

Mississippi Theatre Association

Board Meeting Minutes

New Stage Theatre,

Jackson, MS

May 19, 2012

Attendance: Peppy Bidy, Tom Hardy, Janice Weaver, M.J. Etua, Bill Rester, Joe Frost, Tim Matheny, Carol Byrnes, Tom Booth, Thomas LaFoe, Daisha Walker, Chris Roebuck, Beth Kander, Myra Byrnes, Stephen Cunetto, and Suzanne Allmon.

Chris made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Daisha. Motion passed

Treasurer Report

- Explain policy for division of responsibility . Cunetto handles reconciling the accounts, balancing the statements and treasurer reviews the reports to provide accountability and oversight.
- Discussion of change of fiscal year: we will pursue the change (from calendar July 1-June 30)
- Beth suggested a year-end “ask”
- Carol suggested a car tag as fundraiser; Tom Booth will investigate.

A motion to approve budget was made by Bill Rester

Tom Booth seconded

The motion passed

Board Responsibilities/ Expectations/Role

- Officer listing information was updated
- Handbook needs to be updated online
- Gertrude C. Ford pursued for grant
- Long range plan to prepare for 2014-2019 (Currently in strategic plan for 2008-2013)

Executive Director Report

- There were over 600 in attendance @ MTA in 2012
- MAC Grants final reports have been submitted.
- IRS Filing for the association has been submitted.
- We are waiting to hear from the MAC regarding the Operating grant for the 2012-2013. We requested \$15K.

Old business

Handbook

- Stephen requested that everyone review the Handbook specifically their areas of responsibility to get it update-to-date with current practice. Each Division should bring forth updates/changes to the next meeting.
- The Officers discussed responsibility for updating the Handbook. It was decided that the Secretary will update handbook from this point forward.

Scholarship Committee

- CREATE foundation account is about \$6,000

- Treasurer will be the liaison from Scholarship Committee to Board

Awards Committee Update

- Any member can make an award nomination

SETC

- Mississippi was well represented with awards in Chattanooga
- Low application numbers for SETC scholarships
- 2014 SETC location is between Orlando and Mobile

New Business

South Drama Festival

- PAC @ USM not available 2012 due to renovations. It was also noted that the rental fee will increase in 2013.
- Saenger Theatre Downtown is one option. It handle by a separate company and we should know next week if it will be available.
- Petal High School is another good option, but Dramafest would overlap with school events
- It was announced that David Stellhorn, Technical Director at USM and long time technical director for the USM High School Drama Festival will be leaving in June. The group discussed a possible gift of appreciation/ (plaque). Hardy announced that he and Suz will host a dinner for David. It was also discussed that we should request letters from teachers to honor David.
- A motion was made to award David Stellhorn with our "Outstanding Contributions" award for the college/university division. Thomas LaFoe made the motion and Daisha seconded the motion.
- Motion carried

2013 MTA Festival Location is Mississippi University for Women. Peppy Bidy will be the festival coordinator.

Workshops

- Fall workshop October 5-6 in Columbus
- Dec 1 and 2 (SETC state possibility)

Division Reports

- College/university – revival of ACTF for Mississippi aimed for Fall 2013
- Tech audition will be an added option for high school students at MTA 2013.

SETC – Preliminary auditions will probably be Dec 1 and 2 and probably @ APAC again

Community Theater

- Idea to offer two workshops per year in opposite end of states
- Goal: update list of links of community theatres and their websites
- Address complaints about adjudicators at festival
- It was recommended that MTA follow the AACT festival guidelines every year rather than only during an AACT Festival year. The group agreed to move forward with this.

Profession

- Chris discussed some possible options for long term goals for the division. He said he would talk with Francine and others to explore options and develop some goals.
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Theatre for Youth

Daisha said she will review and develop some goals for Theatre for Youth.

Secondary

- MJ suggested that community theatres offer CEU possibilities for secondary teachers. It was also suggested that we straighten out the CEU procedure for teachers attending the festival. Stephen announced that paper forms would be handed out and collected at the festival to insure that teachers get everything completed in a timely manner.
- Teachers need to be encouraged to submit lesson plans for the website.
- Stephen and Suz announced that many of the things for long-range planning need to be changed. Dates for objectives will be reworked.
- The next MTA secondary and community theatre workshops will be held October 5 & 6, 2012.
- Thomas La Foe, MJ Etua, and Juniper Wallace will work together to do a needs assessment for offering a separate festival for youth theatre groups that are not affiliated with schools--e.g. Wings, Actor's Playhouse, etc.

A motion to adjourn was made . Motion carried.