

**Capital Metropolitan Rainbow Alliance, Inc. (CMRA)
General Meeting
Minutes
November 12, 2005**

Call to Order

The President called to order the CMRA General Meeting at 1:18 PM at the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, DC located at 474 Ridge Street, N.W., Washington, DC.

Present

Kent Babson (Board of Trustees), Ricky Drake, Aaron J. Fudenske (President), Mark Graves, Vilas Johnson (Treasurer), James Kisiday (Membership Director), Ralph Lesley (Vice President), Ricardo Lopez, Ed Martin, Billy J. Mayhew, Curtis E. Reid (Secretary), Jay Dennis Rhodes, Alex D. Richey, Jr. (Director of Cultural Affairs), Clifford Terry, Manuel Vazquez, Stephen Vathally

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda is read as without objections.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of September 17, 2005 was approved as read without objections.

Officer's Reports

President

The President reported the following goals are met: 1) CMRA's website has been revamped; 2) CMRA/RAD 2005 Business Manager/Webmaster given authorization to maintain RAD 2005 Conference folder on the website; 3) CMRA has become more organized, accountable, visible and viable; and 4) CMRA gained several new members. The President also reported that the following goals are unmet: 1) CMRA has not participated in any community service; 2) CMRA ByLaws are yet to be revised and ratified; and 3) CMRA's 2003 and 2004 financial reports have yet to be audited.

Mr. Fudenske informed us that Mr. Bill Terrell resigned as the Chairperson of the CMRA/RAD 2005 Host Conference Committee on October 19, 2005. Mr. Ralph Lesley brought five boxes of Mr. Terrell's files to his residence. He met with the CMRA Executive Board and Mr. Ricky Drake, former Vice Chairperson of CMRA/RAD 2005 Host Conference Committee, to review outstanding bills and the interpreters/SSP bills. It was decided that the Program Books, two Raffle winners and refund overpaid registration fees to registrants should be paid immediately. The President wrote a letter to the three interpreter/SSP coordinators requesting their final invoices and explained that the budget for interpreting/SSP was set at \$5,000. Ms. Tina Holland, who was the interpreter coordinator at RAD 2005 Conference, had submitted invoices totaling \$7,500. Ms. Holland stated that she was never informed

of the \$5,000 limit and warned that she will seek legal action if the bill for negotiated reduced amount of \$5,000 is not paid in December.

The President regrets to report that Mr. Ricky Drake has decided to resign from the CMRA Board of Trustees on November 3, 2005. Mr. Kent Babson, a Trustee, informed the Executive Board that CMRA needs to find a replacement for Mr. Drake.

In closing, Mr. Fudenske stated that it was a privilege and rewarding experience to work with CMRA Executive Board this year. He thanked them for their time, cooperation, spirit, and hard work. They were a true team players and a classic proof of our dedication to CMRA.

Vice President

The Vice President reported that he regretted that he could not attend the Special Meeting on ByLaws revision due to his problem with his foot. All members should already have received copies of the revision via regular mail. Mr. Lesley provided a donation of \$35 to cover the expense of the cost for a office space rental for the ByLaws Committee. The Vice President announced that he has decided not to run again for the Vice President. He stated that Mr. Terrell, former Chairperson of the CMRA/RAD 2005 Host Conference Committee, asked him to pass out a Certificate of Appreciation to those who were involved during the RAD 2005 Conference. Mr. Lesley mentioned that RAD 2005 Conference was a lot of hard work but it was a very satisfying experience for him.

Secretary

The Secretary provided a summary of accomplishments he achieved this year: 1) Completed all minutes for General Meetings; 2) Completed all minutes for Executive Board meetings; 3) Completed an IRS Form 990 for Fiscal Year 2004; 4) Successfully secured a DC Sales Tax Exemption status; 5) Successfully secured an office space required for DC Sales Tax Exemption status; 6) Prepared the ByLaws revisions and called a Special Meeting; 7) Monitored the CMRA Post Office box on a regular basis; 8) Monitored electronic mail messages and forwarded to appropriate parties; and 9) Participated in the Recruitment, Diversity and Retention Committee meeting.

Mr. Reid mentioned that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve as the CMRA Secretary during this year. He reported that he is unable to continue as a Secretary because of long distance to his residence and rising gasoline price. The Secretary said "The Executive Board was truly the shining beacon of how everyone worked together." He stated that it was a personal pleasure to work with Mr. Fudenske as the President and would consider an honor to work with him again. He enjoyed working with the Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Cultural Affairs and the Director of Public Affairs.

Treasurer

The Treasurer provided copies of the financial reports for September and October. The Secretary reported that he collected donations from the Kitty Jar at September's meeting and sent to CMRA via PayPal but was not reported on the financial reports. The Treasurer said he did receive an email confirmation but no actual monies transferred. Mr. Johnson mentioned that he enjoyed working with everyone and it was a wonderful team. He regretted that he has decided not to run again as Treasurer.

Director of Cultural Affairs

The Director of Cultural Affairs would like to applaud the Co-Chairs of the Eye Party (Mr. Manuel Vazquez, Mr. Billy Kekua and Mr. Merritt Holloway) for drawing a large crowd at the Titan Bar. Mr. Masa Nakam is the coordinator for the Holiday Party and is currently looking for a location to be announced later. Mr. Richey needs refreshment for sale at the next General Meeting in January and asked that anyone interested in donating to please contact him directly.

Mr. Richey has been the Director of Cultural Affairs for two terms in a row. He will decide whether to run again or not later. He mentioned that he enjoyed working with everyone very much.

Report from the Eye Party

Mr. Vazquez reported that it was a very interesting experience for him. He had four weeks to put the party together. Finding a location for the Eye Party proved to be very difficult. He wanted to hold it at the Titan Bar but the management initially refused to let them hold one since they already had a commitment to another group. Then, that group decided not to hold their event which enabled the Eye Party to be conducted there. He worked with other people to set up costumes, games, and performances.

Individual Report from Mr. Clifford Terry

Mr. Terry reported that he researched a variety of companies that makes bracelets. He narrowed down to six companies. Typically, a minimum order of 250 bracelets is required at an approximate cost of \$512 which can then be sold at a profit at approximately \$4 or 5 each. It was suggested that a motion be made during New Business for CMRA to decide.

Individual Report from Former Vice Chairperson, CMRA/RAD 2005 Host Conference Committee

Mr. Drake reported that the communication at RAD 2005 Conference wasn't good. The original budget they set up did not account for unexpected expenses. The Hotel Room Block dropped down to a low of 64% occupancy and RAD 2005 Conference must pick up the tab for the lost rooms. The hotel bill is paid off. Mr. Drake is hoping that the grants from MCI and Sprint will come soon.

Report from the Recruitment, Diversity and Retention Committee

Mr. Johnson, Chairperson of the Recruitment, Diversity and Retention Committee, apologized that it took so long to have a meeting until this morning due to a difficult schedule. It appeared from the meeting that there were no easy solutions to working with the Youth and Lesbians. The Youth were not very motivated to join CMRA as they were mainly interested in going out and hanging out with other youths. The Lesbians were moderately satisfied but there was no clear reason for their lack of strong interest in CMRA. An issue that consistently came up is the attitude of CMRA members toward new members and visitors. Their attitude was not friendly and not receptive to new members and visitors. CMRA needs to have a strategic planning for the future. Mr. Johnson reported that the members of the committee are Curtis E. Reid, Sallie Pauley, Garret Bose, Debbie Peterson, and himself.

Unfinished Business

The list of motions from FY2004 and FY2005 were reviewed. Several members recommended that new motions be made to rescind some old motions.

Intermission

Intermission started at 2:33 PM for 20 minutes. Meeting resumed at 3:03 PM.

Election of the Board of Trustees

Mr. Kent Babson, member of the Board of Trustees, reported that nominations for the Board of Trustees are now open. Please send your nomination directly to Mr. Babson. He will interview candidates and then he will announce the selection of a Trustee at the next General Meeting.

Election of Officers for 2006

The President opened nominations for the Officers for 2006. No nominations for any office were received.

This is the first time in the history of CMRA that there are no officers. The management of CMRA will default to the Board of Trustees (currently, Mr. Babson and Mr. Laurent Baker) when the terms of present Officers conclude. Mr. Babson reported that no action of CMRA will be conducted until a third Trustee member is chosen. A member suggested that a new motion to suspend the ByLaws on election until the next General Meeting in January 2006.

New Business

Motion GM2005-23: I, Ricky Drake, move to rescind GM2004-01, GM2004-02, GM2004-07 and GM2004-20. AYE: 12 NAY: 0. **Motion Passed.**

Motion 1: I, Ricky Drake, move to strike out GM2004-01, GM2004-02, GM2004-07 and GM2004-20. Seconded: Stephan Vathally.

Amend Motion 1A: I, Curtis E. Reid, move to replace the word "strike out" with "rescind". Seconded: Alex Richey. AYE: 9 NAY: 0. **Motion Passed.**

Motion GM2005-24: I, Clifford Terry, move that around \$600 for bracelets fund. No Second received. **Motion Failed.**

Motion GM2005-25: I, Ricky Drake, move that we suspend CMRA ByLaws so we would proceed election for officers at the next regular business meeting in January 2006. Seconded: Ed Martin. AYE: 10 NAY: 1. **Motion Passed.**

Informational

Announcements

- The President announced a research on gay brothers. If you would like to participate in this research, please contact him directly.
- The President encouraged everyone to vote Lee Trevathan for the MetroWeekly Coverboy.
- Mr. Vazquez informed us that December 1st is World AIDS Day and there will be an event at Gallaudet University.

Necrology

- David Newman, Former RAD Treasurer

Adjournment

The President adjourned the meeting at 3:41 PM. The next meeting will be held at 1:00 PM in January 14, 2006 at the Metropolitan Community Church of DC, 474 Ridge St., NW, Washington, DC.

Respectfully submitted by: Curtis E. Reid December 12, 2005

Approved at CMRA General Meeting January 7, 2006