

Mississippi Theatre Association Board Meeting
July 29, 2017
Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS

Members Present: Suz Allmon, David Carter (MUW Representative), MJ Etua, Deborah Hardy, Stacy Howell, Thomas LaFoe, Tim Matheny, Christopher Schager, Amber West, Jordan West, Yolanda Williams, Matthew Wilson (via phone)

Call to Order: Tim Matheny

Welcome

Introductions

Presentation of Minutes: Suzanne Oakley

Motion to accept Minutes: Yolanda Williams

Second: Thomas LaFoe

Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Stacy Howell (for Deborah Hardy)

- \$47,690.01 in bank

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Christopher Schager

Second: Yolanda Williams

Motion passed

Executive Director's Report: Stacy Howell

- MAC Grant

MTA was awarded \$10,500 for this year (same as last year). Howell discussed ways to increase amount with Turry: full time staff member, office overhead, as much advocacy as possible throughout the year, focusing on arts as a whole rather than just theatre.

Howell encouraged the board to brainstorm ideas for how MTA could increase advocacy for the arts. Suggestions included "Creative Commerce Roundtable" (?) events (Matheny), STEM to STEAM (Allmon).

- Correction to Dana Jones' email address on the contact spreadsheet: danad.jones@lamark12.org.
- CREATE Foundation Update
\$ 28,915.27 in endowment
- Website

Recent technical difficulties with updating the website should be fixed now, and Howell plans to get everything up to date before leaving for Finland in September.

At this time, our web developers are unable set up a public calendar that members can update with local events. Howell will share her log in information with division chairs who can then add events on behalf of members.

- Howell has prepared updates to each division's long range goals and asks board members to look over changes during the lunch break.

Secondary Workshop: MJ Etua

- October 6-7 at MUW
- Confirmed presenter is Lee Crouse, and Etua is accepting suggestions and offers from others.
- Etua will personally contact teachers to encourage them to attend, specifically newly assigned teachers and teachers who have not previously attended.
- Howell requested for the workshop to include how to register for MTA

SETC: Matthew Wilson

- Auditions will be held at Jackson Academy the weekend before Thanksgiving.
- Kenny Male from Howard Community College in Maryland will be the out-of-state respondent.

Performing Arts Framework Standards: Stacy Howell

- Howell will meet with Juniper Wallace, Lemuel (?), and the committee in August to continue work on the framework.

Middle School Division: Suz Allmon

- MS Drama Fest will be scheduled for a Friday in April.
- A couple of individual events will be added.
- Festival has included four participating schools each of the first two years, and more schools are expected to participate this year.
- Home school groups could possibly be allowed.
- MS Drama Fest primarily uses Facebook to disseminate rules, registration forms, press, etc.
- Matheny suggested using HS Drama Fest to recruit and advertise.

Dream Team: Stacy Howell

- Board members reviewed Howell's idea sheet and made additional suggestions for possible Dream Team positions.
- Applications will go online in September. They are due in October. Selections will be made in November, including alternates.

New Business: Tim Matheny

- MTA 2018
 - Location is Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.
 - Bill Rester has booked no new adjudicators since the last meeting and would welcome suggestions.
 - Howell has done research on possible SWAG and souvenir items including: MTA window decals for new members, light-up pens, bags, an on-site t-shirt printer, jump drives, step-and-repeat backdrop.
 - Howell has been in contact with RJ Haddy from Face Off Season 2 as a potential keynote speaker. This
- MTA 2019
 - Location is the Riley Center in Meridian.
 - Additional spaces will be needed, and Howell is working to seek those out and get them booked.
 - The awards banquet will definitely be moved to an alternate space to make sure that all guests are in the same room. Members favor the idea of serving the meal and making awards in the same location.
 - Howell is pursuing Sela Ward as keynote speaker with the assistance of Charlotte Tabereaux.
- Extension of Terms
 - After much discussion concerning Lee Crouse's suggestion that perhaps the office of MTA President could be extended from a two-year to a three-year term:

Motion to extend the vice president, president, and past president terms to three years each: Kenneth McDade

Second: Christopher Schager
Motion passed

Division Reports

- Playwrighting: Jordan West
 - Deadline to submit is November 1. West is working on options for printing the winning play for SETC.
- College & University: Christopher Schager
 - Schager plans to choose "how to" videos from university footage to post on MTA website.
 - Division requests moving audition displays closer to the onstage auditions and leaving them up through the weekend in a common area so people can see them.
 - Division suggests that a "how to" video for preparing tech submissions would be helpful to students preparing submissions.
 - A display featuring MTA board members and their positions could be helpful for members attending festival.
- SETC State Auditions: Tim Matheny
 - Auditions will be held at Jackson Academy for 2018 SETC, which is in Mobile.
- Community Theatre: Thomas LaFoe
 - LaFoe and Lauren (?) are working on a google doc of division changes.
 - LaFoe feels that Cromwell will be fine for a second space for the community festival.
- Professional: No report
- Adult Individual Events: Kenneth McDade
 - McDade and Juniper Wallace are working on a google doc of division changes.
 - McDade expressed their interest in an automated system to tabulate scores; several members suggested google forms. LaFoe offered to help set up the forms.
- Theatre for Youth: Stacy Howell
 - Howell is looking for a host school so the festival will have a built-in audience.
 - Howell is also considering adding an evening slot in order to invite the public and allow more TFY groups to participate.
- Secondary: MJ Etua
 - Teacher workshop is in October.
 - Etua plans to add a registration session and a rules and regulations session to the workshop.
- 10-Minute: Yolanda Williams
 - Playwrights will be able to participate Individual Events, but no other secondary kids. (Stacy, I feel like I'm missing a detail here... ?)

MTA 2018 Facilities: David Carter, Mississippi University for Women

- Carter provided the board with an overview of the facility usage plans, hotel information, and a facilities tour.