

ICTA October, 2009

The Iowa Community Theatre Association (ICTA) Board of Directors met October 24, 2009, at the United Methodist Church in Boone, IA. A water main had burst at the Boone Theatre. The play to be presented tonight was postponed for a couple of weeks.

Present: President Donna Smithson, Vice President Bobbette Palmer, Secretary Peg Brown, Treasurer Gerard Schwickerath, Rick Myers, Cheryl Zeringer, Helen Beneke, Carol Bellairs, Molly Ketchum and Loween Gettes (from Webster City).

President Donna called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Secretary Brown read the minutes of the August 1 meeting. They will stand as read.

Treasurer Gerard gave a treasurer's report. The financial status of ICTA is in good shape. Membership dues are being received. The Boutin Fund has \$33,710.40 invested; \$2,210.40 is available for Boutin grant requests.

Two requests for Boutin funds were received this year. Gerard lead the discussion of these. The guidelines were reviewed. The first request was from the Old Fort Players at Fort Madison. The request is to produce a play written by one of their members and would require 5-6 high school students to be involved. High school involvement would generate interest in theatre for this age group. The author would have a venue that the play was produced, a requirement of most publishing companies. After considerable discussion, the request was approved for \$500.

The second request was from the Webster City Community Theatre. This theatre is upgrading the stage lighting system from analog installed 20 years ago to an updated digital system. High school students are involved as technicians and are more attuned to the digital system. Hopefully, more students will become interested in theatre.

Inreased energy efficiency and lower operating costs are anticipated. Greater artistic and creative flexibility will be attained. Discussion occurred and the theatre was granted \$500 for their project.

Considerable discussion occurred regarding investments available for the Boutin fund. Currently CD's are purchased on short term basis and at places where the interest rates are highest. Discussion was held about investment in gold. The board agreed to allow Gerard to invest as he deems appropriate. The return on investments to date has been very good.

Donna stated a request had been received from the Newton Theatre to host festival in 2011 and to host the Region V Festival in 2013. Connie was asked to write an article for Center Stage requesting interest from other theatres to host either event. A decision will be made at a later date. Deadline for news items for the December issue will be November 15.

Connie reported the December Center Stage will be distributed via e-mail. Those wishing a hard copy should let her know. This method of distributing the Center Stage would save a considerable amount of money for ICTA.

Loween from Webster City Community Theatre was present to discuss the 2010 convention to be held there. July 17 is the date set for convention. Their theatre is presenting Oklahoma that night. Considerable discussion was held on types of workshops of interest. Suggestions included: choreography, technical areas, stage combat, how to cover errors on stage and Rick Myers offered to do an improv workshop. Donna reminded Loween a general membership meeting and a board meeting needed to be scheduled.

Considerable discussion was held about the Awards of Excellence presentations. All agreed

it should be a very special event. Suggestion was made to hold this event from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Information was available from two trophy shops with prices of various types of trophies. The cost will be an important factor. There is a possibility of 10 awards being presented.

Discussion of the web site was held. Anne Blankenship resigned her position on the board due to a change in her work schedule and duties. The board was unaware if Anne had set up the web site after the May 30 meeting, therefore, Gerard was asked to contact an individual who has a business of setting up and maintaining web sites for individuals and organizations. She did the research and responded to this request within 24 hours. After considerable discussion, Rick made a motion, second by Molly that Gerard negotiate with this business to set up a web site for a 5-10 year period. During discussion several questions were raised for Gerard to clarify; he suggested an official contract. Upon vote the motion carried.

Loween stated Webster City will have a production April 17 and suggested the next board meeting be held at that time in Webster City. All agreed.

The meeting closed at 4:40 p.m.

Peggy Brown, Secretary