

## **Minutes for OLT Meeting**

July 15, 2021

**Members Present:** Scotty Jenkins, Brad Storey, Bill Hays, Lamar Austin, Jered Biard, Julie Ulmer, Amanda Baker, Rudi Timmerman. Guest: Michael Cate.

**Members absent:** Robby Burt, Judy Kropp, Jessica Kropp, Justin Richmond, Makayla Kenyon Ortiz, Jackie Biard, Gayle Krahn.

President Scotty Jenkins opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

The minutes from last meeting were passed out, read and approved by acclamation.

(Note: There was a little variation in order of the agenda due to some members and our guest possibly needing to leave before the meeting would conclude.)

**House Report:** Discussion on Suite A. Scotty updated us the work necessary for to keep Suite A operational. It is extensive, but all agreed it was necessary and requires urgent attention. We have received a bid from Jason Miles of Miles Construction for \$8,996 but we could save \$500 is we paint the office ourselves. Brad volunteered to organize a group of volunteer painters from among our board members (and possibly others) to do the painting. Bill motioned that we accept the bid for \$8,496 for Miles Construction to do the remodel, Jered seconded, and the motion passed.

The new doors between the lobby and theater are installed for a bargain price of \$1343 with quality work by Ian Dobbs. Everyone is pleased with the result.

**New Business #1** Guest Michael Cate, who serves as our fundraising chairman, made a proposal to help us in our fundraising efforts that also involves promotion of his business. Michael is a representative of Sun Pro Solar Energy and he offered to become a major OLT donor on behalf of the company. He suggested making a \$500 donation per year to take out a ½ page black and white ad in each of our programs as well as the promotion that goes on the screen before performances as we do for our other corporate donors. In addition, for every referral he gets from the OLT programs, he will donate \$1000 to Ouachita Little Theatre. After much discussion, and Michael adequately answering our questions on how this would work, any obligation we would owe, etc., his offer was well received by the board. It opened up another discussion as to the equity of allowing anyone to take advantage of a half page ad. Rudi made a motion that we open up a new membership category entitled “Premiere Commercial Sponsor” which would give all the usual perks of a commercial donor with the addition of a ½ page black and white ad that is open to any of our commercial sponsors. Lamar seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. For the unique arrangement Michael proposed for his \$1000 donation for referrals, he needs one person to serve as the collector on behalf of OLT and the board decided our Treasurer would be the natural person to serve in this capacity. Bill made a motion that he would, as Treasurer, accept this responsibility, seconded by Rudi, and the motion carried.

**Financial Report:** The Operating Fund (ARVEST) has a current balance of \$1,039.46. The Concession account has \$3026.28, and the building fund has a balance of \$18,900.

**New Business #2** There was discussion and concern of the high amount of absenteeism we have had among our board members. Scotty was willing to exercise the president’s authority to remove an inactive member. It was suggested he talk to that member personally before making a decision. He also reported that Jackie Biard was considering resigning from the board due to a conflict of her work

schedule. It was suggested that Alexa Night fill in the opening on the board left open by Justin Richmond since she will be our office worker when Will Hose moves away. Rudi made a motion that we appoint Alexa in the next board vacancy. Amanda seconded the motion and it carried.

“Little Women” is going well according to Director Alexa Night who reported through a board member.

**Publicity Report:** Julie reported that Alexa has left Little Women flyers with the board to pass out. Articles will be written, and ads will be taken out for two weeks just like we did for Big. Everyone at the meeting took at least 3 flyers and there will be more in the office this week for any absent board members to pick up. All board members please put them in the same places you did for “Big” ASAP.

Movie Night for August 11 will be “Close Encounters of the Third Kind.”

Also, the quilt square that was approved a couple of months ago is ready to be hung. We are going to ask Jason Miles to do it for us while he is working on Suite A, but Julie will be present to make sure he puts it where we want it. Julie is also going to talk to Bridgett Martin to help us with an accompanying brochure and weatherproof container to put next to the square. If anyone is interested in having a say exactly where the square will go, you should contact Julie. The plan is to put it to the left of the mural painted on the wall. It is 4 ft. by 4 ft. in size.

**Play Selection Committee Report:** Lamar reported that Cynthia Perkins has agreed to direct Oklahoma in the spring of 2022. She will hold rehearsals on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. She has asked for help with gas as she lives 3 hours away (she will plan to stay over in Mena on Monday nights.) The board asked Lamar to give us an estimate on how much the gas expense will be and we will vote on it after we know the determined expense.

Other plays potentially slated for the year include a Just 4 Fun play “39 Steps” this October 2021, followed by “Double Wide Christmas” in December, directed by Amanda. There is a potential winter slot for 3 One Act Plays Feb. 22, 2022. Oklahoma is slated to be performed in the spring 2022, and also a JOLT production in the summer of 2022, a “Monty Python” play directed by Jered Biard. John Puddington would like to do a Christmas Comedy in 2022 called “The Man Who Came to Dinner”, and Brad would like to direct “Richard III” in the fall of 2022.

**Old Business:** We still need a membership committee chairperson.

Christmas in July has several volunteers from OLT in including Scotty playing Santa and Sharon Hose and Linda G. Johnson taking photos.

The Lyric sign discussion was tabled for next meeting.

Many OLT board members and other representatives from the theater mourned the loss of Roy Vail earlier today at his memorial service. Roy was tragically killed crossing the street from the theater to his truck when he was struck by a vehicle during a performance of “Big, the Musical.” Many of us are concerned about the dark lighting on the streets and traffic speed in the vicinity of the theater which poses a real hazard to our patrons. More discussion will follow in the weeks to come as to what we can do to encourage the city/county to make our city block safer for all.

Also, we are grateful to Roy for donating one of his stock portfolios to help OLT pay off our building debt. We will need to discuss the best way to handle this. Roy had indicated to some of the board members it might be in our best interest to utilize the interest off the stock to continue to pay our mortgage rather

than cash it in and pay it off all at once. We will seek Ginger Sterner's advice in the days to come and discuss our options at a later time. No action was taken.

The theater phone is located at the OLT office and when the office is unmanned, calls will be routed to Scotty. The number is 479-216-2538. The phone also serves as a Hot Spot for the computers and the Square Credit Card reader which is now operational.

The role of potential artistic director was discussed. No action was taken.

**I.T. Report:** Jered has donated a laptop and accessories to the office and has installed "Star Office". (Thank you, Jered!) He will check the compatibility with our current programs. He is updating the website and asked for input. It was suggested he make sure the minutes will once again be available on the website. Julie and Alexa will talk in the days ahead about doing a newsletter again to send out to recipients. Jered is also looking at ways to save money on printing and doing our own data base system which would alleviate us needing to use "Apricot" and potentially saving us the annual \$650 fee. Jered is shopping for printers and will let us know what he thinks would be the best choice for the OLT office. Rudi offered to help with the color printing of the "Little Women" program which will save us considerable expense.

Lamar motioned that we adjourn, Rudi seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by

Julie Ulmer