

Texas Clown Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
06/01/13

Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn South Broadway located at 5701 S. Broadway, Tyler, Texas, 75703. Meeting was called to order by President, Diana McCurtain-Talbert at 10:11 am. Board members present: Diana McCurtain-Talbert, John Luce, Olivia Adamson, Mauri Norris, Patsy McMillan, Charles Anderson, Martha Warren, David McCullough, and Judy Cornett. Guests were L.J. Lomenick , Rhea Anderson, and Christie McNeill

**Minutes** from last meeting on February 16, 2013, were discussed. Motion was made by David McCullough to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Martha Warren.

**Treasurer's report:** All stipends were accepted except for David McCullough. All financial reports were distributed. See report for specifics. Mauri reminded board to continue to hold expenses, we could possibly lose money. Patsy McMillan recommended that the TCA would benefit from a computer /printer. Diana reported that the software would need to be purchased unless it comes as a package. Andy reported that there was one purchased that Mauri is now using. Patsy McMillan volunteered to purchase one with a family member assisting with the recommendations. Diana recommended getting different prices comparatively before purchase. Printing ink as a expense was also discussed. Mauri recommended to have a budget amount for printer, computer and software of \$800. Andy made the motion for the board to approve the lap top, printer, software and ink for \$800 or less. Unanimous decision was made to approve the budget amount of \$800 or less and then to get back to the board with final decisions on purchase.

**Convention Report:** Discussion was held about 2013 with Andy Anderson reporting 99 registered to date, with 153 room nights reserved but we need 224 to get the discounted rate. Andy encouraged everyone to remind their alley members to reserve their rooms. Must have rooms reserved by July 17, 2013 or discounted room rate is not available. Suggestions by Diana were given to place an ad in Joey Journal to encourage reservations and convention attendance with deadline being today for Greg. Christie McNeill stated she would write the ad for Greg Stanford. Fourty- nine classes are scheduled and a line dance group is scheduled for theme party. Convention shirts will be the purple TCA polo shirts instead of convention t-shirts. Purple shirts will be worn on general meeting day (Thursday) of convention by all board members present. Deadline for ordering the purple shirts is July 5, 2013. Andy stated some lecturer's and vendors scheduled will be new to TCA convention. The registration for last year's convention was reported by Mauri with 100 registered and 10 walk in attendees. The rates will increase by \$20.00 on July 15, 2013 with \$185 final price.

**Convention/Competition:** Diana thanked those that have contributed to the updated changes to the competition manual, etc. to what Diana has sent out via email. Judy Cornett stated that there was detailed information except for face painting which only refers people to the website. She recommended that it needed to be put in the manual. Diana agreed but did not have time to put it in due to her having it in a PDF file and unable to change it now, but that it will be done prior to next convention. The competition guidelines are posted on the TCA website. It will be placed in the competition manual by next year. Diana stated that the updated competition manual will be posted to TCA website in the next few days.

Age of seniors is now 55 years of age for senior competition. It was recommended we increase the age for senior competition to be 62. This will be discussed at the general membership meeting.

Props brought on for make-up should be something the clown should normally have with their character. Mauri stated that the prop should be used as part of the schitck when competing for make-up.

Minimum time for schitck has not been adhered to and should be a minimum of 15 seconds to 45 seconds maximum.

Convention for 2014: Diana discussed the convention committee and leaving it as is with the TCA board putting it together, but feels that is a burden each year to the board. It doesn't give TCA membership by in and growth into the organization and that is critical. Christie stated that it also short changes the committee because they can never go to classes during the convention. A competition director must be a board member to receive a stipend. Only TCA Board members (11 in total) receive a stipend and only those for the meetings they attend that are held outside of the convention.

Vending and attending classes would then be available to the last year's committee. Diana proposed that every area representative would need to find someone from their area who would want to be on the committee and someone from TCA board would be the chair. TCA board would be mentors to assist. If the area representative is not able to find someone, then they would be the person on the committee. As they plan for the convention, the next year they would be mentors for the next years committee. Patsy agreed to have the mentors, but stated that then having area reps would be difficult knowing they would have to have this leadership role if they couldn't find someone. The alternative is to not have a convention due to lack of involvement of membership. Mentors will be necessary for a successful committee from expertise.

Christie stated that she has spoken to a costume vendor that will be coming from Delaware who told her that a lot of people are not attending clown conventions that much anymore and that they are breaking off to specific events such as face painting, balloon festivals vs. clown conventions. Christie stated that we had Angel Ocasio last year and attendance was down. Andy stated that we have too many balloon and face painting clowns instead of just clown, clowns actually clowning.

Patsy stated that Cheerful's clown school runs up to TCA convention and they are not attracted to convention since they are fresh out of school but that since TCA convention will be changing their dates and this will hopefully help.

Andy Anderson stated there is a book available he received from Linda Greene years ago that has information about putting on a convention step by step. Christie stated there will be a class offered on Saturday (end of day) for the committee. The regional festival recipe cookbook is available to be followed for a convention committee. Diana suggested we update, scan and place on website for people on the committee. Information from the "cookbook" was retrieved from COAI.

Diana needs one name from the area rep by end of June so they can start planning at the convention.

Next year convention will be Kerrville in 2014. Incentives for committee members will be free registration for convention. Mauri stated that in the past, committee members have always paid and then at end if profit was made, reimbursement was given or partial reimbursement was given.

2014 Potential headliners was discussed as follows: Randy Christensen, Desiree Payne(chaplain for World Clown, attended Joey a few years ago, she has a show on Catholic tv network), Bruce Johnson and Terry Davolt. Randy Christensen (from Minnesota) was discussed about his prices might be too expensive. Angel's( last year's headliner) price was compensated by someone donating his airline ticket (roundtrip). Bruce quoted reasonable prices of \$500 honorarium, round trip fare from Seattle. Our contract in Irving, TCA had a few free nights. In Kerrville, free room nights will not be available.

Discussion continued on investments of our convention headliners. Quilt auction was discussed for earning money for convention for education fund. If headliners are chosen early, that would be a task completed ahead of time for the next committee. It was suggested that we consider Randy and Bruce and possibly one more headliner.

David Pitts has resigned from being Joey Journal cover artist. Mauri stated David completed 87 covers for Joey Journal. In years past, he was compensated by free convention registration, but he has not attended convention for several years. We compensated TCA dues as well. Mauri suggested that we put together a photo book with some of his drawings from past Joey Journals in appreciation of his work and contribution. She also suggested that with David's permission, we could have a few more made and possibly sell or auction them for bringing money to our education fund. Mauri researched some photo books that sold for \$20.00 for 20 pages, but that would not bring much money. Kimatha Grice is going to talk to David to see if what his thoughts would be, and if he would be okay with selling the books.

Depending on David's answer of selling the books, the idea may not be a go.

Diana stated that World Clown auctions off their covers. She stated that we could auction off a cover or drawing that David does in honor of someone and that money would go to education fund.

David did state in his resignation to Greg Stanford that he would be willing to do special drawings if his artistic work was needed or so desired for something, he would be willing to do it.

Convention chair person was discussed as possible being a new board position. Andy Anderson stated it should not be appointed or nominated. Mauri stated they would be a committee head and would not be on the board and would not be entitled to stipends. The position would be a liaison between the board and convention committee. Past president will move into that position and if not the board will appoint a TCA member to the position.

Convention 2014, Mauri recommended that the things that need to be done before then is to have a registration form with convention registration prices with proposal of \$125.00 being the price of pre registration. Theme, t-shirts, and logo are other items to be decided soon for early promotion.

Hospitality room on Saturday night is usually hosted by the next year's convention host alley. Diana revisited that end of June; all area reps should get the names of who will be on the committee. She will set up a phone conference to begin planning. Early registration would be offered in Joey Journal from convention to be November 30, 2013. Board discussed various price changes but agreed on \$125.00 as pre-registration with max convention rate being \$195.00. Discussion held for increasing prices in the future.

Mauri stated that she received a letter from the comptroller's office stating that they granted TCA a tax exemption status for our Texas tax franchise and sales tax status based on the fact that the IRS has granted us the tax exemption under 501 C 4 status and it went on the state the IRS revoked our tax exempt status and they said to refer to a website. Just last fall, we had made sure we were exempt and had it retroactive, and then we went to comptroller's office and had our tax exemption status reinstated. Mauri plans to contact the comptroller's office to find out exactly where we stand with our status.

Competition director was discussed as a possibility of having it be elected or appointed. An appointed director has been done in the past. Guidelines for eligibility were recommended by Mauri. Job descriptions for board members are already written. Competition director responsibilities are written in the manual as well. A stipend is given for the position whether they hold a position on the board or not..

**Ambassador Report:** Patti Gilbert and Kim Grice have been in contact and everything is on track.

Patti had her nominations article in Joey Journal. Mauri sent Patti a copy of an article that she had translated into Spanish with recommendations of change of dates for courtesy of Hispanic members.

**Education:** Rhea Anderson is stepping down as educational chair. Thanks given for all her work. Diana wrote an article inviting interested persons for chairing education. Bebop Aurora Krause has expressed an interest. Encourage people in your alley to consider the position.

Four scholarships were applied and awarded for convention. Scholarships were given to Jeanette Sanders, Chandra Satterwhite, Kaden Delgado, Nancy Arent. There is \$2250 in fund with approximately \$500 awarded; therefore, approximately \$1700 is in the fund currently.

**Historian report:** Susan Keys will bring books for view on Thursday evening of convention week.

**Membership:** John Luce reported that the committee is moving along. He was contacted by Boy Scouts of America about community service about learning basics of balloons so that they can use as aide to community and as well as career planning for possibly becoming clowns. He was also contacted by the Ladies of Denton Arabian Equestrian organization that has shown an interest in clowning.

James Gill (clown in Fort Worth) is a great advertisement for TCA as a "walking billboard. He is always passing out business cards and gearing it towards Andy's clown class.

Mauri reported that TCA has 222 paid members with 77 expired members that have not renewed since March 31, 2013. We had 137 early renewal paid memberships. If members do not pay by convention, they won't receive the Joey Journal. Our highest cumulative membership number was 2207 total recorded in the database. David presented/used a poster from the back cover of the Dec/Jan Joey Journal (designed by Greg Stanford), but John and his committee had proposed a different poster and will proceed to get that poster ready for use and posted on the website for use by other TCA members and alleys.

**Nominating:** Nomination chair was discussed for upcoming year position. Diana was nominating person last year. Writing articles and promoting offices is the responsibility of the position and announcing elections, and preparing the ballots. A slate of officers and ballot must be published in Joey Journal 1 month prior to convention. David McCullough stated he would fill that position.

**Spark Plug Award:** Mauri is compiling the list, but is still working on it as deadline is July 15, 2013. If an area rep or TCA member recruits the most TCA members, they receive the award, if they recruit 6 or more members, their next convention is compensated. If two or more area reps recruits 6 or more, they split the compensation for convention is divided evenly.

**Joey Journal:** Andy reports that Phil sends a bulk mail which is most economical, but it does delay the delivery. July 10<sup>th</sup> is estimated delivery date. Phil mails it out once he receives the checks which were new information to Mauri. Andy suggested we get our articles in to Greg within a reasonable time frame and then things would move right along with publishing and mailing. Diana encouraged board members to write their articles if they haven't already and reminded members they are responsible to write two articles.

**Website:** Greg can add things onto a page but cannot add pages. Andy will contact both Greg and Mark for necessary changes. Mark built the website pages for guideline page and policy page.

**Sunshine Fund:** Kim Grice will give Olivia Adamson fund (\$187) for use at convention due to Kim not attending.

**South Central Area:** Olivia Adamson reported for Kim Grice stating that their alley held a workshop with Bubba Sikes and had only 25 locals attend; membership numbers and participation was decreased from previous years; Kim has been in touch with people from Austin to get an alley up and running with her assistance being offered as needed.

**North Central:** Martha Warren: They have 1 new alley member.

**North East:** David McCullough reported new alley is in the works; 16 potential members with 2 members joining TCA with more potential members to joining. They meet at a retirement center on the fourth Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30 with 30 minutes of business meeting and 1.5 hours of education with clown class taking place. June meeting is cancelled. July will be costume critiquing. 2015 convention will be September 30, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

**South East:** Patsy McMillan reported her alley has 113 members with clown school beginning June 19-August 3, 2013. Clown garage sale on June 29, 2013. Education workshop on July 27<sup>th</sup> with the Mundays(Dick and Tiffany Riley)(Slappies Playhouse in Dallas) as Instructors free for Cheerful Members and for \$25 for nonmembers at Grace Presbyterian Church.

**Panhandle/West:** Kathy Keaton inquired about poster from TCA. Poster is available from TCA website. Poster is available for anyone to use and apply dates and pictures pertaining to your alley for advertisement, etc. David McCullough has already used the poster to show his potential alley members.

John Luce is going to contact Linda Greene or Kathy Keaton about the poster for future use and change verbiage at bottom. Diana stated you could save as a jpg file and change it as needed.

The poster is back of December-January Joey Journal.

John also reported information from last meeting minutes recorded (please see last meeting minutes.)

**Old Business:** Convention host guidelines need to be updated. Andy stated guidelines and policies are just a few pages available electronically with so many meals, etc. Mauri stated there are rules for alcohol, time allotted for board mtg., without anything conflicting with board mtg., etc. Mauri will look over again and send to Diana before it is posted.

An incentive for convention attendance was brought up by Martha Warren such as dinner with headliner. Mauri mentioned business card size ads for winning a cash prize deadline is June 15, 2013.

Patsy wrote an article in the Joey Journal asking for judges and then proceeded to ask David to judge balloons at convention. John Luce volunteered to judge skits and balloons. Guidelines for judges are

taken from COAI rules/guidelines. Adherence for guidelines was discussed. Diana is teaching a class at convention for judging to learn the processes of judging for future conventions to have some information, and education on how to judge/critique well. Diana suggested having the class biannually. John Luce distributed TCA annual alley report forms to area reps and to those that are available if alley reps were not present to fill out and return to him before July 15, 2013.

Next meeting will be held July 31, 2013 at 6:15 at Westin Hotel Dallas/Fort Worth Airport at 4545 W. John Carpenter Frwy. in Irving, Texas.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm with the motion made by Patsy McMillan and seconded by Martha Warren.

Respectfully submitted,  
Olivia Adamson, Secretary  
06/01/13