

Mississippi Theatre Association
Board Meeting
New Stage Theatre, Jackson
Saturday, May 15th, 2010

Peppy Bidy recorded the minutes for the Board Meeting. All members of the Executive Committee were present: Stephen Cunetto, Thomas Hardy, Suzanne Allmon, Stacy Howell, Tom Booth, and Peppy Bidy. The topic discussed was fundraising. Tom Booth made the motion to move forward with the “president’s campaign” to fund scholarships with past- presidents forming committee. Thomas Hardy seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Executive Committee and Mississippi Public Broadcasting Partnership have entered into a partnership for future broadcasts of selected Mississippi theatre productions. The two groups will confer to define application process and checklist. Executive Committee and Mississippi Public Broadcasting Partnership will make a unified decision.

The next Town Hall Meeting is to be held in Greenwood, Ms. on June 5th, 2010. There is a need to find a new venue.

At 10am the full MTA Board met.

Members that were present were Barbara Smith, Dex Edwards, Craig Helmuth, Thomas La Foe, Alison Stafford, Rhona Justice-Malloy, Beth Kander, Mandy Kinney, William Rester, Daisha Walker, Sherri Marengo and Chris Roebuck. Members not present were Kelly Norris, Tim Matheny, Tonya Hays, Sandra F. Camphor and Lisa Phillips.

The meeting was called to order by Stacy Howell at 10 a.m.

Old Business

Introductions were made.

Tom Booth made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and Suzanne Allmon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Hardy presented the Income Report.

Craig Helmuth made a motion to accept the Income Report and Daisha Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was announced that each Division had participated in a conference call, and each division was encourage to write a blog.

Congratulations was given to Suzanne Allmon who was awarded the Thad Cochran Distinguished Arts Educator Award (Theatre) and to Robin Carr who was awarded the Excellence in Higher Education Award by the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.

Discussed grant applications and partnerships.

Long Range Plans document was presented.

Suzanne Allmon discussed the Handbook updates.

Tom Hardy presented the Scholarship Committee report. He presented the report as a motion. Tom Booth seconded the motion. There was a discussion, changes were made in the motion and the motion was carried for those changes.

Tom Booth shared funding ideas for scholarships that would prevent future scholarship money being pulled from the general fund. The idea was to form a new “presidents” fund foundation.

Awards Committee: Suzanne Allmon made a recommendation from the Awards committee to define new awards to include “outstanding achievement” and “spotlight awards.” Chris Roebuck motioned to accept the recommendation and Daisha Walker seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

These are all done by nomination process and the board decides.

- Lifetime Achievement we kind of already have - the Cowboy Maloney Award
- Outstanding Service Award (volunteers, or someone who goes above and beyond for MTA or their theatre or a company that helps out the arts)
- Spotlight Awards (based on special local or state wide achievement- could be community service as long as it involves theatre) in the following categories: College/ University, Community Theatre, High School Theatre, Theatre for Youth (community theatre high school age maybe????) Spotlight awards could be individual or organizations

Barbara Smith, Diversity Committee: presented the mission statement of Committee of Cultural Diversity.

SETC Report by Tom Booth: SETC is in the process of long range planning. Tom discussed Mississippi Committee representation and announced that SETC has voted to increase the fee of membership and conventions.

New Business

2011 Festival: Stacy Howell and Stephen Cunetto announced the Riley Center in Meridian, MS as the location of 2011 Festival. There also was discussion of the festival in 2012.

Workshops: Stacy Howell discussed workshop ideas for high school and community divisions.

Mississippi Writers Guild: Stephen Cunetto discussed cross promotion partnership for the Mississippi Writers Guild.

Playwriting Committee: Beth Kander reported that there is a high interest in adult competition. She introduced: H.O.N.E. Skills. (How to...Other opportunities..., Next step, and Experience.) Beth discussed the low attendance at MTA and asked how to increase attendance. She announced the Oct. 1 deadline

College/University: Dex and Peppy summarized their breakout meeting. It doesn't look like there will be a ACTF Festival in the fall, as university budgets are still tight. A suggestion to have a "state wide faculty" meeting in place of festival was made. Dex is now the Chair of this division.

SETC State Auditions, Allison Stafford and Rhona Justice-Malloy: Allison discussed last year's numbers being up, mostly out of region. (160/35) In order to even out the numbers of in-state vs, out-of-region numbers, she presented the idea of starting the out of region auditions on Saturday afternoon.

Community Theatre: Craig Helmuth and Thomas La Foe discussed issues concerning scheduling and rehearsal time. They are working on the manual. Also discussed: joint workshops and secondary.

Professional Division, Chris Roebuck announced Mississippi Theatre night at New Stage Theatre as May 26 with offer of discount.

Individual Events, Sherri Marengo expressed the desire to have more participation and consistency in future I.E.s.

Theatre for youth, Bill Rester addressed concerns on the report for the 2010 Festival including the audience/age appropriateness of some of the participating productions. He also discussed awards.

Secondary

Mandy Kinney raised questions about a central region as well as looking to define secondary (should it include after-school and community programs?) She will discuss within committee and make proposal in July. The question arose as how can the Mississippi Theatre Association serve the nine groups that are neither secondary nor community theatres. It was suggested that the nine groups need to make a proposal to MTA.

10-Minute Play Festival

Barbara Smith discussed the need to return to the original intent of a 10-minute play as an event which includes only those students who do not partake in any other events. She also discussed the need for chaperones from every school that is represented. She commented on some directors who are not prepared for the task.

The next meeting will be July 24, 2010 in Meridian Mississippi.