

NTM – North Texas Mensa
A local Group of
American Mensa Ltd
A NY Not-for-profit corporation

Board Meeting for February 19, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM by Eric “Gunny” Hartman.

Present: President Eric “Gunny” Hartman, Vice-President Collene Goldman, Secretary Rajiv Lulla, Treasurer Cathy Allshouse, and Board Members at Chris Cree and Leza Mesiah

Absent: Board Member at Large Ken Roberts

1. Reports

President – Gunny Hartman noted that the next board meeting would be March 19, 2023 at 6PM at Five Star Premier Residences (5455 La Sierra Dr, Dallas, TX 75231) and that the default for 2023 board meetings would be the 3rd Sunday night of each month at 6PM at the same location. He reminded those in attendance to renew their membership, if necessary, by the end of March, since membership is requirement for serving on the board. He noted a NTM outreach opportunity in March, the Senior Expo at the Jewish Community Center, in case anyone was willing and able. Karen Brack offered further information regarding the event.

Vice-President – Collene Goldman ... NTM Community Outreach ideas were presented, including a rationale for the importance of such. She gave some examples, but requested ideas from the membership for activities, especially those that could be completed in 1/2 day or less. Collene also presented a suggestion for a new position, Marketing Chair, one who “Reports to the Board and collaborates with cross-functional teams (communications, public relations, membership, event chairs, treasurer, community outreach, etc.)” This is different, but not unrelated to publicity and communications, upon which she elaborated during their respective slots. Those would work with and under the marketing chair.

Secretary – Rajiv Lulla ... The January 2022 Minutes, which were distributed by email and in person, were approved by unanimous assent.

Treasurer – Cathy Allshouse ... Cathy has yet to receive means to access NTM finances. 2022 Treasurer Paul Whiteman submitted the following: “Bank accounts (as of Jan 31, 2023): Checking: \$7780.04. Savings: \$14,029.28. Loan to Scholarship Foundation: \$10,000. Total net worth: \$31,809.32, an increase of \$720.70. Payment to printer had not cleared by end of the month.”

Ombudsman – Roger Durham ... Ombudsman has nothing to report.

Membership – Ken Roberts ... “I received the authorizations for Membership a few days before our departure on 2 week cruise. I have intermittent connectivity and will start the analysis when I return (we are in the middle of the Caribbean) and I will give past and present reports in the March meeting.”

Communications – Collene Goldman ... Definition: “Communications is the transmission of information to members and the public.” She noted that the new website will be the primary source of information for our chapter, calendar, and events.

Publicity – Collene Goldman ... Definition: “Public relations is a strategic communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between organizations and their publics, as defined by the Public Relations Society of America. It’s how and what we communicate who we are and what we do. All our communications and public relations need to be consistent with the outstanding graphics and messaging used in the new

website; therefore, the information and messaging needs coordination.”

Editor – Bill Rock ... March M-Aura done, except for an RVC column. Last word on Thursday is that it was aimed for Friday (the 17th).

Gifted Children – Bill Rock ... “Board Game event today lasted about an hour. Next month we're attending the Storytelling Festival in Denton.”

Programs – Karen Brack ... Bruce Jones will be speaking on Sustainable Agriculture in Ancient China.

Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond ... Andy tested 3 candidates in January (at the Dallas Library Timberglenn Branch) and I tested 5 candidates in February (at the Carrollton Hebron & Josey library). Next test is March 11 at the Dallas Library Timberglenn Branch. We've kicked off the year with some good groups and still have a steady stream of prospects coming from nationals (fun fact: despite contacting prospects every time we have a new test, our number one “advertiser” is tracking to be the test session page on National's website so I'm trying to have at least one test up at all times).

Publisher/Circulation Manager – Val Beasley ... No report.

Calendar – Sara Hawkins ... No report.

Webmaster – Andy McKellar ... Per Rajiv Lulla, who is transitioning to relieve Andy of webmaster duties: Website is progressing, but he needs photos & biographical information from board members.

S.I.G.H.T. – Gunny Hartman ... Nothing to report at this time

Scholarship Chair – Lauren Ogden ... All 694 essays have been assigned to judges. 64% complete. 36% in progress. Judge deadline is February 25. My deadline is Feb 28. 22 judges total now, half experienced and half first timers. I feel like the response has been amazing. I'm very pleased with the participation from NTM and the online process. Anne and I had thought we would have a celebration party in March after the process is complete, but we haven't planned anything yet. Let me know if you have any other questions!

Social Media – Vacant ... This role would also report to the marketing chair.

Regional Gathering – Karen Brack ... The Gathering Committee's recommendation was: “That NTM conduct an RG in 2023, provided that we can find a hotel that lets us bring in food and beverages.” Having been given the assurance of the request [much help], Karen Brack agreed to chair the RG.

2. Actions

- After Karen Brack gave an update on the New Members Party at JJ's, a motion was made by Collene Goldman and seconded by Rajiv Lulla to allocate \$1,500 for that party. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Cathy Allshouse and seconded by Rajiv Lulla to have a RG in 2023. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Collene Goldman and seconded by Rajiv Lulla to a Marketing Chair position consistent with the description presented by Collene Goldman. Motion passed. Collene agreed to get Randy Brack a write-up of the position for Officers Handbook.
- While Cathy Allshouse's efforts are most appreciated in bringing the refreshments each month for monthly general meeting, a committee of sorts will endeavor to assist her in the future, especially with regard to schlepping everything into the building.
- Discussion of ways to cut expenses was postponed until March as the meeting was running long.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Cree; Leza Mesiah offered a second. The motion passed without opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 7:09PM.