

New England Drama Council Minutes- April 17, 2010- Falmouth, Maine

Present: G. Frappier, P. Tarsi, B. Vinton, S. Piddington, J. Grant, R. Mullen, J. Lincoln, E. Lincoln, L. Mannion, R. Lisherness, D. Nicol, D. Wesley, T. Wesley

Absent: 1 rep. from Massachusetts, 2 reps from Connecticut

I. Called to Order at 10:05

II Secretary/Treasurer's Reports-

- **Motion to Accept Minutes-Passed.**
- **Motion to Accept Financial Report-Passed.**

III. Other Reports

A. Historian's Report: Thank you to Scott Piddington who put the history of NEDC on our web site. Request for people's names who were at festival who went into "show biz". Please forward to Joyce, the Historian. Updated NEDC list and Life Member list.

B. Reports from the States:

- a. CT- had 11 schools at Greenwich HS, had hurricane that weekend.
- b. ME had 80 schools, one representative from A festival, one from B.
- c. MA-had 110 schools at 14 preliminary sites, 42 at semis over 7 sites, 14 finalists at Bay Event Center.
- d. NH- 24 schools, one dropped out at 3 regionals, 4 selected from each site, states were in Guilford, NH (12 schools)
- e. RI -had 14 schools, may have regionals this year.
- f. VT- had 5 regional sites, 10 schools were in state festival.

IV. Old Business

A. **Election of Secretary /Treasurer-one ballot for the re-election of Patricia Souney of CT**

B. Non-Profit Status/Conflict of Interest/Name Change- needed conflict of interest/name change and ambiguity cleared up in the Constitution/By-Laws to receive Non-Profit Status.

C. Constitution/By-Laws Committee- tabled for time being.

D. NEDF Financial Management Committee-committee will rework to add to the festival guidelines that Scott put together

E. Web Site- congratulations and thanks to Scott- needs a link to Rhode Island when they get a web site again.

V. New Business

A. Nomination Committee for President and 1st Vice President- Joan Grant & Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane volunteered to be on this committee.

B. Stationary/Commendation Template- discussion on whether it should changed, voted to keep as is.

C. Performance Permission- need to have permission in hand before performance with permission to cut and insert/use specific music

D. **Chaperones**-discussion on using a suggested ration.-motion- **ACTION ITEM "The NEDC requires a 10-1 student/adult ratio (which does not include the adult director) for chaperoning over the course of the festival." Passed.** This does not supersede a more stringent requirement of the host school.

Recess at 12:00 Noon.

April 17, 2010 Called to Order at 8:18 AM- no representatives present from CT and MA.

E. Festival 2011 Report from MA- Collins Center for the Performing Arts (www.collins-center.com) in Andover, hosted NE before, Susan Choquette will be festival host, Susan Gagne (co-host) and Scott Worthley will be technical director.
No problem with seating (1200 seats).

Dates of 2011 Festival: April 16-18 (Saturday through Monday on Palm Sunday weekend), 2011.

October Meeting of Council at Collins Center will be October 16, 2010 at 10:00 AM

F. **Election of 2nd Vice President- Susan Choquette from Andover** (SusanChoquette@yahoo.com).

G. Life Member Nomination from MA- Christopher Shaillor

H. **Impressions of Festival 2010** (notes from Joan Grant)

I. Directors impressions

A. Staff

1. Warm
2. Welcoming
3. Accessible
4. Calm

B. Positive attitude

C. Mingling nicely

D. Techs

1. Gracious staff
 - a. Adult T.D.
 - b. Students as well
2. Very helpful: multiple specific examples
 - a. Even when things weren't going the way people wanted them, staff was always calm "Let's make this work."
 - b. "Totally awesome"

E. Schedule

1. Four school block difficult to sit through
2. Pre-knowledge of how sessions will be run needed
 - a. How long the intermission will be
 - b. When next show will begin

F. Commend Dede specifically for organization

1. Parents' organization very helpful for the food according to Dede
2. Students wonderful to work with

G. Dede reports that directors and students have all been easy to work with due to professionalism

H. Forums

1. Some didn't get quality discussion in the four-show block
2. In some instances degenerated into games instead of discussions
3. Provide training for facilitators in states that don't do forums
4. One director feels left out of process by being kicked out of student forums

- I. Information missing from packet
 - 1. Pre-registered workshop assignments
 - 2. Commendation assignments
 - 3. Forum assignments
 - 4. Locations
 - a. Forums
 - b. Workshops
 - 5. Recommendation: All of that information could be on the name tags
- J. Seating
 - 1. People lost their seats and then were asked to move
 - 2. Is assigned seating needed?
 - 3. Suggestion: move schools around
 - 4. House manager needed
- K. Opening ceremony set tone for festival: This is going to be a high quality event
- L. Workshops
 - 1. More workshop slots needed
 - 2. Workshops were great and needed to be repeated so everyone could go

II. Report from Student Congress: Kasey and Alex

- A. Space advantageous to mingling
 - 1. Made environment friendly
 - 2. Recommendation: get people out of their rooms
 - B. Forums
 - 1. Leaders seemed untrained
 - 2. Some students felt unwelcome
 - C. Students felt slighted by public being seated first
 - D. Tech times weren't equal for all schools
 - E. Workshops
 - 1. Fantastic
 - 2. Shakespeare presenter should be invited back
- J. Other Business- Revise By Laws – Gail Frappier distributed a revised Constitution & By-Laws. Discussion followed. **Decision by Consensus: Action deferred** awaiting input from individual Council members. Gail requested all to reply by email with specific input. She will incorporate suggestions and re-submit the document to all by Email during the summer along with a request for an electronic vote to accept. Procedure agreed to by consensus.

VI. Adjournment: 9:45 AM.

Meeting notations by Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane, Historian and Joan Grant, Past President

Respectfully Submitted on November 15, 2010
by Patricia A. Souney, Executive Secretary-Treasurer