

## **Ouachita Little Theatre**

Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2021

Board members present: Brad Story, Robby Burt, Bill Hays, Amanda Baker, Julie Ulmer, Lamar Austin  
Absent: Judi Kropp, Rudi Timmerman, Jessica Kropp, Eva McCallister, Jared Biard

Meeting was called to order by President Brad Story at 5:34 PM. Lamar read the minutes out loud as most of us need a refresher from the September meeting. Julie moved that we accept the minutes as delivered online, Lamar seconded it, and the minutes were approved as written and read.

**Treasurers Report** – Bill reported that we have received \$12,482 toward the Burn the Mortgage campaign. It was suggested by Bill that we make a giant thermometer to put in front of the theater, and publicity chair Julie chimed in that it would be a great idea and she was willing to maintain the progress on the thermometer but would need someone else to make it. Brad is going to talk to Jim Brace about painting a wooden cutout and if he would also give Julie the right kind of red paint to keep up with the progress, she will paint the thermometer on a regular basis. She will also notify the papers and draw attention to our Burn the Mortgage campaign again. It will also receive more attention with the presentation of “All Together Now.”

Bill continued the Treasurer’s report with the following balances:

Union Bank account - \$30,482.10

Arvest – approximately \$900

First Financial - \$2619.24

He reminded us that our insurance payment is coming due next month, and it will be about \$1000. He also asked that each director be handed several reimbursement forms at the beginning of each show to help him keep track of where expenses should be designated. It was suggested that Lamar as play selection committee chair handle this, but he preferred that Judy be asked to do it in her Artistic Director capacity. It is thought she has had more experience with this type of activity and fit better within her job description.

**House Report** – Repairs to suite A are on hold while Jason attends to an emergency call. He should be back to OLT in a week, and Brad will talk to him about outstanding details that need to be discussed. There is a rental possibility from the people who own the Market. They balked at the \$400 price tag, seemed to be pleased at \$350, but they are in no hurry. The Board will discuss it further. Brad also told us that Jesse (local sign maker) could do a LYRIC sign for us for around \$2000. This would not include installation, however, and there was discussion on how important that aspect of the sign will be. Again, we are not in a hurry, so this discussion was tabled for later, as Judy needs to be involved in these discussions.

Brad also reported there is no mildew in the concession stand as was rumored. It has been checked. He reminded us about 39 Steps this weekend, Amanda has started rehearsals for A Doublewide Christmas. OLT was invited to be part of two parades, the VA parade in two weeks and the Christmas parade which is the same night as Opening Night for the Christmas play. Amanda was contacted as her play would be the one to be advertised in the parade. As a board we recommended that she skip the Veteran’s Parade as there was so little time to prepare, but we thought it might be profitable to participate since the opening night show the same night as the parade and there is a crowd of people already on Main Street. Amanda suggested we would need to move the show back to an 8:00 PM starting time to allow people to finish their activities. The plan is for the cast to dress in costume, and along with the crew, walk the

parade with signs that tie in both with the show's opening night advertisement and themes of the show itself. Brad also encouraged the board to support Jessica's high school play coming up soon.

**Box Office Report** – Amanda passed out an updated form to use at the box office entrance to keep more accurate records of the type of tickets that are sold and used at the door. This will help Bill's recordkeeping tremendously. Also, she said we need to have two people work the box office each time, one to manage the money and ticket sales, and the other to mark down on the sheet the types of tickets sold. The person managing the box office can select who they want to help them, or Amanda can find someone to help them.

**Play Selection committee Report** – In February, we will have three one act plays. One each from Robby with the college actors, Jessica with the high school actors, and Ann Glenn will do one with older adults, most likely a reader's theater style. The spring musical "Matilda" will be directed by Jessica Kropp and Musical Director Judy Kropp. Jared Biard will make his directing debut this summer with a Monty Python play using JOLT actors. Brad will do a Shakespeare play in the Fall of 2022, he is still deciding between Richard III or perhaps a Shakespeare comedy instead. Lamar had talked with John Puddington about doing a comedy at Christmas time called "The Man Who Came to Dinner" but he didn't realize that traditionally 2022 was the year for a JOLT production at Christmas time. Further discussion will be needed before a definite decision will be made.

**Office Report** – Alex reported that things are going well in the office, she has sold a few tickets and the new printer is working well.

**Publicity Report** – Julie reported that 39 Steps has received good coverage in both papers with nice ads this week (one week only on this show to save money.) It is also covered on KAWX radio and Facebook presence, and KENA. Cast announcements for Doublewide Christmas has been publicized. Rudi helped Julie with the newsletter, could not have done it without him. Julie will submit an article about All Together Now for get in next week's papers and come up with an ad for them the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Following that, publicity will start on Doublewide Christmas and Harmony show.

Julie is willing to start **Movie Night** back up next month for November 10, but that is less than three weeks away and we don't have anyone to run the movie on a regular basis. She will put an announcement in the newsletter (not Facebook, we need to be fairly selective in who we choose) and see if we have anyone who would be interested in learning the equipment and running it on a regular basis. If we don't get any takers, movie night may be done until such time we do. The earliest movie night can return would be for the December show.

Lamar made a motion to be adjourn, Bill seconded it, and Brad adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Submitted by Julie Ulmer