

Texas Clown Association
Board of Director's Meeting
Minutes – January 22, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 10:18am at the home of Andy Quittner. Board members present: Andy Anderson, John Luce, Andy Quittner, Mauri Norris, Judy Cornett, Jeanette Sanders, Peggy Barton and Diana McCurtain-Talbert (arrived a few minutes late).

Proxies were received from: Christie McNeill and Valerie Bandy

Not present: Robert Whitley

Guests: Rhea Anderson, Education Chair and Kay Quittner and Peggy's husband.

Andy asked each board member to introduce him or herself and tell a little about themselves and their clowning experience.

The minutes from the September 2010 board meeting were previously distributed to all board members via email. Peggy moved to accept those minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Andy Q and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Andy Quittner

Current bank balance \$26,833.56 (checking \$3682.37; MMKT \$23,151.19)

Andy Q presented a financial report and noted that the 2010 expenses were over the 2010 income, especially due to the fact that one extra Joey Journal was printed in 2010 (one from 2009). Andy Q also noted that soon our current bank (Chase Bank) will begin charging us a monthly service charge unless we maintain a specific minimum balance. Peggy moved to give Andy Q authorization to avoid the monthly service charge by whatever means within reason. Motion was seconded by John L and passed unanimously. One option discussed was to move some funds from the current MMKT account into the checking to meet the required minimum balance. It is helpful to use a banking facility that has branches all over the state as the treasurer may change with each board election. Also, there are costs associated with changing banks, so maintaining the same institution is best for the budget.

2010 Convention Report - Rhea and Andy Anderson reporting on Granbury convention
They had 100 full registrants and 2-day rates and 1 Jr. day rate. There were a few disappointments (dealer room) but the low turnout was pretty much as expected (considering COAI was in Houston in April 2010). CowTown Clowns gave TCA \$500 from their convention proceeds but this left them with a net Loss of (\$361.27). The board expressed concern about accepting funds that they did not earn but CowTown Clowns felt this was the appropriate action. Just a few more full registrants or a slight increase in registration rates may have prevented the loss.

2011 Convention Report – Dallas/Irving – Andy A presented report from Maggie Clauder
They have 27 pre-registered to date and about 90% of the lecturers and dealers set. They have a preliminary schedule posted on the website. Expect to have: Cheri Oats, Bubba Sykes, Pricilla Mooseburger, Kelly Bellog and more.

Competition Committee Report – Christie M and Robert W (both sent reports via email)
There was some discussion about the possibility of eliminating and/or combining some competition categories. Also the board members present would favor an increase in the minimum age for Senior Makeup category – to either 60 or 65. Also suggested that the Balloon Arrangement category be dropped. There was the suggestion that possibly TWO judges/competitor meetings be scheduled. These and other competition suggestions will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

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Andy A had asked Mary *Starlight* Morris to chair a committee to investigate and report back on the possibility of adding a **Face Painting Competition**. Mary enlisted Missy Dunbar and Phyllis Sheffield to assist with this committee. Andy A distributed copies of her report. (Andy A will forward the electronic copy of this report to all board members.) This committee also suggested that to consider adding Face Painting Competition – the board should consider eliminating or combining other competition categories. Their suggestions are:

- 1) Keep the Performance Category but make it a SHOW and not a competition (no judges or awards needed) or it could be awarded a prize based on People's Choice rather than a panel of judges
- 2) Eliminate the Balloon Arrangement category
- 3) IF NECESSARY – combine the Group Skit and Single Skit categories into one

Also, this committee recommended a TCA People's Choice Award and provided suggested Guidelines/Rules for this event. It would be a team event – each team consisting of a Face Painter, a Balloon Artist and a Model. There are time limits and each team's creation would be displayed for the rest of the convention registrants to vote.

All board members are asked to review all of this committee's report and be prepared to discuss at the next board meeting.

Committee Reports –

Ambassador Award – Susan Butler is the new chair for this committee. Andy A will make certain that she has the guidelines needed. She needs to write an article for *The Joey Journal* calling for nominations and provide the specific deadline (earlier than usual since convention is in August).

By-laws – Andy Quittner, chair - no changes needed at this time

Education Committee – Rhea Anderson, chair Rhea stated that she has no other named committee members at this time. She reported that at the 2010 convention there were 20 first time conventioners and 9 participated in the Buddy Program. She wants to see the Novice Track continue. There is \$630 in the Education Fund at this time (resulting from the Quilt Auction at convention). She presented the board with some guidelines for a suggested TCA Convention Scholarship. Board members suggested some changes and she will incorporate the changes and proceed with future planning. The proposed guidelines state that the fund will maintain a minimum balance of \$500.

Historian – Susan Keys – no report Andy A will confirm that she plans to continue as chair of this committee

Membership – John Luce, chair John reported he is missing 4 alley reports. Several Texas alleys are struggling to continue. John will continue to try to reach the missing alleys for a report. Jeanette called Gema Anderson of the **Payasos Latinos Alley** and was able to supply John with the names of the board members. Diana will try to contact *Lanky* at **The Clown Alley** in Corpus Christi. John spoke briefly with Sue Sawyer of the **Cedar Creek Clowns** and is still awaiting further information from her. **Tejas Clowns** is not currently meeting and does not have enough TCA members to constitute an alley. Membership renewal notices will be included in the Jan/Feb issue of *The Joey Journal* (dues are due on April 1st). Andy A will compose a letter to members that will be sent to all non-renewed members in March 2011.

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Each board member and Area Director should ask members in their area about TCA membership cards and if possible pick up their cards at the next TCA board meeting to be hand delivered. Be sure to notify Andy Q in advance as to which cards you expect to pick-up.

Nominating Committee – new chair is Diana McCurtain-Talbert, Judy C will assist
There are no elections scheduled for 2011.

Spark Plug Award – Andy Q, chair This award period will end on July 15th. Andy Q will publish information in *The Joey Journal*.

We still need to compile a list of the benefits of being a member of TCA. Kim Grice was preparing this list. Mauri and Judy will compile a list to be presented to the board at the next board meeting. Once approved this list will be published and posted on the website.

The Joey Journal – Kay Quitter, Editor; Andy Quittner Assistant Editor

Each board member is reminded that they need to write AT LEAST TWO articles for *The Joey Journal* each year. They can be on any topic and can be submitted at any time. Send in articles ASAP!

Website – Robert Whitley, webmaster some recent corrections have been completed

Sunshine Fund – Christie M, chair Current balance is \$134
Previous balance was \$159 and we spent \$25 on ice cream for the 2010 convention Ice Cream Social.

Area Reports –

Peggy reported on goings on in her area.

Jeanette reported on goings on in her area.

Diana reported that she has someone interested in forming an alley in the New Braunfels area. TCA does not have any guidelines for forming an alley. It is important that the new alley have a set date/time and location for regular meetings. Also, it is good to have educational programs at these meetings. The TCA By-laws state what is required to become a TCA alley. Andy Q offered to assist with this new alley.

Old Business –

Alley Annual Reports – John L will send out notices for the new alley reports on May 15th.

2012 Convention - Currently TCA has not received any bids for hosting the 2012 convention. The hotel contract is already secured. If no alleys bid, it might be necessary for the board to serve as the host committee. Andy A distributed a sheet of thoughts for the basic planning committee. He listed 6 committee chairs, however other board members suggested as many as 3 additional committee positions may be needed. Diana M will discuss idea of hosting with the Jolly Joeys alley (as a summertime convention in San Antonio is not feasible). We are looking for hosts for both 2012 and 2013 at this time. A decision will need to be made at the next board meeting regarding the 2012 host.

Lifetime Membership - status report – Any Q prepared a list of the Lifetime Members and there are only about 7. Not knowing how these Lifetime Memberships originated, Andy A spoke with Ralph Dewey at the 2010 convention and Ralph thought he recalled a time in

TCA history when lifetime membership was either offered or bestowed on certain “charter” members. As the number is very small, the board agreed to take no action on this issue at this time.

New Business –

We continue to seek hosts for the 2012 and 2013 TCA Conventions. The hotel is secured: Westin DFW Airport, Irving, Texas.

Confirmed all current committee chairs and appointments:

Ambassador Award – Susan Butler; Nominating Committee – Diana McCurtain-Talbert; By-Laws – Andy Quittner; Education – Rhea Anderson; Historian – Susan Keys; Membership – John Luce; Spark Plug – Andy Quittner; Website – Robert Whitley; Sunshine Fund – Christie McNeill; TCA Chaplain – John Luce.

Next Board meetings - Saturday May 7, 2011 at the Westin DFW Airport, Irving Texas, 10am (Andy A will check with Maggie Clauder regarding a meeting room).

August 10th, 5pm at the TCA Convention in Irving Texas.

November 5th in Houston – Mauri will secure a meeting room prior to the meeting date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm

Respectfully submitted by
Mauri Norris, secretary
January 31, 2011