

**SOUTHEASTERN THEATRE CONFERENCE, INC.**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Hilton Atlanta Downtown, Crystal Ballroom

Atlanta, GA

**March 6, 2011**

ExCom Members in attendance: President, Alan Litsey; Programming Vice President, Steve Bayless; Administrative Vice-President, Dawn Larsen; Secretary, Mark Charney; Treasurer, Tom Booth; State Representative Rep, Leslie Dellinger; Community Theatre Rep, Lynn Nelson; Past President, Beth Harvey (proxy for Chip Egan)

Board Members: Alabama State Rep, Michael Howley; Florida State Rep, Donna White GA State Rep, Dean Slusser; KY State Rep, Kathi Ellis; Joseph Frost, MS (absent); NC State Chair, David Schram; SC State Chair, Leslie Dellinger; TN State Chair, Darren Michael; VA State Chair, Mike Hudson; WVA State Chair, Greg Mach; Secondary Division Chair, David Giambrone; Theatre for Youth Chair, John Spiegel; College and University Chair, Lesley Preston;

Also in Attendance: Executive Director, Betsey Baun; Finance Committee and Nominations Chair, David Wohl; Past Secretary and Task Force, Tiza Garland; Denise Halbach; Long Range Planning, Dennis Wemm; Chair of Stage Management, Patricia Crotty; Chair of Ballew Award; Karen Brewster, Vice Chair of College and University; Getchell Chair and Publications, Chris Hardin; Secondary Division, Elaine Malone; Chair of Design/Tech, Michael Barnett; Anthony Haigh; Porterfield Award, Pat Gagliano

9:13 a.m. Convene

1. Announcement of Taping and Roll Call (Secretary: *Mark Charney*)
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian (Past President: *John Spiegel*)
3. Executive Report: *Betsey Baun*: Feedback about the festival so far was positive. Excellent programming. Keynotes exciting. Asked us to send feedback to Central Office. Wants Positives, Potential (what we are missing), and Challenges. Few of the challenges: Exhibit Hall—Exhibitors positioned near the front were happy, and those in back were not. Some exhibitors were out of traffic line (we need to increase traffic in exhibit hall). Another challenge: price of coffee. We need hospitality for the professional companies. Thanked Central Office for operations and everyone who sent students to excellent Dream Team. Will send final count in a few weeks.
4. Ginger Willis thanked everyone for coming and wants to hear feedback.
5. Alan thanked Ginger for her ongoing and exceptional work. Betsey thanked Ginger as well, especially for the banquet that was beautifully designed and executed.

**Action Items**

1. *Tom Booth*: Defers to Finance Chair Jack Benjamin. Budget distributed earlier. Only change: no individual lines for salary of Central Office. Asks ExCom get their recommendation to FinCom by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussed extensively.
2. **MOTION for Acceptance of Budget: Approved.**

### **Items for Discussion**

1. *Steve Bayless*: Reminded us that SETC will hold firm with September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for programming submissions to best facilitate the organization of the conference. Also, Steve encouraged folks to recommend Guest Artists and Speakers and asked anyone with problems to come directly to him. Tiza Garland pointed to a problem with folks who submit three workshops hoping to have one accepted; she believes that SETC should make it clear to the presenters that they may be accepted for all three of their workshops.

Leslie Dellinger reported that individuals at State meetings expressed a desire to find a method allowing them to see what they wrote on the proposal and save the information. Next year—no students can propose a session unless their professors work with them. Other issues—John Spiegel asked if proposals can be checked for several categories. Discussed graduate student participation.

2. *Leslie Dellinger*:
  - a) Professional and Secondary folks would like to attend the State Meetings. Could we make the meetings 6 instead of 5:30? Also asked for a break in the Secondary Division so that some of the folks could attend both? State Meetings should ideally be more accessible for Secondary and Professional members. Discussion resulted in desired programming that would allow each state to choose their own time and day for their state meeting.
  - b) Vendors were not thrilled with the venue. Companies would like to talk to professors about the students who they are interviewing. Ginger mentioned that the Job Contact folks don't have time to visit the Commercial Exhibits, and suggested that we split the jobs based on summer, year long, professional categories, etc.
  - c) A conflict that occurred at the Ten Minute Play Festival was handled by a member of the Dream Team, but it was thought that it should have been handled by a Chair in charge of the event. Also, adult content in the ten-minute play festival was discussed. Discussion resulted in plan to post signage about potentially adult or mature language and content that may offend, as well as announce this possibility at the beginning of the event.
  - d) State reps felt that we need to be open about Strategic Planning. Alan asks for folks to communicate on the phone, not email.
  - e) Discussion of chaperones: Does the director count as a chaperone? How many chaperones do schools require? —one for every 6, 8, or 10 students? Need for a consistent policy. Because of the diversity in the number of chaperones per school, there is often confusion. Proposal by Secondary Division Chair that

Chaperones should pay full registration. Show passes would be sold at the festival site for \$25 each.

3. *Lynn Nelson*: Discussed ways to improve audition process, numbers, etc.

### **Items of Interest**

1. *Leslie Dellinger*: Darren Michael voted in as State Rep Alternate. Joe Frost will replace Tom Booth as MS state rep. Expressed desire for a list of adjudicators. Recommended that SETC scholarship information be mentioned in state newsletters to help promote scholarships.

### *Unfinished Business*

#### *New Business*

1. *David Giambrone*: Renewed call for being advocates for SETC working for importance of theatrical arts in the school from the Secondary Division.
2. *John Spiegel*: Starting a theatre youth division FB page to help with advocacy. Contact SETC Theatre for Youth Division to join. Betsey reminded the group to join the Americans for the Arts organization. Kathi Ellis asked Betsey to send this to other constituents so they may join.
3. *Tony Haigh*: Mentioned that Ben Cameron has “all the numbers on top of his head” that may help with arts advocacy. Michael Howley suggested co-hosting a webinar with Americans for the Arts at SETC. Kathi mentioned April 11 and 12 Arts Advocacy day in DC. SETC should be represented.
4. *Dennis Wemm*: Appreciated two sessions for long range planning, where there was a free and candid discussion about the future. Also reported a proposal to reconfigure the long range planning committee, changing the nominations process, and by law changes (longer business meeting next spring). Asked committee chairs to review mailing lists, numbers, emails.
5. *Tiza Garland*: Lee Crouse from MS University for Women wants to become more involved.
6. *Steve Bayless*: Reminded us that if a committee chair is being changed Alan needs to know immediately.
7. *Betsey Baun*: Asked for all updated contact information. We have old cell numbers, etc.
8. *Tony Haigh*: Feels like lapsed members need to be reminded of registration, the conference, and other SETC business/meetings.
9. *Alan Litsey*: Thanked everyone. Reminded them that committees will be assigned, chairs, etc. Appreciates guidance and constant feedback.

ADJOURNED: 10:30