

Meeting was called to order by President Andy Anderson at 7:11pm at the meeting room in Sterling Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Board members present: Andy Anderson, Kim Grice (VP), Mauri Norris (Secretary), Andy Quittner (Treasurer), John Luce (Sgt-at-Arms), Peggy Barton (Dir), Steve Dilsworth (Dir), Dale Flashberg (Dir), Jeanette Sanders (Dir), Joyce McKelvey (Dir), Lisa Ezell (Immed Past Pres). Guests were: Robert Whitley (webmaster), Ed Fitzgerald (Competition Chair), Sally Papasan and Susan Butler both members from the Panhandle/West region and Aurora Krause arrived later (Education Chair) as well as representatives from Happi Tymes Alley (Earl Warren, Maggie Clauder, Susan Keys).

Minutes from the board meeting of May 2, 2009 - Peggy B moved to approve the minutes as written, motion was seconded by Andy Q and motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report—Andy Q presented a financial report showing slightly over \$13,000 in the checking account. He agreed to send an updated (more accurate) report to the full board by August 15th. The amount in the CD remains at \$15,000 and CD is due to mature in October. It was discussed that Andy Q should send a reminder notice to members who have not renewed their dues, especially since dues revenue is much less than the anticipated budget amount. Andy also discussed the budget item for a new computer and suggests that we should wait a while due to pending new operating systems etc. Financial report will be filed for audit – pending the updated report by August 15th.

Convention 2009 Report – Happi Tymes representatives (Susan Keys, Maggie Clauder and Earl Warren) stopped in briefly to report that they have 151 registered attendees and that 21 of those were walk-ins (not pre-registered). There were 4 Juniors pre-registered but now they have approx 10 juniors attending. Everything is well under way for what they hope will be a grand convention.

Convention 2010 - Andy A and Peggy B reported that Cow Town Clowns in Ft Worth area are interested in bidding for the 2010 TCA convention and would hold the event in Granbury Texas. All of the functions will be held in the new Convention/Conference Center there from September 29-October 3, 2010 (Wed-Sat). They suggested that moving the convention back to the Sep/Oct time frame would allow them to separate it more from the COAI Convention being held in Houston in April 2010 and also would reduce the costs associated with the events (summer rates are typically higher). The board agreed that moving the date of the convention back to the Sep/Oct time would need to be presented to the general membership for feedback. It was discussed that all members of the board would make every effort to encourage conventioners to attend the membership meeting tomorrow and a survey would be prepared to hand out at that meeting to get a good idea of how the membership (attending) feels about moving the 2010 convention back to the old time frame. The board felt that the proposal for the 2010 convention by Cow Town Clowns was a good one – pending the acceptance of the time move by the general membership. It was decided to reconvene the board meeting immediately after the general membership meeting to make the final vote on the Cow Town Clowns' bid for 2010.

Competition Committee Report – Ed Fitzgerald chair

Ed announced that there would be a few changes to how people signed up for the various competition categories this year to help avoid confusion. He has several volunteers helping him with the process. As usual he needs judges for the various competitions. Otherwise it is still too early for a full report on this conventions competitions.

Ambassador Award Report – John Luce chair

John announced that there is an ambassadors meeting set for right after the general membership meeting tomorrow for the final vote/approval/selection of this year's ambassador.

By-laws Committee Report – Andy Q chair

The method for the election of the area directors needs to be reviewed and it was decided to discuss this further at the next board meeting.

Education Committee Report -- Aurora Krause chair

Aurora left her comments in written form – as follows:

30 letters were mailed to 1st of May or 1st time TCA attendees; 5 requested Clown Buddies and were matched with experienced Clown Buddies. All is set for tomorrow morning's orientation and the demo sessions for all interested. As of September 2009 Aurora is stepping down as the Education Director and will provide the TCA President with at least three names as recommendations by the end of this convention. Singed by Aurora Krause

Historian – Susan Keys chair

Susan is still looking for a CD of still photos from the 2008 convention – if you have this please contact Susan K. Peggy mentioned that she converted several VCR tapes to CD and will give them to Susan for the TCA archives.

Membership – Kim Grice chair

The alley reports were due in July. Kim reported that there are currently 11 active alleys but a few reports have not been received. Andy Q suggested that we need to target those aged 18-30 to help ensure the future of TCA. He suggested we need to look at where this age group is – Facebook. Sally Papasan agreed to assist Andy Q with setting up a TCA Facebook presence.

Nominating Committee –

2009 is not an election year, elections are to be held at the 2010 convention. Jeanette Sanders volunteered to chair this committee and will work with some others to solicit nominees for all board positions. All board positions are up for election and any TCA member is eligible to run for any position except that the office of president requires prior board service. Some of the present members of the board may will willing or planning to run for re-election.

Sparkplug Award – Andy Q chair

Andy Q reported that the 'winner' had been determine and all was ready for the presentation at the awards banquet on Saturday evening. This winner will qualify for the monetary award (registration at the next TCA convention) as they "sparked" 8 new members during the recruiting period.

Merchandise – it was noted that we are out of all TCA merchandise except that Andy Q has a few license frames. Andy A mentioned that he has received a few requests for TCA patches. Both Andy A and Lisa E will get quotes/bids on the cost of patches and Mauri volunteered to maintain any inventory if patches are ordered later. Cost/bids info to be presented at the next board meeting. Also, it was mentioned that we were hoping to move to the new TCA logo. Andy A will investigate how the new logo will look on a pin or patch. Also, it was mentioned that Earl Warren knows of an on-line source for patches at \$2.50 each for an order of 100.

Joey Journal (JJ) – Kay Quittner, Editor

It was mentioned that Spotlight articles are still needed for the JJ. Board members were reminded that they were each responsible for submitting at least 2 articles per year for the JJ – these can be on any topic. Ideas for cover art were discussed but Andy Q mentioned that David Pitts has agreed to continue providing the cover art at least for a while longer (tho perhaps not 6 per year). The membership directory will be posted on-line and it will be in roster format (label style) not an excel spreadsheet. Also, Andy Q will provide Robert Whitley with a few JJ articles of interest to be used on the TCA main web page (to encourage people to join TCA to have access to the full JJ content). Shortly it will be time to change the web Members Only password as unpaid members are dropped from the mailing list. The new password will be published in the next JJ and Andy Q and Robert W will synchronize the changes with that publication. Other cost savings ideas need to be considered as the cost of publication of the JJ are going up all the time.

Website – Robert Whitley

Robert was on hand to hear comments and he invites people to send him things for update and/or changes to the site. It was noted that some recent issues of the JJ's are missing from the members only section of the site. Andy Q will make sure Robert has all of the most recent issues to post online. It was also suggested that the alleys be listed under each Area – there is a list of alleys but it does not indicate the specific Area Director for the alleys.

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Area Directors reports – each director gave a reports of things happening in their respective areas.

Old Business –

New TCA Logo – Andy A will talk to Vern (creator/artist of the new logo) about any changes needed for the logo to be engraved. See above about new logo on patches.

New Business –

There was a discussion about the convention time frame – new Jul/Aug slot versus old Sep/Oct slot. Lisa mentioned that the previously established criteria for determining if the “summertime” convention is successful (and viable for future conventions) is the attendance of both regular members and juniors members. The registrations for this convention (2009) – 150+ with 10 juniors - appears to have met the criteria and is successful. Therefore, the board cannot change the time frame back to the old Sep/Oct slot without presenting idea to the membership. See above about the 2010 convention bid.

Change of Area Director – Panhandle/West –

A request had been received from some members in the Panhandle/West region to have the current director for that area removed and replaced by a different member. The board allowed both the current director (Joyce McKelvey) and others from that area to present their thoughts on this issue. Then the board asked both the area director and the others from that area to leave the room while the issue was discussed. After discussion they were invited to rejoin the meeting and the board announced: The board agrees that per the current by-laws and the prescribed election methods for area directors the TCA board doesn't have the right or grounds to remove Joyce McKelvey as a director and she will remain in the position throughout her term (unless she chooses to resign) and other members in the area are welcome to attend any board meetings (without the stipend). Also, the board agreed to include specific members (Susan Butler) from the area in all email communication about board meetings, etc.

Chaplain Guidelines – this issue was tabled for the next board meeting.

Next board meeting will be held September 26, 2009 at 10:00am at the San Marcos Library.

The meeting was adjourned temporarily pending final vote after the general membership meeting.

Board reconvened on Thursday evening August 6th to vote on the 2010 convention bid. There were 11 favorable votes to award the convention bid to Cow Town Clowns for 2010 – to host the convention in Granbury TX Sep 29-Oct 3, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Mauri Norris, secretary
August 29, 2009