

## **NTM Board Proceedings for December 17, 2023**

**Present:** President Eric “Gunny” Hartman, VP Collene Goldman (via Zoom), Treasurer Cathy Allshouse, Board Members at Large Val Beasley, Chris Cree, Leza Mesiah, and 2024 BMALs Jonathan Bethune and Juan Faura.

**Absent:** Secretary Ken Roberts

### **Reports**

President – Eric “Gunny” Hartman: The next Board Meeting will at 6PM January 21, 2024 at Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas (5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas). NTM officers in attendance introduced themselves to the new (i.e., 2024) board members, Jonathan Bethune and Faura, who did likewise. Val Beasley received the well deserved 2023 Semper Servitium award for outstanding service to NTM.

Vice-President – Collene Goldman: Nothing to report.

Secretary – Ken Roberts: Minutes were modified to show Val Beasley was present at the November board meeting before being accepted.

Treasurer – Cathy Allshouse: Financial statements were distributed. The Board expected expenses to exceed income for 2023, due to an allocation and expenditure of \$5,000 to overhaul our website, NorthTexasMensa.org, but Cathy recommended for 2024 not only to have a balanced budget, but also one where expenses do not exceed income. November started with \$2,688.79 in checking and \$12,030.25 in savings, for \$13,972.55 cash on hand and \$10,000 note receivable for \$23,972.55 in Total NTM assets. As of 12/17, there was 24,267.26 in Total NTM assets. There was a discussion about ways to minimize the deficit we are experiencing with regard to the M-Aura, as it costs us more money to produce and mail a print copy of the M-Aura to those who prefer the print copy, which is the default for a member, unless a member intentionally chooses to receive it electronically. Chris Cree, Juan Faura, and Jonathan Bethune will work on and propose some ideas on M-Aura cost cutting for Board consideration. After a full inventory as part of the RG, there were enough NTM items, especially RG items, to validate the use of a storage shed, but after the RG retained items were moved to a smaller, cheaper location. Instead of \$198 per month, the cost will be \$51 per month. As the previously purchased projectors were found in the storage, the projectors purchased this year for the RG were returned and the funds were restored. Impressively, the RG was a smashing success AND finished with a surplus.

Ombudsman – Roger Durham: Nothing to report

Membership – Ken Roberts: After the meeting, an email report noted that NTM is now the 6th largest chapter of American Mensa with 1157 members. “Special thanks to communication, marketing, RG committee, and especially the testing director [Rebecca Raymond].”

Marketing – Vacant: The idea of more proactively seeking advertisers for the M-Aura was discussed, not only to get our name out there, but also to help offset costs.

Communications – Collene Goldman: Nothing to report

Publicity – Collene Goldman: Nothing to report

S.I.G.H.T. – Gunny Hartman: Nothing to report

Election Committee – Randy Brack: Full election report will appear in the January M-Aura, but the results of the November 19 elected produced a 2024 board of President Eric “Gunny” Hartman, VP Ken Roberts, Secretary Collene Goldman, Treasurer Cathy Allshouse, BMALs Chris Cree, Juan Faura, and Jonathan Bethune. Randy mentioned some ideas for a future election code that would save NTM money regarding the PO Box we typically get. As there were no challenges to the election, the election committee is officially dissolved, having completed its mission with precision and efficiency.

(Beasley) Editor – Bill Rock: Last input needed before sending to printer was RVC column, but should go to print Monday.

(Beasley) Gifted Children – Bill Rock: They had a debate at the book club discussion on a debating book. Online games event planned for January.

(Beasley) Publisher/Circulation Manager – Val Beasley: Costs associated with M-Aura printing and postage options will be investigated.

(Mesiah) Scholarship Chair – Lauren Ogden: Roger noted that NTM will provide three \$3,000 scholarships. An overview of the scholarship process, including the enjoyable, but necessary, element of NTM members helping to judge essays, was discussed.

(Mesiah) Webmaster – Semi-Vacant (Andy McKellar performing some website functions): No known problems on the website and Andy has all new user registrations current. With the change of board, there will need to be a modification to the email forwards. Gunny will get the new email addresses to the Hubra to make the change at the end of 2023, so that new board members receive intended correspondence.

(Mesiah) Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond: “We tested 6 candidates in December (a great turnaround from November)!! All final testing receipts have been submitted to close out 2023 and our first 2024 test is booked for January 20.”

(Cree) Calendar – Sara Hawkins: Things are going well with the calendar.

(Cree) Programs – Vacant: Officers in attendance made suggestions of potential speakers and means for finding speakers who may be of interest to our membership. Gunny noted that if each of the board members would try to get one speaker for 2024, then we might be able to fill out the schedule.

(Cree) Regional Gathering – Karen Brack: We had 86 people. The RG feedback was positive, particularly the prescription of getting value for their money. In addition to the RG team doing an outstanding job, the hotel was accommodating, and staff was very helpful. The hotel is a solid option for us in the future. The RG team is working on their After Action Reports, of what went well, what didn’t go so well, and what could be done better for next time, so that the 2023 RG team will have helpful information to handoff to the 2024 RG team.

Social Media – Vacant

## **New Business**

Archives Report – Randy Brack: After mining through the many boxes of archives found in the old storage shed, the following nuggets were discovered. 1. Many past M-Auras, some of which unofficial historian Randy Brack did not have archived. Those going back to the early 1970s revealed that the newsletter M-Aura predated the separation of Mensa 76 (Fort Worth) and NTM, though the terms origins are still murky. 2. A 1996 *Dallas Morning News* article spotlighting a young lady who was at that time the youngest member of Mensa, a 4 year old who had appeared on the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. (Randy was able to meet with her and pass it along to her.) 3. A physical copy of the 1996 proclamation from then mayor Ron Kirk declaring November 20-26 “Mensa Week” in Dallas.

Nametags – Chris Cree: Anne Whiteman will get nametags printed for our new board members and those with new positions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08PM, after a motion by Leza Mesiah and a second by Cathy Allshouse.