

# COURT OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST IMPERIAL EMPIRE (CGNIE)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Held Tuesday, June 30, 2015  
At Kennedy Gallery, 1931 L Street, Sacramento, CA

Minutes Prepared by Gerald Filice, Emperor XL, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President MICHAEL KENNEDY. Board members attending were Vice President Michael Jones (Shondra), Treasurer Terry Sidie, Secretary Gerald Filice, Emperor 42 Santos Rosales (Santos Ashley St. James), Empress 42 Chris Brown (Harmony Envy), Grand Duke Corey Hubert, Grand Duchess Levi Andrews (Dimeuneek Ashley St. James), Clarmundo Sullivan, Tony Southworth, Ronnie Miranda, Alex Munguia (Jowana Piece), and Garrett Reid.

Board members absent: Palma Ashley St. James—not excused; Key Pears—excused.

Guests in attendance: Miss Gay Sacramento, Jesse O'Reilly (Kristinn); Tammy Marlow; David Marlow; Grace F. Lawrence; Stens Christiansen; Deneka Ashley St. James

### Remarks by the President:

Many things may come to mind when we think about what should be our primary focus for this Board.

I believe this is functionality. Without having a properly functioning Board we cannot achieve our short term or long term goals. This is why I recently met with the crown heads and the Secretary to identify and implement a new calendar for CGNIE. We have been working with Matthew Burlingame to create CGNIE's new website which will help us to promote and manage our goals through blog, marketing and promotions. What we lack is the proper content for CGNIE's website. Over the next couple of weeks I will be meeting with Matt along with our Secretary and Crown Heads to review and create new content for our site. Content that will inspire our membership and inspire our community to be involved. History is an important part of showing the community how relevant CGNIE is. Our calendar was the first step to becoming Functional. Content on the website needs to be functional for each of our respective chapters. This is why I am asking each of our Board members to please identify a section or sections of the site that may apply to your seat. For example the Fairy Godfather's fund would be regulated content by Clarmundo, The La Kish Scholarship by Key Pears. Content for these particular sites could be mission statements, forms and marketing materials. Past recipient testimonials is also relevant. Maybe you can provide historical data or have a new idea. A functional website should produce more ticket sales, volunteers and additional donations to our organization. We all need to use and promote cgnie.org, we can't expect a community to visit and use our site if we don't. Let's create viable functioning content so we stop reinventing our wheel! Create historic documents and pictures of all our past crown heads so we ourselves can create an environment of pride that will inspire a new generation

of volunteers.

A functional 501c3 and tax id # is a priority, so I have been meeting with our executive committee to discuss our options. I am glad to report that our Treasurer has all of our taxes current. We are working now to identify the appropriate avenue to recover or recreate a new tax id # for CGNIE so that we can strongly move forward. Our Board is committed to resolving this situation but also creating new protocols and structures to prevent this from happening again. I encourage the Board to think about ways that we can create financial security for CGNIE through endowment and sound investment policies. We should be thinking about long term goals for this Nonprofit.

Optimize our nonprofit spending. I believe it should be the goal of each committee and head to identify all possible in kind donation opportunities. We should find ways to reuse our existing resources such as sets. The storage and maintenance of our property has been an ongoing issue. I think it's necessary for us to find a storage unit outside of our personal homes, clubs that we can store our Crown jewels, ceremonial materials, costumes, important documents and files, sets, donated items and liquor inventories. This should be an easy to access location that is temperature controlled and must have protocols to limit accessibility to key individuals.

A functioning Board means its members are meeting their goals and responsibilities between these meetings. This is more than attending functions; we need to break down critical responsibilities for rebuilding fiscally, cgnie's image, cgnie's history, and our membership. We need to have a mutually agreed upon culture of accountability for each other. This I believe is essential to ensure that we have a strong organization going into the next 10 years. Members of typical non profits average six hours of nonprofit support between meetings. This is why I believe it's necessary for us to identify through the calendar and the Board key goals for 2015/16 and create a necessary committee structure. I believe this will help us to create new energy and accountability, while providing much welcomed support for our Crown heads.

Functionality in the long term may be achieved by having a professional Board Retreat where we can heal and rebuild. I am asking for volunteers for an exploratory committee to create a Board Retreat for some time the end of September. This is a good time for us to review our performance and goals from the recent Rainbow Festival, our number one annual fundraiser. I ask that we use a professional nonprofit Facilitator. Top reasons for a retreat: we can fulfill our Mission Statement, re-energize our volunteers and base, review roles and responsibilities, PLAN FOR THE YEAR, raise more money and lastly how to best network.

Don't forget you are on the CGNIE Board because you bring specific skills. CGNIE's impact on this community depends on how you personally engage in these positions and how you use your skills. How you represent your seat! If things aren't moving in your particular committee or department, make change and be a leader. Become the functioning piece of the new CGNIE non profit.

Blessings for a new beginning ,

Michael Kennedy, Emperor 38, Empress 40, Board President

#### Presentation of Minutes:

The Minutes from the May 26, 2015, meeting were presented to the Board. After discussion a motion to approve was made and seconded, and the vote was 9 to approve, 1 opposed (Santos), and two abstentions (Harmony and Terry).

#### Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Terry Sidie presented his report. Discussion ensued. Santos mentioned he believed the income from Investitures was \$600 rather than \$276. There was a deposit into our accounts in the amount of \$1,929.85 which was not readily identifiable, however the Treasurer stated he would ascertain what it was from. The Treasurer noted that \$400 was still uncollected from Grand Duke 34 Enrique for a bank and proceeds of a fundraiser he held for the Fairy Godfathers fund. (Harmony left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.). The Treasurer noted that some income from ad sales in the last coronation program had not been collected either. Santos mentioned that we owed the Reno Court for an ad.

Gerald moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jowana, 6 voted in favor, 4 abstained. It was approved.

#### La Kish Report:

The La Kish chair, Key Pears, was absent and no report was given. It was noted that the La Kish Fund had \$287, which is insufficient to make a reasonable scholarship. None present knew of Key's fundraising plans, or if she wished to continue in this role.

#### Rainbow Festival:

No chair of the Rainbow Festival has yet been selected. The Board discussed the event. Several headliners were mentioned as having committed to entertain: Ty Herndon, Willam, Luciana, others. Garrett suggested that popular bands which have performed at Faces be invited to perform. Corey suggested the Sacramento Gay Mens Chorus. Terry noted he had sent sponsorship requests to his vendors.

#### Report of the Court Imperial:

Emperor Santos reported. The E&E worked the gates at San Francisco Pride with the CGNIE volunteers. He then went over upcoming events: July 10 (an Independence Day Extravaganza); and July 26, Harmony's Lingerie Birthday party event. Tony mentioned the Boise coronation program deadline was almost upon us, if an ad was desired.

#### Report of the Ducal House:

Grand Duke Corey reported. As he ran the San Francisco Pride gate project, he

reported that 146 volunteer-hours were contributed (48.25 Saturday and 42.75 Sunday, plus supervisor hours). The gate which we ran was a busy one. One person was removed from volunteering due to intoxication. President Michael suggested we look into volunteering at the gates at the Castro Street Fair, Up Your Alley, and the Folsom Street Fair, as additional fundraisers. Corey agreed to follow up with these suggestions.

The application for Grand Duke and Duchess had been published for the Ducal House election, as was the application for the Community Board seats. Upcoming dates were mentioned as follows: July 22, Board of Review; Archducal Ball and candidate announcements, July 25 at Faces; In/Out of Town Show, Roxy Cotton Candy and Kylie Minono from San Francisco Ducal will emcee. Hospitality would be on the roof garden of the St. Anton Building at L and 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Ball will be at Goethe Hall, next to St. John's Lutheran Church at 1701 L. The total cost will be \$800 for the hall, all inclusive. Pandora from Reno is the emcee. A liquor license will be required.

Victory Brunch will be a BBQ at Faces.

Corey has prepared a draft of a Ball script. He has already sold 32 tickets. Garrett mentioned using Brown Paper tickets for online sales. It was agreed we need payment links for the website so people could buy tickets. As we have used Brown paper tickets, there was a consensus we should continue using them for the time being.

Voting locations were discussed. The Secretary reported that the LGBT Center was not available. In front of Kennedy Gallery, Faces and Mango's Antro were potential alternatives.

The Board then discussed the budget for the Ducal Ball events. Jowana volunteered to be their Ball Coordinator.

Terry Sidie made a motion for a \$2,500 budget for the entire Ducal Ball weekend, with adjustments within that overall budget being allowed. Garrett seconded. 9 voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, motion passed.

3M Report:

Miss Gay Kristinn reported by listing events she had attended or planned: Cinco de May-ho (the results of which were discussed at the prior meeting), Divas of Lavender Heights show, that she and Mia-Ho performed at Los Angeles Pride, she was on the Faces float at San Francisco Pride, a 3M tribute to be held in September, a Deneka Roast at some future date, and a Booger Ball with Betty Booger.

Miss Gay requested a link between the website and Facebook to allow people to

“share” events more readily.

President Michael reiterated that all materials posted on Facebook and the website must be first approved by the Secretary.

Stephan (Mr. Gay) has checked into a rehab program and his involvement is thus curtailed. The details were not specified.

#### Board Member Events:

Each Board member was asked to identify an event that he/she intended to hold during the year to raise funds. The reports were as follows: Garrett (the roast scheduled for August 8); Deneka (not a Board member)(plans to hold an event with Emperor Neil of Chicago); Michael Kennedy/Misha (Queen of Cream event, drag queen wrestling); Michael Kennedy (event involving competitions and games with other LGBT nonprofits); Gerald (a Disney-based show); Clarmundo (casino fundraiser); Ronnie (beer bust at the Bolt for the Fairy Godfathers Fund).

#### College of Monarchs:

Tony, Dean of the College, reported the meeting on July 14 would be to review the performance of the E&E, and encouraged all monarchs to attend.

#### Other Business:

A discussion regarding Deneka Ashley St. James (with Deneka present) was held in Executive session, and is reported privately.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous approval at 8:35 p.m.