

## **BLIND LGBT PRIDE INTERNATIONAL**

Board Meeting Minutes

SUNDAY, January 13, 2013

### **Call to Order**

Guillermo Robles called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM CST.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Guillermo Robles, Mark Hanohano, Don Brown, Kevin Ratliff, George Ashiotis, Connie Torrisi

Absent: Gabriel Lopez, Mikey Wiseman

### **Approval of minutes**

Approval of Minutes will be postponed due to technical issues.

### **President's Remarks**

Guillermo said that communication still seems to be a problem. We need to be more diligent in our communication and follow-up. We all owe it to ourselves and the membership to be accountable for the duties we have been assigned. We are elected members, and we need to let the membership know what we're doing. He sent a request that documents be submitted a week prior to the meeting, so that information can be posted to the website timely. He stated that we do not have a treasure's report this month either. Gabriel has been experiencing some personal problems, but he will be back, and he will send a report. George said that it has been a couple of months that Gabriel has not been able to provide a treasure's report, and maybe we should relieve him of having to be treasurer. It might be welcomed by him, because it sounds like he has a lot going on. We are no further along in deciding whether the 2 accounts can be turned in to 1 than we were back in October. He doesn't mean to say that Gabriel is incapable, but we haven't had the kind of reports that we should have had. Mark said that he agrees with George, but maybe there is a way to put him on a leave and have someone else be treasurer until he is

able to come back, because it seems like he is going through a lot right now. He doesn't know what the procedures are, or if we can even put him on a leave. We haven't had a solid report for 2 months now. Don asked if anyone had been in communication with Gabriel since the last board meeting. Guillermo said that he got in touch with him last night. That's when he learned of everything that's been going on. Connie stated that she has not been too happy with his performance since the first meeting. She just gets the feeling that he's not very good at the position. Don said that he would have to come to the same conclusion, because we haven't seen any evidence to the contrary. He recommended giving him 2 weeks to produce the 2 reports that we're missing. Kevin said that it has only been 2 reports, and it would have to be 3 thus equaling 3 absences before we could start the procedure of relieving him of his duties, and then who would we get to take his place. It can't be the president. Don said that it has not come to that point yet. He suggests being direct with Gabriel, requesting the reports with a specific deadline. Guillermo said that he will send him the request, and he will cc the board. There was more discussion about the purpose of the 2 accounts.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Membership Committee Report**

George reported that we are still at 75 members. Many members and board members have not paid dues yet. He sent a reminder to the discussion list, but he has no way of enforcing it. Not all of the board members have paid dues. He won't name names. "But, you know who you are." The membership report to national is now done on line.

## **Communications Committee Report**

Will reported that he is still posting statuses. He has not been able to move forward on the blog and forums, because he has not been able to get in touch with Don Wilson. We have 276 followers on twitter and a new Facebook fan page.

## **Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report**

Don reported on the changes to article I of the constitution. He read the proposed language of section A, which states “The name “Blind LGBT Pride International” shall not be used by any person or organization without the expressed written consent of the President and/or the Board of Directors of BPI”. A motion was made to accept the new language. MSC, (Ashiotis, Torrissi)

Don also reported that they are looking at having Q&A teleconferences where members can discuss the proposed amendments. There was more discussion about the best time to have the teleconference. George thanked the committee for doing a wonderful job.

## **Convention Committee Report**

### **Update on affiliate responses and discussion of possible projects**

Mark reported that he has been working with ACB Students, and Guillermo has been working with IVIE. Mark asked George if he was able to get in touch with Peter. George said that he hasn't heard from him. Guillermo said that Ardis with Ivie is very interested in working with us. They have a luncheon on Wednesday that might be extended to BPI. The 2 convention committees will have a brainstorming session to work an agenda. Mark reported that he is working with ACB Students. They might want to include BPI members on a panel of students of all ages to discuss resources and best practices for those attend college. He does not have a budget for convention yet. He is waiting to get with the treasurer to go over numbers.

George asked when our final program is due. Mark said the end of March beginning of April.

Kevin asked if there are anymore conference calls scheduled. Mark said that he will get with Mikey on putting another conference call together. There was a discussion about the dates of the convention and the dates of activities.

## **Outreach Committee Report**

### **Las Vegas Update**

Guillermo read the outreach report submitted by Mikey. Mikey is planning another general telephonic mixer soon. He encourages board members to attend. The outreach committee is planning on working with Mark on a targeted focus group to gather and discuss ideas for convention. He reported that the Los Vegas trip was a success, and everyone who attended had a lot of fun. He feels that BPI missed the boat on a wonderful fundraising opportunity and failed to act on a directive from the membership by choosing not to support the Vegas trip.

## **Public Q&A**

Will said that he needs to get access to the website. He has been waiting for 2 months. Guillermo said that he would make a note. Kevin said that he will try to make contact with Don Wilson.

Don reported that Will Burley was elected to the GDUI board. Guillermo reported that Don Brown was appointed legislative committee chair of the same organization.

Guillermo said that all agenda items, committee reports and minutes are due by February 1st.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM CST.