

## Minutes for the General Membership Meeting of the Texas Clown Association

Held: September 27, 2007, at the Annual Convention, Houston Hobby Marriott Hotel.

Meeting brought to order at 7:37 p.m. by Lisa Ezell who introduced the officers.

The minutes from the September 28, 2006, general membership meeting were introduced, as published in the Joey Journal. by the Secretary, by Andy Quittner, and approved by the membership.

Mauri Norris gave the treasurer's report including the status of funds presently held by TCA. She then presented 2008 budget.

For 2008, TCA expects revenues of \$11,200 and expenses of \$11,055. The primary source of revenue is memberships and the number of members used for budgetary purposes is based on historical performance.

There was a question about convention expenses. Mauri explained that the expenses were trophies, a couple of registrations, and the president's hotel room. She also explained that board expense is a \$50 stipend per board meeting for travel (up to 3 times per year).

There were questions about doing the Joey Journal as a PDF file and sending it out. Mauri noted that we are not sending it but the Joey Journal is available on line to members at the website. Someone asked about electronic notification whenever the Journal is published on the Web. Currently we are not set up that way We will put out a notice on the Yahoo group as soon as the Journal is online.

It was moved and seconded that 2008 budget be accepted; and the budget was approved by the membership.

Lisa Thanked the Cheerful clown alley for their hard work putting together the convention. She had the committees stand for recognition.

Ken Kitchens made a couple of announcements and noted that if anyone had questions or needed help, see one of the Cheerful members who were in red jackets. He reminded those participating in the door decorating contest to sign up. Asked that people pick up convention survey – those who turn one in will get a ticket for a prize drawing . Also, after the parade will be a world's fastest 5 minute makeup contest.

A quick overview was given of the charity which will benefit from the raffle: The Center who serves persons with mental disabilities; guiding principle is that mental retardation should be given personal growth and ability to live life within .....serves over 500 persons, providing a wide variety of services.

Lisa Poage drew for \$100 gift card (from Wal Mart) that was offered to those members placing an advertisement in the program book. The winner is: Annette Ramirez.

Lisa gave a short overview of the British group making a documentary on how to be a clown and about the convention. That was the initial reason for photo release which will become part of the overall registration package in the future. There may be a way to purchase the documentary – or some will be available will put in the JJ when we find out.

Andy Quittner read a single by law change, which was approved by the membership.

Andy Anderson and Barry Yount announced the results of the membership vote, which was taken by mailed ballot, concerning changing the range of dates for the TCA convention. Seventy-seven (77) ballots were received with 41 voting for a change in date and 36 voting against. As a result of the vote, beginning with the 2009 convention the date range will change to: a time between July 15 and August 15, under the same concept: beginning on Wednesday and ending on Sunday.

Question was raised if anyone had expressed an interest in hosting the 2009 convention. The answer was there is some interest, but no formal request has been received, so 2009 is still open.

Question was raised if the Board had some guidelines as to what will constitute a success or failure of the convention date change. Answer is not yet, but the Board will work on that and have some guidance available by 2009.

Barry Yount reminded the membership that next year is a board election year and there are a lot of term limited officers, so we need some new blood.

John Luce gave the membership report: The good news is as of today we have 232 regular members, 38 family members, 23 associate members, 4 junior members and 24 lifetime and ambassador members. That means TCA has a total of 321 members; that means increased membership.

It was mentioned that only 77 members voted out of 323.

Mauri Norris talked about the Spark Plug award, which is presented annually to those who bring in the most new members. If someone signs up 6 or more then they are eligible for a free convention registration. Right now the date range for counting memberships is September 1 thru August 31, but this may change due to change in convention date.

The British film team present at the convention was introduced to the membership.

Ed Buckle, competition chair, reminded the membership that deadlines are posted....you must register by the deadline to compete; As of the general membership makeup now has 32 competitors, which is more than the last couple of years combined; Only 2 or 3 hobos

have signed up so they will be grouped with the character category; Presently there are a lot of skits and parodability entires. All numbers are high.

Kim Grice gave report on buddy mentor program. She introduced the committee. Education committee tried a two fold system; new convention attendees – had an orientation for convention, explaining convention and what to expect; and then mentor systems – to help novices from beginners to those who are absolutely brand new; The class has already done some hands on one on one makeup design and application. Will continue with character and skill development. The education committee really wants feedback to determine if we want to continue this in the future. Red buttons are mentors; blue buttons are new clowns. Anyone is welcome in the novice track...

It was also mentioned that Kay Quittner would love something written about the program and your experience with it.

Recognize the first of Mays., who along with the area directors were brought to the front and thanked, recognized, and given the first of may ribbons – this is to single out the new attendees as first time participants in the convention. There were 21 first of may convention attendees.

It was then announced that the 2008 convention will be held in Wichita Falls. Cathy announced that it has been 10 years since they hosted a convention in Wichita Falls and announced Greg, “Zoots” (Greg) Stanford, who is a first time convention attendee will be co-chairing the 2008 convention. The convention will be at the Holiday Inn at the Falls.

Lisa announced that this year is TCA’s 25<sup>th</sup> year – so we are having a year long celebration – Barry Yount is the chair of the Anniversary Committee. Barry had those stand who were here in 1983 for the first convention. Several of those members were in attendance. Barry reminded that we are looking for memorabilia and other good stuff.

Barry then announced the art contest winner. The chosen logo design was submitted by Vern King, who couldn’t be here tonight. There will be a big party in Wichita Falls, and TCA, to assist in financing the party, now has available coffee mugs and buttons with the new logo. These will be available at Andy Anderson’s table. Buttons are \$7 (\$2 goes to the party) 15.99 for mug with \$5 going to party. Andy will take orders when he runs out of current supply.

The next TCA board meeting is January 12 at the San Marcos public library. The meeting is open to everyone.

Other goings on:

Ralph Dewey: Dew Jam – November 10 (Saturday at first Baptist in Pasadena, will be \$10 and classes for all levels; including gospel balloons, hats, flowers, and transformer and vegetails balloons); see [www.dewysgoodnessballoons.com](http://www.dewysgoodnessballoons.com)

June Hinkle – COAI convention in Richmond Va, April 20, 2008, Theme: Racing to Virginia. Calling all Texans to participate, because the national convention is not doing as well as it used to.

Phylis Sheffield, as past president of WCA: Annual convention in April in Orlando Fl on the Disney property. Have a brand new website: [www.worldclown.com](http://www.worldclown.com) Try it. WCA has a good established performers insurance company. Also another opportunity to serve on a volunteer organization.

Kay Toodles Reed talked about Joey to the World, which will be February 1 and 2, as planned at Sagemont Church. The construction at church is still on, but won't effect the rooms used by Joey to the World. Toby Kid will be the headliner as will be Duane Lauflin. See flyer on back of TCA book. Go to [www.joeytotheworld.org](http://www.joeytotheworld.org) JTTW will continue its Junior Joey program.

Andy Anderson announced that Randy Christianson and Roly Bains in lastg week in April. Keep in touch with [Kudosclownmagic.com](http://Kudosclownmagic.com) for when (Friday Saturday)

Andy Anderson called for members to consider running for the Board of Directors since four of five officers have reached the term limits for their office. The proposed ballot must be published in the July issue of Joey Journal.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:47 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Andy "Banjo" Quittner, Secretary