

AACT Region III

Minutes

General Membership Meeting April 29, 2007 Marriott Hotel – Michigan Room Schaumburg, Illinois

Attendance: Ruth Bardy, Region III Representative and Chair, Toni Higgins-Thrash, IL State Representative; Lynn Ruhl, WI State Representative; Joanne Berry, MI State Representative; Jerry Zimmerman, OH State Representative; Frank Peot, Secretary/Treasurer; Barbara Rowell, Harv Thompson, Mary Olendorf, Allen Ebert, Joan Kole, Kevin Arnette, Bob Kafka, Art Barnett, Carl Kole.

I. Call to order

Region III Representative Ruth Bardy called the 2007 General Membership Meeting of AACT Region III to order at 9:00 AM in the Michigan Room of the Marriott Hotel Schaumburg, Illinois.

II. Secretary's Report

MOTION Berry/Zimmerman A motion was made by Joanne Berry and seconded by Jerry Zimmerman to approve the minutes of the February 2006 general membership meeting with the correction of "IA" to "IN" on page three of the minutes. The motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Frank Peot reported we now have \$435.00 in a savings account located at M & I Bank in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Frank will send out invoices to each of the states in Region III reminding them that we are again requesting a \$25.00 per year contribution to the regional organization. Last year three states paid. Joanne Berry said we would get both the 2006 and 2007 donation from Michigan.

Chair Ruth Bardy declared the treasurer's report approved as presented.

IV. State Reports

Illinois – Toni Higgins-Thrash reported the Region III Festival in Schaumburg, IL, was a great success because of the spirit of the people. They set the tone for fun and cooperation. There were approximately 125 people registered for the festival and approximately 100 walk-ins for the various shows. The Illinois Festival was a cooperative venture that worked because many people assisted and worked together.

Toni will send the Region III "Bible" to Frank Peot. This is the manual used by Region III Festival Hosts to assist them with preparing for the festival. Toni will add information from the Illinois Festival. She commented that this manual was a great assistance to her and her committee in preparing for the festival. Frank will get it to the Indiana Chairperson chosen to host the next Region III Festival in 2009.

Schaumburg, Illinois, has potential plans to build a new large size theatre next to the new Renaissance Convention Center. Should this phase happen, Toni would encourage the proper individuals to bid to host a future National Festival. This particular phase is tentative, and the date of construction is unsure and may take quite a few years to come to fruition.

Michigan – Joanne Berry reported Michigan had a successful fall festival at Boyne Highlands. Their next fall festival will be September 21 – 23, 2007, at the Kellogg Center of the Arts on the campus of Michigan

State University. They will be having a Master Class in directing on August 10 – 12, 2007. This will not be for beginning directors but for people who have some experience directing. The Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM) awarded three scholarships. CTAM is sponsoring a playwriting contest, which is open to anyone in Region III. To enter a person needs a letter of sponsorship from a Michigan Community Theatre, which Joanne said is easy to get. Interested persons should contact Joanne or check the CTAM Website.

Mary Olendorf reported Michigan had ten entries in their state AACTFest. Two entries were sent from Michigan to the Region III Festival. It was a successful festival. Mary further hopes a conference or convention can be scheduled in Michigan's upper peninsula at sometime in the future.

Ohio – Jerry Zimmerman reported Joyce Leahy is the new executive director of the Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA). She is replacing Eleanor Smith who retired in January. Ohio will be having their regional festivals in June. The Ohio State Theatre Convention will be in Beachwood, OH, over Labor Day Weekend 2007. Allen Ebert from Wisconsin will be doing a stage combat workshop at this festival.

Wisconsin – Lynn Ruhl reported the LaCrosse Community Theatre would be getting a new theatre. A corporate sponsor is donating the land and the shell for the theatre. They are embarking on an \$8 million capital campaign to furnish the interior of this 450-seat theatre.

Barron, Wisconsin, will be the site of Wisconsin's Off-Year festival in the spring of 2008.

Indiana – There was no report from Indiana as there were no representatives at this meeting.

Joanne Berry suggested we all share addresses so each state could receive newsletters from the other states in the region. This way we can all include new items from the other states in our own newsletters.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

New Region III Representative to the AACT Board – No action was taken on selecting or appointing a representative at this time. We hope to have contact with the region prior to AACTFest '07 in Charlotte, NC, as this is when the new Region III Representative should take a seat on the AACT Board.

Region III AACTFest '09 – Discussion of this was tabled until we have a Representative from Indiana. Indiana is aware they need to suggest a new Region III Representative and a site for the 2009 Regional Festival. Craig Gibson was suggested as a possible candidate for the new Region III Representative. However, this is a decision for the Indiana Theatre Association to make.

VI. Other

1. Ruth Bardy apologized to Harv Thompson for not having the "Harv Thompson Traveling Trophy" at this festival. This was just something a slipped passed everyone.
2. Bob Kafka reported on an event in Region VII where AACT subsidized their adjudicators. This was a complicated situation where only one state in the region was going to have a festival to select an entry for the national festival. When a second stated wanted to appoint a representative there was much discussion and confusion as to what should/could be done. In the end a small regional festival was held with Wyoming selected to represent Region VII at the national festival. Two adjudicators were selected and paid by AACT to adjudicate this festival. Jerry Zimmerman asked how we should respond to this. Is it a precedent setting action and can other regions ask AACT to pay their adjudicator's fees? Consensus of those present was to make no response at this time. The report will be noted in our minutes and submitted to the Vice President for Festivals so everyone is aware this was discussed at our meeting and concern raised.

3. **MOTION Berry/Ruhl** A motion was made by Joanne Berry and seconded by Lynn Ruhl to thank Betsy Armistead and Toni Higgins-Thrash for their great work as chairs of the Region III Festival. Further the Region III AACT Board wishes to express thanks to the Village of Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts and the Schaumburg Park District, Cultural Arts Studios for their efforts in sponsoring the Region III AACTFest '07. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **MOTION Zimmerman/ Higgins-Thrash** A motion was made by Jerry Zimmerman and seconded by Toni Higgins-Thrash to donate \$200 from the AACT Region III Treasury to the group that will advance to Charlotte, NC, in June. The motion passed. Frank Peot will take care of getting a check for \$200 to the group selected to advance.
5. Toni Higgins-Thrash announced that the national entry fee had been paid by Schaumburg for the company proceeding to the national festival.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION Berry/Zimmerman A motion was made by Joanne Berry and seconded by Jerry Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting of the Region III AACT Board of Directors was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Frank Peot, Secretary/Treasurer

Corrected, May 15, 2007 – Section IV, State Reports, Illinois, last paragraph