

**Mississippi Theatre Association
Board Meeting -
Jackson, MS – New Stage Theatre**

May 23, 2015

- Meeting called to order by Lee Crouse @ 10:00am
 - Introductions
 - Members present: Tom Hardy, Bill Rester, Deborah Martin, Kenneth McDade, Joe Frost, Tim Matheny, Cody Stockstill, Suzanne Oakley, Suz Allmon, Francine Reynolds, Ginger Schmidt, Olivia Dunwoody, Stacy Howell, Lee Crouse, Stephen Cunetto, Chris Roebuck, Ryan Pierini
 - Approval of minutes: Motion – Paula, Second – Suz
 - Treasurer Report:
 - o Cunetto (in Treasurer’s place) presented the report for the 2015 fiscal year and the current fiscal year (2016)
 - o Cunetto presented copy of the status of the CREATE Foundation account (Scholarship Fund).
 - Scholarship is less than \$3000 away from being endowed – should be there by the end of summer
 - Board Orientation
- STEPHEN:
- o Purpose of addition of Vice-chairs; role of the Division Chairs
 - o Amendments to Board of Directors contact information
 - o Importance of representing MTA in a positive manner
 - o Purpose and frequency of board and officer meetings
 - o Division of duties between Cunetto & Howell during the ED transition (Cunetto – Business; Howell – Festival)
- STACY:
- o Each chair should review MTA handbook and send any desired updates to Stacy ASAP. Changes should be in place before the July meeting.
- Things Cunetto & Howell are working on
 - o Outstanding returned checks from festival still being reconciled
 - o Applied for MAC grant (March 2015) and completed the final report for the FY16
 - o Cunetto and T. E. Lott Company submitted the IRS tax filing
 - o Playwriting competition rules updated and website launched
 - o Website updates in progress
 - Reviewed Calendar of Events
 - Reviewed historical Attendee Comparison
 - Break Out Sessions By Division – Long range goals

The group broke for lunch.

- Old Business:
 - o Tom Hardy – scholarship committee

- 1st , 2nd , and 3rd choice for scholarship
 - Awards committee- Board members need to assist in getting the word out for Outstanding contributions awards. The nomination form can be found at <http://www.mta-online.org/awards/outstanding/>
 - SETC report – Lee Crouse (overview of the SETC festival)
 - Proposals for workshops open now
 - SETC Keynote speakers was excellent.
 - Secondary division theatres representing MTA at SETC were Pearl River Central High School and Oak Grove High School
 - Community theatres representing MTA at SETC were Starkville Community Theatre and Tupelo Community Theatre.
 - JORT performed at the Fringe Festival
 - Lee commended all of the theatres for advancing and representing MS. TCT was selected at the Best Production in the Community Theatre Division and will represent SETC at the American Association of Community Theatres. This is a very big honor for TCT.
 - SETC screenings will be completely digital for all paperwork
 - Scholarship offerings – college, graduate school, apply! Encourage students to apply. Money to give away.
 - Discussion of youth community discussed at the SETC level. Waiting to see if this continues to be a need in the states.
- New Business –
 - 2016 Festival will be held in Meridian, MS at the MSU Riley Center. Meridian Little Theatre under the direction of Ronnie Miller will be the host theatre.
 - South festival – Erin Sessions – new person
 - Dec.4 – 5 for both North and South Drama festivals
 - Adjudicators – Sue Ellen Gerells and Kris Lee and either Francine Reynolds or Chris Roebuck
 - North Festival will happen. Tim Matheny selected as new faculty at Theatre MSU. Tim along with Cody Stockstill and Melanie Harris will run the North Festival.

Submitted by Suzanne Oakley and Suzanne Allmon