

## MINUTES OF NEW ENGLAND DRAMA COUNCIL

**Meeting on October 3, 2009** Falmouth High School, Falmouth, ME

Present: Gail Frappier, President; Dede Waite, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Joyce Hindle-Koutsogiane, Historian; Joan Grant, Immediate Past President; Pat Souney, Secretary-Treasurer; Sherry Cox (CT); Ania Miller (CT); Robin Lisherness, (ME); Richard Mullen (ME); Lynn Erkkinen (ME Alt); Betty Lent (NH Alt); Scott Piddington (NH); Pete Tarsi (MA); John Lincoln (RI); Dave Wesley and Tracy Wesley (VT);

President Gail Frappier called the meeting to order at 10.05 AM

### REPORTS

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

**Minutes** of the previous meeting, April 19, 2009, were accepted.

**Financial Report:** October 3, 2009 Accepted as presented and attached to the official minutes.

**Festival Financial Reports** Pat gave copies (on behalf of Lenore Grunko) to Dede, Scott & Gail noting that report may not be final.

Lenore asked (through an email to Pat) that we discuss NEDC accepting a donation of approximately \$1300 from the 2009 Festival Profits. Discussion ensued. **By consensus: any profits from a New England Festival should remain in the host state with the host organization.**

Secretary does not have report from Duxbury, MA (2005)

#### Correspondence

- Life Member, Dick Stott, sends regards and new address: 632 Suffolk Ct, Middletown, DE 19709
- Mail to MA Life Member, Ed Belliveau, returned with no forwarding address. Pete Tarsi will try to get an update.
- Jennifer Bagley emailed re: concern about cost to festival participants requesting that this be discussed as an agenda item. (see NE DRAMA FESTIVAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT on page 3 of these minutes)
- NETC Membership Renewal – **ACTION: Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to discontinue sending annual group membership dues to New England Theatre Conference.**

**Collection of Annual Dues (\$200.00)** Connecticut received in mail and Vermont collected at meeting. Massachusetts, RI & NH will mail.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT** Joan Grant and Joyce Hindle-Koutsogiane nominated Pat Souney for Secretary/Treasurer. Gail noted that the NEDC Constitution was amended to allow this office to be held by two people. Election will be held in April.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT** – Joyce is working to liberate files from an old computer. She is also still looking for photographs of NEDC Life Members and shows that performed at New England Festivals.

Joyce will gather old NEDC Programs for Dede to Display at 2010 Festival.

**CONSTITUTION BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE** – No Report. Item tabled.

#### REPORTS from STATE REPS

**Mailing list** of Council members circulated for updates.

Not all State Presidents noted. Reps to supply later

**REPORTS from STATE REPS Continued ...****2009 FESTIVAL PLANS**

**CT** – Sherry Cox & Ania Miller reported that 2010 Festival will be at Greenwich HS on March 19 & 20

**ME** – Dick Mullen & Robin Lisherness reported that State Finals will be on March 19 & 20. Division A will be at Camden Hills HS and Division B will be at Yarmouth.

**MA** – Pete Tarsi reported that State Finals will be March 25 - 27 at John Hancock Hall.

**NH** – Scott Piddington reported that State Festival will be March 26 & 27 at Gilford H. S.

**RI** – John Lincoln reported RI will hold state finals on March 12 & 13 at South Kingston HS.

**VT** – Tracey and Dave Wesley reported that State Festival will be March 26-27 at Randolph HS

**STATE LIAISONS for Festival 2009**

**CT** – Sherry Cox

**NH** Scott Piddington

**ME** – Robin Lisherness & Richard Mullen

**RI** – John Lincoln

**MA** – Pete Tarsi

**VT** – Tracey Wesley

**STATE WORKSHOP PLANS for Festival 2009**

RI & MA may send workshops; others should send \$200.00 to:  
Theatre Company Boosters  
c/o Dede Waite  
Falmouth High School  
74 Woodville Rd  
Falmouth, ME 04105

Pat will send reminders to CT, NH & VT reps

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NON-PROFIT STATUS & NAME CHANGE** – Both are progressing as Scott continues working with volunteer at Franklin Pierce Law School. He noted that our student volunteer did change with the new semester.

**STATUS OF SCHOOLS ENTERING FESTIVALS KNOWING INABILITY TO ATTEND NEDF**

All states ask for ability to attend statement from participating schools.

**Vermont** has Continuing and Associate (or non-competitive) designations at festivals. School must declare one or other at the regional level. Ranking is not announced at the festival.

**RI** Schools declare ability to move on at original Directors Meeting – no issues to date

**New Hampshire** - Announces 2 “Winners” and 2 alternates – consultants are asked to also note 5<sup>th</sup> place just in case

**Massachusetts** 15 finalists get NEDF info at the meeting before the state finals. 3 “Winners” are announced. If one or both can’t go to NEDC, Supervisors find schools from finalists that can attend. (N.B. – MA gives money to help attending schools. A Supervisor is similar to a Consultant)

**Maine** – holds A & B Festivals (determined by school size). Winner and an Alternate are announced at each festival. Maine Drama Council does collect signed intention forms from participating schools.

**Connecticut** – Forms declaring ability to participate in NEDF are collected in advance. “Winners” are announced at the state festival and then NE participating schools are determined.

OLD BUSINESS Continued ...

**WEBSITE** Thanks to Scott, we can now download forms, info and preview the festival site at [www.nedrama.org](http://www.nedrama.org)

**COUNCIL REACTIONS TO FESTIVAL '09** – There are no additional comments.

NEW BUSINESS**FESTIVAL 2010 TOUR & REPORT**

Lynn Erkkinen introduced. She is Maine Alternate and is helping Dede with the Festival. Dede conducted a tour for council members and discussed plans.

**Theme: The Maine Event**      **Dates: April 15, 16 & 17**

The schedule will be in “blocks” showing start time for block but not necessarily for each play within that block.

Dede is hoping to host an off-site reception for the directors so chaperones to remain with students should NOT include the director(s). She will include this in letters to the directors. She will also include “theater etiquette” suggestions for directors

Theatre Facility Data Sheet – Tabled. Scott will work with Dede to post dimensions and info on the website

**APPOINT Director Forum Moderator for FESTIVAL 2010** – Pat Souney appointed.

**APPOINT Student Meeting Moderator for FESTIVAL 2010** - Peter Tarsi is appointed.

**NE DRAMA FESTIVAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT –**

- 1) Discussed **charging participants**. Consensus that participants should not pay for festival tickets
- 2) Suggested that admission could be free for a maximum number for each school with a surcharge added over that number (e.g. 30) – referred to committee for study and recommendations.
- 3) **Committee appointed**: members are John Lincoln, Scott Piddington, Pete Tarsi, Pat Souney
- 4) Also discussed usefulness of a **budgetary template** for festival host school. Committee will also develop a recommended template.

**FESTIVAL 2011 REPORT (Massachusetts)** – Peter reported that planning is under way. A few schools expressed interest, including Attleboro, but at this time, it looks like the host will be Andover HS.

Dates TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by Patricia A. Souney  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer