

Texas Clown Association
General Membership Meeting
Minutes – August 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 5:11pm by President Andy Anderson. All of the board members were present, except for Andy Quittner, treasurer. All board members introduced themselves and told their position and where they are from.

The minutes of the 9/30/2010 general membership meeting were read by Secretary Mauri Norris. Jim Sanders moved to accept the minutes as read and Patti Gilbert seconded the motion. Martha Warren asked for clarification on the Panhandle/West Regional Director appointment. Andy A explained that when no one steps up to serve from a particular area, volunteers are accepted from the general membership and the board appoints someone to fill the position – so in such a case, the director may not reside in the service area. The minutes were passed by unanimous vote.

Andy thanked the current convention hosts – Mid-Cities Alley 85- and Maggie Clauder, convention chair, welcomed everyone to the convention. She mentioned that the members of the host alley convention planning committee are wearing checkered vests in case you have a question or problem. She introduced the members of the convention committee. Reminded folks to sign up for the door decorating contest by 4:00pm on Friday, and sign up for your banquet table after the meeting. The convention charity of choice is the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Raffle tickets are \$1 each of 6 for \$5 and if you buy \$5 worth you get a cookie. There were some program changes announced and she encouraged everyone to shop with the dealers. Also, sign up for your photo shoot and buy a convention video. Don't forget to bring your tickets for the Theme Party, Banquet and Breakfast.

Budget – Andy Q sent a proposed 2012 Budget and several copies were distributed around the room for review. Martha Warren moved to accept the proposed budget for 2012 and Susan Wall seconded the motion. There was one question about the Seed money shown on the actual financial statement. Andy stated that the Seed money Revenue is washed out by an equal expense item and the other \$1000 expense item is for the newly opened Convention checking account initial deposit. The motion passed unanimously.

Bank change and 2012 TCA Convention – Andy announced that as no alley had bid to host, the TCA Board members will be planning the convention. Therefore TCA has established a separate checking account for the 2012 convention. Also, we changed banks recently to avoid service charges being implemented by our old bank. Now we have 4 bank accounts: a checking account for the operating fund, a money market account for the general treasury, a convention checking account and a convention money market account (required to avoid some service fees).

Competition Report – Robert Whitley discussed the cut-off times for the various competition sign-ups. He also explained that the make-up categories were combined into 2, as there were insufficient participants to 'make' all categories. There will be Character Make-up and General Make-up with all other competitors.

Education Committee Report – Rhea Anderson, chair, explained that TCA has established a TCA Convention Registration Scholarship and the funds will come out of the Educational Fund. Proceeds in this fund came from the TCA quilt auction in 2010 (with another auction of the same quilt to be held at this convention). Members of the Education Committee are Rhea, Linda Greene and Bonnie Fritsch. Rhea also read the guidelines for the scholarship. The guidelines and application will be posted on the TCA website.

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Rhea also explained about the Buddy Program. The idea is to assign buddies/mentors who are experienced with the TCA convention to 1st timers attending who want to participate in the Buddy Program. Please return your Buddy Badges to Rhea after convention for recycling next year.

Andy A reminded everyone that TCA has beautiful TCA logo patches for sale at \$6 each. Then he asked all of the first time conventioners to come to the front to be recognized and receive your 1st Time ribbon.

2012 Convention – the planning committee is made up of TCA board members and Christie McNeill is the chair for the Lecturers/Dealers committee – she reports that we are 100% certain we will have Angel Ocasio for the 2012 convention. Also, we have early-bird registration for 2012 during this convention only it will be \$110. Date of convention is August 1-5, 2012, which will be International Clown Week. Be sure to stay at the convention hotel as it helps the convention to save significant money. Also, the convention will be held at this same hotel in 2012 and also in 2013. If you do not register for 2012 before you leave on Sunday – the price will go up to \$125.

New Competition – after a committee was appointed and they submitted their recommendations, the board voted to eliminate the Balloon Arrangement category of competition and add 2 Face-Painting categories of competition: cheek art and full-face. This change will be effective for the 2012 Convention. Thank you to the committee members: Mary Morris, Missy Dunbar and Phyllis Sheffield for all their efforts on this proposal.

PayPal – TCA can now accept your dues payments via PayPal and you can register for the 2012 convention via PayPal as well.

Andy introduced Dale Flashberg, as the Texas area COAI Director and Aurora Krause as the representative from World Clown Association. Information about both organizations can be found in the registration area.

Questions: is it possible to repeat some lectures to give members more opportunities to see everything? Also, a question regarding the schedule – there is no time between lectures and competitions – participants cannot be in 2 places at one time. Members are encouraged to have insurance for their clowning business. COAI and WCA offer insurance and there is an ad in your program by another insurer.

Remember to order your convention video and the photographer still has sitting times available.

Charter member and TCA Ambassador Kay “Klynky” Veale is ill and unable to attend the convention for the first time, please send he cards. The mailing address will be posted.

There being no further business, Patti Gilbert moved to adjourn and motion was seconded by Jered Newman (junior member) and June Hinkle and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Mauri Norris, secretary
8/15/2011