

AYCO Board Meeting Minutes
Conference Call
Sunday, November 9, 2008

Present: David Hunt, Rick Davis, Kevin George, John Whitfield, GERALYN BERKERY, Jesse Alford
– Paul Miller joined in at 9:45.

David began by suggesting that we discuss the AYCO/Cirquesteem partnership proposal submitted by Paul Miller and David Hunt to address everyone's initial reaction before Paul joined the meeting.

Questions posed by David – Why wouldn't we do this? What are the risks?

Geralyn – Would people at Cirquesteem be upset because they weren't asked to be the lead organization? David – Proposal came from CE

Rick – What would Paul's role be with AYCO?

Paul joins at this point

Recap of Meeting w/SCTF and Cirque

Key points:

CDM and AYCO share similar visions. Partnership should involve shared efforts.

AYCO needs a stronger infrastructure and larger organization skills

Cirque wants to increase the number of kids served and needs to partner with some organization.

Meeting Results:

Cirque offered a teacher training for AYCO in fall of 2009

Cirque will make available a few spots in their Las Vegas and Orlando teacher trainings for AYCO members

Possibility of Cirque ticket donations to AYCO members who will share proceeds

Big Question posed by Gil

“What would AYCO do with \$100,000?”

Discussion: Rick “What would we do? Does he mean what would we accomplish?”

David “They were glad and impressed to see that we'd come to the meeting with a plan.”

Paul “They want organization- they are looking at United Way and the Boys and Girls Club.

We need to have a festival in 2009 so Cirque can showcase to a foundation and show them what a youth circus movement could be in the US.”

Add'l note: Ashoka Foundation – Changemakers program

Michel is on the board.

Paul – What Cirque wants out of AYCO is to leverage their support. That's why I offered a festival showcase.

Rick: Circus Smirkus is having a festival in Vermont this spring for Smirkus campers. What if they extended the invite to all youth circus performers in the area? Would this fit into Cirque's vision?

Paul: Yes, but it's not for one circus to sponsor. We need to make it clear that the sum is greater than the parts. We need reasons for Juventas and Smirkus to join AYCO. We need to do it united and organized and together.

Ringling meeting highlights

Dan Donaway and Peggy Williams from Feld, Inc. visited the Edcon for one afternoon.

They expressed that they are looking to find overlap between Ringling and AYCO

Dan got it immediately – the value of Ringling associating with AYCO, ticket sales increase, place to find new acts, image help.

Donna – We need infrastructure to take advantage of all this potential.

Paul – Clowns are not numbers people – CE was negative in 2002, 2007 \$482,000.

Paul reviewed the proposal for AYCO to partner with Cirquesteem to take advantage of CE's infrastructure and experience.

David “We are the governing body of AYCO, the future of the organization is on our shoulders.”

Rick – Great movement forward –we've needed a boost. Very excited about the idea – it's huge – can't summarize it – need clarification. Need more time to digest and discuss. Feel strongly that AYCO/CE can make this happen by combining forces.

AYCO is national/nonprofit- CE can assist in growth by providing business org, paid staff, incredible local programs.

Rick – Let's move forward to explore proposals.

Kevin – Recommend we start this dance – a long dance, not overnight action – trusts Paul's intention, he is self aware. We need to spend time on details – this is the beginning of a long, exciting journey – I give full support to proceed.

Donna – Agree

John – Great showing at first pass, green light to the whole project, will move AYCO up 1,2,3 levels - let's spend our next month verifying and making it real. Want more info about Ringling meeting. These opportunities will help us define AYCO in a way to set it on a good course.

Geralyn: Wow! Some questions on the nitty gritty. Agree with everyone else, gets me really excited, in favor of moving forward

Paul – need to leave in 10 minutes. A few final points to address concerns

I'll meet with Dan Donaway on Tuesday to follow up on our meeting. Wanted to have approval to tell him the idea, no commitments.

Orgs would give to AYCO, not CE

Two lawyers lined up to help AYCO/CE – a strong linkage doc will need to be created
Short term partnership/incubation – 3-5 years –

Paul exits

Donna – Concerned about the work we've planned for the Social Circus Network. Will it get lost in this plan?

David – We need to be sensitive to marketing concerns – AYCO can leverage neutral position. Need to communicate to Cirque that we are working on this.

Motion by David.

“AYCO will work cooperatively with Cirquesteem on the guideline of this proposal. Paul will act as a liaison to Ringling and Cirque du Monde in regards to this proposal.

Kevin – Second

Unanimous vote in favor.

Motion by Donna – Nominate Geralyn Berkery to the Board of Directors and to be our 2009 Festival Director.

Keven – Second

Unanimous vote in favor.

Discussion: We need a board secretary? What are the responsibilities?

Donna: Task – research officer responsibilities, legal requirements/paperwork we should be filing/IRS stuff.

Geralyn: Festival update for 2009

Festival committee recommends Island Lake Camp in the Poconos, NY. August 18-23.

There is equipment there, hotels nearby for adults, bathrooms, showers and cabins for campers/youth. Can hold 750 people. Planning a site visit soon. ***Will report back and submit budget.***

Consider rethinking comping instructors to keep budget in line.

ADJOURN.