

**Mississippi Theatre Association**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**

**May 17, 2008**

**9:00am**

**New State Theatre**  
**Jackson, MS**

**Present:** Stephen Cunetto, Tom Booth, Stacy Howell, Suzanne Allmon  
**Missing:** Chris Wooten, MJ Etua

**Review of goals and objectives** (Tom Booth)

- Town Hall Meetings – wants to get these going again in June TCT
- Publicity on MPB
- Mission focus – not just the festival but to offer things to each division

**Discussion of Chairs/ Vice Chairs** (Tom Booth)

Suz/ Stacy/ Tom – discussion that chairs/vice chairs need to be at meetings and each committee may need assistants too

**Discussion of partnerships with organizations**

MAAE

MAC

Day At the Capital, etc.

Board needs to become very active with our legislature (Tom/Stephen)

Discussion of MAC handouts (Stephen)

Idea of Advocacy committee – may need to create (Stephen)

**Long Range Planning:** Tom wants to pursue setting up another planning session

Where we are and where we are trying to go

-long range planning- 2 to 4 hr session mtg.

- summer meeting date – late July in Natchez

**Calendar of events tabled**

**Review of MTA manual** (Tom)

All board members need to Read by laws

All board members need to read manual...especially the section for your division.

**Suz/ Stephen – Treasurer's report**

-Southern Arts Federation

Tom – Sidebar – SETC community theatre issues (awards)

-Discussion of moving money into a money market acct./ vote by board to do so.

-Stacy motioned to do money market/ Suz seconded – amount and location to be decided by Stephen and Suz – All in favor

Stephen – tax issues with the changing of the fiscal year/ discussion to change calendar and bylaws back to the original form

Tom/ Stephen/ Stacy – going to look at Natchez for next years festival

Discussion about adjudicators for secondary and community (Stacy Howell)

Website / redo and update. Proposed to hire someone to help with the updating. Agreed to pay \$250 to the individual to assist in redesign. (Stephen)

## **Board Meeting**

10:30 a.m.

### **Members Present:**

Everyone present except Anita Boyd, Scott Waldrop, and Chris Wooten

### **Introduction / Welcome by Tom Booth:**

Mention of advocacy, mission statement, and to be vested in your area and to communicate with the community

### **Orientation:**

- reading of mission statement, introductions of chairs/vice chairs and executive officers
- discussion of how the meetings are important for everyone to attend
- Advocacy – need to invite legislative members to local productions and educate them on the value of the arts. Need to work within each division to further develop advocacy.
- Calendar of events -
- Manual of operations – bylaws and division manuals. Each Chair should maintain the manuals and review bylaws.
- Long term goals – want a planning session meeting for this
- MJ – question about IEF’s – are they their own identity or do they fall under the community division and secondary. It was decided that they are their own identity
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**Minutes last meeting** - Disperse with reading of minutes – motion by Suz and Peppy seconded

### **Treasurer Report – Suz/ Stephen**

Stephen – explained reports / discussion of a portion going into money market acct. Motion to accept financial report – Stacy / Juniper and Kenneth seconded

Tom – IRS – calendar year discussion to switch by laws and calendar year back to what it was previously / Tom recommended to go back and to amend the bylaws at next meeting

### **Old Business:**

Sight for next year – Natchez being looked at

Stacy – Adjudicators – nothing set yet- no more in July Suggested – Chris Rich/ Mark Dunn/ Scott Burkell/ Ray McFarland/ Tommy Newman/ Robert Lee

Tom – Discussion of Secondary Festival on Friday and Community on Sat.

- Juniper – agreed that would be good for secondary and concern of content of shows
- Suggested that regional rep’s report content of “winners” to MTA.
- Festival will be MLK Jr. weekend

## Executive Report

- Stephen – Festival report / division chair report/ newsletter online versus mail out/ discussion of website having a blog feature.
- MAC grant applied for \$15000 received \$9,000 last year waiting to hear for next year.
- SonEdna Foundation –foster literacy figures or Delta – workshop / scenes from show – MTA would fund
- Playwriting Competition – 2008 festival report – 17 scripts- 8 individuals “adjudicated” – top 5 to final adjudicators winner James Pfreham from Millsaps received \$500 – the addition to the festival was well received
- Lot of interest in reading the scripts afterward that were turned in for the playwriting festival
- Website Design – redesign and hire someone to help overhaul the website to make it more interactive
- sponsor ships – looking for statewide co. that might want to help sponsor festival

## Divisions Reports

- College division Peppy Bidy – ACTF – week long festival / difficulty finding someone to host –USM/ WCU will do a show the same weekend and prepare the individuals going forward in Irene Ryan and design events
  - New guidelines on performing – 2 adjudicators can see show in home space
- Community Theatre -- Kenneth McDade – updating list of community theatres/ workshops date trying to set/ Rusty will teach lighting 101 in workshop/ looking for volunteers for workshop sessions
  - Stacy brings up a “cap” on community registration and then having an alternate list
- Secondary – Juniper – discussion of IEF problems but MJ will address them later – Issues with the North and the South being different – issues the committee should deal with and report back later
  - Community groups, such as WINGS, Actor’s Anonymous – where do they fit?
- State Auditions – Allison –run audition changes – move to 2 days (Dec. 6 and 7) 6<sup>th</sup> would be instate and 7<sup>th</sup> would be out of state
- 10 Min. – Jennifer – confusion with judges at festival and need tech available / Issue with content was brought up but nothing really decided
- IEF – MJ – ballot being revised by committee/ judges – each school bringing 1 eligible judge/ having a judges meeting to explain ballot and process/ Rules of Adult and Youth should be aligned/ cannot use a show that you are competing with in design competition
  - Change “Community” to Adult IE’s and “Secondary” to Youth IE’s

- Adult categories – monol/duet music/ solo music/ duet acting/ publicity/set/ costumes/ web design/ original script- judge the script and not acting – change it so no one acts the scene out – it is read and judged
  - -Professional division- Francine- need to define “professional theatre”
- MS participation and MAC day at the capital
  - Workshops mentioned for MTA
  - Dex mentioned that lots of professionals would be happy to do workshops for teachers or the festival if asked
  - It was noted that Tonya Hays won the Governor’s Award.
  - Deadline for all division changes and committee reports is July 1.
  - MAAE offer recognition opportunities.
  - MTA has provided in the past the Cowboy Maloney Award. This was given to individuals for their outstanding contributions to MTA and theatre in Mississippi. This has not been given in several years. Maloney family was approached several times but they have not been interested in supporting. The group discussed the possibility of changing the name. No consensus was reached.
  - Other MTA committees were discussed. PR Committee, Scholarship Committee, Workshop Committee.
  - Also discussed the possibility of recognizing people within our organization that make significant contributions to MS theatre.
  - It was recommended that we have a CEU Committee to be in charge of Educational component. Lesson plans online, professional development, etc. No action taken on this topic. It was pointed out that the Secondary Division had been charged with this several times in the past but no progress had been made.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Suz Allmon, Stacy Howell and Stephen Cunetto for Secretary (Chris Wooten).