

Texas Clown Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May 2, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 10:01am by President Andy Anderson. Meeting was held at the Sterling Hotel in Dallas, convention hotel.

Board members present: Andy Anderson, Kim Grice, Andy Quittner, Mauri Norris, John Luce, Peggy Barton, Steve Dilsworth, Dale Flashberg, Jeanette Sanders and Lisa Ezell.

Absent: Joyce McKelvey and/or Susan Butler from the Panhandle/West region (Susan B sent a proxy)

Guests: Earl Warren, Ed Fitzgerald, Maggie Clauder, Susan Keys and Carolyn Kerr.

Andy Quittner moved to approve the minutes from the January 2009 board meeting as previously provided with a few minor corrections, seconded by Kim G and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Q provided report of YTD actual expenses vs budget. Balance in certificate of deposit remains at \$15,000. Checking account balance is \$10,9_____. 64 members have renewed dues to date (dues were due on April 1), plus 8 Lifetime members and 21 Ambassadors = 93 members. Budget includes funds to purchase a new computer/software.

ACTION ITEM: Andy Q will continue to research and report at the next board meeting his findings for consideration.

Convention Report: 2009 Convention – First Time Summer Time hosted by Happi Tymes Alley - Maggie and Earl (and Susan and Carolyn) reported on status of convention plans. They plan to have tracs and day registrations. Room block is 160 (nights) and already have over 100 nights booked. They plan to have "GREAT" goodie bags; discussed vendors and hospitality room. They want to encourage people to go to the convention website as new information is being posted there all the time. Really would like to know if any and how many Jr Joeys will be attending so that plans for the Jr Joey program can be built-out. Need to tell folks that the hotel address was incorrect on the original forms and clarify the room rates with the hotel. They will have a photographer at the convention that will set-up on Wednesday and accept advance appointments. Those booking in advance will get a better deal/package. Need program ads – will push to get those in soon. Still need some hospitality room hosts. **ACTION ITEMS:** remind your alleys to check the convention website and mention correct hotel address and book your photo sitting early for best deal and submit your program ads soon.

Discussed Awards/Trophies for 2009 Convention - Andy A presented proposal that the costs will remain the same as in the past, with few exceptions. Mauri moved to approve up to \$350 payable to Image Engravers for trophy expenses for 2009 convention. Seconded by John L and approved unanimously.

2010 TCA Convention -- Andy Q is investigating the San Marcos area for 2010 in either July/August or September/October time slots. He hasn't received response yet.

Andy A presented a possible location in Glen Rose Texas – Riverbend Retreat Center – it is a camp environment with cabins and cafeteria (meal plans) and several large "common" areas that would work well for shows and competitions. This facility would not be available in the summertime. Some pros and cons were discussed regarding this facility. A number of thoughts were presented by various board members regarding the 2010 convention. Some ideas: in light of the fact that the COAI convention will be in Houston in April 2010 and based on the facts that attendance has been dropping year over year and no 2010 host has stepped up -- it was suggested that perhaps TCA should "skip" a year or hold an abbreviated/compressed version of the normal convention or hold conventions only every other year or consider eliminating some or all of the competitions and concentrate more on the educational aspect of the convention. No decisions were made at this time. **ACTION ITEM:** Talk with your alleys and other TCA members for ideas and bring ideas to the August board meeting.

Competition – Ed Fitzgerald discussed his needs for data entry assistance at the competition sign-up table and talked about the needed time-slots for the competitors' meeting and the judges meeting. He wants better control over the way the competitors sign-up and he wants to be able to VERIFY that the sign-up is correct that that time. Both Kim G and Lisa E volunteered to assist Ed with his committee.

Committee Reports:

Ambassador Award – John Luce – nothing to report so far. It was mentioned that an article needs to be in every Joey Journal up to the nomination deadline – which is set for July 1st.

ACTION ITEM: follow-up with committee members after deadline for final decision.

By-laws – Andy Quittner Andy Q had nothing to report/suggest at this time. A question was asked regarding how to control the election of Area Directors, but nothing was decided at this time. (Currently the area directors are elected by members that live in the particular areas. The by-laws do not provide any further board control over those elections unless the area director fails to perform his/her responsibilities). It was discussed that a situation has developed in the Panhandle/West region and some members in that area want to remove the director and replace with a new member/director. The board agreed to accept ideas and comments and a possible change of director at the August board meeting (when all parties will be present for discussion).

Education – Aurora Krause (not present) – Kim G reported that Aurora would like advance information (from Earl via Jeanette S) regarding how many FIRST TIME attendees are registered for the 2009 convention so that the Buddy Program can be activated. Jeanette will ask Earl Warren to send a list of these first-timers to Aurora. **ACTION ITEM:** Jeanette – please get info to Aurora

Historian – Susan Keys no report

Membership – Kim Grice reported that the 2009 alley reports are due July 15 and she will put something in the Joey Journal but plans to contact each alley directly to request the reports.

ACTION ITEMS: submit article to *The Joey Journal* and make calls.

Nominating Committee – currently no chair appointed – no elections this year

Spark Plug Award – Andy Q will handle this for 2009 as the data is linked to the membership database. He will know the “winner” before the next board meeting and will notify Andy A of their name for the plaque. Each member that “sparks” one or more new members in the time frame defined will receive a Certificate – Andy Q will prepare those certificates for presentation during the convention. **ACTION ITEMS:** prior to convention notify Andy A of winner and prepare the certificates

The Joey Journal – Kay Quittner Kay was not present, report was presented by Andy Q --- Andy Q reported that David Pitts plans to retire as *The Joey Journal* illustrator. Kay will publish something about this fact in *The JJ*. Ideas for a new illustrator were discussed – no decision. Andy Q reported that he has received 56 responses to the survey included in the last issue of *The JJ* (along with the dues renewal notice). He reviewed the results/responses and found several good ideas. There is some support for the idea of reducing the publication to 4 issues per year (rather than the current 6), some support for receiving *The JJ* on CD rather than in paper form and there were some good comments for constructive improvements. **ACTION ITEM:** An article in *The Joey Journal* is planned to address some of the comments and concerns and issues from the survey to show that the MEMBERS’ VOICE IS HEARD.

Website – Robert Whitley Robert was not at the meeting Discussion included comments that several updates are needed to the data on the website. Data should be sent to Robert in pdf, word (.doc) or Excel (.xls) formats. A list of the TCA alleys and their contacts needs to be added and list the alleys in each region on the Regions page. Andy A agreed to talk to Robert about getting the needed/wanted updates and to confirm that he really wants to continue handling this responsibility. Ideas or suggestions for other webmaster, please check them out for interest and price. **ACTION ITEMS:** Andy will talk with Robert and all board members should bring webmaster info to the August board meeting.

Sunshine Fund – Kim Grice no collection taken at this time Balance is \$190, plenty to cover the cost of the ice cream social planned during the 2009 convention. Ice cream social is set for Wednesday evening and we will buy 4 5qt containers of vanilla ice cream.

ACTION ITEM: Each board member is to bring an ice cream scoop and a Topping of their choice.

Area Director Reports:

North Central – Peggy Barton

Andy A reported that Sherry Bangs passed away recently. She was active in the Wichita Falls convention. **ACTION ITEM:** Peggy will get information for a Last Walkaround article for *The Joey Journal*. Rhea Anderson had knee replacement surgery recently. Happi Tymes is hosting the 2009 TCA convention. Cow Town alley is going to greet the soldiers returning from the wars at DFW.

Northeast – Jeanette Sanders

Reports that she wants to recognize the newer Latino alley in *The Joey Journal*.

ACTION ITEM: prepare and submit article to *The JJ*

South Central – Dale Flashberg

Dale reported that she had just returned from the 2009 COAI convention in INKY and her photo is in the most recent issue of *The New Calliope*. The San Antonio alley had a large fund raiser event recently. Dale is now the VP of the Jolly Joeys alley. She asked if TCA has either a Federal tax-exemption or state tax-exemption status. The Jolly Joeys needs a copy for their tax-exemption application. **ACTION ITEM:** Andy Q will send the information to Dale F and Kevin Watt.

South East – Steve Dilsworth

Cheerful Clown School will begin on June 18th and they have Bubba Sikes coming in for seminars on June 26-27 – he had flyers available. Cheerful is also hosting the 2010 COAI convention in April 2010 and the Beaumont alley is still active.

Other Old Business:

Status of the 501(4)c - Andy Q – no update at this time

New TCA logo – **ACTION ITEM:** Lisa will follow up with Vern King

There was no other business.

The next board meeting will be held at the convention and is set for Wednesday August 5th at 7:00pm. The October board meeting is being moved to September 26 at 10:00am in San Marcos.

Jeanette Sanders moved to adjourn at 3:23pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Mauri Norris, secretary
5/22/2009