

Minutes of NIETF Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call February 2019

Attendance: M. Reister, M. Byerly, B. Jascoviak, A. Lowe, J. Riddle, K. Rasala, A. Clough, M. Kuhn

Approval of January Retreat and Board Meeting Minutes . **Motion** J. Riddle, 2nd A. Clough. Approved with 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report: **Motion** to accept as read K. Rasala, 2nd A. Lowe. Approved.

- Paid final bill for Gala
- received checks from South Shore Arts
- Current \$4,718 balance in account, though have yet to re-pay donor who floated organization; \$1800 fluid.
- Expect park plays grant check to come within the next 60 days.

Viewer's Secretary Report

- currently 1 musical for the season; several viewers behind in logging shows. Unsure if this is due to technical difficulties with the form or if individuals are not properly putting the information in on the form in a timely manner
- currently 8 plays (1 in production); several viewers also behind in logging shows
- Some difficulties reported by viewers in accessing the Google form to log their information

President's Report

- Scholarship letter needs to be sent out to schools; extend the deadline to April 15? Form will be available in a few weeks online for eligible students to complete
- Offering pro-rated memberships to theatres to join halfway through the year for half the price (for new theatres)
- President developing "A Case for Support" document for organization

Standing Approval for grants in minutes: **Motion** P. Glennie, 2nd K. Rasala. Approved.

Tabled reviewing and updating of bylaws; posted in Google Drive for review by all board members

Awards Event

- Booked October 26 at Hellenic Center in Merrillville
- Potential proposals for changes to the event:
 - No speeches; Balance the removal of speeches by including an excerpt from each theatre of their choice from their season, in order to celebrate excellence across the board
 - Currently, majority of board at meeting (6) possibly support change to announcing nominees night of event; One prefer it stays the same, others abstain.
 - Ask Member Theatres for their opinion before implementing this dramatic a change in the format
 - no nominees are presented ahead of time; must come to event to discover if you are being recognized
 - becomes a more casual event; Casual format appeals if it were an earlier event, more informal event. Formal is appreciated as an opportunity to show off
 - Venetian Masquerade, rather than formal? Host a costumed ball as a fundraiser?
 - Drop the dinner and make it only a dessert event? (Not an option at current venue – Hellenic

- center needs to have a catering of some sort, and does not offer dessert option)
- Move to just dinner with awards announcements
 - Allow a “Backstage Live” to play back reactions on Facebook Live? Produces a social media artifact of our effort
 - Allow awards to begin during dinner to further tighten the timetable
 - Tiered pricing, but remove the Ceremony Only option; offering, instead, scholarships for those who demonstrate difficulties in ability to finance
 - list “Nominations from these Viewed Productions” if go to the no pre-awards announcement

Theatrepalooza

- Asking Board members to be present at 1 pm; 12:30 open for performers and booths to be open

Next Board Meeting March 10 at 4th Street Theatre