

Adventurers Club of Los Angeles

Board of Directors Meeting

December 2, 2019

Venue: Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles

Host: Jeff Holmes

Board Members 2019

Club Officers (3)

1st Vice President: Mr. Alec Shumate

2nd Vice President: Mr. Rich Mayfield

Treasurer: Mr. Andrew Medina

Directors (5)

Mr. James Heaton

Mr. Lynn Redman

Mr. Jeff Holmes

Mr. Bryan Kriese

Mr. David Hayen, Esq.

Visitors Attending

Mr. Jay Foonberg

Mr. Bob Walters

Mr. Robert Quist

Mr. Eric Flanders

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Call to order was made at 7:36 pm by Alec Shumate, who thanked Jeff Holmes for providing dinner.

A declaration of a quorum was made by Rich Mayfield, acting as secretary for the evening, the quorum consisted of the 3 officers and 5 directors listed above.

Bob Walters was given the floor to present several items for the club archive including a publication of the Adventurers' Club News, a song written by Steve Waterford, and several logos, medals and designs that were developed in the past. Additionally, he presented a medal of service that used to be awarded to members of the club for outstanding service to the club.

A discussion was had about a design for dinner plates and everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to explore. Jeff Holmes commented that the marble paperweights that we give to guest speakers aren't reliably sourced anymore. This lead to a discussion about obtaining more paperweights, tie tacks, pins, and other branded merchandise.

Bob Walters departed.

[President's Report: Michael Lawler \(Absent\)](#)

President absent.

[1st Vice President's Report: Alec Shumate](#)

Mr. Shumate discussed the remaining programs for the year and working with the incoming 1st VP to fill up the January Calendar.

Alec observed that during his tenure, open nights were vastly more popular than Member Only nights. David Hayen expressed concerns about low attendance on Member Only nights. Bryan Kriese suggested that board members need to take the lead in bringing their friends into the club. Alec mentioned that he had some thoughts about cross-promoting with other clubs and reaching out to other local entities.

[2nd Vice President's Report: Rich Mayfield](#)

Mr. Mayfield discussed problems with thermostat programming and others abusing set points which may have led to increased electric bills. He suggested installing a Nest thermostat next year to help conserve energy while reliably keeping the club comfortable.

Discussion of status of renovation project and current state. Not much progress has been made in recent months, mostly due to Mr. Mayfield's absence to take care of his newborn son, Jack.

Andrew Medina reported that he had to cut the locks after breaking a key in the slot. New copies of the front gate key were made and distributed as follows:

- Andrew Medina
- Bryan Kriese
- Alec Shumate
- Joseph Steele
- Rich Mayfield

Alec Shumate reminded the board that the secretary is responsible for distribution and tracking of key holders.

Jim Heaton brought up the fact that we are able to have individual alarm codes, but everyone is using the same one.

[Secretary's Report: Scott Warner \(Absent\)](#)

Secretary absent.

Treasurer's Report: Andrew Medina

Andrew Medina distributed paper copies of the latest Profit and Loss Statement and the Dinner Spreadsheet.

Dinner revenues were up to an average of \$151/night.

Andrew reported NOHA was not profitable this year. This was largely due to large catering costs and bartending. Final numbers were not available at the time of the meeting.

Alec Shumate opined that we lean on NOHA too hard as a revenue stream. He believes weekly programs need to generate more revenue. A discussion of dinner revenues and NOHA revenues followed. There was a discussion of working with more outfitters and guides to offer better trips for auction at NOHA and dropping the auction company. The goal should be to get trips donated for the auction by good guide services.

There was a discussion of making sure the various committees are staffed, specifically NOHA. The discussion centered on making sure NOHA runs smoothly and costs are kept under control of the board. There was a consensus that this year the board did not control costs for NOHA very well.

David Hayen suggested the Armenian American Cultural Center in Glendale as a potential NOHA venue. It was mentioned that the USC football schedule may make parking and access difficult if NOHA was on a game night.

Jay Foonberg raised the point that the bylaws suggest that members who hold a CPA certificate should be involved in club finances. It was noted that Bob Zeman, Jay Foonberg, and Bob Aranoff are all CPAs.

The Treasurer, who is also next year's Treasurer, presented his goals for next year as such:

Reinvest in the club to create tangible member benefits that are incentives to be a member. Part of this would be to limit spending, however allow spending when well controlled. The Treasurer requested that all committee chairmen submit a budget for the year to be reviewed and approved by the board, after which, the committee can execute that spending without further board approval.

Explore additional revenue streams in order to provide a better member experience without raising dues. Various ideas for new revenue streams were discussed such as more movie nights, or other nights the club is open, and renting the space for a filming/photography location.

Jay Foonberg passionately voiced concerns about insurance issues and various business structures that may be required to support these additional streams. It was noted that some of these revenue streams may be taxable.

Membership/Admissions Report: Jeff Holmes

Mr. Jeff Holmes reported that Pierre Odier used to list members by year, and that 14 members in the year was the record for new members. There was a discussion about the general guidance to wait 1 year before handing out an application to ensure the candidate is committed to being involved with the

club. Martin started recruiting heavily in 2014 and 2016 saw 13 new members. 2019, this year, was a down year but a lot of applications are out. This could set up 2020 for a record number of new members. Jeff discussed the difficulty of qualifying new members.

Jeff reported that Michael Lawler will fill the past president position, however Jeff will step in if necessary.

[Exhibits Committee Report: Bryan Kriese](#)

David Hayen reported that the Japanese flag is out for restoration.

Bryan Kriese is considering moving the bear back to its former position at the top of the stairs.

There was a discussion of the need for better curation of the exhibits. Jeff Holmes reported that at one time, a big list of exhibits was done for a TV show.

The location of the polar bear was discussed at length.

[General Discussion](#)

Discussion of filling of board vacancies. It was discussed which board (2019 or 2020) is responsible for filling vacancies on the 2020 board. The consensus was that the 2020 board is responsible for filling empty positions on the 2020 board. The following changes were discussed, but must be approved once the 2020 board takes office on January 1, 2020-

- 1st Vice President- Rich Mayfield
- 2nd Vice President- Bryan Kriese
- Secretary- Robert Quist

There was more discussion about staffing committees. It was recommended that we should start with people who are already helping with duties of that committee. There was a discussion of committee chairperson appointments.

There was a brief discussion about possibly moving Shiy Sabiniano from Associate Member to Full Member.

[New Business](#)

Lynn Redman announced that he will no longer continue as a member of the Adventurers' Club. He is resigning his membership and wishes to be removed from the roster. He gave no further details.

Eric Flanders departed prior to the following discussion regarding a warning letter, as he is a newly elected board member whose term has not yet begun.

Discussion of a warning letter that was sent to a member regarding his behavior during meetings. There was a spirited discussion about proper procedure for such actions. The Secretary was previously directed by the board to draft and write a letter. The Secretary subsequently wrote this letter and showed it to various board members at the next Thursday meeting, of which, the Secretary believed constituted approval. He then sent the letter. Some board members that were absent from that

Thursday meeting expressed dissatisfaction that they were not afforded the opportunity to review the letter. It was suggested that such letters must be approved by a vote of the board prior to issuance. The consensus was that the letter was appropriate and expressed the opinions of the board. Had it been brought to vote, it would have likely been approved.

Old Business

Bryan Kriese motioned to approve the November, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and was seconded by David Hayen.

The November, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 PM.

Minutes submitted by,
Rich Mayfield (#1211)
ACLA 2nd Vice President