

Minutes of the MTA Board Meeting
July 9, 2011
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College—Jeff Davis Campus

Present: Stephen Cunetto, Suz Allmon, Tom Hardy, Kelly Norris, Barbara Smith, Dex Edwards, Joe Frost, Janice Weaver, MJ Etua, Sandra Camphor, William Rester, Daisha Walker, Tonya Hays, and Ryan Pierini, host of 2012 MTA Festival.

Suz Allmon called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Each person present introduced himself/herself to the rest of the group.

Stephen Cunetto had distributed copies of the minutes from the May 21st meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Suz announced the resignation of Jody Engel from the position of MTA treasurer. Stephen said that Tom Hardy had the treasurer's materials and would keep them until a new treasurer is found.

Stephen presented the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed.

Stephen presented the plan for the day's activities: board business in the morning and a tour of festival venues in the afternoon. Local 2012 festival coordinators took this opportunity to ask about expenses for the adult and youth socials.

Stephen reported that MTA had received grant money from the Mississippi Arts Commission.

Stephen reported that there was a problem with Mississippi public schools having problems accessing the MTA website. Stephen said he would write a letter to the Mississippi Department of Education addressing the problem.

MJ Etua reported on the need for Mississippi Department of Education certification for drama teachers in Mississippi. She reported that certification is currently not required in the state, which means drama teaching positions are sometimes given to teachers with little or no theatre training. MJ, Suz, Stephen, and Sandra Camphor will move forward with an initiative to have board certification approved for drama teachers.

Stephen reported that he would apply for another grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Last year MTA received \$1,250, which was used for adjudicator expenses for the playwriting competition.

Stephen opened the floor for suggestions for sponsorships at the next festival. Stephen reminded the board of sponsorships for the 2011 festival. Tonya Hayes, Ryan Pierini, Daisha Walker, and Bill Rester all made suggestions of contacts they could make.

Tom Hardy reported that he had started accumulating items for the scholarship silent auction. Suggestions were made about possible items to be acquired from coast casinos as well as electronic devices such as iPods. It was also suggested that items be raffled off at the adult and youth socials.

Suz reported that the Awards Committee would continue its work in the coming months.

Barbara Smith reported that the Diversity Committee was trying get more involvement from black colleges and universities. Dex Edwards suggested Barbara use recruitment as a selling point when she approaches these schools.

Stephen reported on the town hall meeting held in Jackson on May 21st. He also stated that the next town hall meeting would be held that same afternoon with Diane Williams representing the MAC and Daisha Walker representing the MAAE.

Ryan Pierini and Tonya Hayes reported on preparations for the 2012 MTA festival. It was suggested that more chaperones be on hand for holding rooms during the high school individual events and that participating schools be required to provide judges. Ryan announced that the IE design competition would be held in the Jeff Davis MGCCC art gallery. There will be a competition for the 2012 festival logo with a \$50 prize—it was also suggested that a festival T-shirt be awarded to the winner.

Janice Weaver gave the Playwriting Committee report. The committee is currently promoting the next competition, and they are looking at an October 17th deadline for submissions. It was suggested that submissions for future festivals be required to address a broad theme to be determined for each festival

Dex Edwards gave the College/University Division report. He said that the division adjudicators would continue to travel to colleges and universities instead of holding a separate college/university festival. He announced that the design competition and auditions would be held on Thursday of the 2012 MTA festival.

Joe Frost gave the SETC State Auditions Committee report. He announced that this year's auditions will be held December 3-4 in Jackson. Stephen suggested Lee Kraus from MUW as a possible vice chair for the committee.

William Rester and Daisha Walker gave the Theatre for Youth report. They want to keep the level of plays presented at K through 6. It was suggested that teacher packets be prepared for each show. Bill and Daisha will put together forms to facilitate this.

MJ Etua gave the Secondary Division report. She announced that CEUs would be available for the 2012 festival. The next teachers' workshops will held September 30 & October 1 on the coast. It was suggested that the workshops be limited to 1½ days instead of a full 2 days. MJ asked for recommendations for workshop topics.

Barbara Smith gave the 10-Minute Play Festival report. She wants to encourage participants to bring supplies with them to the festival.

Reports from the Community Theatre Division, Professional Division, and the Individual Events Festival Committee were not given due to the absence of representatives from those groups.

Stephen reminded board members to review their division guidelines, which are posted on the MTA web site, to make sure that everything is correct. Any changes must be submitted to Stephen before August 1st.

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.