

**AYCO Board Conference Call
Minutes**

December 9, 2007

12:00 pm pacific 2:00 pm central 3:00 pm eastern

Facilitator (Orlene), Secretary (?), Timekeeper (?)
Present: Orlene, Jackie, David, Rick, Kevin, John
Not Present: Warren (no working phone), Peggy

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL:

SAT. JAN. 5. 12:00 pst 3:00 est

Subject: Board Development

Highlights from meeting

Orlene's term as president is over; also, she's pregnant!

Decisions: see below

Decisions made

- ✓ Board voted unanimously to elect David Hunt as President
- ✓ Education Conference dates in Boulder set at Oct. 3-5, 2008. (These dates were confirmed in a subsequent email from Boulder.)

ACTON ITEMS THIS MEETING:

see chart

12:00 pm Personal Highlights from Month
Orlene is pregnant!!

12:10 pm Board Guidelines / Happy thoughts / Focal points

12:15 pm **Reports** (on Task timeline list, and others?)

College Circus Resurgence Conference @ Hampshire College, March 29 + 30 – DH

DH – Conference is posted on AYCO site, look there in bulletin board. Bringing in Hampshire grads. I contacted an organizer on behalf of AYCO. Dh might be able to attend on the 29th.

They were thrilled to be contacted, put a link on their website. Santos is talking to them, we don't know his involvement. This is their first time. Can board help cover my costs?

JD – Look at AYCO precedent re: Rick going to CA. Would we charge colleges? Also, Rick and I live nearby, we could attend.

Yes, college age is in AYCO's purview.

OG – Makes sense if DH is presenting that AYCO would pay for it like it does for anything... But we have to look at the numbers. We haven't officially decided on the retreat etc. It's contingent on those.

KG – David's next step would be to follow through with the university.

DH – The students are asking performers or presenters what their fees might be to determine stipends, but they don't have any money. Maybe they could drum up \$400...

JD – I'd like to see AYCO add to its budget to send an AYCO presence to regional festivals.

DH – I like that. We're here to support them, not have them support us. If I go as a presenter, personally, that's different. But we should try to help out national youth circus groups. Let's try to make that a line item in our budget.

KG – In theory that would be fine.

DH – I'll go forward on this, see if they can meet my costs to teach slackwire, then present. Next steps: ACTION - DH connect with Jackie & Rick

✓ **Educators Conference update -- DH, RD**

DH – I've given Boulder a YES 3rd, 4th, 5th of Oct. 2008.

OG – I move that we confirm 10/3-4-5 2008 for ed con in boulder

JD – I second.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

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Action: David to follow up with Boulder; goals, creation of a contract. Agreement about who does what.

DH would like to send letter to Cirque du Soleil for another social circus training 5 days before that. Also contact Feld — there's a formal process for requesting money. January. Also need to come up with a budget.

Yay!!

✓ **Festival Follow up / Gamma Phi Resolution / Finances – KG**

KG – Current \$24,126.23 Outstanding payables \$7,049.31 after payables to University. Finally got an email from Amber. We have not yet received invoices from ISU. I'm not comfortable talking with AL until I see the invoices. We may offer to split some costs with them. If we included other expenses from AL our bank balances would be closer to \$5,000.

My mother board crashed. Took it for repairs — meanwhile went to buy a mac... the repair guy disposed of my whole computer... The lesson: buy an external hard drive and back everything up!! I learned my lesson.

RD – I've got all my files, including AYCO, backed up on CD.

KG – When I hear from ISU I'll give you a call. Will forward invoice, then we can have a conference call with Al.

(Amber had thought the person had sent the info and didn't know they hadn't.)

Other reports:

John – It's been topsy turvy with life in evacuation.

JD – Connection with Patti from Cycas Circus. Australian connection is alive and well.

RD – We're redoing some web formats. Taking over the yahoo conversation sites; doing the posts directly online rather than their email. Also updates about bulletin board, with pictures on our website.

DH – ACTION Board bios need updating. Re-do yours by Christmas.

JD – re: Charles with Prescotts, **ACTION John will send us the 2007 dvd and we'll send Charles all of them, and a card from the board.**

12:40 pm Accomplishments / Successes

- ✓ OG - Great that we confirmed our 2008 conference! Thanks David!!
- ✓ JD – Contacted Geryl Berkery re: doing the 50 States information. She will put it into Access. This is a great trend to get help. ACTION: JD to get the Word file to Geryl.
- ✓ **ACTION – RD** is to start a conversation with her about secretary position. Chief task would be to record the minutes, and vote. We aren't asking her to be a full working board person, though as she feels more comfortable she could take on what she likes, committee work etc., We just aren't creating that as an expectation at the beginning DEADLINE: next meeting.

DISCUSSION

12:45 pm Internships for AYCO – DH

DH – Interested in creating internship opportunities for AYCO. Narrow down ... 1) We can use more help, we don't have to do it ourselves. Other people can accomplish a lot of the hoof work. They need and want experience and they don't need to be paid. Post them at colleges & universities around the country. Create 3 internship opps: 1) technical assistance, computer/web, database work, a wiz; 2) conference planning in general, for either spring or summer, from anywhere, planning for the ed cons. 3) general capacity in org. management and fundraising. Year long internship? Sit in on board meetings. How non-profits could work, youth circus, fund raising and could help us.

Comments:

OG – Would internships be year-round? Contract? Time period?

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DH – Most successful would be, conf. planning, summer, leading up to October (through conference). If they're interested in renewing, and re-commit with festival... Finite time is important. Clarification is needed. IT work, we need to be specific about what help we want. That would determine the length of time. 6-month intership?

JD — need to work per semester fall, winter, summer

DH – We're not site specific so anyone anywhere can do it.

JD – site supervisor online

DH – I did a 3-month internship in college, review went into a portfolio. Who's interested? A valuable move for AYCO.

OG – It would be a lot of work in coordinating, definitely a right move forward, builds our resource base, using other people that are out there. Move our projects forward.

DH — I'll flesh out these ideas and email it. ACTION

OG – Would it be one internship coordinator or three re: subject matter?

(Discussion re: site coordinator(s) and/or overall internship coordinator)

JD – need an internship coordinator;

12:55 pm Festival 2009

OG – **ACTION : DH to forward site criteria to Orlene who lost all computer stuff. ACTION: OG to revise it, send updates version to Patti with Sailor.** Sailor won't know until April

DH – I'm nervous waiting until April.

OG – ACTION - contact Juventas? Peru, Wenatchee.

RD – ACTION - Scott O'donnell, Baraboo. — preliminary way.

OG – try to get these lined up a few years out. **ACTION - 2010 — Chuck Johnson, ed con?** Start feeling it out.. Jessica Hentoff wants to host a social circus conference in St. Louis... might have a circus center gym at some point.

1:05 pm Board Development/Transitions – Voting

OG – DH for next president? In terms of my involvement in AYCO, I've really enjoyed all the different positions, difficult at times, but it worked out with everyone's help. Now I am having another child, want to perform more, be a mom more... it's a good way for me to transition into a more peripheral AYCO person

RD – 1st - Fantastic, exemplary job that Orlene has done!! 2. It seems obvious as a parent that this is a good time for you to make a transition... 3rd : Transitions can be a healthy thing for an organization. New blood.

OG – If I resign, I send a formal letter to the office. But not just to step down as president.

ACTION: I am nominating DH as AYCO's next president.

RD – I second.

DH – Considering Jackie is going to be out... I'm game ... 3 years is a good amount of time to be on a board, that's a long time for me... I've done 2 festivals now. Through the next festival seems reasonable. It's amazing that Jackie and Rick and John are still on the board... One of my goals is that there's a board of directors, raising money, or members...to go one direction or the other...

OG – I think it makes sense for 1.5 years.. We need to reevaluate the term lengths .

RD – We're talking about 2 things: 1) whether DH is willing to be president 2) what is the term. We don't need to change the bylaws at this moment to get David in... for 3 year term... Any president has the option of resigning... Dh could move on if needed. You would also have that option to continue. Could get the best of both worlds by leaving things the same for now.

JD – We're moving toward having a festival director as separate from the board.

VOTE — DH as next president for at least 1.5 years!

UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE

Yay!

To take effect immediately: 1:35 PST !!

John – can we discuss Peggy and Warren?

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OG _ I need Warren's address to send him the letter. Will ask him to continue his Risk project; obviously he can't handle board responsibilities right now. Peggy does not have time and energy right now.
ACTION – OG to talk to her, ask how she wants to be active... Advisory? Return when she's better? AYCO core includes Kevin O, Jessica, and Carlo, plus Carlo Pellegrini. They give their advice but we don't have to take it; they don't vote.

RD – Further define advisory board... Anyone can give ideas, but AB should be informed advisors — if they're on the AYCO core list, they get the (unedited?) minutes... They should be up on the current issues with ayco. Send emails to core as well... Another idea, "the empty chair" — anyone that we would welcome back at any moment... She has a designation from us but we hold an empty.

JD – At the discretion of the board, case by case.

Q: Orlene – how long? OG _ I would like to finish out the tasks that I agreed to do, on the timeline, and not take any more tasks... Basically resign. Also open to taking on projects, logistics, would be willing to coordinate things like that. **ACTION – write resignation letter.**

Jackie – August 2008 I'll need to step down.

NOMINATIONS??

OG – Donna Wood Babcock; Paul Miller (on core at least); Marybeth Joy?; Dick Wheeler; someone from Redlands; anyone that attended the southern California conference — John might have good ideas.

John – Bobby Hartman — he has time. I would have to ask some others.

OG — Chuck Johnson, Crystal, from Sanca. Geralyn Berkery.

RD – Dave Carlyon, Alexis Pittman from up here.

OG – Elsie or Serenity Smith. Someone from Smirkus? Rob Mermin? Troy? Mary Blooin?

RD – revisit Jessica Hentoff?

DH – Try to think bigger, outside of the youth circus people, but those people who support youth circus... Scot Odonnell, international connections...

OG _ True fund raising board

RD – Tim Holst?

OG – Richard Tuck.

JD – Can we put out to the people who they would nominate?

OG – Yes.

DH – It would be good to invite Steve Santos onto the advisory board...

OG – Someone from Cirque du Monde?

JD – Gil Favreau?

DH – has moved in the organization. Overseeing ethical treatment of manufacturers.

1:15 pm Fundraising

DH – Need to have a separate phone conference about fundraising... Plan.

OG – I'd be willing, but maybe we can ask Carlo Pellegrini to join.

KG – can provide ideas, maybe not actively.

OG – also Kevin O'Keefe. **ACTION** ask Kevin O, DH ask Carlo P

Reminders

- Review Task Timeline regularly to complete tasks

Announcements

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL:

OG – Are we meeting in person or not?

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RD – Financial question — I'd vote to postpone meeting until that's resolved. On the other hand, we found this open week... Meeting would be nice but not totally urgent.

JD — Can we split our conference calls into board work and conference/festival work?

OG — Next call should be on board development...

SAT. JAN. 5. 12:00 pst 3:00 est

RD – I looked at ACAPTA's site, going through a lot of the same growth processes that we've gone through. I was impressed by how they're running things, committee structure, could you take a look for some ideas? ACTION : All take a look!

THANK YOU ORLENE!!!

WELCOME PRESIDENT DAVID!!

- Next Board Retreat Proposed Location / Date: — Postponed until further notice

3:00-5:00 pm Adjourned