

Date: May 6, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM by Judy Cornett in the Larisa meeting room of the La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa, 600 La Torretta Boulevard, Montgomery, TX 77356.

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

Judy said it was great all were able to see the facility for upcoming convention and, said if there are items that need to be addressed she can get back to hotel for resolution.

1. Guests were Jane Wilson, Christie McNeil, Susan Keys, W T Keys, Claudette Webb, Pam Blacklock, John and LJ Luce, and Mary Whipple.
2. Minutes: The minutes from the January board meeting were sent out by Patsy McMillan via email. Voncille Cox motioned that we accept minutes with changes being made, Lana Sue Fridge 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 \$9,615.03 in checking and \$30,495.99 in the Money Market as of this meeting. We have 34 people who have renewed their membership at this time.
 - Insurance update – address changed and names for board members - locations for meetings changed. The renewal cost was \$1,056.
 - Working on membership rolls and 771 people listed from 2000. Cindy and Shirley have developed a list for each area director of their members that will show if renewed or not.
 - Budget will be filed for audit
4. Convention Reports:
 - **2017 Cheerful Clown Alley Convention Report** – Mary Whipple said 61 were enrolled for convention as of this meeting – 25 T shirts have been sold and they are half way to target for ads. They have approximately 50% of the budget already for the vendor income. And they have one registration that is subject to refund. Mary mentioned that Mauri Norris and Cynthia Rice helped with historical data of past conventions and feel in comparison they are on target. She then passed out a packet with information for the upcoming convention, noting that the forms are in both English and Spanish. The program this year will be called “Yearbook” and they have created fun ways to submit ads. Send your pictures to Mary Whipple along with a funny comment to your friends. There will be an AD-MIRAL Award for the person who sells the most ads. Theme party is High School Prom, so keep your eye out for prom dress/suit. They will also have a Mum contest – so make your mum and wear all week and the voting will be voted at prom. Cheerful is updating their website and should be up and running in the next 72 hours.

New this year is the Golden Ticket Contest – in cooperation with COAI there will be a drawing for a free registration to the 2018 COAI Convention in exchange with TCA for one of the COAI attendees to get a free TCA 2018 registration. In order to win, all you have to do is be registered for TCA's 2017 convention.

Another new award - Peoples' Choice Award – COAI started this in 2016 where the audience had a chance to vote for best skits and Cheerful has decided to follow suit and let the TCA

audience vote for the skits and performances they liked best. Winners will be announced at banquet.

Honestly, there was too much to put in the minutes – so go to the website for all the information about this year’s convention.

- 2018 Mid-Cities Convention Report – August 1-5, 2018
Susan Keys said they were still talking to hotels and have more information by our July meeting. Excited their alley is hosting again. Then invited us to their joint alley meeting on May 18th which will be a luau. Hope to invite magicians, face painters, etc.

5. Committee Reports:

Ambassador – nothing at this time

Education - –Linda Greene - Linda said she will do the class for “Meet and Greet” and will be trying to do the Buddy Program again.

Historian - Susan Keys said she has a suitcase of pictures and has purchased a new flatbed scanner to put the pictures in a flip book – that is her goal. Susan also has a lot of disks from the past to put in a format so everyone can have access. She is unaware of how much data the website will hold. Susan will have the suitcase with her at convention for people to view and see our roots. Susan is thinking of maybe having a dedication page in the program/yearbook. Asking that each alley submit their historical data for the program/yearbook. Would like to have an alley picture and biography of each alley. Susan asking for other ideas for this project.

Nomination: No election this year

Competition: Susan Keys/Susan Butler – asked us to be very patient because they are blank pages. One of the questions was “what can someone do if not able to be at the convention site for the competition sign up deadline?” Susan suggested that maybe we can have a page on the website for competition sign up and will discuss with Greg Stanford. Susan Keys then asked the board the reasons why they compete and will write an article about it to encourage more participation.

Membership: Linda Greene – Linda said she hasn’t received Alley Reports but should have the information before the July meeting. Mentioned for the Area Directors to go to the website and file online. Will write an article for the Joey Journal.

Sunshine Fund: Andy Anderson said we had \$245.55 as of 5/6/17.

Spark Plug: –Cindy Rice – said that we need to remind everyone that on their application it is important to mention who referred them to become a member.

Kornpop McCullough (that is his legal name now) wanted to know if he could give his Spark Plug award registration to another person. Andy Anderson said the Guidelines state “if you don’t use you forfeit”. Took a poll of the Board for their recommendation – and the Board agreed to stick with the rules.

Joey Journal: Greg Stanford was absent but Judy Cornett reminded us that all Board members are responsible for 2 articles per year excluding the Area Reports. Area Directors were asked to have small articles about activities in their area put in each publication of the JJ. Judy is encouraging

everyone to do this and noted to make sure they get permission to use someone else's article. Deadline for next issue is June 1st – and Greg likes getting pictures.

Website: Greg sent in a note to make sure all phone numbers and website addresses are correct in the JJ. Please double check. Said website is up and running with the site able to run on computers, phones and tablets. Policies not updated on website yet. Need to change membership form to reflect the \$5 registration increase. Lana Sue Fridge asked if we could get Obits and well wishes in the JJ. Judy will notify Greg that we will be including this in the JJ.

6. Area Director Reports:

- ❖ North Central – Lana Sue Fridge, represents Cowtown, Happi Tymes & The Clown Arounds.

The Clown Arounds - (6 members) - Lana Sue talked to Greg Stanford he said they clowned at Shepherd Air Force Base who gave a donation to their alley. On the same day they did a Kids Night in a small community nearby.

Happi Tymes – (40 members) - did a Mission Arlington Easter Egg hunt and is performing at a book fair at a low- income community.

Cow Town - (61 members) - had their Caring Clowns at 2 local hospitals and were pleased to see how awesome it is to clown for adults. They had a big Easter Egg event at their church. Susan Keys mentioned they will be hosting a joint alley event within their area and will be putting the info in the JJ.

- ❖ North East – Shirley Hamilton, represents Mid-Cities & Rosy Nose -. Rosy Nose will be attending the Mid-Cities Joint Alley event. Miss Cookie will be coming to Chandler on the 20th of May for a class. They are doing an awesome effort in bringing people out of their doldrums and learning they have the ability to join in clowning. Still doing all of their same projects with 30 members on the roster and 10 members participating regularly.
- ❖ Panhandle West – (11 members) Oops Alley - Susan Butler. They meet on the 3rd Monday of the month and several attended Joey to the World. During their meeting, they planned skits and paradability for convention. They met last month for sock puppet making to be used for hospice and hospitals. July will be a balloon workshop. Kathy Keaton who clowns at the hospital in San Angelo presented AATH for therapeutic clowning. Wilma Cunningham, who is 83 years old, clowns for hospice in Midland and several nursing homes – she does this several times a week.
- ❖ South Central – Jolly Joeys - Viviano Pena – said they recently had an ex-Ringling clown (Alberto Ramirez) come to their meeting. They usually do the Battle of Flowers for Fiesta but did not do this year because of insurance requirements. The June 8th meeting will include a birthday party and swap meet at the church. He will send out the info to us.
- ❖ South East –Cheerful Clown Alley (100 members) - Patti Gilbert – Patti mentioned that it has been pretty rough for us. We lost Mary “Sugar Plum” Lostak, Eleanor “Smiley” Butler, Joanne “JoJo” Hayes’ husband and, Debbie “Confetti” Garcia’s husband. We recently found out that Laurel “Minnie Curl” Grandstaff passed away last year. Don “Duddle” Billings needs our thoughts and prayers. He is running 2 miles a day with COPD and it takes a couple of hours to get his breathing back. And Fiddlestix is on hospice now. Instead of an alley meeting we had a picnic at Charmin’s house in Conroe and a good time was had by all – this included a swap meet. Clowns are still doing hospitals and convention planning. We will not have clown school because of lack of interest by the public. Coastal Confetti in

Angleton (inactive alley) usually has a yearly gig that Patticake couldn't attend but others stepped up to handle it for her. Pricilla Mooseburger will be doing a camp in Beaumont at the end of June.

Took break at 12:15 AM for lunch – Reconvened at 1:10 PM

7. Old Business – Christie McNeil looked at the Convention Time Line and decided it needs more work and has a committee that will be looking at it.
 - Membership – Ways to increase membership - Judy said we always talk about this and need to find ways to increase membership to reignite and bring in new members. Andy suggested to “be one and bring one”, hoping to bring other people to convention with us. Voncille mentioned she will go to her Facebook page and encourage people to come to convention. Cindy said they have thought of having a 1 day event in a local area to invite public (kind of a picnic in park with facepainting, ballons, etc. to spark interest). Viv has thought about cultivating Junior Joeys. Linda said Kathy Keaton approached a private school with a drama class and gave them discounted rate to attend convention. It was mentioned to look into church mission groups for assistance for their trips, check with day camps for the opportunity to have a clown class. Viv said make it family night where they bring their kids and make a family routine. He said it has been a good thing for Alley 85 with the Hispanic group. Lots of good ideas, hope we can make some of them work.
 - Board Member terms – should we propose a term change for President Position. The Board discussed going to 1 year terms for each position. This will have to be posted in the JJ for 30 days to be voted on at the General Membership meeting at convention. Andy will research presidents and their terms for the past to see how long they actually served in that position. To continue discussion at next Board meeting.
8. New Business –
 - a. Process for dealing with a Convention Loss

Discussion was that we may need to create a board appointed position that will be a liaison between the alley and the board to help with the planning to prevent loss. Let the alleys know they are responsible for any loss. Maybe work with their Area Director to be the liaison.

Susan Butler motioned that the host alleys would be responsible for their convention loss. If they have a gain it would be distributed as stated in the convention policy. Voncille Cox seconded – it passed unanimously.

Andy Anderson motioned that we have a person from the board as a liaison between the alley and the board to help with convention planning to prevent loss. Linda Greene seconded and it was passed unanimously.
 - b. Bid for 2017 TCA Convention Awards, Swingers, and etc. - Andy Anderson presented a quote for first time badges, award medals, ambassador award, spark plug award and convention swingers. Voncille Cox motioned we accept and Linda Greene seconded – passed unanimously.

9. Other goings-on:

Next Meeting(s):

July 15th

DFW area hopefully at 2018 Host Hotel

September 27th

La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa in Pisa Room

10. Adjournment:

Voncille Cox motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lana Sue Fridge seconded. All agreed and meeting was adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy McMillan

TCA Secretary 5/6/17