



The Rosicrucian Fellowship MBM #5
 Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 12, 2013
 MBM#5 – 2013-10-12

Christopher Gendre, Chairman Pro Tem, conducted the meeting via Skype.

9.00 am - The meeting started with a Skype call to Members. By 9.49 am a quorum was finally established:

Member present were:

Angela Ponce de Leon, Christopher Gendre, Djissi JF Kangni, Jean Claude Verdin, Louis Agbe,
 Dr. Sheldon Deal.

Member absent were:

Jim Noel, Jorge Rey, Juan Javier Vesga, (all provided excuses for their absence)

Invited Guests: President Patricia Tinker, General Secretary Jean de Galzain.

9.50 am – Meeting opened with the Student prayer.

A.) New Business

Chair opened the floor for discussion on the estimated 2013-2014 Budget. Members shared various updated files. Discussion began on page 2, with itemized budget items focusing on the income section:

- Questions from Jorge were presented by the President as to why we estimated an increase of US donation by \$600 while book sales stayed the same. A.) It seems that the question was a misreading of the Budget lines and it was pointed out that Budget donations are split into:

CATEGORIES	2012-2013	2013-2014	
a.) US Domestic Donations	from \$59,294	to \$59,500	increased by \$206
b.) Other Worldwide Donation	from \$49,259	to \$49,500	increased by \$241
c.) International Coupons Donations	from \$1,347	to \$1,500	increased by \$153

This is a very small estimated increase (half of 1 percent!) when traditionally we increase by 10%!

Booksales are stagnant due to: 1.) The cultish looking and older 1900's appearance of our book covers are a deterrent to bookstore buyers who have limited shelf space, and are seeking to carry books that they feel will sell so they can pay their bills and 2.) Absence of promotion of the Teachings in the US resulting in very few people knowing who we are and what we teach.

Foreign version of our books with new modern covers show an increase of interest by bookstores buyers and readers alike. Long standing TRF policy of not proselytizing has been misinterpreted and has led to absence of promotion of the Teachings to the wider public resulting in TRF's absence on the public scene. Even though people come to the Teachings when they are ready, many who are ready go somewhere else because our material is not readily available in the conventional channels of local bookstores, many local libraries and conscious magazines.

Discussion turned to the Expense section of the Budget:

- Question was raised on Rent & Lease expenses: A.) It was explained that it covers equipment we lease like small printshop printing press and office printer/copiers.
- Question about the Repair & Maintenance figures: A.) Current President report show that we have already spent over \$14,000 of the estimated \$16,500 of the budget amount. It was explained that most of it includes expenses for the Gas Line Project to date that has been approved prior, as well as the payment for the Tractor whose fund were donated by a generous member.

Request was made to have the Gas Pine Project listed as a separate line item in the budget if at all possible, to give a clear picture to the Budget Expense line items.

- Question was raised about where does the money comes from to pay for the Gas Line. A.) It comes from the reserves we had the foresight to saved aside in a high yield CD 4 years ago when we received a large donation. It did not mature until June 2013 so we could not access it when the Gas Line broke.
- Question was raised about the Utility bills and water was the focus. A.) It was explained that we must maintain a minimum of greenery and plant life to avoid fire hazard, not look like we have abandoned the place, and maintain a minimum of respectability to our International Headquarters. We are looking into restoring water rights and possibly digging a well.
- Question was raised about the Balance Sheet Summary having negative figures. A.) Many questions were raised because the figures are incorrect, as the books have not been updated since the beginning of the fiscal year due to the absence of an approved budget.

-- Because the Budget was not approved during the June, July, August, September and October 2013 quarterly and special meetings, we operated under the emergency spending that prevented us from spending any money, except for absolute billing necessities and emergencies. As a result the bookkeeper has not been asked to come in to reconcile the books. So as soon as we have an approved budget we will ask her to come and catch up on the accounting and create the new line item for Gas Line Project and adjust balance sheet and all the Quickbooks records. Then we will generate accurate reports, budget and balance sheets for the Board.

10.33 am We concluded the discussion on the budget.

- Chairman moves to approved the budget, Louis seconds, the motion was approved by unanimous consent. Chairman reiterated that we need an accurate balance sheet and the Treasurer said we would.

B.) Old Business

Additional unrelated question about Mrs Beckers's legacy:

Louis brought back the idea that we must obtain a Certified Copy of Mrs. Beckers' Will, and everyone agreed. He suggested we look for someone in the Netherlands who could help us obtain the document as Mr. Moelker declines to do so and we wonder why, since it is a standard procedure. We will look for a solution in the Netherlands or through other possible avenues. We will send a new request to Mr. Moelker.

11.38 am Chair moves to adjourn the meeting, Angela seconds, and motion was approved by unanimous consent.
Meeting was closed with the Student Prayer.

Christopher Gendre, Chairman Pro Tem

Jean de Galzain, General Secretary