

Texas Clown Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes – Nov. 5, 2011

Meeting was held at The Center, 3550 W Dallas, Houston, Texas.
President Andy Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:10am.
Board members present: Andy A, Andy Quittner, Mauri Norris, Christie McNeill, John Luce, Diana McCurtain-Talbert, Valerie Bandy and Peggy Barton.
Board members absent: Judy Cornett, Robert Whitley and Jeanette Sanders
Proxies received from: Judy and Jeanette
Guests: Rhea Anderson, Jerry Barton and LJ Lomenick

Andy A circulated a nice thank you card received from Tricia Bothum regarding her vending at the TCA 2011 convention.

Minutes from the last board meeting on 8/10/11 were distributed to all board members via email. Christie moved and Valerie seconded a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Q presented a current financial report. He mentioned that some bank charges had been incurred related to moving our accounts to a new bank. Also, he noted that there will be some ongoing expenses for PayPal fees. The total Operating balance as of 10/31/2011 (including both checking account and money market account balances) \$26,141.43. He discussed membership renewals via PayPal. Currently only one member can renew at a time so it costs us a little extra for family members, etc. He has received at least 20 dues payments via PayPal to date. Robert still needs to add COUNTY to the membership application/renewal form on the website. Christie mentioned that she has a couple of websites that the Area Directors can use to identify the specific counties of residence for new members. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

2011 TCA Convention Report: Numerous emails were received from Maggie Clauder on Friday (11/4/11) afternoon. Most board members did not have time to review the reports before this meeting. The bottom line is that the TCA portion of the profit is \$4,550.36 but we have not yet received the funds. Board members reviewed the convention financial report and had a few questions: 1) the \$1000 seed money and 2) the hotel deposit for our 3yr contract and 3) there were 160 registrations reflected but the report showed the \$5/per registered person TCA was based on only 149 people. Andy A will discuss these questions with the 2011 Chair and report back to the board. It was noted that some of the comments on the convention survey and the host report were overboard and uncalled for.

Several attendees found TCA via the Facebook account that the 2011 hosts set-up. Andy Q mentioned that he cannot maintain the TCA Facebook (FB) page, as it was opened by someone from the 2011 Convention committee. Andy A will contact Earl and Martha Warren about getting the passwords or access details needed for this FB account to be transferred to the TCA Board's control. Andy A will contact Richard Neese (videographer at 2011 convention) about possibility of using some of his video for the TCA FB page or for posting to YouTube (as ways to help promote TCA membership). We discussed the need for releases or waivers from attendees/participants to ensure right of usage. Also, Diana and Andy A will speak with David Thomason (2011 Convention photographer) about his interest in the 2012 TCA convention (preparing the photos and/or slideshow for the 2012 Awards banquet).

Board agrees that the events of the Awards Banquet need to be streamlined with more emphasis placed on the awards. There should be no auction (except possibly for the TCA quilt).

There were concerns expressed about the length of time the judges took to complete their tasks, slowing down the competitions. The Board agrees that we definitely need to have an emcee for the Performance category and the skit competitions. Also, the final score rankings need to be posted after each category. And it was noted that it has been a long time since TCA held a Judging class.

Historian – Susan Keys – Andy Q mentioned that he has a box of old TCA stuff that was donated by the family of a long ago TCA member (recently deceased). There are some VHS tapes from TCA conventions included. He will hand over the stuff to Susan at the January board meeting. Meanwhile he will try to transfer/convert some of the VHS tapes to CD/DVDs. There could be some contents that are good for The Joey Journal.

Membership Report – John Luce, chair, noted that all alley reports have been received. New Member Packets – John suggested that we consider including a TCA patch in each packet (while supplies last). Also, Andy A will get a price for TCA logo stickers that could be used to promote TCA. The stickers could be given to every attendee at the TCA conventions. The New Member Packets will include: Welcome Letter, complimentary copy of The Joey Journal, TCA membership card and a TCA patch while supplies last). These packets are to be mailed by the TCA Treasurer.

Also, to encourage members to renew their dues more timely (rather than wait until convention time), John suggests a contest/incentive. He will write an article for The Joey Journal explaining that each member renewing by April 1st due date will be entered into a drawing. Two winners will be drawn and each will receive a dues refund (at the Regular membership rate of \$25). Andy Q moved and Diana seconded motion to offer 2 dues refunds to names drawn from all members renewing by April 1st. Motion passed unanimously. Andy A will investigate the cost of a TCA logo sticker. Also, the board will review ordering more patches at the January board meeting. Andy Q will include a patch in all New Member packets sent out from now on. He will notify all Area Directors of any new members and the area directors will send out a letter to each new member in their area including information on local alleys, clown events, the TCA conventions and include a TCA sticker (once we purchase a supply of stickers). Mauri gave Andy Q 6 patches for the packets. (There were 31 unsold patches; this leaves 25 unsold patches).

Education Committee – Rhea Anderson, chair, reported that there were 34 first time attendees at the 2011 TCA convention and 9 participated in the Buddy Program. There is over \$1300 in the Educational Fund (Andy Q will provide the exact amount by the January board meeting). She asked Andy Q to continue printing the scholarship form and guidelines in the next 2 issues of The Joey Journal. Deadline for scholarship applications is April 1, 2012. Then the board will decide how many will be awarded (based on the number of applications received).

Nominating Committee – Diana, chair, submitted an article to The Joey Journal requesting members to step-up to serve on the TCA board. She poled the board members present to determine if any current members will consider running again. The Area Directors need to “talk-up” TCA at local alley meetings and other clown events.

Spark Plug Award – Andy Q – new spark plug term is now underway

The Joey Journal – Andy Q reporting – need articles for next issues – reminded all board members to submit articles soon (they are to submit at least 2 per year – more is better). Deadline for the next issue was Nov 1st but he will hold this issue until Nov 14th for last minute submissions. Andy Q is to contact some of the vendors/advertisers (Steve Kissell, Steve Bender, Joyce Dowell and others) to trade ad space for articles. Also, he should ask Aurora ‘BeBop’ Krause for some of her historical articles.

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Sunshine Fund – Christie, chair, reported that balance was down to \$93, after spending \$41 for ice cream at the 2011 convention. Took up a voluntary collection and the new balance is \$146.

Membership Renewal Time – April 1st – Andy A will wait until after the April 1st deadline (for the renewal contest) before he sends out his reminder letter to unpaid members. Area Directors should remind folks to renew and inform them of the renewal incentive contest.

Convention Duties and Guidelines – Andy A emailed all board members a list of the duties for each convention committee. These will be further discussed at the Convention Committee meeting (to follow this board meeting). Discussed ordering TCA logo cards (blank inside) to be used for Thank You notes and other communication purposes. Andy A, Diana and Andy Q all have sources and will get quotes for these note cards for the January board meeting.

Next board meetings –

January 7, 2012 – 10:00a.m. - San Marcos (Andy Q will secure a meeting room)

May 5, 2012 – 10:00a.m. - Irving convention hotel (Andy A will arrange for a meeting room)

August 1-5, 2012 at convention (see convention schedule)

Andy A will speak with Robert W about the rules and score-sheets for the Face Painting Competition. These need to be created and approved by the board and then published (in *The Joey Journal*) and posted to the TCA website. The approval will be accomplished via email vote or at the January board meeting.

Valerie moved to adjourn and Andy Q seconded the motion and there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:38p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Mauri Norris, secretary
11/11/11