



LHAT Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Philadelphia, PA

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Attendees: LHAT National Conference Attendees

The 2019 Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM by Stephanie Silverman.

Stephanie welcomed the members and began by recognizing the officers serving with her this year: Mark Litvin, Treasurer; Molly Fortune, Vice President; and Becky Hancock, Secretary.

2018 Annual Meeting Minutes Approval.

Stephanie referred to the 2018 Annual meeting minutes distributed to the membership. Randy McKay made a motion to approve the 2018 minutes, and Molly Fortune seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws Amendment Approval.

Stephanie referred to an amendment to the current Bylaws related to Emeritus members, namely that (See attachment A). Don Telford made a motion to approve the Bylaws amendment as noted, and Sheila Markley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie then announced the appointment of officers for 2020: Molly Fortune, President; Becky Hancock, Vice President; Michael Schnoering, Treasurer; and Maureen Patton, Secretary. Stephanie thanked them for their commitment of service. Stephanie also recognized and thanked the directors whose terms on the board were expiring at the end of 2019: Randy Cohen, Mark Litvin, Lynne King Smith and Tom Tomlinson.

Governance Committee Report.

Chair Randy Cohen began by stating how proud to be part of this board and the broader organization. Randy referred to the Americans for the Arts' annual study demonstrating how broadly important the arts are to the majority of the public. He emphasized the positive economic impact that historic theaters make nationally and locally. And he noted that arts and culture is a non-partisan issue in Washington, DC, very supported by elected leaders on both sides of the aisle.

Randy posed to the membership a new nominee for the 2020 board, Willa Burke, and three members who will start a second term on the board: Maureen Patton, Keith Marston, and Tony Sias. George Culver made a motion to accept the nominees as presented, and Don Telford second. The motion passed unanimously. Randy then recognized new emeritus members: Dana Amendola and Jeffrey Gabel. Lastly, Randy thanked LHAT for the opportunity to serve.

President's report.

Ken Stein began his report noting that members were sent audited financials for review, saying that LHAT does a full audit every fourth year, allowed since the league doesn't see a lot of change from year to year. Ken reviewed the 2018 financial performance, noting the increase in

revenues from 2017 to 2018. Ken thanked Jeffery Gabel for helping secure a Pennsylvania state grant which pushed the revenues above \$600,000. Ken also reviewed conference structure and its revenues and expenses, and how it is intended to break even. Ken was delighted to announce that the most likely location for the 2020 conference is Cleveland, with a focus on the Karamu House and the league's desire to promote and celebrate diversity. Ken reminded the membership that most of the revenues come from their annual dues and from sponsors, and he thanked everyone for supporting the League. Recent revenues were reinvested in programs: 2018 saw two regional conferences instead of one. LHAT has a 6-month reserve, so additional revenues may result in additional programs. Ken also reported that the League invested in an in-depth research study which helped the organization chart a path for changes and future growth. Ken reported that the study identified programming advice and assistance as a priority of the membership, and this conference's education sessions reflect a renewed focus on that. Another priority that resulted from the study was guidance on board governance, so Ken reported his receiving training from BoardSource, which he has used in educational sessions and will make himself available to members nationwide. Finally, Ken noted that a desire for diversity in leadership, programming, and audiences was another priority gleaned from the study, and that this will be a focus of the 2020 conference in Cleveland.

Ken then opened the floor for questions or comments. Joe Markley thanked LHAT board and staff for their hard work. Ken thanked the League membership for the opportunity to serve, and gave special thanks to Colleen Poehlman, Tisha Shelden, and Theresa Grier for their contributions to the organization. Don Telford asked about regional conferences for the future. Ken gave an overview of Board members' various contributions to the League when attending quarterly board meetings and the genesis of regional conferences. One possible location for a 2020 regional conference is New Orleans. It will be announced in the spring. Ken reviewed other services offered to members throughout the year. A member asked if theater members can use LHAT collateral in marketing, etc. Ken reviewed the contents of the member welcome packet. Ken encouraged members to leverage the relationship with LHAT in your local community.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Minutes submitted by LHAT Board Secretary, Becky Hancock of the Tennessee Theatre. These minutes will be approved at the Annual Meeting scheduled for July 2020.

Attachment A

Changes to the LHAT Bylaws

Article IV, Section 2, Paragraph 4

Board Emeritus status may be conferred upon a past Board Member by a majority vote of the Board in recognition of distinguished service and consistent, exceptional dedication to the mission of the League. The Board Emeritus member serves with a voice, but not a vote. The Board shall have no more than five (5) Board Emeritus members at any given time. Board Emeritus members shall have:

- A. Served at least two terms (six years) on the Board, **and**
- B. Demonstrated leadership on at least two committees and/or an officer position, **or**
- C. Demonstrated exemplary commitment through personal leadership, responsibility for a major initiative that demonstrably moved the League forward, and/or fundraising.

A Board Emeritus candidate shall be nominated by a current Board Member and the nomination sent to the Governance Committee for review, approval and forwarding to the full Board for consideration and final vote. Board Emeritus status is conferred for a **single** five-year term ~~and may be renewed up to a maximum of two consecutive terms, amounting to ten consecutive years.~~