

## Minutes of the Texas Clown Association Board of Directors Meeting

The Texas Clown Association Board of Directors held a quarterly meeting on Saturday, July 19, 2008, at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 401 Broad Street, Wichita Falls, Texas.

The meeting began at 10:13 a.m.

The board members present at the meeting were: Lisa Ezell, Mauri Norris, Andy Quittner, John Luce, Andy Anderson, Ed Fitzgerald, Susan Keys, Kay Henry

Absent board members were: Donna Manna, who gave her proxy to Andy Quittner, June Hinkle, and Donna Wagner.

The following guests were present: Kathie Jamison, Earl Warren, W.T. Keys, Greg Stanford.

1. The minutes from the May 3, 2008, meeting were presented, and corrected, Andy Anderson moved to accept the minutes, as corrected. Second my Mauri Norris. Motion passed unanimously.

Mauri gave the treasurer's report:

- Amount in checking: \$ 11,820.77
- Amount in CD: 15,179.81

TCA is doing well in keeping expenses at the budgeted or even less. At the present time the number of members is down from the number budgeted, but not unusually low, as TCA tends to pick up members at convention. The total membership is about 266 renewals.

The Board discussed entries into next year budget including adding for computer update; possible 501 costs; and increased travel stipends. A proposed budget will be prepared for the next board meeting and for presentation during the annual membership meeting.

- **2008 Clown Arounds convention report** – Greg Stanford & Kathie Jamison

Greg began report: Currently have 60 paid registrants. Entertainment for Saturday night will be Prairie Moon a comedy cowboy band (like the Sons' of Pioneers). Birthday party room is set up. Photographer is lined up (Jimi Bowman, local) All Occasions will video the convention. Greg modeled the convention polo shirt (just printed yesterday). People will need to preorder the shirts which are \$25/ea add \$1 for each X tacked on to a large. There will be an offsite excursion – one trolley is paid for by Wichita Fall Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the Convention will have one other trolley. These will be used Thursday night for anyone wanting to travel to dinner on restaurant row.

Schedule: Friday night – there isn't a time for eating; but since the convention is not starting until after noon on Wednesday they were trying to keep rooms and class times full. Swingers will be black letters on silver back. The convention committee needs some information about presenters and vendors to put in the program book provided to Kathie by September 10.

Question about program book ads: Does the Board want the inside cover for an Ad? The deadline for ads is September 10 (this needs to be published in the Joey Journal).

Competition rules and changes will be on the website. The board discussed a stack of rules available to those who want them rather than have them in the book. The Board discussed making the competitors meeting mandatory or at least strongly suggested and rules could be handed out then plus having some at the sign up desk. The convention committee will need help with runners during competition.

The board discussed having competition pictures up on a screen during banquet (which will be done) so photographer will take pictures of all who compete so that winners pictures will be available for projection during the banquet awards presentation.

Have a group of home schooled children, ages 12-18, that are part of a drama club. This group might come for one day (up to 20 kids), and participate. The convention committee wanted to know about a day rate? This group will probably come on Thursday. Balloon competition is that day (but the group can't compete or watch).

The Board told the Committee that it is up to Convention Committee to decide what to charge them for a day rate (can work that any way they want). Will need a day badge, wrist band or something – so that they can go to dealer room.

Some auction items from vendors and others are needed; The Convention Bureau will make a basket (silent auction only).

Banquet will be a buffet line (2 lines), probably barbeque. The suggested dress will be western glitzy.

So far, there are 9 Vendors with room for one more. There are two outstanding requests for space, and since one is for the Clown Cruise both may be accommodated. That would come to 10 vendors taking 20 spaces total.

The Board also discussed sponsorship for neck wallets, balloon packs, and other give-away items.

Discussed some potential changes in the schedule, especially open times for the vendors room.

The Hospitality Room still has two slots open. The TCA board is doing Wednesday night. Thursday night is still open as is Saturday morning.

- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – John Luce, chair

The birthday party is pretty much planned out. The hotel will allow us to bring in our own cake; but we must purchase something from the Hotel, for example, punch. The cake will come from Sam's; Greg will get punch ordered from Hotel. There will be two cakes, one with each logo. For games presently considering a bounce house; karaoke, and a dance game;

The Board asked: what is the structure/order for birthday party? Since there will be presentation there needs to be some formal time where games and other stuff are not going on. Carnival games are available so we need prizes. The order for the Party will be: (1) Start with video then presentation; (2) have cake and punch; (3) then put out

finger foods; (4) at same time open the bounce house, dance and games which will run for 30 minutes; (5) need the karaoke and carnival to run 30 min later; (6) the Party will run to 10:15 with lights out at 10:30.

The Board asked about the Video. Pictures are not coming in quickly, but since Susan is taking the scrapbooks, she may scan some pages/pictures and make CD. Talked about getting more pictures. Will need screen available for projection.

Kay Henry will do the charter member presentation.

The room will set with round tables and chairs in the center for seating and with a table on one wall – away from games – for punch and cake. The Board discussed having finger foods as there is little or no time scheduled for dinner that night. The convention committee will ask the hotel how much finger foods would be? Discussed the possibility of having a group sponsor hospitality for the party, say chips and dip, and so on with the Hotel providing finger sandwiches.

Andy Anderson is bringing hats and whistle things or kazoos as party favors.

The revenue from the sale of Anniversary buttons and mugs is \$94 to date.

- **2009 convention bid** – Susan Keys

The proposed 2009 convention committee had some problems obtaining a bank account, but that problem has been solved. They met with hotel last Friday (they have new people who wanted 200 room nights) Still going to be at the Sterling. On Monday Happi Tymes is meeting and will discuss signing a contract with the hotel. The proposed dates will be August 5-9, 2009. Rooms will be \$89 per night. They are still working with the hotel and will keep the board in the loop as it goes. Happi Tymes is still brainstorming theme – something to do with summer, fun, kids, etc.

2. Andy Anderson moved to accept the proposal to host convention in 2009. Andy Quittner seconded the motion.. Passed.

- Competition – Ed Fitzgerald

Ed will write a cheerleader article for the Joey Journal. Lisa challenged the board: What if entire board competed in makeup.

Ed suggested changing judging sheets a little bit because performance is now judged the same as skits, but for performance one section is not applicable. Ed wants to change the sheet so both performance and skit use the same judging sheet which would make it easier for future competition chair, and judges. The judging sheet needs to be explained well to judges so they need to be at the judges meeting. The Board looked at older performance score sheet and questioned amount of time it takes for judging. Discussed the differences or whether or not to change the sheet to have consistency between skit and performance. The Board also discussed changing the skit sheet to be a little easier and quicker to fill out. And end up with just a total score (say 1-100) Also need to do this for parade-ability.

The Board's decision was to simplify with the performance judging sheet and the skit judging sheet being the same with the addition of having a box that checks to see that the skit has a beginning, middle and end.

## Committee Reports:

- Ambassador – Lisa Ezell, chair

Two articles have been sent to Kay for the Joey Journal. The deadline for nomination has been extended to September 15. As of this date two persons have been nominated.

- Membership – John Luce, chair

John now has alley reports from Cow Town and the Jolly Joeys. The Alley Report Forms are on TCA website. John will contact alleys that haven't sent in their report.

- By-laws – Andy Quittner, chair

The Board discussed removing the associate member category from the by-laws, and making some clean up changes.

3. Susan Keys moved to accept the amendment, as presented for changing the membership categories. John Luce seconds. The Motion passed unanimously.

The by-law change will be published in Joey Journal this time and an absentee ballot will be in the convention issue.

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

Kay talked about TCA history and importance of the beginning and how alleys were started. This will be part of her presentation at the Convention party.

- Merchandise – Ed Fitzgerald, chair

All remaining merchandise needs to be given to Andy Anderson. TCA will be giving out all the merchandise in inventory as gifts to those who attend, and remain in attendance for the entire General Membership Meeting.

- Nominating – Andy Anderson, chair

The other committee member are Kim Grice and Frances Poage.

The slate to date –

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

The slate will be published in this issue of the Joey Journal. There still can be nominations from the floor at the meeting. Andy Quittner will do the absentee ballot for the convention issue of the Joey Journal. Ballots will be provided at the General

Membership Meeting for use, if needed. Area directors will make signs to gather regions and elect their new director

- Spark Plug – Mauri Norris, chair

The time is not up yet. Mauri asked: Last year we had a bunch of new memberships as the result of the British Mono TV group. Should we be concerned about this (all had a referral person) since they are one time only membership? The Board decided that a new member is a new member and the fact that a new member may not renew again is not relevant to the spark plug award.

This year's award period ends August 31; next year will cut the period short at June 30, so that the spark plug award can be made at the next convention in August.

- *The Joey Journal* – Kay Quittner, editor

The July/Augus issue will include the roster, and a preliminary schedule will also be in that issue. Will announce the door contest in the convention issue, WT Keys will be the door prize official.

Sunshine Fund – Susan Keys, chair

Balance: \$ 168.00, and the board spent \$25 out of the fund for board meeting room rental and tax.

- Old Business

Found paperwork to show that TCA has a 501(c)(6) designation, which does not automatically result in donations being tax deductible. Andy Q will see what it takes to change to a 501(c)(3). Also have paperwork to show that TCA is exempt from state sales tax.

- Email list request – Maggie asked Robert to put a place on the web to change address/email etc. Robert said that isn't feasible and most companies spend fair sums of money to get this. Brings us to how we want to do all this. The Access dbase has a field to do this, but need to query this for adding format for roster. This will begin with the new treasurer.

#### New Business:

- The board discussed an increase stipend for board members for 2009. A number of possibilities were discussed.

4. Andy Anderson moved that the voluntary stipend be changed to \$50 or \$0.35/mile which ever is greater; with the mileage calculated door to door, one way based on the mileage supplied by Mapquest. Kay Henry seconded. Motion passed.

The board then discussed rearranging the TCA state divisional regions. We can't seem to keep panhandle or southern regional directors, and the number of alleys in those regions is small. Discussed combining panhandle and western into a single region and central and south into another. That would mean the board would decrease by two, which would also reduce the number needed for a quorum by one.

To accomplish this, the membership would need to vote on a change in the bylaws. Article 3, board of directors numbers will change from 13 to 11 and the number of area directors from 7 to 5.

5. Susan Keys moved to combine central and south areas into one area; and the panhandle and west to one area and submit appropriate changes in the by-laws to the membership; Ed Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed.

The board discussed the possibility of an Increase in membership dues. Mauri ran some numbers. Last year, TCA printed between 235 issues to 330 issues of Joey Journal. Lately we are printing over 300. The numbers will drop for the next issue, but will likely pick up some after convention. The cost of printing the Joey Journal is running 64.5% of dues. After further discussion the consensus of the board was to defer any further consideration of raising dues for another year.

Andy Anderson put in his bid for awards medals:

6. Andy Quittner move to accept Andy Anderson's bid for awards. John Luce seconded. The board talked about collecting more for awards, then spending – so we could afford the plaque for all around clown. Andy Anderson stated that it would be less than \$20 more for plaque rather than medal, so the board decided that it will give a plaque. Motion passed with Andy Anderson abstaining.

Other goings-on:

- Cheerful Clown Alley presents Leon "Buttons" McBryde July 26
- The Jolly Joeys are hosting Chagy Aug 2

The next board meeting will be at the convention: Wednesday, October 1, 2008 from 12 – 3pm

Mauri Norris moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Quittner, Secretary