

## Welcome!

The Mediators Beyond Borders International—Los Angeles Regional Group (MBBI—LA) is committed to building a more peace “able” world through active engagement in and promotion for community dialogues, dialogue training, and local partnerships.

**Mission:** MBBI builds local skills for peace and promotes mediation worldwide.

**Vision:** Building a more peace “able” world.

### Background

In 2006, sixty conflict resolution professionals—including eight leaders in the field: Robert Creo, Ken Cloke, Lynn Cole, Sandia DiMola, Erica Fox, Joan Goldsmith, Nan Waller Burnett, and Rachel Wohl—formed [Mediators Beyond Borders International](#) (MBBI) at the first annual Congress in Colorado.

MBBI started at a time when the founders recognized the critical need for conflict resolution skills at all levels of community, keenly aware of the necessary shift from the ‘powerful nations’ model to a ‘people-centered’ peacebuilding model; of the increasing leadership role of regional and sub-regional organizations, along with increasing engagement of civil society actors. These transitions underscored the need to prepare people at every level for participation in state-of-the-art peacebuilding processes that are multidisciplinary and collaborative.

The MBBI Model comprised a unique 10-point model (if you say 10 then say what they are). MBBI solicits requests for support from international groups challenged by local conflict issues. MBBI members assess the need and develop long-term collaborative engagement with groups in their countries, implementing and tailoring steps to each conflict context. MBBI is committed to reducing the destructiveness of violent conflict, war, and terrorism, and creating platforms on which deeper social and political changes could take place.

In 2007, members formed the [MBBI—LA Regional Group](#) to bring the core vision and mission of MBBI to Southern California, where members living in this region could meet regularly to develop their skills and to offer services to local communities as well as to collaborate with local partners who are committed to the same principals. Our focus is both local and international, with members working on a variety of mediation and facilitation projects.

The MBBI—LA Regional Group was a founding Group of MBBI initiated by internationally renowned mediator and peacemaker Kenneth Cloke, with the goal of bringing mediation and facilitation strategies to address local and global needs.

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## MBBI—LA Leadership Team

The MBBI—LA Leadership Team serves a one-year period, from June to June. Leadership team members are elected annually in January, serving as Chair-elect, Treasurer-elect, and Communications Lead-elect from January through June.

Leadership Team members may be elected up to three times but must take a minimum of one-year leave following three years of service. MBBI—LA Leadership team members may run unopposed, but still must be re-elected by active MBBI—LA members. If a Leadership Team member is not able to perform his/her duties for any reason, the Leadership Team may call for an emergency vote at a general meeting to replace an individual effective immediately. Any member of the MBBI—LA Regional Group Leadership Team may call for this vote.

**Chair:** Oversees the Leadership Team, is the main MBBI—LA Regional Group contact for MBBI, Group members, and event partners, and is responsible for upholding the Group's Rules and Procedures. The Chair is responsible for writing meeting agendas, monitoring event planning, and representing MBBI—LA to the larger community.

**Treasurer:** Responsible for monitoring the Group's finances, balancing, and distributing funds. The Treasurer will collect donations/dues, monitor membership dues, and distribute funds appropriately for MBB—LA and partnered events. S/he will be the main point of contact to monitor MBBI—LA membership reflected through MBBI records.

**Communications Officer:** Responsible for monitoring all forms of communication within the Regional Group. This includes communications with MBBI—LA members and potential members. S/he is responsible for managing all MBBI—LA social media accounts, email, Neon mailing list, and creating and distributing emails to the MBBI—LA contact list.

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## MBBI—LA Membership

**Active members:** Individuals enrolled in and committed to one of MBBI membership levels, granting him/her the benefits of the MBBI community as well as MBBI—LA network. MBBI and the MBBI—LA Regional Group encourages active members to regularly participate in the Group's events, meetings, and activities.

### Benefits:

- Active members will receive voting power to approve MBBI—LA partnerships, leadership positions, and events.
- Member-proposed events will receive priority over non-member or past-member proposals.

- Members may submit flyers and event notices to the Communication Officer, within the appropriate time indicated in the Communications Policy, to distribute to the MBBI—LA contact list.
- Active Members will receive advance notice of events, MBBI—LA retreats, and receive discounts to attend MBBI—LA sponsored events.

**Dues:** To remain active, members must pay dues to MBBI of which the Regional Group, MBBI—LA, will receive a percentage to sponsor Group’s events and activities. Please visit MBBI’s [Join Us page](#) to select a membership level to become an active member.

**Inactive Members:** Any active member who does not renew his/her membership dues will become Inactive. An inactive member will still be involved in the MBBI—LA Regional Group activities, events, and meetings but has none of the benefits of being an active member. Inactive Members are welcome and encouraged to re-activate their membership at any time.

**Past Members:** Past members are individuals who are no longer active with the MBBI—LA Regional Group; Are neither active members nor inactive members. We welcome and encourage past members to [re-new their membership](#) to engage in our peacebuilding work.

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## MBBI—LA Meetings

**Monthly Meetings:** The Group holds monthly meetings, **every third Saturday of the month from 11:00 MA - 1:00 PM PDT** for members to connect, discuss current issues, and plan upcoming events.

MBBI and the MBBI—LA Regional Group encourage members to attend in person. Links to attend the meetings virtually via the Zoom platform are also available. The Group’s Coordinating Committee/Leadership Team will send meeting reminders via email along with the Zoom link, meeting agenda, and meeting minutes.

**Mixers:** There are two annual mixers, one in the spring and another in the winter. These serve as fundraisers for the MBBI—LA Regional Group as well as networking opportunities.

**Annual Retreat:** The MBBI—LA Regional Group holds an annual retreat for members to assess the Group’s achievements, challenges, and goals for the next year.

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