

Texas Clown Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
07/31/13

Meeting was held at the Westin Hotel located at 4545 W. John Carpenter Frwy, Irving Texas, 75063. Meeting was called to order by President, Diana McCurtain-Talbert at 6:23 pm. Board members present: Diana McCurtain-Talbert, John Luce, Mauri Norris, Patsy McMillan, Charles Anderson, Martha Warren, David McCullough, Kathy Keaton and Judy Cornett. Guests were Greg Stanford and Susan Keyes

Minutes from last meeting on April 1, 2013, were discussed. Motion was made by Kathy Keaton to accept minutes with corrections which had been sent prior to the meeting. Martha Warren seconded the motion.

Treasurer's report: All financial reports were distributed. See report for specifics. Mauri shared the proposed budget for 2014. She discussed being conservative and hopefully having a more robust convention year. Andy asked about the early dues contest and whether it was profitable. Mauri stated we did get more registrants in early. Not sure if it was due to contest or not. Kathy asked about the difference in postage from 2013 to 2014 projected budget. Mauri reminded board to continue to hold expenses, we could possibly lose money. Some discussion came up regarding cost of toner, supplies, trophies etc. possibly being added into the budget. Mauri stated that should be coming out of TCA Convention budget. Judy made a motion to approve the 2014 proposed budget, David seconded the motion. None were opposed. Mauri updated Board on tax exempt status. We are tax exempt. All papers are filed and up to date. Computer expenses have been entered into the current expense. Mauri stated we need to order new membership cards, also discussed approving up to 100 dollars to buy more business cards. Andy made a motion to order cards. Patsy seconded. No opposed. Mauri asked if we could purchase an external hard drive in case the computer goes out. Greg made the suggestion of purchasing a flash drive instead. David made a motion to approve purchase of one or the other. Kathy seconded the motion. None opposed.

Convention Report:

Discussion occurred regarding current registration. There were 127 pre-registered. We had 7-8 walkin which brought us up to 134. We've had 2 cancellations which were past the deadline. These cancellations were based on personal circumstances and they may receive a partial refund based on success of convention. The costumer fell and was not able to attend. Andy gave some ideas on how to fill the gaps for vendors who could not come. We met our room block.

Committee Reports:

AmbassadorReport: Committee will meet after the General Membership meeting. The meeting needs to be announced at the Meeting.

Education: Andy shared for Rhea that there were 5 juniors in attendance at convention this year. There are 16-17 first timers at TCA this year. Four scholarships were given out this year because we didn't have any given in 2012. Diana stated that Rhea is stepping down as Chair. She stated that BeBop (Aurora Krause) is interested in being the Chair. Several members wanted to just go with BeBop, but we decided to announce it one more time at the General Membership meeting as a courtesy, and if no others were interested, we would announce BeBop.

Historian: Susan Keyes shared that she brought the suitcase with the pictures. She discussed using Creative Memories to do an online scrapbook. She is having a problem putting it together because she does not know everyone's name. She stated she has the CD's from previous conventions, but knows that she will only have competition pictures. She wanted to know if we wanted to move to this electronic format or if we wanted to keep gluing pictures in a scrapbook. The cost was about 30 dollars for one book. Discussion came up that we would not have a videographer and photographer so there were concerns about how we would get those pictures for 2013. Andy stated that the videographer called at the last minute to say he could do it. Diana stated she is taking pictures for all competition and Greg would run the video camera. We are doing this to raise money. Diana will put together a CD with all the jpeg pictures, will have a slideshow with the music, and will have the video for a very low price. This will meet the historian needs, and will hopefully help raise money for lecturers and vendors.

Membership: John stated as of yesterday we had 258 members. Mauri stated we were closer to 260 members as of the meeting day. John wanted to know when should we, as a Board say an alley is no longer viable. Stated Cedar Creek Clowns are gone, Coastal Confetti is gone. Susan stated The Latino group from the Dallas area is struggling. Discussion around non-viable alleys ended with the fact that it does not cost TCA anything. Some alleys go inactive, Mauri suggested going to something like a dormant status before they drop off the books.

Nominations: Diana thanked David for stepping in to the Nominations Chair position. She also stated that anyone could run for a position but provided a list of those positions that will definitely be vacant. Discussion came up about whether Diana would run for President again. She provided insights as to why she currently does not plan to run for President for a second term, stating that new people, new blood and new thoughts need to come into TCA. The question came up as to whether a member had to live in Texas to run for a Board position. We thought the bi-laws stated it was required, but it needed to be verified

Joey Journal: Greg stated that he wants us to keep sending articles. He would also like articles from the membership. Mauri reminded everyone that scholarship recipients have to write an article. Andy stated he thought they would be due within 6 months. The deadline for the next Joey Journal is being extended past Aug 1, due to us being at the convention.

Website: Greg has been a little frustrated with the website because he can only add text and upload documents. He cannot add pages. Because the past builder is running other sites, he does not have access to administrative rights. We are paying low cost because we don't have our own domain. Greg wants to do some cool things like adding video. Diana stated we want to do more with our on-line marketing and presence. We could like to add teasers for convention. Diana stated she wants to have admin rights to the Facebook page as well.

Sunshine Fund: John pulled the wool over my eyes and I thought ice-cream was over \$100.00. Ice-cream was actually \$30.10.

South Central Area: No news other than San Antonio is bidding for the 2014 convention. Convention will be in Kerrville, TX.

North Central: Martha Warren: Has been working and promoting convention. She will start promoting 2014. Has good participation from the alley. They try to have educational meetings. They have some new members. 4th of July they had 16 show up for their party.

North East: David McCullough – Their alley is doing well. There were 9 at the last meeting. Three members are at convention. Susan Keyes wanted to comment on Alley 85 – Mid-Cities. The city hired them to do a clown class for kids for a week. Ages were from 9-13 years old. At UTA Susan did a kids college class.

South East: Patsy McMillan reported that they have a clown school going on. They have 13 students who will graduate on Aug 10. The Mundys came for their educational event.

Panhandle/West: Kathy Keaton stated they worked on the memorial for Kay.

Old Business: Convention Host Guidelines are updated and posted

New Business: Martha suggested putting a name in a drawing for a 1:1 or lunch with the headliner. Diana shared discussion around what Randy Christensen charges. Discussed what was offered to him: \$850.00 total, (up to 1000 depending on profit) for 6 classes, he offered to MC, do Sunday worship and do the headliner show. Judy suggested that someone different MC so that we could have different performers. Diana stated we are trying to make sure that we keep within a budget. Discussed how we can bring in more money to pay lectures and headliners. We are doing the quilt raffle and the DVD/Picture project. Martha stated that we definitely need new and different names. David asked for suggestions for 2015. Diana suggested Bruce Johnson. Those in attendance agreed that he would be good.

Susan asked questions about the room blocks and cost of convention center. She thought we were going to be at a convention center versus the resort/convention center we will be in, in Kerrville. Andy stated that Granbury was cost effective, but we were not going to stay at a separate hotel. Diana presented the proposed budget to the Board. Diana stated that we are going to open a bank account putting Mauri on as the treasurer. Mauri asked if we would have enough interested in helping. Diana stated that she would have a good core group. She is going to be the Chair for the convention. Diana asked for a motion to approve the Jolly Joeys hosting 2014 pending final signatures on the bid sheet. David McCullough made a motion, Martha seconded the motion. None were opposed.

Susan had questions about the date changing. Diana stated we are going back to the fall. She explained the reasoning behind the move back to the fall. Andy was able to speak to several of the data regarding the Juniors and the numbers. Mauri was able to speak to the lack of meeting room block.

Diana asked what the Board thought in regards to doing at least one meeting via teleconference in order save money, as the stipends are one of the biggest expenses we have. There were several who were opposed to it, so it was dropped.

Next meeting is scheduled to be in Houston, location to be announced. Date is Nov 2 with a start time of 10:00am.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Diana McCurtain-Talbert, President
07/31/13

