with the other proposed By-Law changes.

### **Basic Outing Fees:**

Under the current By-Laws, Outing fees are *up to* \$5.00 and *up to* 20.00 for non-members. So everyone is currently charging more for outings than is allowed in the By-Laws. Many have been charging way too much!

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This proposal will strike all of the different languages for outings and let chapters make the decision regarding outing fees. The last sentence, just for clarification states that GO membership entitles a member to participate in all of the activities of GO in any other chapter at the member rate.

**Action Item:** Ed will send the proposed By-Law changes to Ritch for proofing and then Ritch will send to chapters for 30 day announcement.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **OUTINGS**

Brian will be stepping down from Corporate Outings Chair next year. One thing he likes about doing the calendar is that it helps him keep up to date with who's leading what and when. Several alternatives were discussed including Brian continuing as Outings Chair but have someone else maintain the calendar. The webmaster indicated that he will work with Brian to explore alternatives. He may be willing to continue as Outings Chair if the computer issues can be resolved.

Participation on GO trips is up. There have been more sell-outs than in previous years. More people are attending and have given good feedback about the trips. GO is known for leading high quality camping trips and that the trip leaders that do a good job. The Wilderness Education program next year should be strongly promoted so that we can train more high-quality trip leaders.

#### **AWARDS**

There was supposed to be a reminder sent to the chapters to nominate candidates for the three awards that the corporation makes each year at conference. This did not happen this year and it is felt that the usual process is too cumbersome to work this year.

The Webmaster and other board members devised a proposal to do the nominations using email. There was a lot of discussion about this process with the main issue being the secrecy of the voting process. It was suggested that password protected Acrobat files could be used which would prevent anyone other than the voter, the Awards Chair and one other security person could view the completed ballot. This failed to allay the concerns as the Awards Chair and the second person would still know who had voted for which nominee. There seemed to be no solution to this issue using email.

Another alternative was to use an online service such as SurveyMonkey. This would maintain the complete anonymity that the Board Representatives, the group who selects the winner, and for which nominee they voted. However this also failed because it did not allow for the discussion. Everyone agreed that the awards are important to the club, by using this method, the Representatives who are tasked with selecting the winners would lose the opportunity to learn the merits of each of the nominees. It could then become a popularity contest. Even though submissions would be coming from

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various people, the representatives shouldn't just look at the nomination forms. Without discussion they can't really get down to who is the best candidate.

Both a special meeting of the Awards committee and a conference call were suggested but neither of these was considered feasible. Without a face to face meeting and a vote, the process would be too complex especially if a second vote was required.

**Motion:** Each chapter chooses a Volunteer of the Year for that chapter, selected by their core group, for this year only. There will be 5 awards.

Discussion:

The chapter officers and members know who among them has been most active and helpful to their chapter. They could make a nomination for Volunteer of the Year. It would just be for this year. The process for nominating and selecting the winner will be at the chapter's discretion. Even though this year the winners would be selected at the chapter level, the corporation would supply award plaques as they have done in past years. The Awards Chair requested that the chapters forward their choice for Volunteer of the Year to him by the end of August so that the plaques could be made for presentation at Conference.

The motion carried.

**Motion:** to table the two awards, Mack Gerighty and Lifetime Achievement, until next year.

Discussion:

While there are criteria for these Mack Gerighty and Lifetime Achievement awards, they are quite vague. They include items like *"a person who most exemplifies by character and action in the area of outdoor leadership which Mack Gerighty would have approved of."* What did Mack Gerighty approve of? They also refer to the *current year*. Is that the calendar year, the fiscal year, or some other calendar period? Some members of the board, felt that these awards are important and that there was meaning to them. Others felt that many people in the club don't even know who this person was or have only limited knowledge of his character and actions. Last year guidelines were created to guide the process. None were produced this year. Some believed that this was a good opportunity, because the chapters are making Volunteer of the Year awards, to rethink the process and clarify the needed qualifications. People need to be inspired to leadership. This is one of the functions of having awards. Mack Gerighty was a long time ago. These awards need to be made meaningful again. This has often been discussed, but like now, only at the last minute. Perhaps after conference, the Board should rethink the entire awards process.

It was suggested that Brian Miller and any others who are familiar with Mack Gerighty be part of the committee to help redefine the awards.

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The Motion carried

**Archives Policy:** On July 18, there will be an afternoon social at one of the member's houses. The LA chapter archives will be brought from the storage and they will sort through them and see what is relevant and worth keeping. Two members of the LA chapter visited the storage site and examined everything, both corporate and GOLA. The bulk of it is very old paperwork, much of it duplicated; old drama that was typed into minutes about this person doing that to that person. There is memorabilia, old bumper stickers, t-shirts created for special occasions, archives from the Inland Empire chapter when it folded, etcetera. They opened one of the boxes at random, most of the IE archives consisted of photo albums. There are some very recognizable people in here and some very nice photos.

Currently there is no policy for how to handle the archives. A committee should be created to propose an archive policy. Something like keep all photos for x-number of years, keep all financial records for x-number of years, should newsletters be kept? etc.

The chair appointed Cliff and Steve as Co-Chair of a newly formed Archive Committee. Ed has been appointed to the committee.

Keys to the storage area where the archives are kept have been distributed to the Chair

### **Wilderness Education report:**

There was no progress to report on the alternate Hike Leader Certification program.

The update to the manual has been started. Thank you to the Chair for supplying the electronic version of the older version. It was translated to a Word document which allows editing. Unfortunately the version was the second revision from 2001. The most recent hard copy of the manual is from 2009. It was suggested to scan the later revision and use an OCR program to convert it for editing. But it may be easier to compare the electronic version to the printed version and update it. There is a possibility that the more recent version could be in the archives. Steve will check and retrieve it if it exists.

Looking at the calendar for next year two dates for Wilderness Education: Phase I: March 14-15, 2015, Phase II: April 25-26, 2015.

**Motion:** Reserve the dates, March 14-15 and April 25-26, for Wilderness Education 2015.

Discussion: Last year the dates weren't finalized until conference and by that time it was too late to find accommodations for the classes.

The motion carried

**Outreach:** Long Beach Pride was very good. There were about 20 people in the parade. Daryl and his helpers did a great job setting up the booth. A lot of people came by the booth because it was in a great

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location. A clipboard for each chapter was laid out and when people approached the booth they were asked to sign up for information about the chapter they would prefer. Los Angeles got almost three full pages. Unfortunately much of the handwriting was unreadable. Next year, booth volunteers should take the information down. Everyone was fed after the parade. Outreach will be requesting \$250 for Los Angeles' share of promotions. The OCLB board representative expressed gratitude for the support from the LA chapter, "They really did a remarkable job". Outreach will be with Palm Springs in their parade next. Outreach efforts on FaceBook and MeetUp are doing well. FaceBook is up to over 300 people. Even four or five women inquired about the Quaking Aspen Trip.

**Conference:** When planning the conference, the committee worked to make it all inclusive. Fire danger and drought eliminated several of the sites they explored. Two of the places that were reserved were cancelled due to fires. This is why they sought a site on the coast. The final selection has severe restrictions on the size of RVs, they cannot be longer than 26 feet. Examination of some of the sites revealed that a larger RV could be in them as long as the distance from the rear tires to the end of the coach was short enough. They said they were exploring the idea that the RVs could be parked on the city streets, but there is a difference between "Parking" on the street and "camping". This is why the site allows RVs into the overflow parking, but they cannot camp there. Some may be able to find an RV site that is not too far away; however because the trip notes were late being released, many if not all of the available sites have been reserved. One suggestion was to arrange a group rate at the Motel 6 which is adjacent to the conference site, but this was too expensive and the number of rooms might not be filled. Non campers will be charged a \$40.00 activity fee.

Financially, the chapter cannot assist with additional reservations. The point was made that the By-Laws only require that the chapter provide a location for the Conference. They have done this. They have made provisions for the Business Meetings. They will segregate the camping area from the common areas so that there won't be overflow from other campers into our group site. They plan to put canopies over the tables for the meetings. The theme is *Harvest Festival at the Shore*. Activities, such as a pumpkin carving contest will be planned around the traditional Fall type of ceremony.

There was disappointment on both sides of the situation regarding RV campers. The suggestion was made that perhaps we again need a wagon master to assist chapters in arranging RV accommodations at corporate events.

**Action item:** Byron to issue the corporate agenda for the meetings of the conference.

**Jamboree:** There have been places explored for a Jamboree. Because all of the sites are already reserved, it cannot happen this year. The list of possible locations was excellent. Agua Caliente and Zion National Park were among them. Zion seemed to get the best response. However there was a concern that it might be too far for some members to travel. It was mentioned that distance need not be a problem. The example offered was the recent trip to Sedona, which sold out, in spite of being quite a distance. California campgrounds continue to raise parking fees and create other restrictions which.

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Reservations need to be made months in advance which also limits the potential locations. The club may be forced to start venturing further afield to find attractive camping areas. But, when distance is an issue, the trip should be more than a weekend. It should, if possible include Thursday and Friday. Campers should be able to spend at least two or three days actually in the park.

Another good possibility, for a January jamboree, was *Indian Cove* in Joshua Tree. It has seven group sites which are spectacular. It's very affordable and can easily accommodate RVs. Most RV people do not require hook-ups for a three day trip. Running generators was mentioned, but most of us don't run a generator unless it is absolutely necessary and the Trip Leader can make and enforce whatever restrictions to make the trip enjoyable for everyone.

**Corporate banner:** The consensus was to wait until the motto is determined.

**Action Item:** Brian and Ritch will work together, perhaps using Mammoth as a background to have a banner for use at this year's conference. It was also mentioned that in designing the banner, the new motto should be large enough to be readable when the banner is carried in a Pride Parade.

**Skype** was demonstrated at the meeting with Kyle attending online. Due to a weak WiFi signal there were numerous disruptions where he dropped out or his video froze. This could be a problem if we were to attempt to hold meetings through Skype. However with strong enough technology at all the locations it could be accomplished successfully. At times, because not everyone could be seen on Kyle's monitor, he was unable to tell who was speaking or hear what they said. This could be solved by the position of the camera and microphone.

**Consolidation of Website:** a plan was circulated with a list of features that could be incorporated into a consolidated website. Visitors were come to GreatOutdoors.org and find all of the information for the club. If the visitor wanted information about a specific chapter a click of a button would filter the information on the site to emphasize the activities of that chapter. Other filters could include hikes, camping trips, and other day activities. This could also be used to process membership thus maintaining a central database of the membership. One chapter even considered hiring a consultant to create such as website. However, when you contract someone to redesign the website it is important to have a clear statement of exactly what you want the site to look like and how it should function. They can do the coding for things like a store front or to integrate PayPal, but you have to tell them exactly what you want on it.

Some suggested that there are already companies that do this and there are some "drag and drop" applications that can be used for this purpose. San Diego's site uses such an app. OCLB has contracted a web developer who is designing a database system using Joomla. There is interest in consolidation but the chapters have to have buy-in; they have to determine what their chapter wants and needs for the consolidation to be successful. One thing that would be helpful would be an update on the progress that is happening with the OCLB site.

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Other questions that were mentioned were how long would it take? This would depend on the requirements. Would it be a corporate responsibility if we are doing a consolidated site? Yes. The place to start is clearly the development of the requirements of the new site. Some want to see the sites functions before agreeing to anything.

The Chair appointed a Website Redevelopment Committee: It will be chaired by Ritch and will include Steve and Ed.

### **New Business:**

In accordance with the By-Laws, Chapter Elections are to be held at certain times and in certain ways.

**Action Item:** The Chair will send out reminder to the chapters to hold their elections along with guidelines from the By-Laws.

Chapters need to hold their Trip Planning meetings. Ed will provide a Google calendar where the VP of outings from each chapter can post their proposed trips. If they do not feel technically savvy, they can send the trips to Ed and he will post them to the calendar.

**Action Item:** Ed will create a Google calendar where the chapter VP of Outings can post their proposed trips. If anyone does not feel they have the technical savvy, they can send their trips to Ed to post.

**Action Item:** Brian will send out a notice to all of the chapters reminding them to plan their trips for the 2014-2015 year.

### **Round Robin:**

**Santa Barbara/Ventura County:** They currently have 60 members. Their funds are a little bit low due to their \$2,000+ investment in conference which limits what they can do as far as buying T-shirts and whatever. They are approaching their busy season. They have two prides coming up: July 12 is Santa Barbara, July 13 is San Luis Obispo and August 23 is Ventura Pride. One of the big concerns was increasing the involvement of the general membership. The representative thinks the board is going in the right direction by having a chapter Volunteer of the Year Award this time. They are also soliciting suggestions for other ways to encourage rank and file member to get involved in leadership. For Conference planning they are meeting at least monthly. Pretty much all is well. The Lime Kiln trip is coming up in about a week.

**Orange County/Long Beach:** They are growing; they have added 6-8members in the last 6 months. Los Angeles did a great job with them in the Pride Parade. In the booth, we had several people from both our chapter and the LA chapter and it went well. They continue to work on the new website and will keep that moving along.

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**Palm Springs:** They are doing well with about 230 members. Our most recent discussion has been about how to balance the membership with the things they have planned, like pool parties. At what point do we have to say do the facilities we have meet the needs of our members? They are raising their dues back to \$25.00 in part because our Treasurer, at the last meeting, made a presentation asking where do we want to spend our resources. Before, we just looked at the bank balance and he suggested that this was not a good way to look at financing. Some of their trips require significant money up front. They have a better idea now about where their funds are going. They are talking about putting a pie-chart in their newsletter that explains where the dues go. This might be a good idea next year for the corporation to do this also. Palm Springs's Pride is changing the parade route this year. Instead of the booths being in the ball park, they will line N Palm Canyon Drive, which is the main drag in the city. This will be a huge change. It will be a huge opportunity for people to be in the parade. So they have a marching entry again in this parade. We will invite all the other chapters to join us. There has actually been a discussion about capping their membership because we can't accommodate everyone at our activities. They have not reached a final decision at this time.

**San Diego:** all of their hikes for the year are now on the website. The hike last weekend actually went really well. It was down to Cal's canyon which has a 2,000 foot elevation climb in less than a mile. It's kind of a zigzag trail so it's not as bad as it sounds. It was a five and a half mile hike because they did both peaks. They were supposed to be in Catalina today for a scuba diving trip which was cancelled due to lack of interest. What they are trying to do is find different activities to experiment with other than just camping to see if there is any interest. Their next experiment is next month; they are doing a kayaking trip to the La Jolla caves. They have tried to be with other groups, such as a gay scuba diving club, but most of them are all LA based so it is difficult to get these people to come to SD. San Diego is a young town, a military and college town. Most of the young people don't like clubs. They have a group of friends and they go out and do their thing so many of the clubs are still LA based. One of the issues they face is that only two people are doing all of the work. They are trying to get more volunteers involved in the leadership.

It was suggested that the minutes of the Board meetings be distributed not only to the Board Representatives, but also to the core groups.

**Action Item:** (Ritch) once the initial draft has been distributed to the Board and any comments from the members incorporated into them, the Secretary will distribute them, by email to the chapter core groups.

**Los Angeles:** They are doing great, their membership is lower than they would like at about 122. Through the Quaking Aspen trip, they are getting 6 new members. Part of this result is due to the response they are getting from FaceBook. They are seeing some women's names. That's where they are finding us. The trip is next week, they have 31 people going. The leader has had to turn away 14 people already. Had he known, he would have booked more sites. So they will do it again next year. One of the issues they are encountering is that they are now putting the PayPal links for trips on the website. They

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need to review their system because the trip leader who coordinates all the funding now has to work with the treasurer to coordinate the process: did this person pay? What was the PayPal contribution costs for the accounting of the trip?

The Pride Parade was great and they are assuring Palm Springs that they will be there at their upcoming parade.

On 19<sup>th</sup> they are having an archive viewing BBQ for their members. They will drag out what they have and let our guys go through it and get a bit of the history of the organization.

They are going to work with REI. They offer free classes in almost any subject. Their first class will be in August at the REI in Santa Monica. They provide everything, you just provide them with an audience. They will be teaching an outdoor cooking class. REI will also provide free meeting rooms. They will be alternating between the Arcadia and Santa Monica stores so that their members will have complete access. Next year they may try to do some “Granddaddy” trips such as maybe Yellowstone. It is one of the Granddaddies of the parks. It will take at least a week to do it right. They are looking at the possibility of using van pools. They would rent vans rather than everyone spending a lot of money on gas and moving people that way. They might also consider Grand Canyon.

When they went to PayPal on their site, when you pay, there is a check mark that says “You have read and agree with the liability waiver”. So even if the person doesn’t send us a copy of the signed waiver, when they pay, they are agreeing with the liability waiver.

Some people have questioned whether the club is necessary, with all the internet tools available. What they pushed at the Long Beach Pride was that the purpose of the club is to provide seed money. Also, if you go to Gay Outdoors, it’s just some guy you’ve never met. He might abscond with your money. With Great Outdoors, you know what you’re getting rather than some unknown. People were very receptive to that. They were very interested to know that we were not a non-profit club.

The club was incorporated in 1981. It was suggested that we have a 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary extravaganza in 2016. Perhaps, during the Archive Party, they could pick out some of the more interesting things and make them available at conference so that people can look through them.

Just for marketing purposes, you might not know that June is national Great Outdoors month.

One caveat about using PayPal and the Liability Waiver online, you still need to have them complete the registration form because it contains important health related information. As we move to the electronics we should make the change but not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

One suggestion that was made was someone should assemble statistics of the trips that club leads each year: how many trips, how many people attend, et cetera.

The Motion to adjourn was made at 2:10 PM.