

Minutes

Date: Saturday, January 6, 2007

Time: 10:00 am

Place: San Marcos Public Library
625 East Hopkins St
San Marcos, TX 78666

The January 6, 2007, meeting of the Texas Clown Association Board of Directors was called to order at 10:07 a.m., at the San Marcos Public Library, 625 East Hopkins Street, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

The following board members were present:

Lisa Ezell
June Hinkle
Lisa Porche
John Luce
Andy Anderson
Donna Wagner
Andy Quittner
Susan Keys
Donna Manna
Mauri Norris
Kay Henry
Chandra Luce
Barry Yount

No one was absent. Guests: Ed Fitzgerald, Valerie Bandy, and in the afternoon: Kay Quittner.

1. The September 27, 2006, minutes of the board meeting were amended as follows: on the top of page 3, Miss Cookie is Martha Warren. Barry Yount moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Seconded by Mauri Norris. They were approved.

2. The minutes from the September 28, 2006, General Membership Meeting were reviewed and corrected as follows:

Page 1: Valerie Bandy; Pat Billups Sue Gortemiller; For bylaws: move/seconded passed unanimously;

Page 2 Mauri moved...2d Patti Gilbert; Vice Pres; 2d by Dale DePrima; Secretary Barry Yount moved; motion was seconded and passed (same w/treasurer)

Area directors: Susan Keys; Lisa Porche, Donna Wagner;

Page 3 scrap list of winners for door prizes./

Approved for publication

The Board requested that the Minutes from this meeting be provided by Feb 6, 2007

3. Mauri Norris gave the treasurer's report:

- Amount checking: \$ 7,393.2 as of 12/31/06
- Amount CD: \$ 7,091.31
- TCA brought in a lot of new members and renewals at convention; as the current membership is 330.
- Discussed liability insurance. We may want to jettison the yearly policy in lieu of event policy. Board will get quotes from agents and will bring to April board meeting;
- The Board discussed other ways to make money (another drawing); also discussed dues, raising – cutting back on printing, etc.
- The Board discussed the amount spent on the Joey Journal in 2006. The discussion included the cost of printing; and a discussion of using the web site for electronic delivery of the Journal. Also discussed ways to get people to opt for receiving the Journal electronically as opposed to by hard copy. Will begin to put on member's page of the web site, with a counter to see how many access.
- The Treasurer's report was filed for Audit

4. Convention Reports:

Susan and Ed gave a final report from the September Convention hosted by the Mid-Cities Alley. They provided financial report; TCA received \$2,350.16 for convention profit plus \$785 for competition expense (\$5 per head/157 paid registrants) resulting in a gross distribution to TCA of \$3,135.16.

The board discussed board paid registrations: Generally 3 people, David for covers; sparkplug winner and competition chair. The board decided that it would be a good idea to register those at lowest rate and hold payment to end.

Convention videos were mailed out (by 11/28). If there are any problems with the videos have persons call Susan.

- 2007 Convention report from Cheerful Alley.

So far 22 persons have registered; planning on tracks for face painting balloons and puppetry; will have a novice track - this was discussed at the board meeting with regard to using educational money.

Time for competition may be less; probably need to be more flexible. May have organized jam in place of make-up competition. The final schedule needs to be set July meeting date.

- 2008 Convention:

No one has heard from Wichita Falls. Andy Anderson and John Luce will be going to their meeting and will talk to them to see if they are interested. If no alley volunteers to host the convention, then the Board will need to sponsor it. Will also put the bug in Happy Times Alley (also Andy A)

Committee Reports:

- Ambassador – Aurora Krause & Ed Fitzgerald

There was no report. The board discussed chair requirements; mostly letters and article for the Joey Journal to solicit nominations. Get input and then meet with other ambassadors to select.

- By-laws – Andy Quittner, chair

Will have updated by-laws to board members by February 6, 2007, and put them on the web in the public area.

- Membership – John Luce, chair

Received a request for a charter of s new alley; The board discussed the requirements which per the by laws says 5 or more persons 21 years of age or older are all that is necessary; fill out application form and within 60 days the president will respond with approval or disapproval

By law change: May need to change the by-laws to read will receive approval or disapproval "within 5 days after the board meeting following receipt of application."

Charter fee – The records don't clearly show where one was ever charged. The alley charter application has a \$25 fee. Talked about the fee (which is one time fee)

In response to a query about starting a new alley, the board passed around copies of the alley application that states that the alley fee is \$25.00

The board discussed charters.

- Alley Charters – (By-laws, pg 7) Article IX, Section 2: Charter, paragraph 4 beginning with “Within sixty (60) days . . .” and ending with “The charter fee for chartering of Alleys shall be set by the Board of Directors.”
- Alley Reports – (By-laws, pg 7) – Article IX, Section 4: Reports

The board further discussed alley reports which are required by the by laws (to be submitted by 7/31 each year) and problems finding out who is the one who should file reports. It was decided that the area representative is better suited to handle this. John Luce provided a revised alley report form to be used. Area directors are responsible for getting reports back for July quarterly meeting.

- 46 new members joined recently – fabulous!
- Merchandising – Barry Yount, chair

TCA has sold all of the patches and larger pins.

The board may want to consider making new ones; redesigning, etc.....

Have a lot of pins (small). Some outgoing directors have not given inventory to either Barry or new director.

Discussed the 25th anniversary logo design – the possibility of running a contest to determine the design and what the winner would receive.

Andy Quittner moved: That all submissions will become property of TCA. The winner will get a free registration to 2008 convention. Barry seconded. Motion passed.

The contest will be announced in the January/February issue of the Joey Journal, and repeated in the following issues with submissions no later than July 1, 2007. A decision as to the winner will be made at July board meeting. All submissions must be by current, paid TCA members.

As to the other inventory, it was decided to sell out what we have and then think of redesigning logo?

- Nominating – Andy Anderson, chair
- Scrapbook – Kay Henry & Susan Keys, co-chairs

The board previously budgeted \$200. Those funds have been spent (primarily on the scrap books). The Committee needs one more scrapbook; they are using memory books; They would like to be budgeted for the actual book (close to \$100); Susan Keys will be successor and keeper of books.

June moved to spend up to a \$100 for scrapbook by Susan Keys seconded. Passed.

- Spark Plug – Mauri Norris, chair
 - The Spark Plug award for 2007 will follow new guidelines.
- *The Joey Journal* – Kay Quittner, editor

The board discussed the Joey Journal. The board was reminded that all board members are to write two articles per year. It would be nice to have some how to articles, and tips on how to do things better. Human interest stories are well received, but people want more educational articles.

Also further discussion on the rising costs of printing.

The board decided that we need to revamp the inside front cover. Make sure that the name of the editor is changed on the front page. Also to “put in caps” that the P.O. Box is no longer used, please do not use for mail. Will also print the new TCA snail mail address.

The following article assignments were made:

Jan//Feb KayH / dvd issue aq has article on JJ also art on contest

Mar/Apr Kay H

May/Jun Andy A

Jly/Aug roster Andy Q, maybe spotlight Jolly Joeys for National Clown week.

Sep/oct Donna Waggoner

Nov/Dec

People of asked for a calendar page with state, local, national stuff going on.

Advertising revenue; try and get more.

Discussed mailing without envelope but a blank cover sheet to hold address and protect cover.

Discussed other printing options

- Website – Robert Whitley, chair

He can be reached: 817-343-7222 call about website he needs update, particularly the TCA mailing address. The site is still under construction. Robert also needs new board updates A.S.A.P – see Board of Directors page in JJ

- Sunshine Fund – Susan Keys, chair

In September the fund had \$250.00. We spent \$64.00 leaving a balance of \$186.00. \$20 was returned from money spent at ice cream social, and another \$25 was taken up. The Sunshine Fund now has \$231.00. The board decided that hosting an ice cream social should be an annual event.

- 25 year Celebration – Barry Yount, chair

Will have items ready for the next convention. The board discussed when would be the best time to debut the 25th Anniversary logo. Probably at the General Membership meeting. Will continue giving door prizes at the meeting, and will advertise the unveiling.

- Competition – Ed “Buckle” Fitzgerald, chair

At the last convention there were some problems with check in. Allowing persons to check in all the way up to entrance can create problems (skits). There should be a deadline (for competition). It was decided that we could require at least one person show up and actually check in..

The board decided that it was OK to make such a rule as long as its written, published, and provided well in advance, including to the judges.

The board also discussed a clarification of when time starts for skits and performance; May need to add something to the rules; persons that are “loaded” as a piece of the prop does not start time...certain props may need prior approval; also special means; It was felt that a competitors meeting should be mandatory.

It was also discussed that people wanted a ranking....of everyone....but some don't like public posting....could put a blank on score sheet for where you stood in the group. Or could rank by contestant number.

- Education – Aurora Krause, chair

Aurora sent a written report. She sent a survey to 10 fairly new first of may's. Five returned the survey. Common request was a desire for a buddy/mentor program.

Aurora will have a new education proposal in April.

Area Director Reports

- Donna Waggoner – Incoming Beaumont president sent email stating there are 14 current members with the possibility of 2 new ones; will encourage members to attend TCA in Houston (at least 3 already indicated they will attend). The Beaumont alley meets on Jan 9, (2d Tuesday); was happy that someone from TCA had contacted them;
- Andy Anderson – Will try and hit all three alleys in his area for their January meetings;

- Susan – new Spanish-speaking alley had its first meeting on Thursday night and about 30 people attended. They will meet at the same place for the next three months; The alley is actually in Dallas (OakCliff) where there isn't really another group.
- New member packets: consists of a letter of introduction written by the Area Director along with a copy of the bylaws; a TCA decal; and a list of clowns and alleys in your area. Should also include registration form for next convention; info on the website and instructions for joining yahoo group. Keep records of expenses and Mauri has a reimbursement form.

Old Business:

- Andy Quittner gave a report on the result of the Convention survey. 92 persons responded. Very varied feedback, but some trends were discernable.
- Feedback –

The Joey Journal article on eliminating makeup competition generated only two responses, one of which was from the TCA president (not a TCA participant). The other response suggested that we have a single "best overall" category.

The board discussed changes in convention dates; and how to present to the membership for vote.

New Business:

The board discussed possible resolutions to loss of P.O Box, as the business closed without notice. Andy Quittner moved that: Andy Anderson will go to the U.S. Post office and get a P.O. Box and submit a change of address form so that mail will be redirected to the new box. Motion seconded by Barry. Passed.

Other goings-on:

- Kenny Ahern Feb 1, 2007
- JTTW Feb 2-3, 2007
- Advanced studies
- David Bartlett in March at San Antonio

Next meeting date: May 5, 2007. Location: San Marcos

July Meeting date: July 21, 28(backup) location Houston at the convention hotel

June moved that the meeting be adjourned. Donna seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Quittner, Secretary.