

Iowa Community Theatre Association

The Iowa Community Theatre Association met July 13, 2013, at the Webster City Community Theatre.

Present: President Rick Myers, Vice President Jason Paul, Secretary Peggy Brown, Treasurer Gerard Schwickerath, Loween Getter, Bobbi Lutzen, Pam Ratliff, and Cheryl Zieringer. arriving at 12:50 P.M. Helen Beneke and Julie Karns. Absent: Carol Bellairs, Molly Ketchum, Donna Smithson & Mel Wilson.

President Rick called the meeting to order at 11:15 A.M. He stated the minutes of the last meeting were published in Center Stage and need not be read. Gerard made a motion, second by Jason, the minutes be approved as published. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. All questions were answered. Gerard reported an increase in theatre membership as well as individual memberships.

Ankeny Theatre and Windor Theatre have completed the projects for which Boutin grants were approved. The Boutin grant process was explained to the new board members. Jason moved, with a second from Loween, to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Gerard stated he had prepared the information needed to file for 501(c)3 status. An attorney is needed to review and approve the information. The necessary information included documentation that ICTA is operating as a non-profit corporation. It is not a corporation set up by wealthy individuals for personal benefits. Rick volunteered to talk with a friend for assistance in the matter. Later in the meeting Helen stated her husband is an attorney and would be happy to do this review. The information will be forwarded to Helen

Cheryl will talk with Evan regarding a website.

Jason reported on ideas for the Center Stage newsletter. Concern was shared with the cost of the project. Jason reported that he had worked with Alpha Copies; they can publish the newsletter in a booklet format. More theatres are submitting information for the newsletter, membership is increasing, and the cost is too much for someone to print on their personal computer. Jason reported it would cost nothing to mail the newsletter electronically; however, there a number of members who wish to have a hard copy. Gerard made a motion that Jason research the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and that the board approve a cost of up to \$200 per mailing. Discussion will occur at the next board meeting. Pam gave a second. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Jason reported a number of theatres have contacted him regarding placing an ad in the Center Stage. Some were non-member theatres. Considerable discussion occurred regarding defining an ad verses an article describing events occurring at their theatre, sizes and structure of ads, and a price list. Gerard made a motion, second by Bobbi, that Jason write up a definition of the structure of the ads, pricing, and definition of ads vs. articles, e-mail to all members before the next meeting so a decision can be made. Motion carried.

The open board position was briefly discussed. Jason made a motion, second by Peg, to keep the position open until the membership meeting in June 2014. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Members were asked to be thinking of potential members from those parts of the state not represented well. After some discussion, suggestion was made to appoint an Ad Hoc Membership Development

Committee whose responsibility would be to seek new individual members and theatre memberships. Committee appointments are Donnalea Burns, Bobbi Lutzen, Julie Karns, Loween Getter, Rick Myers with Jason Paul serving as Chairman.

Rick pointed out it is important to have a board member serve as liaison between the convention and/or festival chairman and the board. Julie will serve that role for convention in Red Oak in June 2014. Mention was also made it would be helpful to provide feedback to the festival/convention site following the event. An Ad Hoc committee of Mel, Carol and Helen was named to write a review of the 2013 Newton Festival. Suggestions for improvement should be included.

Julie reported June 21, 2014, will be the date of the ICTA Convention to be held in Red Oak at the Performing Arts Center. A motel has been contacted to hold a block of rooms, restaurants have been contacted and workshop discussion has occurred. Suggestion was made to have more than a one day event, perhaps a tour of special sites in Red Oak or Shenandoah. Shenandoah will be presenting the production "Smoke on the Mountain Home Coming" that week-end. Social events are not to be forgotten.

Jason stated he felt the ICTA board should meet more often than quarterly. There are activities in progress now that need discussion and follow-up. It was suggested that SKYPE capabilities could be used. Jason stated he would be willing to visit with all members to set up an ideal time for a telephone conference. Jason made a motion, second by Cheryl, that monthly telephone meetings be held as needed in between the quarterly meetings, have a 2-month trial period before final approval. Motion carried.

Loween will check with a friend in the pottery business about a different idea for the awards presented at the Gala. The current goblets given away cost \$25. each.

Discussion was held about transferring \$10,000 of the Boutin funds into an account that will render 2% interest. Jason made a motion, second by Helen, that \$10,000 from the Boutin Fund be transferred. Motion carried.

Rick lead a discussion regarding the purpose of the ICTA and what improvements can be made. Following an interesting segment, all agreed that ICTA should be the eye of community theatre.

The next meeting to discuss the Boutin Grant Applications will be November 2, 2013, at the Wilson Performing Arts Center in Red Oak at 11:00 a.m. The Boutin grant application deadline is October 25, 2013.

Gerard made a motion, second by Jason, to adjourn. Rick closed the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Rick had a picture of the board taken. Loween then gave a tour of their theatre addition to all who were interested.

Peggy Brown, Secretary