

Texas Clown Association
Annual General Membership Meeting
August 6, 2009

Meeting was held at the Sterling Hotel in Dallas Texas and called to order at 7:08pm by President Andy Anderson. Other board members present: Kim Grice, Mauri Norris, Andy Quittner, John Luce, Peggy Barton, Dale Flashberg, Steve Dilsworth, Joyce McKelvey and Lisa Ezell.

The member survey related to the 2010 convention bid was handed out to every member as they arrived for the meeting.

Mauri read the minutes from the 2008 general membership meeting. Jim Sanders moved to accept the minutes as read, motion was seconded by James Gill and motion passed unanimously.

Aurora Krause presented the Buddy/Mentor program and recognized those members that were participating in the program. She announced that 30 letters had been mailed to 1st time attendees and the orientation session this morning had about 25 people attending and that session included the make-up demos and it seemed well received. By show of hands we recognized the new clowns or those new to TCA. She mentioned that 5 clown buddies were assigned. Everything about the program has been positive and she thanked all those assisting with the program. Andy A then thanked Aurora and Kim for their work on this program.

Andy A introduced all of the board members. Then he invited all of the 1st time attendees to come to the front of the room and each was presented with a Red Ribbon to wear so others will be sure to welcome them to TCA.

Andy A recognized all of the Happi Tymes Alley members for all their efforts in hosting this 2009 convention. It was announced that the raffle ticket sales will end at 7pm Friday night so buy your tickets soon.

Membership Report – Kim Grice announced that there are currently 209 members and 24 ambassadors. There are 11 active alleys, 5 of which still need to submit their alley report: Happi Tymes, Tejas Alley, Texas Mid-Cities Alley, Cheerful Clown Alley and the Clown Arouns. The report forms are available on the TCA website: www.TexasClownAssociation.com.

Andy A mentioned that members should have a survey form and that discussion on those questions will come later in the meeting.

Competition Committee – Ed Fitzgerald, chair Ed announced that the balloon competition categories were held earlier today and that participation in the various categories of all events is very low. There is still time to sign-up. Lisa Ezell and Kim Grice are assisting Ed with the competition computer work.

TCA 2010 Convention Bid – Andy A announced that the board has received only one bid for the 2010 convention. Cowtown Clowns has submitted a bid to host in Granbury Tx with a proposed theme of C-S-I (Clowns Seen Investigating) but request that they be allowed to move the dates back to the old time frame for TCA and propose the dates of Sep 29-Oct 3, 2010. This change would only be for one year and is primarily to get a better separation between the April 2010 COAI Convention in Houston and the 2010 TCA Convention. This might make it easier for people to attend both and help to ensure a profitable TCA convention. Members were invited to comment on the proposed bid and time change. Comments pro and con were heard on the time change and several comments were received related to the fact that moving the time back into the school year will make it hard for the junior joeys to attend. The board had also considered other options, such as to reduce the number of days (length of the convention) and if necessary reduce or eliminate the competitions. Another thought was that without another host, the board would have to put on the convention themselves and several members of the board are currently involved in the planning of the 2010 COAI convention which might make the board hosting a TCA convention in July/August 2010 overwhelming for those board members. Additionally, there is no major airport serving Granbury, so flying to that destination is not an economical option. Some of these thoughts and ideas were incorporated into the member survey. The survey questions and results are below:

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SURVEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Your TCA board of directors is considering moving the annual convention to Sept/Oct time frame for 2010 only. Cowtown Clown Alley is the only alley who has bid for the 2010 convention.

Would you be agreeable to this idea for 2010 only?

YES 73 NO 22

Are you planning to attend the COAI convention in Houston in April 2010?

YES 59 NO 27

Do you plan to attend the TCA Convention in 2010 if it is in Granbury?

YES 53 NO 34

Would you attend both?

YES 77 NO 22

Would you attend a TCA Convention if competitions were reduced or eliminated in 2010 only?

YES 73 NO 12

Would you attend a TCA Convention if flying were not an economical option?

YES 73 NO 12

While the results of the survey were being collected and tallied, Lisa presented John Luce – the 2008 TCA Ambassador of Clowning - with his Ambassador Crown! A bit late, but no less royal!

It was discussed that TCA (like many other membership organizations) is experiencing a decline in numbers. We need ideas and thoughts on ways to build our membership numbers. Please contact your area directors or other board members if you have suggestions for this problem.

Other Goings on –

-- Joyce Walrath (of Washington state), a COAI Ambassador announced the Northwest Festival of Clowns will be held in October 2009 in Olympia Washington and listed a number of the lecturers expected to be there. For more information go to website: www.bigfootclownalley.com

-- Tony Dufrene the Regional VP of COAI for the Texas area, along with Patti Gilbert and June Hinkle from Cheerful Clown Alley discussed the 2010 COAI Convention being held in Houston April 20-25, 2010. It will be at the Houston Marriott Hotel (same as the 2007 TCA Convention hotel) and the hotel rate is \$99/night for up to 4 people in the room. Registration rate is currently \$165 and T-shirts are available. The theme is "A Little Bit Country and a Little Bit Rock'n Roll". For more information go to website: www.coai2010Houston.com

-- Linda Berman reported a balloon conference is scheduled in April 2010 in Dallas, website for more information will be posted at the TCA table

Door Prizes were awarded: attendee that traveled the longest distance to attend (Washington state); Youngest attendee – 13 years old; Oldest attendees: shared between Laurel Minnie Curl Grandstaff and Kay Klynky Henry; which alley had the most attendees at this convention – award went to Cowtown Clowns; attendees who has been clowning the longest – Don Ducko Stieffel

Survey results (posted above) were announced.

Announced that board will reconvene after this meeting to vote on the 2010 bid for Granbury TX. Next TCA board meeting will be in San Marcos on September 26, 10am-5pm and it is open to all members. Meeting will be held at the San Marcos library.

Announcement was made that the TCA Ambassadors have a meeting right after this meeting adjourns. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Mauri Norris, secretary
August 29, 2009