

Date: January 21, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Judy Cornett in the meeting room of the Mary Lib Saleh Euless Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive, Euless, TX 76039.

In attendance were the following: Judy Cornett, Linda Green, Patsy McMillan, Cynthia Rice, Andy Anderson, Lana Sue Fridge, Shirley Hamilton, Patti Gilbert and Greg Stanford. Absent were Voncille Cox, Susan Butler and Viviano Pena.

1. Guests were Susan Keys, John Luce, L J Lomenick, and Pam Blacklock.

Our new President, Judy Cornett, welcomed all the new board members and thanked them for being on her team. Judy also distributed job descriptions so we would have a working knowledge of what we are to do as your board members.

2. Minutes: The minutes from the September board meeting were sent out by Patsy McMillan via email. Andy Anderson motioned that we accept minutes as distributed, Linda Greene seconded and all approved unanimously. These will be sent to Greg Stanford to be posted on the website.
3. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Rice gave the treasurer's report stating that TCA has \$40,968.86 as of this meeting with 206 current members - 73 that did not renew from 2016; and 6 that have renewed for 2018. In the financial report that was distributed, under the Area Directors it noted "Welcome Packets" which Lana Sue Fridge questioned and was told that there is a package for new members, and there is a form on website for reimbursement for items used in creating the packet. Andy Anderson said he will send out information to everyone on putting welcome packages together.

Cindy Rice has looked for insurance and could not find any information except for a sheet that was sent to them. Policy is not expiring yet and we still have time to fill out the info as needed. Will be checking with Mauri Norris for timeline as to what needs to be done.

4. Convention Reports:

1. **2017 Cheerful Clown Alley Convention Report** – Pam Blacklock reminded us of the dates which will be September 27 – October 1, 2017. The location will be La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa which is located on Lake Conroe in Montgomery, Texas. Pam then announced that the headliner will be Julie "Lovely Buttons" Varholdt and we will also have Regina "Cha Cha" Wollrabe. She then handed out registration forms in English and Spanish for everyone to take back to their alleys and asked for everyone to talk up the upcoming convention.

They are planning on having a Theme Party which will be a high school "Clown Prom", with different contests, such as voting for your favorite King and Queen of the Prom; decorating a Homecoming Mum, plus much more. You may want to start looking now for your fun and creative Prom Dress and/or that Crazy Leisure Suit or Clown Tuxedo. You will want to try and find any items that remind you of your high school daze - like a letter jacket, etc.

Pam also mentioned having a class yearbook where they will have love notes (we didn't do this during my time) where you can buy a space saying "Good Luck", etc. Keep it nice. She also suggested we send in our clown graduation picture along with our current clown picture to show the difference.

Pam passed out silent auction, raffle and donation letters and asked that we bring quality items (don't just clean out your closet); it does not have to be clown related. Leslie "Bubbles" Locke is in charge of silent auction, and if you are in question of quality, send a picture to her. Cherye Ann "Happy Dance" DeLong is in charge of raffle so we can send info to her if we are questioning quality of raffle items.

Andy mentioned that the Competition Director has a projector that can be used at award banquet. Andy also said that he and Ed Fitzgerald would let us use the sound equipment that they have. Pam reminded us the charity of choice is Boys and Girls Country in Hockley Texas. The convention committee is working on getting sponsorships, and Christie McNeil is asking if anyone has air miles that would be willing to donate to bring in our headliner. We know this will really help the budget. Whatever you can donate will help. Still working on securing lecturers and vendors and if you have ideas please give Christie a call.

Cynthia Parker has been working feverishly to update the website and hopes to have completed soon. Cheerful will continue to write articles for JJ and in our own alley newsletter "the Chatter"; in addition to us also posting convention on the Cheerful Facebook page. They will be putting directions in Joey Journal giving alternate routes so that you don't have to go through Houston to get to Montgomery.

Suggestions are needed for photographer to be able to work our convention. Shirley Hamilton mentioned she may have someone at her church that might be interested. Also discussed as to having the competitions divided among people to do the photography. Susan Keys said she will talk with Tricia Gregory about doing some photography.

2. **Mid Cities – Susan Keys:** This item was not on the agenda, but Susan Keys reminded us that she had made a statement that they would not host another convention until Houston did. Well Houston is so Mid Cities would like to make a proposal to host in 2018 and would like to have it August 1st through 5th if the board would approve. Cindy Rice made the motion that we accept the dates requested and Patti Gilbert seconded – passed unanimously. Will have more information available at the May 6th Board meeting.

5. Committee Reports:

Ambassador – Diana McCurtain-Talbert is current Ambassador and will get the information to us as needed.

Education - Judy Cornett said unless Linda Greene agrees to continue, we need to have another education director. Happy day, Linda Greene said she would continue being our Education person. Linda said she enjoyed what she had done in the past and agrees to continue with it. Andy had a letter from Cowtown Clowns giving us a check in George Hopkins name for \$75 to assist with Scholarships. Andy handed the check to Cindy Rice and the letter to Linda Greene.

Historian - Susan Keys said she has a collection of stuff and will bring the albums and computer to set up hopefully in the hospitality room or registration area for members to view.

Nomination: No election this year

Competition: Susan Keys has been practicing on the computer and will need more assistance before convention starts. She will reach out as needed. Susan will also keep in touch with Mauri Norris for registration updates.

Membership: Linda Greene was told the alley reports can be filled out online and sent directly to membership director. All the area reps will fill out the information and send to the Membership Director (it has been streamlined for use). Needs to be finalized by July 15th, and each alley does their own report.

Sunshine Fund: Andy Anderson is handling that and stated we had \$270.15 as of 9/16/17. Used \$30.71 at last convention and we now have \$239.44. Andy then explained to the new board members what the fund is for - this is for board members to provide flowers in case of death in a board member's immediate family, and for ice cream social at convention.

Spark Plug: – Our treasurer, Cindy Rice, takes care of this and had nothing to report at this time.

Joey Journal: Deadline for next issue is February 1st and Greg hopes to get more articles to fill in the pages. If you have articles and pictures please send them in. All board members should write a minimum of 2 articles a year. The board members are making sure their email addresses are correct and updating their cell phone numbers for the JJ.

Website: Greg said it is up and running and he created a site that works on computer, tablet and phone. You will need a data phone for this to utilize. The new policies haven't been updated on website yet, he will ask Mauri to send in. Need to change membership form to reflect price increase of \$5.00. Greg asked if we wanted something different or new on the front page of the website. Greg also tries to keep current with clown week, convention pictures, links, etc. Greg will add a link in the website to connect to email addresses instead of having personal emails visible on website.

6. Area Director Reports:

- ❖ North Central – Lana Sue Fridge, represents Cowtown, Happi Tymes & The Clown Arounds. All 3 are doing a lot of community work.
Cowtown volunteers for JPS Hospital (county hospital, church events, city wide runs, Alzheimers, Leukemia, Heart Walk and Race 4 the Cure.
Happi Tymes is doing a 4th of July parade and Dark in the Park
The Clown Arounds meets the 1st Thursday of the month at the Parks & Recreation Center where they do Halloween, Christmas & Easter in the park. Happi Tymes does Dark in the Park, and Cowtown is doing a lot of church events.
- ❖ North East – Shirley Hamilton. She went to Mid Cities meeting the other night and had a wonderful time with 50 people in attendance. They were encouraging everyone to go to Joey to the World and the clown cruise. She took Jane Wilson with her who said she missed half of it because of the Spanish participants, although they had a good translator to assist for the fun. Had a great award ceremony where they inducted 9 new officers. Shirley loved the contrast between Mid Cities and Rosy Nose meeting
Rosy Nose elected a new president (Dee Kirkpatrick) who has a new schedule for them, with a lot going on including with a seminar in Tyler on May 20th. Martha Warren (Miss Cookie) is going to do the teaching that day. They will get more info out before that day. Rosy Nose also does nursing homes, hospitals and prisons. Shirley mentioned that Calvary Commission for

Christ out of Lindale donates materials for Rosy Nose to go to 6 prison units two times a year. It was mentioned that Shirley might be a good person to teach a class on Prison Ministry at the upcoming convention.

- ❖ Panhandle West – Linda Greene gave the report for Susan Butler. They have 8 eight on their roster and they worked so hard on the last convention have not been able to do as much clowning as they want. 4 of their members will be going to Joey to the World. They voted at a meeting to pay for Education for their alley members, so the ones that worked very hard on last years' convention will go to Joey which will be paid by their alley. Wilma Cunningham who is 82 is a returning member and does at least 2 to 3 nursing homes or hospitals a week. Linda had to call the Midland police during the terrible clown scare to let them know what she was doing and where she would be allowing them to keep her safe while doing her gig.
- ❖ South Central – Viviano Pena – no report
- ❖ South East – Patti Gilbert – Patti mentioned that Mary “Charmin” Whipple is our newest Whispers award winner. Cheerful gave awards for most gigs at our award dinner with 59 people attending. We had 12 graduates at our last clown school which met at a community center with strict times to be in and out of the building; and close to freeway. We made the local news and the newscasters enjoyed what was being done. Cheerful did a Christmas parade in Conroe where we had a flatbed truck decorated for those to ride if unable to walk the parade route.

Took break at 11:50 AM for lunch – Reconvened at 12:54 PM

7. Old Business – Christie McNeil and Judy Cornett are looking at the Convention Time Line it along with the current TCA convention committee to facilitate making revisions as needed. After completion, it will be posted to the website for all to have access. Willing to take suggestions and if anyone would like to participate – please get with Christie or Judy.

Membership – Ways to increase membership. Reach out to the members we haven't seen in a long time and try to get them to return. Try to recruit people that mention at gigs they want to be a clown and see if they are really interested in pursuing this opportunity.

Linda Greene gave us a report on the San Angelo Convention given to her by Kathy Keaton stating that after all the accounting had been done Oops Alley made a profit of \$3,282.16 and gave TCA \$3,282.15. After taking care of all payments, a balance of \$1,000 was left in the TCA Convention checking account to be used as seed money for the next convention.

8. New Business – As Judy was reading her new job description she noted that the new board usually appoints a new Chaplain with a reminder that the duties are that of chaplain and not counselor. John Luce became the Chaplain in 2008 and said he would be agreeable to another term with the current board. Lana Sue Fridge motioned that John Luce be appointed Chaplain, Linda Greene seconded - - it was unanimous.

The board needs to make the decision of what to be done if a convention does not make money. TCA currently charges \$5 per registrant to cover some of the expenses that come up. Cannot post policy until we decide on this item.

At the last board meeting we discussed board member terms – for everyone it is 2 years and for the president it becomes at least a 4 year term. Judy will do research as how other organizations do this

procedure. We are giving everyone food for thought hoping they will bring their ideas back to the next meeting in May. Look at your own by-laws to see how they operate to give us guidance. Hopefully we will have suggestions at the next meeting.

9. Other goings-on:

Joey to the World – February 3 – 4, 2017

2017 TCA Convention – September 27 – October 1, 2017

10. Next meetings(s)

May 6th in Montgomery Texas at LaTorretta if we can get room rate

July 15th in DFW – To be announced

September 27th at convention

11. Adjournment:

Patsy McMillan was tired of typing and motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lana Sue Fridge seconded. All agreed and meeting was adjourned at 2:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy McMillan

TCA Secretary 1/21/17