

Ouachita Little Theatre Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2019

Board Members Present: Rudi Timmerman, Scotty Jenkins, Bill Hays, Lamar Austin, Jane Buttermilk, Jessica Kropp, Alexa Night, Julie Ulmer

Absent: Judy Kropp, Amanda Baker, Jackie Biard, Robby Burt, Mike Moe

Guests: Beth McMillan (office), Michael Cate (membership chair)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from last meeting were sent out electronically and available at the meeting for anyone who hadn't had a chance to read them. Jane made a motion we accept the minutes as written, Lamar seconded, and it was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bill gave the report and it is attached. The Arvest general fund balance stands at \$4735.82, The Arvest Pay Pal account is around \$200, Union Bank has a balance of \$2997.78, First Financial is \$2413.14. JOLT has a balance of \$3370.07. Bill asked for approval to spend \$25 to the county to display the American Flag on federal holidays. Permission granted by acclamation.

Division Reports:

Just for Fun Players - Rudi met with John and Denni about the Valentine's event often held in conjunction with our winter play. As "Midsummer Night's Dream" will not fit in to the right schedule or space provided at Mena Mountain Resort, they are looking into other alternatives which may or may not include OLT members.

JOLT - Alexa said the Best Christmas Pageant is going very well despite a lot of illness in the cast. Publicity is starting next week in the papers and radio.

Lyric Players - no report

Office - see attached for details regarding Beth's financial income report. We took in \$1924 last month.

Production: Still waiting for financial results for Chekhov plays, probably took in about \$400. There was some discussion involving a lewd "joke" inserted in the play as there were several complaints from our patrons resulting in displeasure from several members of the board. Also, the misogynistic tone of the 18th century play was unpopular with some theatergoers and board members as well. It was encouraged that submitted plays be read by the entire play selection committee to get a widespread opinion on the appropriateness as well as potential local interest of all play selections. Robby sent a report that "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will begin rehearsals December 17. Show will be February 21-23 and February 28-March 1. Cast has been chosen and announced via email.

Concessions - movie nights and major events providing a steady income for concessions.

Publicity - going well, will begin BCPE next week. Auditions for Midsummer N.D. publicized earlier this month.

Play Selection - Lamar is soliciting for scripts. Several plays were suggested for a fall drama including 12 Angry Men (or a mixed gender cast, 12 Angry Jurors); To Kill a Mockingbird, and some other titles the committee is going to look at. For a Christmas play in 2020, "Elf" with

an adult cast was mentioned as well as checking into a full-length version of “A Charlie Brown Christmas” and “A Tuna Christmas.” Michael Cate has talked with Dr. Cynthia Perkins who is interested in directing musicals again, maybe for spring of 2021 reprising her earlier direction of “Oklahoma” or possibly something else.

House: Scotty is trying to get the green room finished ASAP, but his time is more limited right now to work, so he asked for patience. Rudi said it might be necessary to have a clean-up day to work on the Dragon Room; there are a lot of things “appearing” in there that no one seems to know from whence it came.

Costumes: Deni Westfall is costuming “Christmas Pageant” and helping Jane. Gayle Krahn who designed the hair and wigs for “Always Patsy Cline” is working sometimes as a consultant for period style hair.

Membership: Michael has been out and about visiting with businesses and professionals about possibly sponsoring some of our productions. He is making good contacts for the future.

Outreach: The Halloween downtown trick or treat went well. Thanks to Jessica Kropp’s students for helping out with the games, and to Scotty and crew for organizing the event. 1500 pieces of candy and 300 wristbands were given out. Next movie night will be “White Christmas.” An opinion from a former board member was made known to Julie that perhaps movie night attendance would pick up if we offered more avant-garde or non-traditional movies that people are less familiar with. The general consensus of the board was we should stay with popular choices, so we will continue with that trend.

New Business:

Grace Bible Church thanked us for letting us use the theater for their movie event. They donated \$200 to the theater and \$50 to Makayla for running the concession stand and movie.

Sweet Emporium would like to take out a one-year lease for Suite A. Approval was given by acclamation.

Rudi took care of the Wild Apricot/Pay Pal situation discussed last meeting.

Harmony will perform a free Christmas concert on December 21. We will take up donations and split the money 50/50 with the group.

Jonathan Len (formerly of Blend, now a soloist) has asked to play January 10 at the theater. Rudi will pursue his offer and make sure he doesn’t need any set design to be moved, and also if he is agreeable to a 50/50 split on the ticket sales. If he agrees, we will move forward with publicity.

We agreed that we will substitute an email meeting as necessary for the December meeting and not physically meet again until January 16.

Bill made the motion we adjourn, Lamar seconded it, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

