

Minutes for the May 3, 2008
Texas Clown Association
Board of Directors Meeting

The May 3, 2008, meeting of the Board of Directors for the Texas Clown Association was held at the San Marcos Public Library, 625 E. Hopkins Street, San Marcos, Texas 78666. The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m.

Present at the meeting were: Lisa Ezell, John Luce, Andy Anderson, Andy Quittner, Susan Keys, Mauri Norris, Kay Henry and Ed Fitzgerald. Donna Manna was late, but had given her proxy to Andy Quittner to hold until she arrived.

Donna Wagner and June Hinkle were not present.

There were no guests.

1. The minutes were discussed, and Mauri Norris moved to approve the minutes as amended to revise the amount in the Sunshine Fund to \$168.00; Andy Anderson seconded. Motion passed.

Mauri Norris gave the treasurer's report:

- Amount in checking: \$11,696.67
- Amount in CD: \$15,179.81

The current figures include the production of 2 issues of the Joey Journal. We are 1/3 through budget year and everything is on track to meet budget expectations. All in all things are good. Roster update not until after dues. Non renewals will get the may/june Joey Journal and then will be dropped. The version of the roster on the TCA website is the 12/31 version and is fairly current.

2. Lisa read the Lisa Porche's resignation letter. Andy Quittner moved to accept Lisa Porche's resignation and leave the position vacant until elections. Mauri Norris seconded. Motion passed.

There was no formal convention report submitted for this meeting. As of the date of the meeting there are 38 people registered for convention. The board discussed waiving all or part of the convention fee for charter members.

3. Ed Fitzgerald moved that TCA pay \$50 toward the registration of any charter member who wishes to attend the 2008 convention. Susan Keys seconded. Motion passed.

Discussed and cleared up issue concerning the handling swinger badges for first time attendees. The badges will be placed in their registration packets, and additional requests will be handled at the TCA table.

So far eight vendors have been approved. There may be room for one or two more. July 1 will be the deadline for any other vendors to apply and be accepted.

Discussed the vendor room contests. Receipts for the contest will be brought to the TCA table for verification. Will need to make a sign for the TCA table with some instructions as to how the contest will be handled. Andy Quittner will do an article in the Joey Journal as part of a continuing paragraph concerning special convention sales. The contest will be: Bring receipts to show that you spend \$75 in the vendor's room and you will receive a license plate bracket. First come, first served until they are gone. Receipts showing \$250 in vendor room purchases will receive a special mug with both logos on the mug. This will be limited to 5 mugs, first come, first served.

2008 Convention will be doing Polo shirts in turquoise – new registration form has them; if already registered will need to send money to the convention registrar to order a shirt.

Discussed status of lecturers and subjects covered. Also talked about the hospitality room. Since TCA directors are doing the ice cream at the birthday party, will need someone to cover the Wednesday night hospitality. Cowtown will do Thursday morning, Mid Cities is doing Friday morning; Happi Tymes is doing Saturday night. Friday night is the Birthday Party – so no hospitality room. That leaves the Jolly Joeys and Cheerful to pick up the remaining times. The Hospitality Room will be in Room 301.

The Clown Arounds are not a 100% COAI alley so they are not eligible for a COAI grant.

A preliminary schedule was handed out.

Steve Kissell and Tom King gave some clown event registrations to be awarded at the 2008 TCA Convention: 3 registrations for the Clown Jam in Branson, Mo. for 2009 and one for the Family Entertainers in Las Vegas. The board discussed how to handle this give away. It was decided that they would be given away at the general membership meeting, by ticket and the winner must be present at the meeting when the tickets are drawn (winning ticket gets choice). Notice of this contest will be added to the Joey Journal article.

The board discussed the requirement that TCA convention vendors must pay dues. It was decided that the convention policy would be to strongly encourage vendors to be TCA members and to strongly encourage them to advertise in the Joey Journal. This would be a change in convention book policy.

4. June Hinkle submitted a motion to Lisa Ezell (but no proxy): June moved that only the executive board plus the area director for Wichita Falls attend the July meeting and that the stipend for that meeting be doubled. Mauri Norris seconded. The motion was discussed, and upon vote the Motion did not pass.

The board continued to discuss the cost of attending meetings, particularly given the large increase in fuel costs.

5. John Luce made a motion that for the July meeting at Wichita Falls anyone driving more than 300 miles, one way, could receive an extra \$50.00 stipend. Ed Fitzgerald seconded. The Board talked about the effect on the budget, if everyone attended, seven would be eligible for an increased stipend, which would result in a maximum cost to TCA of \$350. Motion passed unanimously.

2009 convention bid: The Board discussed some of the problems that are occurring booking hotels. Happi Tymes reported that they have found a hotel in Dallas that will comp the necessary space if the convention books at least 120 room nights. The tentative dates are August 5-9, 2009. They don't have a formal bid, yet, but wanted to know if the Board thought the specifications were ok to proceed. Happi Tymes will submit a formal bid at the next Board meeting.

In light of the upcoming change in convention dates, the Board also discussed the criteria for judging whether or not a convention is "successful." It was decided that ideally the number of attendees should increase, but at a minimum should not decline more than 5% (of the last two conventions – which sets the benchmark at about 150). A successful convention should also consider the costs at hotels; whether or not the number of juniors joeys increases significantly and whether or not more families attend. In order to have a successful convention the final financial outcome must be profitable (at least no loss). The Board may also consider problems faced by the host alley concerning whether or not time change was a problem getting convention together.

Competition – Ed Fitzgerald, chair – performance now a permanent competition with same judging and awards as skits. Ed will write a blurb to get participation. The Board discussed the possible effect of the move of convention dates to August, if we get junior participation do we want separate competitions aimed at them? For example, we could have junior category in make-up like senior. Maybe a junior skit at banquet? Consensus was that we need to see how many we get, then work from there.

Committee Reports:

Ambassador – Lisa Ezell, chair, will get an article for the Journal to Kay this month; List of prior year's winners on website and Susan will get with Aurora for a copy of nomination letter.

25th Anniversary Celebration – John Luce, chair

The Board discussed some of the details of the celebration party. So far will have cake and ice cream; games, slide show; presentation of the TCA Scrapbook. Will contact the hotel about any requirements/ costs for providing cake, ice cream, etc.

The budget for birthday party payment will be: ice cream from the sunshine fund; the cake is from TCA mug sales; punch is from Clown Arounds; Party hats, etc. will be TCA expense; Will set forth more details at the July Board meeting.

Specific plans for inviting/spotlighting founders (Kay will take care of this)

Button/mug sales – \$94 so far this year

Historian – Kay Henry & Susan Keys, co-chairs scrapbooks are doing well and will be ready for convention

Membership – John Luce, chair

Alley reports for 2008 – due July 15

Coastal Confetti Has one TCA member, but is really active and doing some interesting stuff; An article about them will appear in convention issue. The present officers are David “sweet potato” Raymond and Professor QB Dunns; Treasurer is Tumble Week; Dot (Lynn Schiller). The local rep needs to work with them to get all officers on board as TCA members to keep the alley active. Writing an article about them for the JJ was scrapped, at this time, because they are not a current legit TCA alley.

Oops Alley is up and going with a new slate of officers.

Merchandise – Ed Fitzgerald, Chair

Andy Anderson has some current inventory; Barry Yount may have some. Donna will ask Barry if he has any inventory and if he has, or knows where, the window case is.

TCA will be giving out all the remaining merchandise in inventory as gifts to all who attend the General Membership Meeting

Nominating – Andy Anderson, chair

The other committee members are Frances Poage and Kim Grice

Slate to date is:

- President Andy Anderson
- Vice President Kim Grice
- Secretary Mauri Norris
- Treasurer Andy Quittner
- Sgt at Arms: John Luce, Ed Fitzgerald, Peggy Barton

Spark Plug – Mauri Norris, chair

Revamped dates for the contest. This year the cut-off date is August 1. The next period starts Sept 1; The Board discussed how to handle the change in convention times. It was decided that the 2008-09 Spark Plug award would cover from September 1, 2008, until June 30, 2009, but that even with the shorter year, the requirement for 6 new members to be eligible for a free convention registration would not change.

The Joey Journal – Kay Quittner, editor

Deadline NOW for next issue. Kay is not mailing to the UK members, but they do have access to the Journal on the web site.

Website – Robert Whitley, chair –

Robert needs to change password and print new one password in JJ for the July issue that is the roster issue. [Change will be from CLOWNRUS to WeBClowns]

Sunshine Fund – Susan Keys, chair

Balance: \$ 168 (collection: none)

Area Director Reports

West –Oops is doing well. All of the new board members are current TCA members.

There will be a joint alley meeting in N.Central w/ Judy Barker in September (4th Monday); This will include 5 alleys, and they are going to have Italian food and Cirque de Soleil entertainment (this is 5th year to do this).

Central – Jolly Joeys will perform at the Witte Museum in July; On August 2, Chagy is coming for all day workshop; will be open to others (than members). Probably \$15/person. The alley had about 8 in junior joey class and two of them have participated in Alley gigs. The Alley will sponsor a follow up workshop for juniors in June. Jolly Joeys newsletter is on line/only about 5 have paper copy. [newsletter is protected by user name and password].

It was suggested that area reps send last walk a rounds to JJ

Old Business:

Status on 501(c)(3) – Andy Quittner: To obtain Federal non-profit status would cost about \$350.00 This will need to be put in the next year's budget.

Talked about old records and scanning them into electronic format with copies held in multiple locations for safe keeping.

New Business:

Associate Membership vs Regular Membership.

The Board discussed the need to revamp membership classes. Is there a need to change regular members – to not restrict to membership to Texas residents (as is currently the case)? It was decided that we really need to scrap Associate Membership and add a requirement that in order to serve as an Board Member a person must be a Texas resident (by adding to Board qualification section of the by-laws). Andy Quittner will bring the appropriate by law changes to the July meeting for consideration by the Board.

TCA received an unsolicited scholarship request from a person who is not a TCA member. The request was sent to Aurora, who is the education committee chair for her comments. Her response was that she thought there was \$500 in budget for education, but there are no guidelines in place for awarding such a scholarship. The Board held a discussion on what appropriate guidelines might look like. The Board also discussed that this particular request was primarily for use in learning to speak Spanish rather than pursuing more clowning education. It was decided that a letter would be sent declining to provide scholarship assistance because she is not a TCA member, and not attending clowning education.

Maggie Clauder submitted the idea of maintaining an e-mail list. She would like to see TCA put e-mail on the roster. The Board discussed this idea for awhile. Some of the suggestions were to set up secondary e-mail box to email to and have everyone, who wanted to, email in with identifying info. Other ways to do this also exist, but all take some time and effort. It was decided that our response will be that the Board is considering it, but at this moment no Board member is willing to undertake the task. If Maggie wants to do this as an off-board committee, arrangements can be made.

It was decided that TCA will add email addresses to new member and renewal forms so that the roster will eventually include e-mail addresses..

- The discussion to Increase board travel stipends was tabled to the next meeting
- The discussion to rearrange regions was tabled to the next meeting.
- The discussion to Increase dues was tabled to the next meeting.

Other goings-on:

- Cheerful Clown Alley presents Leon "Buttons" McBryde July 26 send in reservation and get box lunch
- Chagy will be in San Antonio on August 2.

The next meeting will be at the convention hotel in Wichita Falls on July 19, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Quittner, Secretary