

# **TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 24, 2004

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Texas Clown Association, Inc. (TCA) was held Saturday, July 24, 2004. Ernie Priest, President, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the American Airlines Training & Conference Center located at 4501 Hwy 360 S, in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Board members present were: Ernie Priest, Mike Stephens, Lisa Ezell, Sharon Dueitt, Andy Anderson, Brenda Marshall, Christie McNeill, Tricia Craft, Linda Greene, Aurora Krause, June Hinkle, and Chandra Luce. Guests present were: Kim Grice and Shirley Hickman.

## **Minutes –**

On a motion by Mike and seconded by Tricia, the minutes of the April 17, 2004 Board of Directors meeting was approved as read.

## **2004 Convention Report –**

We began with a tour of the facility, seeing guest rooms, meeting rooms, the theater for competitions, registration area, and more. It will easily accommodate our needs and desires.

Pre-registered attendees number 45 to date. Karen Bell, Dick Monday, and Barry Mitchell will be the featured headliners. Along with them, we will hear lectures from Steve Bender, Bonnie Conkling, Andy Anderson, Teri Stokes, and Rosalee Perryman. The list of workshops includes, but is not limited to, hat manipulation, props, stage presence, improv, character development, magic, gospel storytelling & magic, face painting, balloons, puppets, and a makeup demonstration. Vendors include Karen, Barry, Steve, Rosalee, and Andy, along with Classic Creations by Barbi, Billy Prince Custom Clown Shoes, and the Clown Closet.

Wednesday evening will begin with a Welcome at 7pm followed by Survivor Games. Hospitality and Vendors will be open afterwards from 10-12pm.

Other items of interest:

- LaMoLa will be hosting a Door Decorating Contest. NOTE: Only Scotch tape or other approved adhesives for walls should be used.
- The TCA Board is responsible for the Hospitality Suite on Friday night. Ernie will chair that.
- There will be a non-advertised rate of \$40/day if one chooses not to register for the entire convention. Day rates do not allow for competing and do not include meals.
- Ad prices for the Convention Program book are \$75/full page, \$50/half page, \$25/quarter page, and \$15/business card sized ad. Art must be camera ready. The deadline is September 1, 2004. Individuals who submit a business card sized ad will be entered in a drawing to win a \$250 certificate from Billy Prince for a pair of custom clown shoes.
- The TCA Swingers will be gold with burgundy writing.
- Goodie Bags are canvas bags from Whole Foods. Maps of the area and of nearby eateries will be included.
- Registration confirmation notices will be going out in August. If you provided an email address, you will receive your via email. If not, then you will receive a confirmation via the US Mail.
- Banquet entertainment will be from the Ft. Worth Zoo.
- A tentative schedule is attached.

## **Treasurer's Report –**

The checkbook balance as of June 30, 2004 is \$3378.69. We have \$8998.42 in our CD. The second quarter financial summary is attached.

## **2005 Convention Bid –**

Cheerful Clown Alley sent a revised proposal to host the 2005 TCA Convention in Houston, Texas. The highlights of that proposal are:

- Where: Hobby Airport Marriott – \$85/night – single/double/triple/quad
- Dates: Wednesday, September 21 through Sunday, September 25, 2005
- Estimated registration: \$85-\$120 with various cutoff dates along the way
- Charity: The Center – a private, non-profit United Way agency serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities since 1950.

On a motion made by Lisa and seconded by Mike, the decision was unanimous.  
 Congratulations Cheerful!

#### Committee Reports –

AMBASSADOR – new guidelines were reviewed and reworked. Brenda moved that we accept the reworked guidelines. Christie seconded the motion. It carried. These will be filed in the TCA Guidelines, Policies & Procedures notebook. Copies are attached.

BY-LAWS – one by-law change was submitted as was discussed last quarter. A copy is attached and will be included in the next issue of *The Joey Journal*. It will be voted on at the General Membership meeting on September 30, 2004.

COMPETITION – Competition Guidelines/Rules for Texas Clown Association have been revised and will be included in Cowtown Clowns' program book for the upcoming convention. They will be filed in the TCA Guidelines, Policies & Procedures notebook. A copy is attached.

We received 1 bid for trophies from Image Engravers. On a motion by Tricia, seconded by June, the board approved the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$25 each
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$20 each
- Ambassador - \$25
- White new member badges with pin backs - \$3 each.

#### EDUCATION –

Aurora recommended that the Education Director be an appointed position by the Board for an indefinite period of time (at least 2 years.) This position would be similar to the Competition Director in its appointment and tenure. She also recommended that when job descriptions are made current, that the Area Director's job includes the willingness to serve on the Education Committee. It is her desire that this Committee be comprised of the Education Director and two (2) Area Directors selected by the Education Director.

We discussed the current TCAAIR program. Several questions exist surrounding how well it has been working for us. Aurora distributed a survey for the Board's input. Once feedback is received, she will reexamine all aspects of the program to determine if it is still a viable plan.

#### THE JOEY JOURNAL –

Kim reminded us all that the deadline for the Convention issue is August 1, 2004. The membership directory issue is in the mail.

#### NOMINATING –

June presented the tentative slate of officers:

- President – Lisa Ezell
- V. President – Tricia Craft
- Secretary – Mike Stephens
- Treasurer – Mauri Norris
- Sergeant-At-Arms – Andy Anderson
- Area Directors:
  - South – Andy Quittner
  - N. Central – Brenda Marshall

Currently, June is not aware of any persons who are committed to run for Area Director from the Panhandle, North East, West, Central, and South East areas.

Nominations can be taken from the floor for all offices.

#### WEBSITE –

Mike reported that the three new web addresses are up and working – [www.texasclownassociation.org](http://www.texasclownassociation.org), [www.texasclownassociation.net](http://www.texasclownassociation.net), and [www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com). Check out our website for current, up to the minute information about the TCA 2004 Convention. Our previous domain name has been purchased by someone else. When one seeks it out, they are barraged with some rather unsavory terms. The only thing we can do is help spread the word about our new domain names. Soon, our site should contain a membership application for those inquiring. Mike also reported that the new TCA Yahoo Groups have been met with an “overwhelming yawn.”

#### GUIDELINES –

Sparkplug Award – Sharon researched this award and found that the Sparkplug Award began sometime between 1982 and 1985. The original intent of the award was to encourage all members to enlist new members. The individual who recruited the most new members for a given year was rewarded with registration to the following year's convention. This remains in effect today.

Sunshine Fund – This fund was established by the Board in 2004 as a result of the death of Linda “Roly Poly” Green who, at the time, was South East Area Director. The monies in this fund are to be used at the Board's discretion to send flowers, cards, or other gifts to Board members or appointed Directors who might be hospitalized or suffer a death in their immediate family. It was decided that since this is a discretionary fund to be administered by the Board and for the Board, and because it does not use any TCA money, that no formal guidelines need to be established. Instead, each reigning Board will have the option to continue or discontinue this fund. Presently, money is collected at each Board meeting. A hat was passed and \$44 was gathered today. At this time, June maintains the money in this fund.

#### Old Business –

Job Descriptions – It was decided that each Board member will submit his/her job description electronically to Lisa by August 1, 2004. She will compile all Area Director descriptions into one summarized entry. All job descriptions will be available at the next Board meeting for discussion.

#### New Business –

Christie brought a suggestion from a constituent that we consider having competitors pay a small fee to enter various competitions, i.e. \$2 to enter makeup or \$5 to enter group skits, to help defray the costs of trophies. After much discussion, it was decided that the new convention \$5/registrant fee to be assessed host alleys beginning with TCA 2005 should cover trophy expenses.

#### Other Goings On –

Clowning for Christ Conference – August 20-21 at Colony Baptist Church in Missouri City (Houston area)

#### Next Meeting –

Our next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, September 29, 2004 at 5pm at the American Airlines Training & Conference Center in Ft. Worth.

On a motion made by Linda and seconded by Christie, we adjourned at 3:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa “Twinkles” Ezell  
Secretary, Texas Clown Association