

Texas Clown Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, January 12, 2008, at 116 Nichols Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666

On January 12, 2008, the Texas Clown Association held its quarterly board meeting at 116 Nichols Drive, San Marcos, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

In attendance were: Lisa Ezell, June Hinkle, John Luce, Andy Anderson, Andy Quittner, Susan Keys, Mauri Norris, Kay Henry, and Barry Yount

Absent were: Lisa Porche, Donna Manna, Donna Wagner, however, proxies were received from Lisa Porche and Donna Manna.

The following guests were present: Ed Fitzgerald, Kathie Jamison, and Kay Quittner

1. A motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on September 26, 2007, was made by Susan Keys and Seconded by Barry Yount. The motion passed.
2. A motion to approve publication of the minutes from the September 27, 2007, General Membership meeting was made by Andy Anderson and seconded by John Luce. The motion passed.

Mauri Norris presented the Treasurers report. The Board discussed budget details. It was noted that in this year's budget the convention profit actually includes two conventions, because of the timing of the receipt of the funds by TCA. There was a general discussion of convention finances and the need to remain diligent in keeping those costs in line.

Amount in checking: \$ 1,6593.32 as of 12/31/2007

Amount in CD: \$ 7,428.95 now 7619.32 as it matured; It is time to re-invest the CD. If the amount of the new CD is up to \$10,000, an 8 month CD will yield 4.85%. The treasurer recommended leaving where it is because too much trouble to move for a miniscule difference in the rate of return.

3. Andy Quittner made a motion to increase the amount of the CD to \$15,000, and deposit it for 8 months at Washington Mutual. The motion was seconded by June Hinkle. The Board discussed expenses and funds in the checking account. If the CD is increased the checking account will still have sufficient funds to cover a full years expenses. The motion passed.

Dues notices & membership cards not prepared yet, but will be similar to past except no questionnaire. Notice will give rate; fact of when due; notice on dropping, no card unless you supply self addressed stamped envelope, etc.

The treasurer's report is filed.

The board discussed the statement concerning prorating dues and problems with clarity. The next dues statement will be mailed at the end of February or the first of March.

The board also discussed the updating the membership roster. The online roster was updated after convention but not since, but there hasn't been many updates since.

It was decided that the roster will be updated in May when dues drop off occurs. In addition the roster will be updated in February, August and November.

Convention Reports:

The final report for the 2007 convention has been completed. The gross profit from the convention was \$8,373.38. TCA received \$4,593.02 and the Center (charity selected by the Cheerful Clown Alley) received a pretty good check. Cheerful made \$5,000 and change. Financially speaking the convention was very successful.

The Board discussed costs of lecturers. All discussed convention DVD's. Richard, of All Occasion Video sent a dvd to Lisa for TCA; TCA now has 2 dvd's. There was some discussion as to what do with them. The Historian now has a copy. In the past all alleys got a tape paid for by TCA, but that was discontinued. John Luce has two boxes of older VCR tapes. Discussed have each alley see what they are missing, and maybe supply missing tapes to those Alleys that don't have a complete collection.

Discussed putting a short article in the Joey Journal talking about the success of the last 2 conventions, and that TCA membership is back on a growth spurt, thus the organizations' finances are in good shape.

Report on the 2008 Convention:

Kathie Jamison gave report on status of the 2008 convention. The Convention Committee has begun bi-weekly convention meetings. The Committee had a couple of questions, to make sure that all of the bases are covered. Lisa Ezell is taking care of lectures; Ed Fitzgerald is handling competition – but he will need someone from alley to be chair (Ed gave Kathie a copy of the competition guidelines). Ed will assist in getting runners, timers and judges when convention starts. The Convention is now back to original hotel (Howard Johnson's). The hotel is working with them wonderfully. If the convention books 50 room nights total, then there is no cost to alley for any meeting rooms; The convention room rate is \$64.50 to \$84.50. There will be no cost to the convention for vendor tables; The Convention application is on the web site now. Convention group is meeting at the hotel; when board comes in July, they will have convention rate for rooms, if any want to stay.. Food prices for the banquet are excellent. There will be a shuttle from airport to hotel (American Eagle and Continental Express fly in there). The Committee has about 8 people working on convention. The City of Wichita Falls Tourist Bureau is providing a free shuttle bus to one of the activities. Susan Keys will be heading up hospitality, and may come up for next regular meeting to bring in supplies.

Kathie asked what does the convention committee need to give to Joey Journal, and for which issues (Greg now has information); As far as alley members, each needs to be registered for convention (but don't need to charge full rate, but could keep it open at current rate). Could rebate out of profit, up to the alley. Reminded them that \$5.00 of the registration fee comes to TCA for trophies. Banquet entertainment, does it need to be the headliner, or someone else? Can use someone else. Tracts are optional. But does make more revenue (albeit not much). Might not work well in a smaller town. The Clown Arounds have a couple who want to renew their marriage vows, can they do it during convention as a clown wedding....will there be any concerns (like getting a free site). It will be a show.

A cut off date for requesting refunds of registration fees will need to be set. Eg. By this date full refund; by this date partial; after this date none. It was decided that after September 1 there will be no refunds, and between August 1 and September 1 a partial refund.

During the Banquet the board discussed about having "banquet attire" as a strongly suggested requirement. Banquet attire being defined as what used to be Sunday clothes. Seemed to be consensus is suggested attire is Banquet Attire.

The vendor room is set. The convention committee will be mailing out information to usual. Cheri Ventura will make it. We will provide her space and she will lecture (will comp her 2 spaces). Probably \$75 per space for 8x8 w/table in front and back. Barbi, Billy (with nephew Roeske – who does a good lecture on clown shoe care.

Discussed first time name badges (swingers) should move it to the TCA table. And let check there, otherwise too many go to others. Just need to make some change. Swingers will remain in the convention packet, but first timers but first time attendees will need to come to the TCA table to pick up a badge.

As to the 25th anniversary party, TCA has sold 23 badges and nine mugs so far at Houston, raising \$91.00 so far.

2009 Convention. We need potential hosts. Jolly Joeys said no. Earl from Happi Tymes said that if Jolly Joeys didn't Happi Tymes (Arlington) would. Couple of hotels are interested. Would like to have formal bid by April meeting. Don't know yet who will chair/co chair.

Ed Fitzgerald gave a report on competition. He asked if TCA was going to keep the performance category. Consensus is yes. Talked about awarding three places for performance.

4. Susan Keys moved that we make performance awards the same as all other competition categories, including number of judges. Barry Yount seconded. Motion passed.

Talked about group skits and who is responsible to ensure that certain of the rules are followed, particularly rules that lead to disqualification (e.g. empty stage during skit). Judges do not disqualify or do time.....do we need an extra set of eyes.

Awards – Talked about changes that were made at last convention, and decided to leave the awards as they presently are.

Committee Reports:

- Ambassador – Lisa Ezell, chair

We need a letter for publication in the May/June issue of the Joey Journal. The nomination deadline needs to be before convention (by September 1). Area Reps could start working on the local level to get nominations.

- 25th Anniversary Celebration – Barry Yount, chair

Barry Yount announced that he is resigning from the Board effective at the end of the board meeting.

5. The board accepted Barry's resignation. Mauri moved to appoint Ed Fitzgerald to serve the remainder of Barry's term on the board, and as Sgt. Of Arms. The motion was seconded by Susan. Motion passed.

We now have a list of all the charter members, and will try and contact those that still are living and have known addresses. Talked about "name that clown" with old pictures. Still thinking about video presentation, want some stills from scrapbook for video/powerpoint.

Button/Mug sales need to be in Joey (Full page ad w/order form). Kathie and group is going to use the anniversary logo on a shirt for the convention.(might put old and new logo in ad).

Susan – will put together a slide show for the convention celebration.

With regard to the 2008 convention and celebration, the board discussed the following items:

Could have people who were around each of the years of existence come up and do a short shtick on that year.

Do we want to comp charter member fees, or give lowest rate? Some may need transportation.

Kay will contact all the charter members and make a presentation at the birthday party about how TCA was formed. A special invite to all of the ambassadors will be mailed.

John Luce volunteered to take over Barry's position as Celebration Party Chair.

By-laws – Andy Quittner, chair

Nothing new to change this year. Updated by-laws are ready for publication on the website.

- Education – Aurora Krause, chair

Report from Aurora on the buddy mentor program was that all went well. There were some constructive comments; but nothing negative; only 12 clowns total participated but this was good for a first time. Probably need 3-4 years running to see if it works. Aurora is willing to do one more year before passing on to someone else. Will get an article to Kay Quittner for the Joey Journal.

- Historian – Kay Henry & Susan Keys, co-chairs

Kay Henry will continue on the scrapbook until convention and then is handing it to Susan Keys as Kay will retire from historian position. She's keeping all her Joey Journal's and will leave them to TCA in her will.

- Membership – John Luce, chair

Alley reports are due July 15, John recommended that you get forms to alleys as soon as possible. Still didn't get one from Cheerful. Space City has officially disbanded and is donating remaining funds to two nonprofits. Talked about putting something in Joey Journal about the dissolution. The Board decided to mention it in the Journal.

Other inactive alleys? Tejas still around but not very active. Montgomery County only does the Tomball parade and still have bank account. Oops has ten paid members but none very active. Linda Greene is president and Kay is treasurer. Classic clowns are inactive; a couple are TCA members but that is all. Cotton is inactive. Coastal in Klute is possibly active, Hot Shots in Waco?? Don't know. John will get a new list for the Joey Journal.

- Merchandise – Barry Yount, chair

Barry didn't bring merchandise with him. He has approximately 1 dozen license plates and about 190 little pins. No patches, decals, or buttons. Andy Anderson has maybe 1 dozen license plates. Discussed giving pins as gifts in goody bags. May give them as one gift for coming into the general membership meeting. The Board discussed an idea to have license surrounds at convention and first X# people who spend a set amount of money at the dealer's room gets a free license plate.

The Board decided that the first x people to spend 75 get license plate, first come first serve until gone); first five to spend \$250 get a free 25th anniversary mug (present combined receipts).

- Nominating – Andy Anderson, chair

According to the bylaws the President appoints 3 persons to be on the nominating committee, two more will be picked. Andy Anderson has an article for Joey Journal this time talking about office. From the current board Andy Quittner expressed an interest in running for treasurer. The nominating committee will be Frances or Sue from Houston; and, someone from Jolly Joeys: Kim or Aurora;

- Spark Plug – Mauri Norris, chair will send article to Kay about the receipt of last award; and will send regular article for new nominations later. We will have to decide how to do the 09 award because of the current cut-off date falls after the 2009 convention dates.

The Joey Journal – Kay Quittner, Editor

She asked how to handle the members in Great Britain? The Journal is on the web, so they could get it there? Could contact them and see if they want them. Could email them and say if you want them see the website.

- Website – Robert Whitley, chair no report.
- Sunshine Fund – Susan Keys, chair
Balance: \$ 168. The Sunshine Fund will provide ice cream as part of the birthday party at the convention. As to hospitality room, if alleys do it then board won't. If board does one, evening only.(at least strong preference).
Can get Starbucks as donation for convention.

Area Director Reports – What's going on in your area?

Mid cities is hosting David Ginn (north east) February 9 at 10.00. The cost is \$35 if pre-registered. The fee also includes 3 free tricks plus a Ginn magic kit; and a free book - Crash Course on Kids Show (only for preregister); One registration fee includes spouse and family members. Advance registration is due noon on the Thursday before the workshop. Will be in Irving at Crystals Pizza at McCarthur and 183.

The Payosos Latinos des America alley is doing really well, still haven't settled on a set place to meet (met mostly in Spanish). So far quite active.

Alley 85 had their 30th year anniversary.

Old Business:

Status on 501c3 – Andy Quittner – to the best of my knowledge no such designation exists. Discussed benefits of becoming one; Andy will look into small entity and what is involved and the pros and cons of obtaining 501(c)(3) status will be discussed at the next board meeting.

New Business:

Associate membership - will postpone discussion until the April meeting; We need to think about how do we differentiate this?

TCA will need to invest in a new computer. The TCA computer is running Windows 95, and cannot run the newer operating systems. Also using an old version of access. The computer also has an older version of Quicken The board decided to table this decision until the Convention board meeting.

Other goings-on:

- JTTW Feb 1-2
- David Glinn
- Roly Bain & Randy Christiansen not coming.

Next meeting: April 26th in San Marcos

6. Barry Yount moved to adjourn at 4:15 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Quittner, Secretary