

## ATCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes | February 18, 2019 • 2:00 PM EST

**PRESENT:** Charles Giuliano, Jay Handelman (Foundation ATCA), Lou Harry, Bill Hirschman (Chair), Chris Jones, Kerry Reid, Frank Rizzo, Wendy Rosenfield, Simon Saltzman, Robert Sokol (Secretary-Treasurer), Martha Steketee (Vice Chair), and Mark Lowry (Chair, Membership Committee).

**SECRETARY REPORT:** The minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting were approved without amendments. (M: Steketee, 2: Reid, Unanimous.)

**TREASURER REPORT:** No substantial change in finances since the last report. Wild Apricot, the host of our member website, has launched its own credit card processing service and is requiring all customer to convert to it or play a 20% monthly surcharge of \$10-\$20 per month to keep using PayPal, our existing service. The change takes effect in July.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Advance reports were distributed as submitted by the committees. Additional reporting:

- **CONFERENCES** (Rosenfield): Handelman updated the committee on a few ATCA-WS19 developments. He is scheduling a conference call with the National Black Theatre Festival leaders for early March. There's been no response from the public relations representative for the festival. He is developing a roster of names for a possible panel on the state of black theatre - Jackie Taylor (Black Ensemble Theater, Chicago), Lou or Sarah Bellamy (Penumbra Theatre, St. Paul), Ron Himes (The Black Rep, St. Louis), Ben Guillory (The Robey Theatre Company, Los Angeles), Woodie King Jr. (New Federal Theatre, New York), Ekundayo Bandele (Hattiloo Theatre, Memphis), and Eileen Morris (The Ensemble Theatre, Houston), Chuck Smith (Goodman Theatre, Chicago), Nate Jacobs (Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Sarasota), and festival advisor Lawrence Evans - and is anticipating a panel to be organized by the diversity and inclusion committee, all of which is subject to venue availability and the festival schedule, which will also dictate transportation needs (if any). Sokol suggested a separate meeting for those offering to assist with the planning of the conference including Rosenfield, Sokol, and Lynn Felder.
- **MEMBERSHIP** (Lowry): The revised membership recruitment plan has been distributed to the committee for discussion and assignment. Due to workload increases and other commitments, he is exploring the possibility of a co-chair position. Working with Sokol to transition some new member onboarding responsibilities to the committee. Sokol is setting up a new membership email address to forward to operations and the chairs of the membership and executive committees. The recruitment plan will be posted on the executive committee channel on the website for review and suggestions.
- **AWARDS | Tony Award for Regional Theatre** (Jones): Five nominees have been submitted to date. More are invited but need to be submitted in the next twenty-four hours. Would like to process the ballot through the same electronic ballot system as last year.
- **NEW PLAYS | Primus** (Reid): Committee is in reading mode and hoping to have three finalists by the end of March. Need to update the website for most the recent winner and to set deadline for submissions for the next cycle. Sokol suggested the possibility of a combined 2018 finalist and new 2019 deadline press release.

**FOUNDATION** (Handelman): Acknowledgment letters for \$3,752 in donations to the 2018 end-of-year appeal are in the mail. Discussed application process with Jeffrey Eric Jenkins and Brad Hathaway for a travel stipend application process for any person who represents ATCA at the IATC-AICT Young Critics Conference.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:** Sokol requested that anyone who has not completed the scheduling poll, please do so. Giuliano commented that trying to plan more than two months in advance was "surreal" because he has no way of knowing his schedule. Hirschman recommended that the committee try working with the new plan and provide the requested data.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TCG CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:** As previously reported, Theatre Communications Group has requested topics and discussion points for panels for their conference in June in Miami, where theatre journalism will be a major theme. Suggestions included how writers from underserved communities can access press tickets (Reid), better access to theatre records and data for news reporting as opposed to just reviews and features (Rizzo), and exploring the rise of the freelance critic and what that entails (Rosenfield).
- **ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK:** After a brief discussion, it was unanimously confirmed that ATCA should hold an annual meeting in New York. Steketee, Rizzo, and Sokol agreed to work on this committee.
- **LAPSED MEMBER RENEWAL:** We need a standing policy for reinstatement of intentionally lapsed memberships. Various options were explored including instating an application fee. Final resolution was to allow people to rejoin without needing to re-apply within a three-year membership-cycle window from the last date of active membership. (M: Jones, 2: Rosenfield, Unanimous.)
- **COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING:** Continuing the visioning work begun in New York, it was suggested to refine the committee structure to three key umbrella areas – communications, membership, and programming – and to merge existing committees. It was further suggested to convert some existing committees to liaison or delegate functions, with back-up participants. Voting on the proposal was tabled until the March meeting.
- **SEATTLE CONFERENCE:** Hirschman reported that Mischa Berson received word that the Seattle theatre community is expressing substantive interest in facilitating an ATCA conference, possibly in 2020.

[ Minutes recorded by Robert Sokol, secretary-treasurer. Submitted March 18, 2019 ]