

Vice-president Helen Beneke convened the Iowa Community Theatre Board at 12:05 P. M. on May 13, 2017, in the Ankeny Community Theatre. Other board members in attendance were Tracy Rhodes, Norman Ussery, Jason Paull, Mel Wilson, Molly Ketchum, Loween Getter, Gerard Schwicherath, Donna Smithson, Bobbi Lutzen, and host Cheryl Clark. Because of other commitments, John Olson was electronically tuned in to the meeting. Minutes of the March 18 board meeting were read by Secretary Donna. Jason moved acceptance; Norman seconded; carried. Treasurer Gerard presented the treasurer's report. Questions were answered regarding memberships, outstanding bills, and the amount received through the 50/50 fund-raising event conducted at state festival. Gerard has been investigating institutions in which to invest some assets, such as the L. K. Boutin principal, and has found one which he thinks will provide a much higher percentage for interest.

Donna asked about whether or not Iowa has been paying the five dollars per registration that was to be added on to help alleviate the expenses of the Region V representative to AACT. John thought this was only to be added to registrations at regional festivals and not state ones. Donna, as the Iowa representative, suggested she contact Jim Walker and Nancy Eppert to clarify when these funds are to be collected and presented. Gerard moved that if it were only to be at a regional festival, Iowa could now contribute \$100 if we had not done this at the time we hosted the festival. If it were to be paid for the state festival, we could contribute \$300. Jason moved; Cheryl C. seconded; carried. No action will be taken until the matter is clarified.

A general discussion was held regarding the 2017 Region V Festival which was held in Brainerd, Minnesota, on April 27-30. Board members able to attend were Mel, Loween, John, and Donna. There were eight entries: two each from Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa, and one each from Kansas and South Dakota. Iowa was proudly represented by Newton Community Theatre who was awarded the spot of first alternate to national competition and Southwest Iowa Community Theatre who won the second alternate spot. The two advancing shows were both from Minnesota. Facilities and personnel were highly praised; a preference would have been for noon and night meals on site to facilitate more networking; two states had entries whereby there had been no state festivals because of lack of interested theaters in participating, but these entries were adjudicated individually in their own theaters to determine their competence.

Helen will contact Marshalltown to request a report on the Iowa Festival regarding attendance, finances, et cetera. These people were also praised for their attention to detail, friendliness, et cetera with again disappointment in having to go off the premises to find food. A discussion, with no decision, occurred regarding having theaters who won awards at the Gala, but no one from the theater was present to accept the award.

Jason, speaking for the committee to set dates for the next convention and festival, said he will survey for sites and dates. Loween said that Webster City would be willing to host the 2018 Convention and had suggestions of some special speakers she could arrange for the workshops. A group was also discussed for a performance whereby the ICTA board members could use the review sheets and each review the production and then meet later to compare their results and discuss why the choices were made. However, the third weekend of March would not work for them. Cheryl suggested that attendance at events would probably be enlarged if these dates for festival and convention were the same every year so that the member theaters could infuse them into their own calendars. At the March meeting the third weekend in March had been selected for these annual events. Based upon Loween's offer and suggested topics, Jason moved that the next convention be held on the weekend of March 23-24 in Webster City; Gerard seconded; carried.

Norman brought up the confusion about what constitutes an ensemble. This has been discussed before with a defined response of ensemble from Regional Representative Nancy Eppert. It needs to be clearly spelled out on the review form. Other thoughts were discussed, especially as to how many supporting actors and actresses could be nominated in one production. Did the number nominated and/or the number of reviewers effect who was the winner in that category?

Jason has been experimenting with some computer programs to find one which would serve the board well in distributing, receiving, and recording information regarding the review sheets used in the Iowa Excellence in Awards program. Several questions were asked regarding how limiting a computer program might be in the number of nominations in one category - especially in supporting actor or actress, changes the theater could make in what person was nominated, how secure the system would be as far as board member-dedicated, et cetera. The program also would allow for registration at events, treasurer's information, connection with Pay Pal, and several other options. Jason is going to send a sample to each ICTA board member to use for personal experimenting. Members encouraged him to continue in his endeavors of investigation and to share with each board member what he thinks would be a usable system so the board members could also experiment with it before making a decision.

The next meeting will be held at Newton Community Theatre on August 19, 2017, at 12:00 with lunch at the theater. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Smithson, Secretary