

Texas Clown Association
Minutes for the Board of Director's Meeting

The Texas Clown Association Board of Directors held one of its quarterly meetings on Saturday January 31, 2009. The meeting was held in San Marcos at the Public Library.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15am

Present at the meeting were: Andy Anderson, Kim Grice, Mauri Norris, Andy Quittner, John Luce, Peggy Barton, Steve Dilsworth, Dale Flashberg, and Joyce McKelvey. Jeanette Sanders submitted her proxy to Andy Anderson. Guests present were: Kathie Jamison, representing the hosts of the 2008 TCA Convention and Earl Warren, representing the 2009 TCA Convention.

Andy A officially welcomed Joyce McKelvey to the board. She was elected to serve as the Panhandle/West Area Director after the annual meeting in October 2008. (Area Directors are elected by members of TCA from their own region.) Since this is the first meeting of a newly elected board, Andy invited each board member to introduce themselves and share a little about their clowning.

Minutes of the October 1 2008 board of directors meeting were distributed electronically to all members of the new board prior to this meeting for review. Andy Q moved to accept those minutes as presented, motion was seconded by Lisa E and passed unanimously. The minutes of the TCA General Membership meeting in October 2008 were considered and approved for publication in *The Joey Journal* (these minutes will be presented for approval at the next general membership meeting).

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance as of 1/10/09 \$8929.78 plus \$15,000 in C/D. The final 2008 Budget vs Actual report was reviewed. The full 2008 report has been submitted to *The Joey Journal* for publication. TCA remains close to budget for 2008 with the main exception the 2008 TCA convention profit – still pending. The 2009 Proposed Budget was approved by the general membership at the October 2008 meeting. Included in the 2009 budget is a line item for the purchase of a new computer and software. Some discussion followed about the need for these items. Andy Q will review current equipment and consider options for replacement and upgrades. He will present a proposal at the next board meeting. Discussed the need to post a new roster on the website. Treasurer's report was accepted and filed for audit.

2008 TCA Convention Report – Kathie Jamison reported that 125 members attended the convention in Wichita Falls in October 2008. She presented two checks to the board – one to reimburse TCA for some TCA expenses during convention in the amount of \$683.16 and the other for the TCA portion of the net profit in the amount of \$2,961.65. She supplied a full accounting of all revenues and expenses for the convention. She mentioned that she felt that they "couldn't have done it without all of the board's help". The board thanked them for all their hard work and applauded their results.

2009 TCA Convention Report – Earl Warren presented a preliminary schedule for the 2009 convention in August. He shared information about their plans for lecturers and vendors and class topics. Also, he

mentioned their efforts and thoughts to offer on-line registration with payment through Pay-Pal – presenting an analysis of the cost involved. The board discussed the pros and cons of using Pay-Pal and on-line registration and most felt that the availability of an on-line registration option with payment by credit card could increase attendance, thereby offsetting the cost of such option. Andy Q moved (seconded by Joyce McKelvey) to STRONGLY recommend to the 2009 convention host alley that they establish an on-line registration option (such as Pay-Pal). Motion was approved unanimously. Earl mentioned he missed the deadline to get the convention registration form in the next Joey Journal. Andy Q confirmed that an insert will be included in the issue. The board thanked Earl for his update.

2010 TCA Convention discussion – the board discussed several concerns about the 2010 TCA convention- 1) currently no host has come forward, 2) current economic times are a concern regarding attendance and therefore profitability, 3) with current TCA policy to hold conventions in the summer – certain locations seem unviable (such as Corpus Christi and possibly San Antonio) due to seasonal tourism and associated costs, 4) Cheerful Clown Alley in Houston is hosting the 2010 COAI Convention in April 2010, just 3 months prior to the TCA Convention time slot-causing concern for the success of a July/August 2010 TCA convention. There are a limited number of Texas areas with the clown resources and facilities needed to successfully host a convention. Andy Q mentioned that San Marcos has a new hotel that would work great for a TCA Convention. He will price different time slots with that hotel. Joyce M offered to go back to her home alley to ask about hosting in 2010 and with the option of hosting outside of the Midland/Odessa area. Another consideration would be for the TCA board to host, which would mean no profit-sharing with an alley host.

Competition Report – Ed Fitzgerald was unable to attend the meeting. The board had some discussion about negative comments received after the 2009 convention competitions. Andy A will talk with Ed about revamping the various competition score sheets and guidelines. Some expressed concern that there needs to be more and current judge “training” and also there is a need to evaluate judging after each competition. Everyone agreed that competition continues to be a learning opportunity and comments from the judges should be strongly encouraged. Kim G has offered to assist Ed with the competition at the 2009 convention. Also, Dale F will assist where possible and when she is not competing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TCA Ambassador – John L reports that the “call” for ambassador nominations will be in the next issue of The Joey Journal.

By-Laws – the most current by-laws, updated after the 2008 convention are posted on the TCA website

Education – Aurora Krause was not in attendance. Kim G reported that the “novice” classes in 2008 were well received. The make-up classes/demos had a number of attendees. The Buddy program was small but successful.

Historian – Susan Keys – Susan requested to be able to purchase a Group Photo at each convention to be added to the TCA Scrapbooks. Current budget should be able to cover a reasonable cost for such a photo.

Membership – Kim G – she is coordinating with John L for the hand-off of the membership information. She mentioned that there are a number of old convention VHS tapes. One copy of each will be given to Peggy B to be converted to newer DVD technology. Others can be offered as “freebies” or prizes at future conventions. Also, the form for the alleys to report status is posted on the TCA website.

Nominating – there are no offices open for election in 2009. Peggy Barton agreed to chair this committee

Spark Plug – Mauri – she reported that it is more practical for this process to be handled by the new Treasurer as he has all of the records for tracking the membership recruiting, etc. Andy Q will assume duties and ask Mauri if he has any questions

The Joey Journal – Kay Q was not at the meeting – Andy Q reported – this issue is at the printer at this time. The 2009 convention registration form will be included as an insert. Kay NEEDS ARTICLES. New board members were told (and old members reminded) that each board member is to submit at least TWO articles for The Joey Journal each year. Articles can be original writings, human interest (topics of interest to clowns) or tricks, gags, jokes, etc. A lot of information is available on the web. Also, Andy A suggested that each area might want to consider writing a member profile – sort of like the old WHO’S BEHIND THAT NOSE article in years past. Discussed when would be the best time to print the roster issue – since we are moving the convention issue earlier. This year, the Convention issue will be the July/August issue advanced to be mailed in early July. Since many members do not pay dues until convention, it might be more appropriate to print the roster issue after the convention, in either the Sept/Oct or Nov/Dec issue.

New LOGO – the 25th Anniversary logo was intended to become the new TCA logo, with a few modifications. Peggy B moved to accept the 25th Anniversary logo as the new TCA logo with a few modifications, seconded by Steve, but after discussion the motion was withdrawn pending response from the artist about the changes. Lisa is checking with the artist – Vern King – to see if the requested changes can be made to make the artwork workable for black and white printing, letterhead, patches, and small badges.

Alleys – John L needs to know the date that the Oops alley was originally chartered. Andy Q was able to look back in old minutes (now electronically stored) to find a notation that Oops was chartered on October 2, 1986 as TCA Alley #2.

Website – Robert Whitley was not at the meeting – Andy A will get with Robert about some needed updates on the Board of Directors page. Also, the most recent issues of The Joey Journal need to be posted. Steve suggested that TCA consider “selling” member links on their web-site similar to the way COAI does.

Sunshine Fund – Kim G offered to be the keeper of the fund. A collection was taken and the new fund balance is \$190.00. This fund is used to pay for board sponsored hospitality events at conventions and to cover personal board expenses (not direct TCA expenses).

Area Director Reports – each director shared information about recent events and coming events in their area. Dale invited the board to participate in Fiesta Parade on April 17 in San Antonio; Steve mentioned that the Cheerful School begins on June 17 and that a Friday evening/all day Saturday workshop is set for June 27 in Houston with Bubba Sykes. More information will be in the next issue of The Joey Journal.

Board Stipend – the board stipend was explained for the benefit of the new board members. Current TCA policy is that board members who attend a board meeting (except for the board meeting held during convention) are entitled to a \$50 stipend per meeting. Board members who travel more than 300 miles to attend the meeting will be entitled to \$.35 per mile one-way door-to-door. Each board member is encouraged to consider actual expenses incurred and opt out or to take a reduced stipend amount when appropriate.

Tax-Exempt 501c3 status – Andy Q reported no change at this time. Plans are to research possibility of changing current TCA status from 501c4 to 501c3.

NEW BUSINESS: New alley charter application received from CEDAR CREEK CLOWNS in Mabank Texas (137 White Deer Run, Mabank, TX 75156). They listed 5 TCA members on their application; current president is Sue Sawyer. John L moved to accept application for charter; motion seconded by Peggy B and approved unanimously. They will be TCA Alley #24. Welcome to TCA!

Next board meeting dates: May 2, 2009 in Dallas at convention hotel 10:00am; August 5, 2009 at convention – tentatively set for 5:30pm; October 3, 2009 at 10:00am in San Marcos TX.

Kim G moved to adjourn meeting, second by Peggy and meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted by

Mauri Norris, Secretary 2/1/09