

TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 29, 2004

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Texas Clown Association, Inc. (TCA) was held Wednesday, September 29, 2004. Ernie Priest, President, called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. at the American Airlines Training & Conference Center located at 4501 Hwy 360 S, in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Board members present were: Ernie Priest, Mike Stephens, Lisa Ezell, Andy Anderson, Brenda Marshall, Christie McNeill, Tricia Craft, Linda Greene, Aurora Krause, June Hinkle, and Chandra Luce. Guests were: Nancy Dawlearn, Frances Poage, Patsy McMillan, Pam Muenchow, Ken Kitchen, Mauri Norris, Barbara Moore, and George Slade.

2004 Convention Report –

Chandra reported that we had 108 pre-registered and commented that this number is way down from previous years. Other news included: all lecturers are present, 1 vendor (Doris Fletcher) is unable to attend, and the judges' seminar has been lengthened. Chandra stated that she anticipates Cowtown Clowns to break even. At this point, Chandra was excused from the meeting and gave her proxy to Andy Anderson.

2005 Convention Report –

Nancy remarked that the registration fees are \$90 by December 31, 2004, \$100 before March 31, 2005, \$110 by July 31, 2005, and \$125 thereafter. Those who register by December 31st will be entered into a drawing to win a \$250 gift certificate for a pair of Billy Prince's custom clown shoes. The convention theme is "Is Your Funny Bone Broken?" M-XL scrub shirts will be available for purchase at \$12 or \$15 for XXL-6XL. A copy of her report is attached.

Minutes –

On a motion by Christie and seconded by June, the minutes of the July 24, 2004 Board of Directors meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report –

In our Treasurer's absence, Ernie read the Treasurer's report to those present. We have \$8998.42 in the CD and \$2482.20 in our general funds checking account. A copy of this report will be filed for audit. An electronic copy is attached. (No copy has been received from Sharon to forward on.)

It was observed that the largest discrepancy between budgetary projected numbers and actuals Y-T-D is in membership. Dues are down over \$1500 this year. It was noted that we would pick up a few additional memberships during the convention, but the low attendance didn't bode well for picking up many. A survey to the entire membership was suggested to determine why our members stayed home this year, what would entice them to come back, and why they hadn't renewed their dues. (Further discussion of this survey will surface again later in these minutes.)

Committee Reports –

AMBASSADOR – Andy has received 2 nomination letters for Texas Clown Association's Ambassador 2004. He has made telephone contact with those former winners who could not attend this year's convention and gotten their input. He is planning to meet with the other former winners immediately following the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 30 at 1:30pm. He said there will be an honoree this year.

COMPETITION – Mike still is seeking judges' profiles. Mike and Brenda will be working to formulate the guidelines for the newly created "Performance" category, which is slated to begin at the 2005 convention. Much discussion ensued regarding how to define this category. Suggestions were made to have both single and group performances fall into one category. At the General Membership Meeting of 2003, there was no provision specifying that there must be two categories. Mike and Brenda are free to consider this option.

CONVENTION ASSISTANCE – Lisa unveiled a standardized form for reporting convention summary results. It was met with preliminary approval and will be attached to these minutes. It will be placed in with the Convention Guidelines. This form is to be completed (in conjunction with a narrative summary) by the host alley and presented to the TCA Board at the first board meeting after the close of the convention.

EDUCATION – Aurora only received 2 responses regarding her TCAAIR Survey. After the new board is in place, she would like to have 2 Area Directors join her in her efforts to revamp this program. It was agreed that this needs to be done.

NOMINATING – June reported that the slate has not changed from what was printed in Sept-Oct. issue of The Joey Journal. Andy will coordinate distribution, collection, and counting of ballots where necessary. At the conclusion of the General Membership Meeting, attendees will group by area and elect an Area Director. It was noted that June only received 1 absentee ballot. Discussion ensued as to why members do not send in their absentee votes. This question could be part of the membership survey as well.

WEBSITE – Mike asked that volunteers to help with the website be solicited at the General Membership Meeting.

SUNSHINE FUND – June stated that the fund is at \$89. A collection of \$22 today increased our total to \$111.

Old Business –

JOB DESCRIPTIONS – tabled again until January. Those received thus far will be sent under separate cover. All board members are encouraged to review them, and make any additions or subtractions to them as they feel the need. It was suggested that job descriptions be prepared for the Education, Competition, and Convention directors also. All job descriptions will be discussed at the January meeting.

HOSPITALITY ROOM – The board is hosting Friday night. Ernie is chairing this. There is no line item on the budget for this expense.

VIDEOS – There are a few remaining 2003 Convention videos remaining. It was suggested that we give them away as door prizes.

New Business –

Cynthia Quarles is our new COAI South Central Area Representative. She is from New Mexico.

Arla Albers will be in Houston, Monday, January 17 for a private face painting class. Registration is \$150. Class size is limited. A \$75 deposit will hold your spot. See Lisa for more information or check the next issue of *The Joey Journal*.

Joey to the World is scheduled for February 4 & 5, 2005 in Houston. Kay Reed and Phyllis Sheffield are the contacts.

Next Meeting –

Both January 22 & 29 were suggested. A final date will be set after meeting with the new board briefly Sunday, October 3. [The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Allied Health Sciences Building of the University of Texas Health Science Center located at 8403 Floyd Curl Dr., in San Antonio, Texas on January 22, 2005 at 10am.]

On a motion made by June and seconded by Linda, we adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa "Twinkles" Ezell
Secretary, Texas Clown Association

attachments (2)