

MTA board Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/27/17

Time Begin: 10:05 a.m.; Break 11:30 a.m.; Resume 12:07 p.m.; Break 2:30 p.m.;

Resume 2:35 p.m.; Adjourn 3:15 p.m.

Present: Stacy Howell (Executive Director), Tim Matheny (President), Bill Rester (VP), Francine Reynolds, Chris Schager (College Division Chair), MJ Etua (Secondary Chair), Juniper Wallace (IEF Youth Chair), Lauren Ray (Community Vice Chair), Thomas LaFoe (Community Chair), Yolanda Williams (10-Minute VC), Olivia Dunwoody (10-minute Chair), Kenneth McDade (IEF Adult Chair), Deborah Hardy (Treasurer), Tom Hardy (in corner...mostly silent observer)

- Minutes
- Treasury Report
- President Report
 - Discussion of voting members v. non-voting members
 - Chairs should be training vice-chairs to take over
 - Keep lines of communication open
 - 2 year terms
 - Some stay on for 3 years until replacement is found
 - Keep bringing in new faces
 - Tim wants to stay in touch more to keep accountability open.
 - Mondays will be MTA day
 - Text is the best way to communicate with Tim
 - Board Liability
 - No insurance for board members
 - SETC working on insurance policy that will trickle down
- Executive Director Report
 - Set up Facebook group for officers
 - Grants Received
 - \$5250 (from final report)
 - MAC grant applied for. July 1st will have results
 - Funding as State ARTS Agency
 - Advocacy is necessary to continue to receive grants
 - Advocacy is not our main priority
 - With advocacy as a priority we can receive \$15,000 as opposed to \$7500.
 - Francine asks if handbook states that advocacy is required to be a priority
 - This topic will be discussed in depth later
 - Interested in MAC mini-grant to help with SETC expenses
 - Grant to create a “What is MTA?” video...Maybe History of Theatre in Mississippi.
 - Video really speaks to the people you’re trying to reach
 - Taxes filed with IRS-all looks good

- Officer contact form
 - Olivia Dunwoody needs her email updated
 - Yolanda Williams-Change 605 to 601
 - Calendar of Events
 - These dates are tentative
 - MAAE application form
 - Flyers for Advocacy
 - Breakout Sessions for Long Range Goals (30-40 minutes)
 - Lunch
 - Old Business *(12:07)
 - Scholarship
 - Rachel Roan 2016
 - Enrolled
 - Renee Shields 2017
 - 26648.78
 - \$762 without having to pay extra
 - Currently giving \$250 a quarter per person
 - Awards
 - Adding Awards
 - Principals
 - Community officials
 - MJ mentions “participation” awards for secondary festival participants. “State Finalist Recognition”
 - SETC
 - Awards and scholarships
 - Improve experience for secondary teachers. How can MTA teachers be more involved in the SETC body other than the festival?
 - MJ mentioned that SETC is more geared toward College and University. Needs more for high school teachers.
 - MS artists who could be SETC keynote speakers
 - Hattie Winston
 - Morgan Freeman
 - Sela Ward
 - Aujanue (sp?) Ellis
 - Beth Henley
 - Oprah Winfrey
 - Parker Posey
 - Gerald McRaney
 - Francine raised the issue of the lack of diversity in the SETC auditions process
 - Is recruitment lacking at HBCU?
 - Are professors aware of what SETC offers for their students
 - How do we rectify this?

- Finances is a large barrier to SETC
 - Establishing contact persons through the HBCU. Stacy will put these contacts on MTA Website
- Community
 - Exec committee has continued to consider post conference feedback
 - Feels like red headed stepchild
 - Not necessarily pleased with availability of workshops
 - Have workshops in close proximity to community theatre
- Mobile 2018
 - 5300 in Lexington
- Fall Meeting September 8-9
- Fall Professional Auditions August 27-28
 - Airport Crowne Plaza, Atlanta
- New Business
 - Regional Festivals
 - Looking at defining lines for central festival
 - Hosts
 - Financial risk
 - No date proposed for moving forward as of yet
 - Must locate hosts schools first
 - Consider doing survey to gauge participation
 - Hinds Raymond—Cain Hall
 - Reach out to David Hawkins
 - JSU-interested but not able at this moment
 - Would require shifting of season
 - University does not currently have a President
 - Do we need to set a “goal” for proposed date to move forward.
 - Several local universities to “go in together” to spread the financial burden and workload
 - Individual Events – Juniper
 - Has been highlighting existing rules and making notes about what may need to change:
 - Registration Process:
 - Google Form > Spreadsheet
 - Schools aren’t responsible for figuring out a spreadsheet
 - Need to figure out how to transfer entries from spreadsheets to ballots
 - Need to require each group to provide two adults to be timekeepers and door guards

- Combine Adult IEF with Secondary IEF so that rules, ballots, etc. are the same
 - Last year, the two festivals were really two completely different animals
 - LIKE: Professional / University Judges
 - Need: On ballot - School Code > I am John Smith, Contestant 1 from School A
 - Make things more consistent between MTA and ITS
 - Time Limits
 - Thespians Fest: Monologues are 3m, everything else is 5
 - MTA - Everything is 5; Group Acting is 8 (too long)
 - Consistency keeps kids from needing to recut pieces for different festivals
- 2018 MTA Festival Adjudicator Update
 - Community Slate
 - Eric Brown-Mobile-Baker High School
 - Christy Meanor-Wimtumka, AL
 - Nick Hoenshell-Jacksonville State
 - Secondary
 - Carrie Colton-Jacksonville State
 - Would like to include more diversity in judges panels
 - Michael Bobbitt
 - Reached out for Theatre for Youth
 - Cast Lists Programs Discussion
 - Schools allowed to bring programs but judges don't
 - Francine mentions that she likes the programs as an adjudicator
 - Juniper suggests a template for schools to fill out and make sure all changes are accurate at check in. This standardizes the programs that adjudicators receive so they all look the same and are up to date. (Tom Hardy likes this idea too)
 - TCG book sales and sponsorships
 - Publishes book versions of scripts before publishing houses publishes acting versions
- Workshops

- Town Hall 5/27/17 will let participants know what is available to them
- Teacher Workshop will be in October (10/6-7)
 - Must confirm date of TN WMs Festival
 - *Added by Juniper: TN WMs should be 10/13-14
- Registration Spreadsheet Training Session
 - At DramaFest
- Photography MTA 2018
 - Magical Imagery 2018
 - Not all shows got covered
 - Could she have a second person?
 - Portfolio package price?
 - Need a “team”
 - University photography departments?
 - Need more photos of other events and common spaces
 - Youtube Channel
 - Have a central location where videos can be shared
 - Snapchat / other social media has become ephemeral, and students aren’t sharing (because their stuff is gone).
- July Meeting – at MUW
 - Stacy will send out an email
- Performing Arts Framework Standards
 - Stacy and Juniper are going to meet with MDE guy this summer to work on compiling guide
 - Current Standards seem really vague; guide will help dispel some of the vagueness
 - We have adopted the National Arts Standards (as a state)
 - Google “National Arts Standards”
 - 4C categories: Creating... C... C... C...
 - Breaks down standards into proficiency (elementary / middle / high AND beginner / intermediate / advanced) instead of grade level (9-12)
 - New Classes: Over the next school year and summer, guide will be nailed down to define curriculum and courses that will be offered specifically to 7th-12th grade students.
 - If you have a specific course that you want offered in your high school, get in touch!
 - Tech Theatre / Stagecraft / Costume and Set Construction
 - Musical Theatre

- Festival Class / Theatre Productions (repeatable up to 4x for credit)
 - How can we – as a state – develop a curriculum to support the class in a school that doesn't have it?
 - Consider whether theatre classes can get a PE credit under the MDE guidelines
 - Some districts are allowing middle schools to get PE credits for Theatre classes
 - Advocacy
 - Look at panelists comments to determine how we need to move forward with
 - Francine
 - FY 2017 Budget
 - NEA received 2M
 - Proposed 2018 Budget
 - 25 million
 - MAC would be drastically reduced
 - This trickle down would hurt most of the state projects/grants
 - Ecology of theatre-cuts affect everything to do with ARTS
 - Reduce current funding levels for NE Humanities
 - Close down NPB
 - Cut cultural exchange programs
 - Eliminate ARTS assistance programs
 - Eliminate 21st century programs
 - Stacy and Francine went to Arts Advocacy day
 - Whitespace issue
 - Wireless mics
 - Wireless communication
 - Protects from interference
 - Vacate 600 mhz airspace
 - Eliminates protection
 - Will have to purchase NEW equipment.
 - What kind of assistance can we get to fund replacement of equipment
 - Database to “dial in” to protect airspace during productions
 - Festival Fees for Officers and Board Members
 - Exec committee met regarding waving MTA fee for board members
 - Agreed to waive MTA festival fee

- Website Review
 - Email was sent asking board members to check individual divisions
 - Submit changes/ideas to Stacy Howell
 - School Websites
 - School Facebook Pages
- Division Reports
 - Playwriting
 - More entries than ever before
 - Sunday morning slot seems to work well and is well attended
 - Final adjudicator to be finalized soon
 - Opens April 1st Deadline November 1st
 - College/University
 - Room for students to display TECH work
 - Would like IEs to be displayed with college/universities
 - Possibly line lobby
 - Should be set up throughout festival—set up on Thursday night during College auditions
 - Portfolios on table
 - Sign in sheet for colleges if student is not present when colleges come by
 -
 - Adjudicators were crowded—need more space
 - Need video for Tech Portfolios
 - Dream Team
 - Minions
 - Application Process
 - Festival Entrance fee waived
 - Divisions to Communicate festival needs for minions
 - Possibly conduct workshops
 -
 - SETC State Auditions
 - Jackson Academy
 - November 18-19 2017
 - Lee Crouse/Matt Wilson coordination
 - Send emails to colleges (especially HBCU and CC)
 - Community Theatre
 - Issues with load in process
 - Miscommunication
 - Two Spaces was well received
 - 80 minute tech rehearsal for AACT years
 - Going by AACT rules every year
 - Must write in for permission to AACT to reduce 80 minute rehearsal time

- Reach out to community theatres to put MTA display in lobbies
 - Member of MTA stickers for organizations
 - Non-501c3 groups to be able to perform for non-advancing
 - Would groups like Unframed that exist under a professional umbrella but do not receive professional benefits be eligible for MTA?
 - Will have to check SETC rules
- Professional Division
 - Need to know what professional theatres are in the state
 - What is the definition of professional
 - % paid
 - # hours of rehearsal
 - Recruit professional members to MTA
 - Workshop possibilities?
 - Maybe at MTA conduct a professional workshop
 - Lending Program
 - Community service
 - Work with colleges to cultivate more of a presence at SETC
 - MS Theatre Night
 - Discount tickets
 - Wednesdays with talkback
 - Quest to get Mississippi noticed more
 - Create “Talking Points” about Arts in Mississippi for website
- Individual Events
 - Secondary
 - Adults
 - Workshops on Saturday during after IEs
- Theatre for Youth
 - Lee contacting local school
 - Discussion of extending to a evening performance
 - Turning people away. Need more performance opportunity
- Secondary
 - MTA Teacher workshop
 - Columbus-MUW
 - Need proposals for workshops
 - 1st day logistics
 - 2nd day teacher intensive
 - Would like to do October 6/7
 - Rule adjustments
 - Standardizing rules between host schools
 - Using google docs allows different institutions to edit simultaneously

- Programs not standard
 - Standardize schools' programs
 - Students must be accompanied by school official
 - Supervisor must be representative of school district
 - Specify school official from DISTRICT/school
 - Students must be accompany
- 10-Minute
 - Students cannot participate in Secondary Festival
 - Students cannot participate in IEs
 - Writers can participate in IEs
- Middle School Festival
 - Adhoc committee for 2 years
 - 7 schools
 - Can middle-school aged students that are a community group participate?
 - Ask Suz about home-school groups or community groups
 - Can YAT participate?
- Other Meeting
 - Town Hall Meeting
 - SWAG is awesome
 - Light-up pens
 - Tshirts printed on-site
 - Techies do it in the dark
 - Campaign for slogans