

## Agenda

### *Activities since last Festival: (Orlene 5 min)*

AATC (VT), re-organization of the Board (including new members and new officers), Opening of AYCOstore, CAHPERD conference, formation of Education committee, draft Safety Standards document, collaboration with Circus Center for Festival 2005, creation of Social Circus network initiative, Official Affiliation with ACAPTA!

### *Current AYCO projects:*

Education Committee presentation (mission & goals)- John **(2 min)**

Safety Standards document (who, what, why, where, when?) – Warren **(2 min)**

Next Educator's conference (topics) USING INDEX CARDS **(2 min)**

Next Festival (locations & interest in hosting) USING INDEX CARDS **(2 min)**

Explanation of website resources – Rick **(5 min or less)**

### *Specific action opportunities for you:*

*Parade of Leaders* – help that person!

- ❑ *(Individual Intros: position held responsibilities)* **(5 min)**

5 Ways that people can help you?!? **(2 min)**

- ❑ Youth talking to each other (Election of 2 people at Ice Cream Social) **(2 min)**

### *Question and Answer period (10 min)*

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5:55-

Orlene

Thanks for coming I appreciate everyone being here

1<sup>st</sup> I'd like to introduce and acknowledge Peggy Ford

Jackie Davis secretary John Whitfield education chair

Rick Davis web manager

Carlo gentile co-secretary

Warren has been working on the safety document

Reg Bolton

Kevin O'Keefe Former president and founder (flounder)

And Erin

Starting off: if you can share an agenda

1. review last festival
2. education conference in Brattleboro Vermont bring together aerialists form all disciplines
3. we want to continue to have education conferences

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CIRCUS CENTER • 27 August 2005 • 5:30

2<sup>nd</sup>- we have new board members  
John Whitfield and David Hunt  
Looking to expand up to 15 people

3<sup>rd</sup> opened store

4<sup>th</sup> Attended CAHPERD (California Phys ed teachers conference)

5<sup>th</sup> Warren worked on draft of safety standards document-

6<sup>th</sup> collaboration with circus center

creation of social circus initiative

David-

Woman named Lilly Blue out of Australia- interested in social circus loose network has lost some momentum, but are continuing dialogue

Orlene

In last week Australia Circus and Physical Theatre Association (ACAPTA)

Reg:

Covers neighborhood circuses and professional companies

Orlene

Details of some projects

John (education committee

Honored to be here. I feel that ed committee is at the heart of AYCO

Multifaceted.

First about me—Award from IJA for work in education. I felt like this was the next step. For me- let me tell you about CAHPERD a little bit;

In Monterey, the first time circus was brought to this event. It was becoming clear that circus provided a frame for the teaching of juggling and other skills, moving into the more physical skills in schools.

We had positive comments from teachers. They new juggling was cool from Dave Finnegan, but knew little about how to do it.

This gave us a way to give them skills to go further with their classes.

This could give us a way to offer continuing credits to teachers involved in youth circus

Education committee should be a resource for many aspects of teaching, a place for people to learn history and where youth circus could go, and a archive for materials.

5 ways to help:

contact me @ circus tribe @ yahoo with names of folks interested in youth circus

grant writing

working with ceu project to make it more accessible to teachers

help in archiving stories, activities, what they're learning- Jackie

Jackie-

AYCO OPEN BOARD MEETING  
CIRCUS CENTER • 27 August 2005 • 5:30

Those of working know that youth circus works, but the rest of world might not believe us unless we have data- there are some studies coming out. We'd like to have a place for that whenever that kind of study came out. You can always get to us through the website  
John-  
Looking to involve educators and admins in their own language.

Jackie-  
Start at grassroots and grow from there.

Kevin-  
Passing out index cards

Orlene  
Safety standards document started a year and a half ago. The aim was to be a standard for youth circus programs to make their programs safe Aerial, and now opening to other disciplines. We're starting with national standards for theatre and other disciplines.

Reg;  
Australia working on that too.

Orlene rick- can you explain website?

Rick\_  
We have a community here and the website is to help that community sustain itself. I'm your facilitator. We have a google like search pool.  
We have  
Discussion groups.  
We have the AYCO store  
A bulletin board for classifieds  
I'm your webmaster or actually web-servant  
We archives of past newsletters  
We had registration for festival  
Nearly 100% registered online

Everyone tends to go to site one time, so we're going to try to send e-newsletter once a month to let you know what's new.  
We're going to expand social circus and ed. Sections to help people share.

Ok  
Just send me your news, update your listings, and outreach- we have a community here, but we want to reach more. If you know people or organizations which need to know about us reach out to them using the website.

Orlene:  
Survey- rick has been ending out newsletters; who has received them (hands). So probably what we'll do is put up the minutes for you tomorrow.

Warren-  
The main thing is to send me an email (those at first safety session). Think through your risk management policies and procedures. If you are willing to submit, if you have a formal risk management program, please do, we want to examine what everyone has in place, see the best of best and let the membership of AYCO offer within a year step one in our management policy: "this is what AYCO thinks you should do in your facility."

AYCO OPEN BOARD MEETING  
CIRCUS CENTER • 27 August 2005 • 5:30

If you have input when we move to the next step- "what do you call a piece of fabric hanging from a swivel.?" We need standardization.

Keep in touch communicate with me the board and each other let us know what's going on in your area and program. We want this to work for everybody.

When we ask for comment, please participate. We will issue a draft. Every comment received has to be responded to—is it valid, do we have to change the draft or not. All comments and responses made public. It's a process of consensus building. To participate doesn't take long.

Help by participation

Question- what is timeline

Warren-

A year for draft, 5 years for something truly comprehensive. Doesn't have to happen at once. Its an ongoing process, can be taken in segments (aerial first, for example).

It will never be complete, but we can have something truly functional.

I'll start with those from the safety workshop. Anyone else, please help out.

Question (Neil Cockerline)

Someone contacted us because of a specific lawsuit. What became clear is that without an industry guideline, the government would step in at some point. There was a problem. AYCO couldn't deal with it, but the need was clear. People are not trying to dictate to you, but this is an open forum. At some point we'll form the US or international standard.

Warren-

Already an offer from Australia to participate.

Orlene

Now we'll use index cards. Educators conference in off-years. Right now topics for next year. Social circus, summer camps, aerial. What are your ideas?

What do you want to talk about.

Dave-

Be specific as possible-

Orlene-

If its just a general idea that's ok

1<sup>st</sup> card- ideas for conference.

2<sup>nd</sup> card ideas for hosting the festival in 2007

Kevin-

Just so its clear we want a partner- someone with admin and infrastructure- we split 50/50 everything with partner (or negotiate)

Orlene-

If you know someone who might be interested in hosting that's ok too.

Write, and then we'll finish up.

Kevin-

We're also looking for a venue for educators conference.

AYCO OPEN BOARD MEETING  
CIRCUS CENTER • 27 August 2005 • 5:30

Orlene- You can also email us about venue  
Next up, David-

David-

We need demographics, we need numbers—I haven't had a chance to meet some of you. All groups we need stats: age income, #'s < grade levels, other empirical data and we process that by region. We needed it for funding, we counting kids of color in heads to try to remember.

We also want assessment tools. If you have them in your programs. I see we can all be a resource for each other

Ed (Smirkus)

I made an offer to write a grant to get 4-5 orgs to go through an assessment. I'm willing to get funding, so we would have resources to combine with demographics to use. Those interested in participating, it takes work to test and make report. If you're interested, I'll send email and define what's involved and those interested, I'll write grant and get out a letter by Oct 1.

David-

Quick announcement-

After show, wrap up back stage asap. Ice cream social afterwards.

Warren:

Great Y has early flight, I need to get their rigging down right after show.

Orlene-

Keep everyone in backstage area.

Peggy-

-You may have seen video cameras. We are creating video tape to help us get funding. AYCO burns people to crisp. We need salary \$\$\$. If you have anecdotes you can send, quotes, kids that say things that are profound, or digital pictures.

Reg- girl to boy- just because we do hand to hand doesn't mean you can hold my hand...

Orlene-

CC them to me too.

Jackie-

Nothing to report

Kevin-

I have some things to say-

I want address the recent changes in our board. Since 2003 we went from Mom and pop to where the rest of board stepped in and its saved my marriage and my life and this board has my fullest confidence. I had no idea that it would grow like this.

I'm not on the board currently and my role is becoming clear- I'm interested in board development, Fundraising, outreach- especially internationally, I like to interface with others doing similar things. I agree with Peggy that we need money for some staff, a working

AYCO OPEN BOARD MEETING  
CIRCUS CENTER • 27 August 2005 • 5:30

board is not sustainable. We want to hire an exec director and 2 part time people, perhaps Rick. The insurance issue is key, and we want to be able to go to insurance agency to create group insurance and pass savings on and recruit orgs with that.

I'm big on community being more intelligent than its members, I think we need bigger community, more board and a staff.

Here's my pitch. The website is to make the wisdom of the group available to everyone 24/7.

E-mentorship, similar to SCORE. If we have people with expertise and over here people who need them, I'm going to play telephone operator and get them together. This happened with Spider informally a few days ago. I got Spyder and Donna Wood-Babcock together. The best thing to do is to email me with what you can offer or what you need. I can hook you up with a mentor. This is another incentive to be an AYCO member.

Orlene-

I'm also concerned about having money for an infrastructure, so I'm interested in ideas, and resources you have for income generation, partnerships, and you all being partners in getting that money.

2<sup>nd</sup> in terms of planning for festivals and conferences. If you have skills in this area, I'm interested in talking to you about that.

Reg-

About the election—I made an announcement. Suggests having election tomorrow instead of tonight after show. Will be just before the keynote in theatre space.

Orlene- Flying trapeze will be in cc, keynote will be in cc, circus yoga in Kezar (venue changes)

?

If kids can't be here for election?

Orlene-

Hand it to one of us.

They can write something if they like

Final comment- tomorrow we will be doing evaluations- if you won't be here let us know how to get it to you.

Peggy – trapezes, booty etc. if you get your evaluations in.

There will be a box to put them in.

Cheryl\_

How long is keynote

Orlene:

1:30 WILL BE DONE

Judy's Keynote 12:15, prizes drawn by 1:00

(APPLAUSE FOR BOARD)

(No offense Kevin) Orlene is best looking president

AYCO OPEN BOARD MEETING  
CIRCUS CENTER • 27 August 2005 • 5:30

Rick-  
Board applauds you for coming, see me if you haven't gotten a roster of organizational leaders.

Kevin OK  
AYCO!  
(response: AYCO)

Contact the AYCO Board!

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