

# MEETING

**Sunday, February 13, 2011**  
**2 P. M. EST**

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Frank Kirchner, President, A.B.C.
- II. Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Bob Allen, Secretary of A.B.C.  
Present were Frank Kirchner, President of A.B.C., Tony Colosimo, Vice President of A.B.C. Bob Allen, Secretary of A.B.C., Dorian Henao, Treasurer of A.B.C., Joe Schwartz, President of Girth & Mirth of Philadelphia, Joe Lewis, President of Girth & Mirth of D.C., Damon Blumberg, President of Girth & Mirth of Arizona, Tony Brown, Artist, Bob Schneider, Editor of newsletter and Rufus Wickliffe, voting representative of Girth & Mirth of Indiannapolis.  
Absent were David of Southern California Girth & Mirth, Jeremiah Mulford, Webmaster Girth & Mirth of Indianapolis, Rich Zerilli, By-laws co-sponsor, Ron Savaria, President of Big Men of South Florida, Lee Gardner, Parliamentarian, Ben Peckinpaw, President of Big Men's Club of Houston, Ricky Hinkley, President Dallas/Fort Worth Big Men's club, Ryan Sawyer, President Bigmen's Club of Central Florida, and Ralph Wolfe, Prwesident of Columbus Girth & Mirth.
- III. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were furnished by Bob Allen, Secretary. Motion to accept The minutes was made by Frank Kirchner, and seconded by Tony Colosimo and were unanimously approved by those present.
- IV. Treasurer's Report:** We have \$1,015. from the raffle proceeds, from the old account, Patrick forwarded \$4,816.33 We paid bills of \$3,422.05 with a balance of \$1,373.28 Dorian has set aside \$500.00 for savings. Unanimously approve by those attending.
- 1. Convergence 2010 update:** Money is still missing from the Convergence 2010 account. Dorian is still trying to get a full accounting from Patrick and Gary regarding this. The bounced checks alone are enough evidence to bring charges against Patrick with the police. The hotel has not been paid in full and has negotiated a lower amount with us. They will testify, if need be, in court against Patrick and Gary.
  - 2. Convergence 2011 update:** Frank reported on Jeremiah's behalf that we now have over 160 registrations and that entertainment has been selected for the convergence.
  - 3. Report on Revising By-Laws:** Joe Schwartz was incapacitated for over two months with an appendectomy. Presently, Rich Zerilli is in New York. They both are working on the by-laws so they can be voted on at the next convergence board meeting. Shiloh made some suggestions that are taken under consideration.
  - 4. New Website:** Damon asked if everyone had seen the new website to which Joe Lewis and Bob Schneider said no so Damon sent them the link immediately. Damon is willing to work with any club to set up and get online their individual websites. Phoenix will ber up and running tomorrow. Joe Schwartz asked the question would adult content be included in the site and Damon replied no. Damon requested that all clubas furnish their histories for the past thirty years to him.
  - 5. Newsletter:** Frank thanked Dorian for putting together the first newsletter which Bob Allen will distribute to all clubs. Damon also thanked Dorian for as job well done. Bob Schneider has been appointed newsletter editor and will publish it every three month— next one to be published in April. Please submit all material to be printed to him or Bob Allen.
  - 6. Art for A. B.C.—new logos:** Tony Brown and Damon talked about the new logo for A.B.C. using photo shop for the art work. Tony will donate art work for the individual clubs to use. He advises that the clubs need to be very specific in what they want their art work to include. Frank wants people of all nationalities included in our logo with the block being made of something like granite. He also wants the phrase “working to build a closer and stronger gay community for now and in the future” to be included in the logo.

Bob Schneider wanted to know if this was our mission statement and Frank replied no—it is merely a part of the logo. We are trying to get local media to advertise by either trade or a cost.

7. **National Advertising:** Tony and Frank are contacting national advertisers to see what kind of deals can be made.
8. **Post Office box and Mailing Address:** Dorian states we will be using the San Francisco mail box for our correspondence. A Letter will be going out to all clubs in March requesting their dues be paid 45 days later. The correct address is posted in the latest newsletter and will also be on our website. Joe Schwartz asked where checks for payment of convergence will be mailed and Frank replied to G & M of Indy.
9. **Other old Business:** Dorian states that John Kinnard has been making payments and
10. continues to do so. Dorian is investigating this with John Kinnard as the numbers as reported by Patrick do not make sense.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Idea to help clubs:** Frank stated we need to ammend the by-laws to reflect that all Presidents and one hard working representative from each club receive a 50 % discount To attend convergence and will be expected to donate aome of their time to to the hosting Club so they can learn how to run a convergence. Joe Lewis thinks it is a great idea. Joe Schwartz will place it in the by-laws. Membership cards will be given to all A.B.C. club members and they will be recognized at convergence by receiving something extra for being members. Joe Schwartz objected thinking that our non club attendees might object. Frank thinks this would be a good incentive for people to join our clubs. Joe Lewis thinks it might work to some extent. Some people object to joining a club. Dorian thinks that Damon has a valid point thinking it will be an incentive to join the individual clubs. Bob Allen pointed out that it had been done in the past with different tiers of registration and Dorian pointed out that some clubs give the option of pre-order the tee- shirts whereas registration at the door doe not guarantee you will receive one. Bob Schneider agreed with Damon and Dorian on this proposal. Bob Allen made a Motion that this be implemented at the convergence in 2011 and was seconded by Tony Colosimo. Motion was passed with one no vote by Joe Schwartz who does not see the value of this since he is the only member of his club at this point.
2. **Discuss Idea to Help at Future Convergences and Give Motivation Become Leaders And Members of Clubs:** Already discussed with number one above.
3. **Going After Big Business Sponsorships For A.B.C. Events Which Would Help The Clubs That are Members of A.B.C.:** We are actively seeking corporate sponsorships for convergences. Damon has made the initial contacts and reports they are jumping at the possibility to become exclusive sponsors for our events. This will be achieved by either advertisements in our book, discounts at the business, or contributions.
4. **Idea of Forming a Presidents Club for the Meeting of all Presidents and the big Board to Establish a Better Working A.B.C.:** The Presidents of all clubs will have their own meeting during the alternate month to discuss their concerns. This will promote better communication between clubs. First meeting will be held next month.
5. **Past History Still Needed:** Pleas submit the psst history of your club to Damon for the archives.
6. **Dues so we can Continue to Make This all Happen:** Dorian will draft a letter requesting that \$1.00 per member be paid to A.B.C. Included in the letter will be asn explanation what the dues are used for. This will go out sometime in March. Joe Schwartz need only pay \$1.00 since he has only one member at this point. The letter will be forwarded to Bob Allen to be sent out.
7. **Still Need Voting Reps. And Club Information to be Corrected:** Contact Bob Allen with this information.
8. **Any Other New Business:** None to report at this time.

#### V. SETTING UP CONFERENCE CALL:

First Presidents Meeting is Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> @2 P. M. EST

Regular Meeting is Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> @2 P.M. EST

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made by Joe Schwartz and seconded by Rufus Wickliffe