

Texas Clown Association
Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

The Texas Clown Association Board of Directors held a quarterly board meeting on Saturday May 5, 2007, at the San Marcos Public Library, 625 East Hopkins Street, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

The meeting convened at 10:07 a.m.

The following board members were present:

Lisa Ezell, June Hinkle, Lisa Porche, John Luce, Andy Anderson, Andy Quittner
Donna Manna, Mauri Norris, and Barry Yount.

Not present were: Donna Wagner, Susan Keys and Chandra Luce.

Chandra Luce gave her proxy to John Luce.

Also present were three guests: Robert Whitley, Kay Quittner, and Ed Fitzgerald.

The Board considered the minutes from the January 6, 2007, meeting. Barry moved for approval, seconded by June and unanimously approved.

Mauri gave the treasurer's report. At renewal, there are 200 members (so far) responding from 418 mailed notices. Due to the successful convention, the organization is in good shape:

- Amount checking: \$12,170.09
- Amount CD: \$7,313.38
- The CD was renewed for 10 months at 5.03% at Washington Mutual
- Insurance due 3/19 – paid yes, premium slightly lower than budget amount;
- A Financial update (budget vs actual) is on file.
- The treasurer's report is filed for audit

Ed Fitzgerald gave a report on competition, and talked about the results of a survey on the same subject. He presented a spreadsheet of the responses on the postcards; about 2:1 said they favored a change in date of the convention. Most did not want to totally eliminate the makeup competition: No change 21; eliminate 17; consolidate 31; The largest number of people seem to be in favor of some consolidation of categories. From email responses there appears to be more people in favor of consolidating or no change rather than eliminate. One said before

eliminate what have you done to stimulate use or lower cost of competition? One person even wanted more categories;

The COAI annual convention attendance was only 236;

Overall the board decided that the convention date change needs to go to the members in ballot. Decided to put a ballot in this issue of JJ voting keep same convention date or change the date to a July/August time frame.

The poll results showed that there was enough interest in competition to keep it, but the board will look at revamping competition rules and possibly bring any changes to the membership at the next convention.

Talked about having a separate Jr. Joey weekend; focusing only on them; not necessarily at convention;

Talked about reducing the number of competition categories; but, it will take longer to judge the competitions because the same judges must view more people (cant run concurrent) and less chance to win with less categories. If you reduce number of judges per category it may move along faster; could increase number required to make a category;

Discussion on awards/places participant recognition; wide variety of conversation including discussion of a working clown category;

Discussed whether we should set a minimum number in category; e.g. 10, and if the minimum is not made then combine categories. For Example: junior and seniors together to make 10; or just group every type together and then asterisk or somehow mark those. Another thought is to have everyone register for makeup competition and list type and category; then we will divide them up depending on the numbers entered.

Also discussed the need to have a quantity of participants to quantity of trophies; that is a min of 10 before awarding 3 places; 2-5 one place; 6-9 two; still pending on scores;

Ed will work on this and bring a proposal in July regarding how he thinks the makeup competition should be rearranged.

Talked about the performance category; keep or jettison; the consensus is to keep; discussed the perform-off; needs to evolve; but need to keep as is another year and see what happens;

Discussed cost saving ideas for awards;

Barry makes motion that we change to medals to be presented on ribbons without cases for all appropriate competition categories rather than plaques. The all around clown will have distinguishable medal; Donna seconded;

Discussed whether or not all around clown would receive a medal or something else; talked about best all around clown; will stay with a medal, but a distinguishable one;

Passed unanimously

The Ambassador award will keep as it is.

Spark Plug award will be a rectangular plaque with spark plug on it. (7x9 plaque);

2007 convention report: Presently have 60 registered so far and have 79 room nights booked; They need 189 room nights; Still need hospitality for Friday night and Saturday morning; The board will do ice cream social. All board members will bring a scoop; Wednesday night is board social. Happy Times, Oops and Cowtown have also signed up for hospitality;

So far, the following will be there: Randy Munson; Tom King, Mr. Puppet, Sue Klienwatcher; Steve Bender;

The convention will have 20 classes; balloon face painting and novice tracks. They will be working on schedule; Randy Munson will do 2 shows; Mr. Puppet will perform; Tom King will mc for competitions;

Proceeds of raffle will go to The Center Serving People with Mental Retardation.

As to the 2008 convention bid, there are no bids at this point; Wichita Falls has decided not to submit a bid;

Committee Reports:

Ambassador – Aurora Krause & Ed Fitzgerald, co-chair

- Need 1st article in JJ right now (article is ready)
- Need 2nd article in July/Aug issue
- Need 3rd article in convention issue

Anniversary/Birthday Celebration – Barry Yount, chair

- Art contest – no entries have been received to date
- Party plans – not in '07; but will do a kickoff
- Plans for spotlighting founders? Yes
- Are we using Café Press? Have account, but no artwork yet;

So far nothing else has been done; The committee needs to get together (Chandra, Kathie, Patti, Kay H and Barry); Need an article in Journal (by Barry) to bring stuff to convention that could be used; Art contest is still open; need to encourage some others to enter the art contest, maybe non-members). Discussed prize for logo design; maybe give a choice of convention registration or \$100 gift certificate to Michaels or Hobby Lobby?

At July meeting want a formulative plan for the anniversary program.

By-laws – Andy Quittner, chair

Alley Charters – (By-laws, pg 7) Article IX, Section 2: Charter, paragraph 4 beginning with “Within sixty (60) days . . .” and ending with “The charter fee for chartering of Alleys shall be set by the Board of Directors.”

Change to: Notice of approval of charter will be sent as soon as practicably possible; and not more than 120 days from submission; (will reword entire section to make sense)

Education – Aurora Krause, chair

Aurora presented two programs (see handout): Clown Buddy/Mentorship program: Convention application will tell who are first time attendees. These would be forwarded to the Education Committee. Talked about how to provide mentors. Decided to see how many volunteers there would be – in response to the Joey Journal article.

Orientation session would be part of program and scheduled on the first day of convention with mentors present. Make the mentors visible and everyone at session would get info on the convention, etc. Some points to still consider: name of program and participants; cost to board? Ribbons or buttons?

Talked about something on registration form to check that I am not first time but want a mentor; or I will be a mentor. JJ article will say mentorship is available to all TCA members....Don't need to have one on one mentoring...so handling walk in newbies can be handled.

Orientation session is an excellent idea, irrespective of whether or not there is a mentoring session. Host alley has no time for this; but volunteers is a good idea; maybe area directors should be part of that. Give first time ribbons at orientation session...so new attendees can be recognized;

Clown Buddy for Mentor; discussed and decided all are buddies both mentor and mentees; Could call it the Clown Buddy Program; 2 month prior contact is good idea; but impractical because few register that far in advance; orientation is still best; May still want to send letter in advance to those known first timer; especially that they know about orientation; theme party, etc. May need more than one orientation session for late comers. Will have committee feedback after the convention to assess value/problems of program.

Expenses: want nice sign; ribbons or buttons; handouts; may use the old small TCA buttons to pin through a ribbon;

2d program suggestion is the “novice track” This convention is able to give 2 or 3 sessions open for novice track; Make sure these courses are clearly defined; at least need makeup and costuming and some character development. Even makeup demo followed by a lab.

Novice is not exclusive for first time attendees.

Membership – John Luce, chair

Area directors to get alley reports back; got one back; Reports are due by July 15.

Merchandising – Barry Yount, chair

Need to consider reordering decals; large buttons; patches will wait until see what is turned in for contest;

Nominating – Andy Anderson, chair no report

Scrapbook – Kay Henry & Susan Keys, co-chairs; no report

Spark Plug – Mauri Norris, chair will put something in JJ soon

The Joey Journal – Kay Quittner, editor

Saved some money on last issue. The January/February issue was 7 sheets; last was 6 sheets; talked about costs and mailing costs; would like to return label envelopes; Talked about having to advertise in journal if you want to sell at convention;

Board member article assignments*

- July – (JL, JH, AQ)
- Sept – (DW, JH, CL)
- Nov – (JL, CL, AA)

The board liked the calendar page in the March/April issue better

Discussed advertising revenue – only 3 ads in March/April and only 2 in January/February. Talked about sending out ad sheet to area directors to hand out to applicable businesses; talked about sending rate sheet/form letter to each vendor who is coming to convention.

Talked about clownified stuff ads, must be personal garage sale not commercial; would need to be limited to number of words/lines no cost to members;

Andy /John motion to make clownified free to membership within guidelines established by the editor; need to make sure they are current members. Passed.

All printing problems have been solved with local printer. Will no longer be using Phil, whose contract is complete and he has been paid. Will probably stick with envelopes for now.

Since we are now sending first class, returned mail is automatic;

Website – Robert Whitley, chair

Talked about putting the Joey Journal on the web. Fixed the email link. Talked about changes to webpage and what is involved in doing that. Talked about the education page; competition page now has the rules and will stay; awards page should have winners from the last convention. Will get those in.

Need an update on the directory; [July/August will be directory issue] will need an electronic file for the new directory; cost of website is 156/year. Pay per quarter; Ed can email bill and will send check.

- Sunshine Fund – Susan Keys, chair
 - \$231 in Sunshine treasury

Area Director Reports

- Panhandle – Cricket – dry as a bone out there. Brought in her area report;
- N. Central – Smiley -- visited all three of his alleys. Metroplex is going to have a joint meeting on May 15.
- N. East – Dubble Bubble --- not here
- West – Klynky not here
- Central – Donnabelle not present
- S. East – Katy Mae not here
- South – Lolla-Pop nothing; Del Mar clown class did not make.

Old Business:

- Changing convention dates – will have to be voted on article this time; July issue will have ballot
- Are we 501c3 – Chandra says yes....Andy Q will try and find taxpayer ID No. and verify state taxation.
- P O Box has been changed to:

P O Box 820
Hurst, TX 76053

New Business:

Payasos Latinos de America – request for Charter
Decision will be postponed to July meeting

Discussed what do we want to do about non-members who claim to be members in their promotional materials? Decided to send letter stating: The Texas Clown Association respectfully requests that you cease using or intimating that you are a member of TCA; or join the organization if you want to continue associating with the membership.

Other goings-on: BeBop is coming to Houston on July 21 (for school; and day of board meeting)

Next meeting: July 21 at 10 a.m. at the convention hotel in Houston the Hobby Marriott, meeting in the room that will ultimately be the hospitality room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.