

Guild Meeting Saturday, November 22, 2008

Meeting called to order:

The Board Members in attendance were Bonnie Berquam (First Chair), Deb Brazil (Second Chair), Teresa Taylor (Secretary), Kathy McCurdy (Treasurer), Linda Brown (Communications & Membership Officer) and Sarah Bell (Newsletter Editor). The Members in attendance were Yvonne Brewster, Joanna Lessard, Mirah Ammal, Margaret Waller, Sam Huonder, Michele Guillick Moore, Leslie Kennedy, Kristine Paul, Nadilia Gomez and Tanya Faye. The minutes from previous meeting (September 27, 2008) were approved without changes.

Election Results:

Congratulations to our new (and continuing) Board Members: Linda Brown (First Chair), Deb Brazil (Second Chair), Leslie Kennedy (Secretary), Kathy McCurdy (Treasurer), Mirah Ammal (Communications), Tiffany Tische (Newsletter Editor), and Jennifer Roden (Website Officer). The Membership Officer's position is open, it will be filled by appointment – please contact Deb with inquiries.

Chair Reports:

First Chair (Bonnie Berquam) Report:

Bonnie expressed appreciation for everyone's patience in the election process. She noted there were some gray areas, and the Board worked through them with due diligence. She stated the Board is looking for ideas to improve the election process. Bonnie acknowledged Deb for taking on extra duties during the process, and thanked all of the Board Members for their work.

Second Chairperson (Deb Brazil) Report:

Deb reported a complaint was brought to the attention of the 2nd Chair, who is also the Member Liaison (whose job it is to handle complaints). The same complaint was brought up by three different Guild Members and all three members specifically requested that the complaint be addressed at the November 22nd Guild meeting. These three members complained about an email that was sent by a current Board Member running for a Board position. The email content was such that some statements which were made were interpreted by these three members as inflammatory and possibly discriminatory. Significant discussion ensued on this matter. The Board Member in question offered an apology, stating that it was not her intention to say anything inflammatory and she did not mean to offend anyone. The Board considers the issue resolved and closed. However, as a result, it has been recommended that to avoid such misunderstandings in the future, the Board create some guidelines tied to the election process. The 2nd Chair will lead this effort.

Deb reported website issues with incorrect time frames on the Guild calendar. Jennifer has been gone the last couple weeks, Deb suggests duplicate event back up during Webmaster's absence. Deb also received an inquiry about a New Year's Eve performance, and directed them to the Guild website. Finally, there was a question regarding insurance, and Deb invited the person to attend the next Guild meeting to discuss the issue further.

Treasurer's Report:

Kathy reported the Guild is looking for ways to spend down its balance. Some considerations include lowering membership dues (since there has been a reduction of cost related to print and mail) and increasing opportunities for educational lotteries. Please contact the Guild with your suggestions.

Beginning Balance **\$ 5475.42**

Income (+):

Memberships	1558.00
DVD Sales	<u>132.00</u>
	1690.00

Expense (-):

Bank Charges (NSF)	28.00
Festival	250.00
Workshops	100.00
Postage (DVDs)	9.60
DVD Production	168.00
Lottery	<u>200.00</u>
	755.60

Current Balance **\$ 6409.82**

Membership Officer (Linda Brown) Report:

Linda reported we are at 149 current members.

Newsletter Editor (Sarah Bell) Report:

Sarah reported her term as Newsletter Editor is coming to an end (with the new Board Members beginning their duties in January), but she will continue to serve as needed at Guild events.

Current Business Reports:**Guild Festivals:**

Guild festival dates for 2009 will be revisited at the next Guild meeting. Please join us for our next Open Stage Festival which will take place Saturday, December 13, 7PM at the JDC Studio.

Guild Seminars:

Our next Guild Seminar: "The History of Middle Eastern Dance – Part I" by Cassandra will take place Sunday, November 30, 1PM at the JDC Studio. The seminar is free to Guild Members and \$5 for non-Members.

Proposed upcoming seminar: "Business & Marketing for Emerging Performers" by Mirah Ammal.

Guild Annual Party:

Our Guild Annual Party 2009 will take place Saturday, January 31, 7:30PM-12:30AM at International Ballroom, 3003 27th Avenue South, #300, Minneapolis MN 55406. This event is open to everyone (Guild and non-Guild Members)! Live music by Sarahan Nights, dancing, food and lots of fun!! Please check the Guild calendar for registration details and/or contact Teresa Taylor, event chair at: purpleponie@comcast.net

Guild Annual Show:

Our Guild Annual Show 2009 will take place the weekends of April 18 & 19 and April 25 & 26. Registration by March 15. More details to come!

Other Business:

There was a recommendation by a Guild member to offer Guild Professional rates (private party rates) on the Guild website as a “range” of rates rather than “minimum” rates.

Next Guild Meeting:

Guild meetings are open to all members, we encouraged YOU to come and participate!

Please join us for our next Guild of Oriental Dance meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2009 at 10AM – at JDC Studio. Your input is greatly needed, and your voice is valued! Come and welcome our new Board Members!!