

# Festival Wrap up meeting

KevinG: had emotional experience making conical hat. Almost in tears when hovey was telling stories. Watching last night's performance was beautiful. Need more volunteers.

Warren: kids never cease to amaze me. Seeing 2 years development, witness enormous growth. Difference in maturity, carriage, confidence. Differences that don't come about b/c they're 2 years older. It's from their program. It's the motivation to convince me that what I'm doing is the right thing. This stuff works. The contribution I can make is in the realm of safety. That's the one stumbling block to the growth. The success of this festival and the attention I think it's going to get attention. 400+ people. I saw miracles occur. A child comes in here juggling five and walks out doing seven. Saw miracles happen at the workshop in Kezar. Will take a while to digest everything I saw. I saw yung people accomplish the impossible.

David: experientially, for kids & adults (coaches, presenters) it was a success. It was too much for the timeframe.

John: I have 9-10 juggling festival s to compare this to. Even being totally focused on the store, I was able to ...those miracles you were talking about. Something synergistic happening. Love & care for kids distinguishes this from juggling festivals that are more about the individual. In child development...i feel like we're starting something that will ripple into the future. Glad the incident at Kezar didn't happen any earlier.

Peggy: I wasn't around during the workshops, but I attended social circus lunch. People were connecting. In the performances, I found it most moving when representatives from numerous troupes. Connections with big name people. Neil will help with jackpots in future. Goals were met...including food. I found moments in my interviews with people, you are going to love. People really care about AYCO and think it's special.

Orlene: I thought it was good. I felt like there were details that fell through the cracks b/c we didn't have enough people and it got fast and furious as we went into the festival and then there were a million things to do. It was amazing that we accomplished what we set out to do. With the help of all of you. My favorite thing was the arrows. When I didn't feel like refreshing the arrows, Kevin said let's fix the arrows.

Warren: people on the streets asked what's going on? Conversation starter. This is part of the past. Maintained a tradition of the past.

Jackie: this was my first festival. Having 11's going to be hard to top this ...so many board members on site. Terrifically, moving. Meaningful: my fix, connecting with peers. Doing it during school year, don't know what anyone else is doing. I feel charged with responsibility to do this. Kids not aware of the vessel that

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carries these children. Made a lot of connections with people wanting, willing, able to build this up. Feels good to have made a few pointed connections. Empowered to make the changes that people suggest. Overall, I'm blown away.

David: Is this something youth circus in America needs? This festival can serve needs for people. AYCO justified it's existence.

Jackie: It will soon be difficult to remember a time when youth circuses didn't have a venue to communicate. To think that just a few years ago this did not exist. It's a god-given mandate to do this.

Carlo: Ah... What you all said. I think my favorite thing was the transitions in the show.

Rick: when you get this many people here, so many things happen, you have to call it a success, no matter how many glitches.

O: let's name 1-3 issues glitches

More volunteers

Communications: Who has this info?

Scheduling: make sure someone does not have to be 2 places at once.

Staffing:

Festival production: communication between production & participants. Program directors were unclear. Too many questions. Communications among us.

Suggest: morning meeting/assembly.

Communication: heads up on t-shirts. Switch of locations.

Money: we need money to produce the festival before we produce the festival.

First Aid: there were about 5 ankle injuries and a neck injury.

Waiver form debacle

First Aid: it's a miracle, must budget doctor on call at all times. Assume people have same kind of care. How do we peer review each other? We're the ones who get sued. We can have guidelines.

Organization: staff check in daily. Huge signs. Prereg info all the way. Info check-in area. Where to look for changes. Lots of confusion avoidable with signage.

Appropriateness of material: Josh and the balloon through the nose, extremeness of pixies. Can we represent that as good for children? We open ourselves up to all levels: this is a level. Bean in eyeball. Stand for something.

Panel on aesthetics? It's bigger than us, but AYCO has to be clear on where we stand if people come to us. What's hygienic for child development and what's abuse?

Communication:

Transportation:

Registration & treasury under one person. Two person team would have been better.

More informed volunteers. Where they could have gone for info.

Building closing at 10pm.

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Medical release. Solution: AYCO & host need to agree on release before festival.

Local troupes:

Meeting time/place for program organizers such as opening mixer/cocktail party

Chaperone mixer

Schedule different groups for different tasks.

Food: needs to be addressed through eyes of children.

Workshop Registration: look to the IJA as a model, except for specialized classes (minimal fee with cap). Pre-reg. with caps on classes didn't work.

Didn't see from presenters what they were going to present?

Spent more money than we should have. (t-shirts, water bottles, programs)

Communications w/Kezar.

Wrap-up plan needed

Time of year: too late in august to have school teachers

Welcome Packet & Confirmation Packet should not be the same. Need to mail confirmation (not email).

Consult meeting planner to help us

Facilitator in each room/Evaluation of each workshop.

Quantitative evaluations would be better

Conflict for rehearsal for kids with workshops.

More than one offering of a workshop. Same workshops two days in a row.

## **Solutions:**

Disconnect between AYCO and AYCOstore.com. Store needs to invest in bottles & shirts.

Program expense: factor in cost of program, t-shirt in price of festival. Comes with registration.

Roster: kids need to go away with more info about contacting each other.

Complete list not ready until after. Organization to organization.

Local participation: little education, we can make them hosts. Special t-shirts, badge, etc. have an orientation. Pump them to mentor. Reception line. Mentor education for peer group. Assign troupes to local hosts.

## **Suggestion**

Coaches Cabaret:

SUN 25 Sept 5:30-7pm PST next phone conference call. Facilitator: David; Jackie: Secretary; Timekeeper: John.

16:56:37

Kevin George invited to become member of board. KG says yes. Rick will take him on a tour of the ins and outs of Treasurer. Appointed to finance committee.

Need to have festival host committee wrap up. Possibly TUE 30 AUG.

Proposed Board Meeting 4-6 NOV in Normal, IL.

Adjourned. 17:06:24