

Texas Clown Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 26, 2009

Meeting was held at the home of Andy Quittner in San Marcos Texas.

President Andy Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:28am

Board members present: President Andy Anderson, VP Kim Grice, Secretary Mauri Norris, Treasurer Andy Quittner, Sgt at Arms John Luce and directors: Dale Flashberg, Joyce McKelvey, Peggy Barton and Jeanette Sanders.

Board members absent: Immed Past President Lisa Ezell and Director Steve Dilsworth

Guests: Christie McNeill, and Kay Quittner; 2009 TCA Convention co-chairs: Maggie Clauder and Earl Warren

2009 CONVENTION REPORT was handled first to allow Maggie and Earl to leave meeting early. Two different financial reports were presented to the board. The 2009 co-chairs felt that since the \$5 per head payment that goes to TCA from each convention registration is supposed to be used by TCA for the cost of the awards and since TCA did not spend that full amount on awards, then they should not have to pay the full amount - hence to 2 different financial reports. The board reviewed the Convention Policies and Guidelines and explained that TCA has many more expenses related to convention beyond the cost of the awards and as those are the guidelines in place at this time, the convention is expected to pay the full \$5 per registrant. Also, board explained to 2009 hosts that the host keeps all of the Convention Program Ad revenue and all proceeds from Raffle/Auction.

Proper way to calculate the TCA split of the profits:

Total Revenue less Ad revenue less Raffle Sales/Revenue
less total expenses (including the \$5 per registrant that goes to TCA)
Subtotal
10% deduction to Charity of Choice
Total Profit
½ to Host and ½ to TCA

Final amount of profit split for TCA was \$2682.59.

Other points of note from the 2009 convention: 159 Registrants of which 11 were Juniors; 21 paid via PayPal and 14 others used Credit Cards, the convention website was an obvious success. They offered 3 tracks but only had a couple of day registrations. Numerous problems with the hotel guest rooms and food service, but overall felt that the hotel made every effort to accommodate convention requests.

2011 CONVENTION BID - Maggie presented a proposal for a three (3) Year Convention Contract for conventions in 2011-2012-2013 to all be held at the same hotel – the Westin DFW hotel in Irving TX (same as used for TCA Convention in 2001). Maggie says Mid-Cities Clown Alley #85 is offering to host in 2011, but other hosts would be needed for the 2012 and 2013 years. Signing a 3year contract would lock in a \$89/night room rate for all three years. Proposed dates would be: August 10-14, 2011, August 8-12, 2012 and August 7-1, 2013 (except for 2011 those dates are somewhat flexible depending on hotel availability). If TCA decides not to sign for all three years – room rate would increase to \$99/nt and cost for Food and Beverage would also increase for 2011 convention.

Kim G moved to accept the 3-year bid as presented for 2011-2012-2013. Motion was amended to add: "Contingent on final contract". Andy Q seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. It was noted that any significant changes in the hotel contract would require a second board vote.

BOARD MINUTES: Minutes from the last board meeting of August 5, 2009 were emailed to all board members several weeks ago. Andy Q moved to accept the minutes as delivered, Kim seconded motion and it was approved unanimously.

MINUTES – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Also, the board accepted the minutes of the General Membership Meeting for publication to the membership (these minutes will be "approved" by the general membership at the next general membership meeting).

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RESIGNATION - Lisa Ezell submitted her resignation as Immediate Past President, due to a serious change in family situation, effective immediately. Board has accepted resignation and invites Lisa to return to the board at any time she feels able. John L moved to appoint Christie McNeill to fill the board vacancy through the end of Lisa's term. Peggy B seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Current bank balance in Operating fund - \$12,189.16; \$15,000 in C/D due in October 2009. Andy Q moved to add \$5000 to CD and renew at the best available rate for no longer than 1 year. Motion was seconded by Christie and passed unanimously. Currently have 170 members total – 26 Family members, 3 Junior Members, 1 Lifetime Member, 182 Regular Members.

2010 CONVENTION REPORT – Andy and Peggy each had information to share. They had brochures on the convention center and 2 hotels in Granbury – LaQuinta and Best Western. Room rate of \$79/nt is the same at both hotels and includes breakfast and possibly a light dinner (hotdogs, burgers and such). (There is a 3rd hotel nearer to the convention center, but room rate is higher and does not include breakfast/dinner). LaQuinta also has a large meeting room that will be available for jams or hospitality etc. Hosts strongly suggest folks register at the LaQuinta but there may not be enough rooms at that one hotel for all of the convention guests. LaQuinta is about 1.4 miles from convention center and Best Western is closer to the CC. The convention center will provide all of the classrooms and places for all competitions and parties and banquet and board meeting. There is also a place that can be used for prop storage etc. TCA will be the only group using the CC during these dates. To date the host has secured: Leon McBryde (with him performing as Oz), Steve Kissell, Ralph Dewey and Cheri Venturi. So plans are well underway for a great 2010 Convention – theme: Clowns Seen Investigating (CSI). Convention dates are: September 29-October 3, 2010 and the registration cost is \$90 per person until 1/31/2010 and then increases.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE: Ed Fitzgerald tendered his resignation as the chair of this committee following the 2009 convention effective August 13, 2009 (as he had indicated to the board during previous meetings). Ed has plans to return to school and therefore he will be unable to attend the 2010 convention in October. Ed provided a disk and a filebox of all of the competition information for the next chair. Christie M volunteered to handle this committee for the 2010 Convention and will continue to search the membership for another interested TCA member. Kim G helped Ed at the 2009 convention and will help to orient Christie to the competition process (but Kim does not expect to attend the 2010 convention) and Joyce M also volunteered to help at the 2010 convention. Also, it was suggested that Christie speak with Lisa about what she learned during the 2009 convention assisting Ed. The board appreciates the years of hard work that Ed put into this position. Joyce M expressed some concerns about the way competitions are held and/or communicated to participants. It was stressed that all competition participants must READ THE TCA RULES. The TCA rules are NOT the same as other organizations and it is important that participants know the specific TCA rules that they must follow. Each participant is given the rules when they sign-up for competition and the judges also have the rules at their judging tables for refreshing and reference purposes. Also, the rules should be posted on the TCA website for members to review at any time.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Aurora Krause resigned her position as the chair of this committee. Aurora was unable to find anyone during the 2009 convention that was interested in this position. An article will be printed in the next Joey Journal announcing that this position is open and asking for volunteers. Aurora has served in this position for several years and has put several great educational programs in place (i.e.: Buddy Program and Novice Track/Program). The board thanks Aurora for her service.

AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING: it was mentioned that an article for the Joey Journal needs to be submitted explaining about this award – the criteria and qualifications and the fact that it is a lifetime achievement award (meaning a person will not receive this award more than one time). Mauri Norris will prepare an article for the Joey Journal.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE – Andy Q stated that there were no proposed changes at this time. A question was asked about possible changes to the way Area Directors are elected. No decision at this time. Andy A suggested that a new board position be created as Convention Coordinator to work from one convention to the next with the hosts, helping to ensure policies are followed etc. Andy Q will present ideas at the next board meeting about any changes to by-laws needed to establish a new board position.

HISTORIAN COMMITTEE – there was some mention about scanning historical files and TCA data and Andy A will speak with Susan Keys (chair) about ideas for archives TCA history.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Kim G reported – suggested ideas about increasing membership. Everyone needs to encourage non-TCA clowns to join TCA to support our Texas organization. Talk it up more at alley meetings, etc. Andy A mentioned he has spoken with several high schools about clowning as a service opportunity. Andy Q will send out REMINDERS to former TCA members inviting them to come back to TCA.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jeanette S is the chair for the 2010 committee/elections. She will write an article for the Joey Journal asking for assistance on the committee and also calling for persons interested in serving to be nominated.

SPARK PLUG AWARD – Andy Q is the chair for 2010. Gema Anderson was the 2009 winner and she asks if she can use the award (free registration to the 2010 convention) for a contest in her own alley. Per current policies, the award is not transferable and cannot be carried over to future conventions. As long as Gema attends the 2010 convention she can use her free registration as she sees fit. If Gema does not attend, then no free registration is available.

WEBSITE: Password was changed prematurely but was then changed back and will be changed again in-sync with the publication of the new password in the Joey Journal. New password will be: CLOWNTOWN for access to the Members Only page of the TCA website.

SUNSHINE FUND – this is a board collection and NOT part of the TCA treasury. It is used for board purposes not appropriate for the use of TCA funds. Current balance is \$151. Funds were used for the ice cream social at the 2009 convention and will be used again in 2010 for same purpose. A separate collection today is for a donation to the educational fund for Lisa Ezell's granddaughter Yin.

AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Jeanette - Northeast Area – she has some concerns about the alleys in her area and whether or not they will be able to survive. She was reminded that each TCA alley needs at least 5 current TCA members and that all officers/board members must be TCA members.

Peggy – North Central Area - no report other than Cow Town is hosting the 2010 TCA convention and Happi Tymes alley is recovering from having hosted the 2009 convention.

Joyce – Panhandle/West Area - she expressed concern that Oops Alley in her area be sent the board minutes as previously agreed.

Dale – South/Central Area - reported that her area has 21 gigs scheduled through the end of 2009. She is contacting a new COAI alley in Laredo and making certain they are aware of TCA and the next TCA convention.

TCA LOGO - Andy A has spoken with artist Vern King about some modifications needed to the design to better lend itself for engraving purposes. He showed us an example of the new TCA logo engraved. Some of the smaller details were hard to distinguish. He will continue to try to simplify design to be more defined on engravings. **TCA PATCHES** – Andy A reported he had one bid of \$50 set-up and \$3.99 per patch for orders of 100 or less or \$3.50 per patch for orders of more than 100. Christie mentioned she might have a contact for embroidery as well. Please continue to solicit bids and bring bids and reports back to the board at the January meeting.

BOARD STIPENDS – board members receive a set stipend for each board meeting attended – except at the annual convention. Currently the stipend is set at \$50 per board member driving 300 miles or less (one-way) and \$.35/mile for board members traveling over 300 miles (one way door to door based on Mapquest mileage). Board members can choose to decline stipend or accept a reduced amount (if carpooling or not travelling or for any other reason). Some suggestions to better equalize stipends were presented. No change in current stipend calculation method was made at this time.

TCA \$5 PER REGISTRANT FEE for convention host ---- Joyce M moved that TCA pay for additional medals/trophies/awards needed for multiple participants in winning skits and parade and Performance events. No second was received and motion died. Andy A will investigate how many “extra” awards were ordered in the last few years and the cost of awards by an outside vendor. This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting. It was also mentioned that the \$5 per registrant is not simply to cover the awards expense; TCA has other convention-related expenses as well – such as the hotel room for the TCA president. TCA pays full cost of room for TCA president. Andy A was only paid for ½ of his room at 2009 convention. Mauri moved to pay Andy A the balance of his room cost in keeping with current TCA policy. Christie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was mentioned that (with this added expense) the 2009 TCA convention expense exceeds \$1400 while the \$5 per head collected from Happi Tymes (convention host) was only \$790. No change in the \$5 per head TCA payment was made at this time.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS –

There was some mis-understanding about Associate memberships during the 2009 convention. 2 registrants from out of state were lead to believe they could pay lesser associate dues to join TCA. TCA no longer has associate memberships. Kim moved to refund the \$5 each to 2 registrants from Washington state, motion was seconded by Christie and passed unanimously. It was noted that we need to publish an article in the Joey Journal (and post on the website) about the various TCA membership types.

CHAPLAIN GUIDELINES – John L presented some proposed guidelines for the duties of the TCA Chaplain. He agreed to email his suggestions to the full board for review and this issue will be addressed at the January board meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Submitted by Mauri Norris
Secretary TCA, 10/3/2009