

Utah Mensa Board Meeting Minutes

May 12 2007; Salt Lake City



1. Call to Order and Request for Other Items: 1:05 pm
 - a. Attendees:
 - i. Laura Strebel, Loc-Sec
 - ii. Susan Daggett, Vice Loc-Sec
 - iii. Dean Anderson, Webmaster
 - iv. Dan Cortsen, Testing Coordination Committee
 - v. Leslie Davis (Membership Coordinator)
 - b. Absent with notification:
 - i. Bryan Jensen, Scholarship Coordinator
 - ii. Bukhosi Dube, Treasurer
 - iii. The Northcutts, Synapse Co-Editors
 - c. Absent without notification:
 - i. Liane Solomon-Harding (Salt Lake Area Coordinator)
 - ii. Karen Webb (Gifted Children Coordinator)
 - iii. James Bjorkmanⁱ, Testing Co-Coordinator
 - d. Other Items added to agenda (both from Dean Anderson):
 - i. Membership Drive Picnic
 - ii. Attendance at Board meetings
 - iii. Plan for Utah Mensa to take over the world (held over from last month)
2. Reading of the April minutes by Susan Daggett – Minutes were approved by e-mail prior to the meeting.
3. Loc Sec Report - Laura Strebel
 - a. After the March renewal we had 42 of our 182 members listed as “lapsed” in the April report. Of those we know of several who are simply late renewing. See Membership Chair report.
4. Financial Report - Bukhosi Dube
 - a. As reported through Laura, Susan received reimbursement for her software (~\$180), the Synapse costs are paid up current, and Bukhosi will be sending membership reimbursements to those officers who requested them (this was a one-year optional program to encourage leadership).
5. Webmaster's Report - Dean Anderson
 - a. Dean handed out tracking statistics for our website. We had hits coming from as far away as the Philippines and Germany. Most clicked through directly, probably from a link on their computers; 24% came in through the US Mensa website. The Calendar gets the second-most hits after the home page.
 - b. US Mensa website, Groups, Utah Group, “Comments” area: Dean sent out some candidate comments, most silly (but fun!). We settled on “Growing Utah Mensa one mind at a time.”
 - c. The Board created a policy (documented in these minutes) that links to other sites on our Utah Mensa website shall be approved by the Webmaster. If the Webmaster has a question about suitable links, then he can bring it to the Board for approval. (This has happened twice since January. One was approved, one was disallowed.) Ultimate authority in the event of disputes over links listed on our website shall be with the Board.
6. Scholarship Chair Report - Bryan Jensen (deferred to next meeting, Bryan is in Italy)
7. Testing Coordinator Report - James Bjorkman, Dan Cortsen (No report, Dan had no information)
 - a. Report on testing locations that may be available.
 - b. Addition of Dan Cortsen to the Testing Coordination Committee.
8. Additional Items:
 - a. Request from Greg and Lisa Northcutt for funding to hold a Membership Drive Picnic in June. To be presented by Laura Strebel. Greg and Lisa will be absent.

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- i. Requesting \$150 to rent a park in Bountiful area; buy food and supplies.
 - ii. Concerns:
 - How will it be advertised, and to whom?
 - Do we have the Testing infrastructure in place when people request interest? Note that for younger people, many traditional “prior evidence” are no longer accepted (SAT, ACT, GRE)
 - ii. Resolution: As conceived, defer until we have testing in place (this Fall, hopefully!)
 - b. Will ask the Northcutts if they are willing to instead organize an All-Member picnic in June instead. Problem: A lot of members will be gone in June. Details may include having a “feed the owl” to help defray costs. Laura will talk with the Northcutts and kick around some ideas.
 - c. Discussed problem of Leaders who have a pattern of not attending meetings, and not providing prior notification and information. Laura to send a notice to those who did not attend today requesting written reports. In the future non-attendees are asked to submit a written report prior to the meeting that they cannot attend. There are serious information gaps in key areas, including Testing and Gifted Children (see endnote about James Bjorkman attempt to attend).
9. Membership report by Leslie Davis
- a. Leslie hasn’t had a chance to review the lapsed list yet. Strategy: Next month, after the people who National contacted have a chance to renew, then Leslie will phone the remaining lapsees to find out why they did not renew. This information will help us in retention and growth.
10. Gifted Children's Coordinator Report by Karen Webb – Not present; no written report filed.
11. Short discussion on qualifications and chairperson to oversee possible anonymous membership funding for low income members. Doing fundraisers/donations to finance the project? Continue the Scholarships for Leaderships program as a way of retaining members? This item was deferred as a potential “can of worms”, no action taken.
12. Progress report on the Membership Survey - Susan Daggett
- a. Susan has created two versions, one for printing (to be included in both the Synapse and the website), and one for downloading from the website and e-mailed.
13. Date and place for next meeting. Tentatively June 9th 2007, at the same location (One World Café, SLC). Problem: S. Daggett, D. Anderson, J. Bjorkman, D. Cortsen and L. Davis are not available in June. No final decision made, as Laura needs to contact others and decide on whether to hold a June meeting.
14. Adjourn: 2:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan S. Daggett
Vice Loc-Sec
Utah Mensa

ⁱ We found out later that James Bjorkman, Testing Coordinator, actually came to the One World Café for the Board meeting but did not see us in the picnic area behind the parking lot. Our apologies to James.