MBAR Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 9, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Zoom Meeting
Recording Secretary: Michael Banon

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Attendees were welcomed and introductions were made, including recognition of new participants.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the April 11, 2026 Steering Committee Meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Approve the April 11, 2026 minutes as presented.
Second: Received.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Remarks

The Chair thanked committee members for their continued service and dedication. Special recognition was given to committee members who have been supporting registration, outreach, speakers, fundraising, finance, and conference planning efforts.

The Chair acknowledged the work being completed by volunteers throughout the fellowship and emphasized the importance of continued participation as the conference approaches.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Leslie presented the financial report.

Financial Summary

- Cash Balance: $21,057.45
- Registration Increase Since Last Report: $1,362.21
- Total Registrations: 78

Additional registration analysis showed an increase in registrations compared to the same period last year, with attendees representing a wide geographic area throughout California.

The committee expressed appreciation for the detailed financial reporting and continued fiscal oversight.

Registration Report

Edwin reported that registrations have increased approximately 50% since the previous steering committee meeting.

The committee discussed continued efforts to promote registrations through flyers, home group announcements, intergroup meetings, and upcoming fellowship events.

Outreach Report

Dean provided an update regarding flyer distribution efforts.

Outreach Activities

- Approximately 700 flyers remain available for distribution.
- Flyers have been updated with a QR code and "Register Now" messaging.
- Spanish-language versions of flyers are available.
- Distribution efforts continue throughout:

- Santa Cruz
- San Jose
- Hollister
- Gilroy
- Salinas
- Watsonville
- Stockton
- Modesto

- Turlock
- Manteca
- Livermore
- Tracy
- Sacramento Area
- Chico Area

The committee encouraged members to continue announcing the conference and Bingo fundraiser at home groups and intergroup meetings.

Open Positions

The Chair announced the following open service positions:

- Hospitality Chair
- Raffle Prize Chair

Members were encouraged to consider service opportunities and help recruit volunteers.

Onsite Activities Report

Sarah provided an update regarding onsite conference activities.

Friday Night Fire Pit Activities

Proposed activities include:

- Gratitude Tree
- Resentment Release Activity
- Speed Fellowship
- Rock Painting

Discussion centered around scheduling activities so they do not conflict with speaker meetings, workshops, or panels.

Group Conscience

After discussion, the committee agreed:

- Activities should generally occur during breaks and fellowship periods.
- Rock painting may function as a drop-in activity available throughout the weekend.
- Activities should remain flexible and accessible to attendees.

Gratitude Tree

Sarah presented plans to:

- Create approximately 30–40 gratitude ornaments.
- Set up a gratitude tree display.
- Provide a box where attendees may anonymously write resentments for symbolic release during the Friday evening fire pit gathering.

The committee expressed support for the concept.

Chip Making and Name Tag Decorating

Sarah introduced proposals for:

- Recovery chip-making activities.
- Name tag decorating station during registration.

Discussion focused on:

- Supply costs.
- Volunteer supervision.
- Registration area logistics.
- Donation collection procedures.

Group Conscience

The committee agreed that:

- Activities should be managed as MBAR-sponsored activities.

- Expense reimbursement requests should be submitted through the Treasurer.
- Additional planning and budget information will be presented at a future meeting.

Photo Booth Discussion

A discussion was held regarding use of an existing photo booth.

Group Conscience

The committee agreed to:

- Locate existing equipment.
- Test functionality.
- Utilize the booth if operational.

Bingo Fundraiser Report

Samantha provided an update regarding the final Bingo fundraiser.

Event Details

Location:

- Moose Lodge

Food Options

- Hot Dogs
- Vegan Hot Dogs
- Nachos
- Chili
- Soda

Bingo Format

- Suggested Contribution: $10
- Eight Bingo Games Included

Additional Fundraising Activities

- Bake Sale
- 50/50 Raffle
- Registration Table

The committee emphasized the importance of promoting the fundraiser and encouraging early participation.

Speaker and Program Updates

The committee reviewed program changes.

Program Adjustments

- Earl is no longer available.
- Danny will serve as Closing Speaker.
- Teresa has been moved to the Saturday evening speaker slot.

Discussion also included the possibility of a Sunday beach fellowship gathering following conference activities.

The Program Committee will continue finalizing the conference schedule and distribute updates for review.

Panel Updates

Mark B provided updates regarding panel planning.

Three panels are being organized:

1. Recovery Panel
2. Service Panel
3. Unity Panel

Speaker recommendations are being finalized and will be circulated to the Steering Committee.

Spanish Community and Al-Anon Coordination

Discussion focused on strengthening communication and outreach efforts with both the Spanish-speaking community and Al-Anon.

Motion

Motion made to share MBAR committee chair contact information with Al-Anon and Spanish Community representatives.
Second: Received.
Vote: Motion Passed.

The committee agreed to continue collaborative outreach efforts moving forward.

AV and Accessibility Report

The committee reviewed accessibility options presented by Encore AV.

Options discussed included:

- Closed Captioning Services
- Wireless Listening Headsets

Cost estimates were reviewed and determined to be within current budget parameters.

Group Conscience

The committee agreed to continue discussions with Encore AV and further evaluate available accessibility services.

Merchandise Report

The committee reviewed merchandise proposals presented by the conference vendor.

Items discussed:

- Online preorder store
- Conference merchandise
- Volunteer committee shirts
- Short-sleeve and long-sleeve options

The vendor will provide samples and final pricing for review.

Meeting Schedule Discussion

The committee discussed increasing meeting frequency as conference preparations intensify.

Group Conscience

The committee agreed to:

July

- Meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays

August

- Meet every Saturday

Updated schedules will be distributed once finalized.

Action Items

Outreach

- Continue targeted flyer distribution in identified California regions.
- Encourage announcements at home groups, intergroups, Unity Day, and Birthday events.

Registration

- Staff registration tables at Bingo Fundraiser and Unity Day.
- Bring laptops for onsite registrations.

Onsite Activities

- Create gratitude-tree ornaments.
- Prepare resentment-release activity.
- Develop detailed plans for chip making and name tag decorating.
- Determine supply costs for reimbursement planning.

Bingo Fundraiser

- Finalize food service operations.
- Coordinate bake sale volunteers.

- Organize raffle and registration staffing.
- Ensure unclaimed prizes are returned to donors.

Program

- Finalize conference program.
- Distribute updated schedule to Steering Committee.

Merchandise

- Obtain samples and finalize online store options.

AV

- Continue coordination with Encore AV regarding accessibility services and equipment needs.

Upcoming Meetings

Steering Committee Call

May 26, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Next MBAR Committee Meeting

June 13, 2026

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Banon
Recording Secretary
MBAR Steering Committee