

BLIND LGBT PRIDE INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETING
SUNDAY, December 9, 2012

Call to Order

Mark Hanahana called the meeting to order at 4:09 MP CST.

Roll Call

Present: Mark Hanahana, Don Brown, Gabriel Lopez, George Ashiotis, Connie Torrisi, Mikey Wiseman

Absent: Guillermo Robles, Kevin Ratliff

Approval of minutes for October 14 and November 11

Members reported that they hadn't seen the October minutes yet. A motion was made to approve the November minutes with the correction of the word Scouring. MSC, (Wiseman, Brown)

Vice President's Remarks

None

Public Comment

Don reported that the President's legislative meeting is coming up in February. Mikey said that he would be reporting on that later. Don stated that he did not see it on the agenda, so he wouldn't be reporting on it later. Mikey said that he did not turn in a report; that's why. Connie stated that she has been reading "Robert's Rules of Order", and the agenda is not binding, because we don't vote to adopt the agenda. It is sort of informal. We can change or modify it, because we don't adopt the agenda. Don said that we would do that at the top of the meeting, not as we go along. Connie said that she doesn't interpret it that way. Don said that we could go on forever then. Connie said that she hopes not. Don asked if the outreach committee report was being added to the agenda. The board members stated that it was fine with them.

Treasurer's Report

Gabriel reported that he didn't have a report. He will email it later. The ACB convention payment has cleared. That is \$1388 less in the account. Some membership dues have come in, but he doesn't have the exact figures. He should have them later on in the evening. Mikey asked Gabriel for his opinion on what should be done since Gabriel can't get in touch with George Abbott. Gabriel said that he will make one more attempt to contact him. He thinks that George might have been a little overwhelmed or unhappy about the continued questioning about the

\$5000 taken from the endowment fund. Mark asked Gabriel what exactly does he need from George Abbott. Gabriel said that we need to know why there are 2 savings accounts and if they can be unified in to 1 account to minimize the paperwork and information. Don asked Gabriel if he has made an assessment on that and if he is prepared to make a recommendation. Gabriel said that he is prepared to make a recommendation. He would prefer to review the accounts and speak with Don about constitution and bylaws, before making a recommendation. Don said that the account would not be covered in the constitution and bylaws. The treasurer would take the lead on that and make a recommendation to the board. The board would consider the recommendation and approve or reject it. Gabriel said that if everyone agrees, he will email a list of recommendations in the next couple of days. Mikey said that that is fine. Of course they would still need to be discussed. Gabriel said that board members can study the list of recommendations and reply to the email with questions. We can table it until January. Mikey said that the situation regarding the endowment fund was discussed and closed earlier. There is no need to drag out that dead horse. Mark asked Gabriel if once he speaks with George he will be prepared to make a recommendation on the accounts. George Ashiotis said that he understood that Gabriel was going to formulate his recommendations without trying to talk to George Abbott again, because we need to move on something. There was further discussion about the board's interest in pursuing legal action or exploring other options for the money that was taken from the endowment fund.

Membership Committee Report

George reported that we're at 75 members currently. He has written the membership renewal letter and sent it to Will Burley to add the social networking information. Will did not get the letter, so it is not ready yet. He asked Connie is it is too late to include the letter in the Inside Out. Connie said yes. Mikey asked George if he could have the dollar amount we will have to pay ACB for membership dues for the next meeting. George stated \$375. Membership dues should be in by the end of January. The letter will go out by the 15th of December.

Communications Committee Report

Inside Out Status

Connie reported that the newsletter is on time as always.

Discussion of gathering foreign members

Connie is wondering if our social networking is bringing in any members from other countries. It doesn't seem so. Don said that maybe that will be in the outreach report. Will said that we have people following us on Twitter from London, Australia and some country he's never heard of, and of course Canada. Connie said that she just wanted to know what was happening with our efforts to gain members outside of the US and Canada. Don said that he thinks that is

something that would be handled by outreach. Outreach reaches out and motivates people to become members. Social media is advertizing, "Hey, here we are!". It doesn't have a membership connection component. Mikey said that the frank and short answer is he hasn't being doing any of that. He has not heard from Guillermo in close to 2 months. He was not made aware that he was supposed to be handling that. He will put it on his list. George said that it had come up on the list a while back when a couple of people said that we were very United States centric, which is where the bulk of are members are. At that time, there was a concerted effort to reach out internationally. Mikey said that he thinks that it was done through Guillermo with some people in Australia. Mark said that he has been in touch with Guillermo, and he knows that he has been in contact with some people from other countries, but he is not sure which countries. Mikey said that he thinks Guillermo was communicating with an organization, but he was not privy to that information. He can't take action on something he doesn't know about. Mark asked Mikey what he planned to do. Mikey said that he would develop an action plan. He will work on a strategic approach. He will need to look at what is already in place and what has already been done. He will go from there. Mikey asked when things come up on the website, is there a communications email. Board members said yes. Mikey said that he is unable to tell where emails or notifications are coming from, the official BPI discussion or announce list, or the closed, members only Facebook page. They all say William Burley. Will explained that the BPI Fan page posts to the discussion list. The group page does not, and is not official. Mikey said that the exact issue is he received a post from Will that he feels is a conflict of interest, because it is marketing a business with Will's name on it. Don called a point of order. Mikey has steered the conversation far beyond the agenda and the scope of communications. This discussion is not even covered buy what was agreed upon to add to the agenda. Mikey asked Don to help him steer it back to communications. Mark restated the topics under communications on the agenda. Mark said that it will have to be tabled and added to next month's agenda. Don explained that it's not to say that the question doesn't need to be asked. It's just out of order. Mikey said that the situation could be resolved if there was a designated entity to handle communications. Don suggested that Mikey place it on a later agenda. Will reminded mikey that he has his contact information. He can call or email him with any questions or concerns. He doesn't have to wait a month to have his issues addressed. Mikey said that it is a board discussion and decision. He might be the only one with the issue or miss reading the posts. George said that it is a board discussion, and there needs to be a proposal in front of the board for consideration.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report

Don reported on some of the proposed language changes to the constitution and bylaws. There is a proposed parliamentarian seat be added to the board. The other significant changes are to article VI, section H, removal of officers and disciplinary hearing notices. The proposed language related to removing officer states 2/3rds board members present. Existing language says a unanimous vote. Also the hearing notice will include the reasons for disciplinary action

and the date and time of the hearing. Other proposed changes: A quorum is 5 board members. A president who has been removed can not serve as immediate past president. George asked why the committee chose to recommend adding a parliamentarian seat rather than assign those duties to a board member at large. Don said that there was a lot of discussion around this with the president involved, and they agreed that it would be better to add a member to the board to avoid split decisions. George thanked the committee for all of their hard work. Connie asked if the parliamentarian would only have that 1 duty. Don said that wouldn't be their only duty. Mikey asked don to give a brief explanation and reasoning behind the proposed changes. Don said that most of the proposed changes are for consistency and to connect the dots in the constitution and bylaws. Don then reported on the proposed language in article V.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP, VOTING AND DUES

A. Membership

Any person at least 16 years of age who affirms the purposes of this organization is eligible to become a member of Blind LGBT Pride providing she or he complies with the provisions herein.

b. Classes of Members are as follows:

1. Voting member: Anyone over the age of sixteen who supports the mission of BPI.
2. Student Member: Anyone currently enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary educational institution. Student member shall have full voting rights.
3. Life Member: Anyone over the age of sixteen who supports the mission of BPI. Life Members shall have full voting rights.
4. Associate Member: Any ally or friend who supports the mission of BPI. Associate members shall have full voting rights.
5. Supporting Member: Any individual or organization who supports the mission of BPI. Supporting members do not have voting rights.
6. Honorary member: An individual or organization for whom BPI offers special recognition. Honorary members do not have voting rights. George asked Don to explain supporting members and associate members. Don said that supporting members can be individuals or organizations. Associate members are individuals. Dues for supporting members are \$25. Associate members can be allies of BPI, sighted or straight. Mikey asked don to go over the different dollar figures associated with the different membership levels. Don reported from the proposed language relating to dues.

BYLAW 1

DUES:

A. Dues for membership in the organization shall be as follows and shall be paid to the Treasurer or to the person or persons designated by the President.

B. Voting Membership annual dues shall be \$15.

c. Associate Membership dues shall be \$15.

D Student Membership annual dues shall be \$10.

E. Lifetime memberships shall be two hundred dollars. Lifetime membership payments shall be paid in one installment or in a series of installments over a period not to exceed one year.

F. Supporting Membership annual dues shall be \$25.

G. Honorary Membership shall not be subject to dues.

H. Dues may be subject to change by a majority vote by members present at the Annual Convention.

Mikey asked if it is stipulated how Honorary memberships will be awarded, by the board or recommended by an individual and voted on by the board. Don said that the recommendations would probably come from the convention coordinating committee. If someone speaks at convention, for example, we would award them an Honorary membership. There was further discussion about the different membership levels and specifically Lifetime memberships.

The board voted to adopt the proposed changes to Article VI. MSC, (Wiseman, Ashiotis).

The board voted to adopt the proposed changes to Article V. MSC, (Ashiotis, Wiseman)

The board voted to adopt the proposed changes to bylaw 1. MSC, (Wiseman, Ashiotis)

Don reported on the existing and proposed language in bylaw 4.

BYLAW 4 PROPOSED LANGUAGE

AFFILIATES

A. Each group requesting affiliate status must submit the following, for Blind LGBT Pride Board approval, prior to receiving recognition as an affiliate

1. A copy of the proposed affiliate's Constitution and Bylaws.
2. A full membership list with each members full information as set forth by the Blind LGBT Pride board and ACB.
3. If incorporated, a signed "Service Mark and Trade Name Agreement".

B. Each affiliate must keep their Membership list submitted to Blind LGBT Pride up to date.

C. Each affiliate will pay Blind LGBT Pride dues, as specified in these bylaws, each January for all of its members.

D. The charter of an affiliate may be suspended by the board of directors, to be ratified by a majority vote of the membership at convention for:

1. Being more than two (2) months overdue in payment of annual dues and Failing to supply the board with an up-to-date list of its members (due date January 15th).
2. Failing to notify the Board with respect to its purposes or membership.
3. Conducting or participating in activities contrary to the good reputation of Blind LGBT Pride.

E. Before the Board adopts a motion for the provisional deletion of an Affiliate the Affiliate concerned is provided, by mail (MCRR), a notice of the provisional deletion motion and the reasons upon which it is based.

F. The affiliate has thirty three (33 calendar days), to provide the board with reasons why the provisional deletion should not be adopted.

G. When a motion of provisional deletion is adopted by the Board, the Affiliate concerned has the right to appeal the action to the Board.

1. The appeal must be received by the Board within thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the notice of provisional deletion.
2. The Boards vote on the appeal shall be conducted according to the voting procedures outlined in these Bylaws, and will be held within thirty (30) days upon receipt of the appeal.
3. The Membership shall vote to affirm the Boards action or take other action by a majority vote.
4. If the vote of the membership is to sustain the provisional deletion, the deleted Affiliate will be removed from the roster of Affiliates immediately after the vote of the

membership and the Secretary shall enter the deletion to the roster of Affiliates and inform all Affiliates accordingly.

5. If no appeal is made, the memberships action to delete shall be effective immediately.

H. All members of such deleted Affiliates may retain their privileges of membership and shall become Members-at-large of Blind LGBT Pride.

The board voted to adopt the proposed amendment. MSC, (Torrise, Ashiotis)

Don reposted on the existing and proposed changes to bylaw 5.

BYLAW 5 PROPOSED LANGUAGE ENDOWMENT FUND

A. Blind LGBT Pride will maintain an "Endowment Fund" for the purpose of generating interest income to be used for services such as web costs and convention program support.

B. All funds from "Life memberships", a portion of fund raising proceeds, and other donations specifically designated to be placed in the "Endowment Fund" will be added and the fund will be invested in "Secure" investments. The interest will be re-invested until the principle reaches ten thousand dollars, at which time the interest can be transferred to the convention or general account.

The board voted to adopt the proposed amendment to bylaw 5. MSC, (Ashiotis, Torrise)

Convention Committee Report

Update on affiliate responses and discussion of possible projects

Mark reported that he didn't have anything new to report. He forwarded George an email from Peter from Friends in Art. He wanted to know if George was interested in doing something with FIA. George said that he is interested, but he needs to think about it a little more. He has worked with FIA in the past. They would like for him to present a theater workshop. Mark reported that he is still trying to work out something with ACBS. He has a budget, but he still needs to get with Gabriel to work on a few details. The board had a discussion about the hotel and the cost of the suite. Janet should know the cost of the suite by January. Mikey asked if we could book the BPI suite in 1 of the overflow hotels. Mark said that 1 of the presidents did that in the past, and ACB didn't like that. Mark said that he is working on a list of local GLBT businesses and organizations in Columbus that we can work with and partner with. He has heard from 1 lesbian group that is interested in working with us.

Outreach Committee Report

Mikey reported that the outreach committee sat through the leadership institute call. They brought up some points about the upcoming legislative meeting happening the end of February in DC. There will be another leadership type workshop sometime in March in Louisville KY. Mikey asked Don, as past president, how essential is our presence at an event like this. Don said that he thinks it is important that we have representation in DC. He plans to be there. Mikey requested that whoever might have Guillermo's ear, please stress the importance of attending the legislative meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 PM CST.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Ratliff, Secretary