

Texas Clown Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Held at the Texas Clown Association 2006 Convention, Clarion Hotel 4440 W. Airport Freeway, Irving, TX 75062

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Present were: Lisa Ezell, John Luce, Andy Quittner, Mauri Norris, Andy Anderson, Susan Keys, Kay Henry, Kay Quittner, Ken Kitchen Chandra Luce.

Absent were Brenda Marshall and Barry Yount (who came in later).

No proxies were received.

The following guests were present: Laurel Grandstaff, Donna Wagner, Robert Whitley, and Sue Gortemiller.

1. The minutes from the July 22, 2006, meeting of the board of directors was discussed. Motion to adopt by John Luce, second by Andy Anderson. Passed.

Discussed the Minutes from the last general membership meeting which was held, September 30, 2004 (since the 2005 meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Rita). Decided to project the minutes on the screen, allow membership present at the meeting to read and adopt.

The treasurer gave her report: the amount in the TCA checking account is \$ 8,083.76; and the amount in the CD is \$ 7,095.31. Presently have 281 current members (not counting those joining at convention). Franchise tax reporting is current. Discussed needing to concentrate on convention and *Joey Journal* expenses.

Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Convention Report:

Mid-Cities update – Susan stated that there were 130 members pre-registered as of yesterday. There were a lot of calls during the last week asking whether they could mail a convention application, but they were told to just show up. Best guess it that they are expecting about 150 total. They are over the room block; just under the food and beverage. Having a little problem getting hospitality room. Could use Board Room, but table is in the way. Trying to get the president's suite. Otherwise everything is going as smooth as possible. Made 130 of the better goody bags for pre-registered only. Those who register at the door will not receive the same bag.

Ice Cream social – John has everything except ice cream; got with local Wal-Mart. We need to have everything in hospitality room by 9:30 p.m. Will need an ice chest to keep ice cream cold. Arranged to buy 7½ gallons which should give 138 scoops.

2007 Convention: Cheerful Alley report from Sue: The dates will be September 26-30, 2007. Their convention bank account has a balance of \$ 631.80. The Alley doesn't think they need the TCA seed money. The headliner will be Randy Munson. The rate for the convention will be: 95/110/120/135. They have a room block of 236 room nights at Hobby Marriott.

Discussed ideas for the 2008 convention. Discussed competition at the convention, and possible changes to consider when looking at the next conventions. Discussed having the convention a little earlier in the year because the September/October time frame is busy for working clowns, and not convenient for Junior Joey's and people with school age children. Talked about rates, Labor Day, August (which is generally a low time for conventions). Decided to bring this to the membership at the general membership meeting for discussion and maybe sending a mail ballot.

Talked about bringing to the membership meeting some ideas concerning changing competition. Decided to postpone this discussion until a good article could be written in the *Joey Journal*; then bring to the membership at the next convention.

The location of the 2008 convention is not yet set. Wichita Falls had expressed an interest but has not sent anything definitive. Need to talk to Kathie Jamison. We have had a few new members from that area.

Committee Reports:

- Ambassador – Linda Greene (via Chandra)
 - We have the 2005 winner and 2 submitted for 2006. The Committee will meet tomorrow at 12:30 to make final selection.
- By-laws – Andy Quittner, chair

Andy will present the by-law changes as a whole, unless there is some dissension on one, then will pull that one to discuss and vote separately. Will present quickly. A number of mail in ballots were received.

- Competition – Sue "Hot Dog" Gortemiller, chair

They still need some judges. She only has 29 judge's profiles; need more profiles.

- Membership – John Luce, chair

At the general membership meeting is where all the first time conventioners will get their ribbons. Need to get a membership application on the web site.

- Merchandising – Andy Anderson, chair

All Area directors are to turn in supplies to Andy Anderson for sale at convention.

- Nominating – Andy Anderson, chair

Right now there is someone for every position, and there are two for sergeant at arms. Received a letter regarding the south area director. As to panhandle, Kay Henry is not sure. Last convention Roger was the only one from the area; and he actually comes to Kay Henry's alley meeting which is 2½ hours away. They have one nominee from SE (Donna Wagner). North Central: Andy Anderson will probably run. (Miss Cookie) might run. Kay Henry in west; Discussed who could be appointed to panhandle if no one is here from panhandle, Further discussion was tabled until after the membership meeting.

- Scrapbook – Kay Henry, chair

Martha Warren

Scrapbooks are here. Kay will man the table. Someone will arrange to get her a separate table for setting up books. Will have them there as long as someone is attending to the table. Will not leave them out without guarding.

- Spark Plug – Mauri Norris, chair

Winner to be announced at banquet. The certificates have been obtained as well as the plaque. New guidelines will be in effect for the next year. The new rules will be explained at the banquet when the award is being made.

- Website – Robert Whitley, chair

The Website is still under construction – have some suggestions; Susan said if you click on her link; get wrong email. Gave some suggestions. Robert is not billing for cost until October because the site is not complete. Never decided for sure on how to get password to members. Could print in the *Joey Journal*. Question on security which would get you to addresses, etc. It was decided to print the password in the *Joey Journal*, maybe with a cautionary statement. Remind not for solicitation purposes. Robert will do a website article for the *Joey Journal*.

- Sunshine Fund – Susan Keys, chair

The fund balance was \$250.00 before Ice Cream social. The cost of the social is about \$50.00, so far.

- 25 year Celebration – Barry Yount, chair

Nothing new to report. Was not able to get with Café Press for merchandise so we don't have any door prizes for general membership meeting, at present. Executive board will discuss getting some.

Area Directors:

- Barry – status of new Austin group? Nothing heard yet.
- Posters for General Membership Meeting - Barry brought some sign material; others as well; for getting areas together.

Old Business

- Papa Louie's shoes- he will be here and knows to get with Billy.
- Convention survey – Andy Quittner will pass out at banquet and give quick discussion- Before awards. Will have a prize to be given from a random drawing of all surveys completed and turned in at the banquet.

New Business: None.

Other goings-on:

- Moose Camp Caravan – Oklahoma – November 17-19 www.mooseburger.com
- Kenny Ahern; Feb 1, 2007. cost is \$100; but 20 person limit; is not confirmable; may do a Monday if a good response (will be there at JTTW).
- JTTW Feb 2-3, 2007
- More? San Antonio is looking to bring in some former Ringling clowns for a workshop. Tom E Boy will be in Houston next month.

Meeting was recessed at 12:45 to be reopened Friday at 5:30 p.m. to discuss:

- Education
- Joey Journal
- New Board to select date/time/location of January meeting

In recess at 12:45 until Friday.

Board Meeting reconvened Friday, September 29, 2006, at 5:38 p.m.

The new board members were welcomed.

Education – Aurora Krause

Sent a letter to Alley presidents on the list (only 3 out of 9 or 10 were correct). Many of the ex-presidents forwarded the letter to the correct person. Received 2 responses to question about what they thought TCA should do to be more visible and more available. Still have not received any applications for use of education scholarship funds. The committee is looking for more suggestions.

Discussed moving from alley benefit to individual or use of funds to support 1st of May classes at convention. Maybe a "Welcome to the art of Clowning" earlier day for newcomers? After discussion, there was support for some sort of "novice track."

The Committee will work to establish new tract or other support for 1st of Mays at convention.

Joey Journal – Kim Grice/Kay Quittner

Discussed the transition. Also talked about Phil Freedman (printer) who has now printed two issues. Kim is mailing a paste up, not an electronic file. There are now more people in the mix because Mauri is also involved (electronic transfer of labels), but not much communication from Phil. The second issue did go smoother. The only real disadvantage is not seeing the issue before it goes to mailing.

Discussed present cost of printing and mailing. Will leave the printing, for the time being, with Phil Freedman, but will see if he can reduce the cost.

The Sunshine Fund was revisited. We spent \$51.00 for ice cream, which leaves \$199.00 in the fund.

Next meeting will be January 6, 2007, with January 13 as a backup.

Place of meeting will be San Marcos, with San Antonio as a backup.

Will do some articles concerning possible changes in the 2008 convention and get as much feedback as possible.

General discussion on area directors and visiting alleys.

Updates to the website were discussed.

Since no one ran for Panhandle Area Rep, the Board considered two people, not living in the area, who had expressed interest in the position.

By vote of the board, June Hinkle was appointed to serve as the Panhandle Rep.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Andy "Banjo" Quittner
Secretary