

**Minutes of the Desert Theatre League Board of Directors/All Members Meeting
June 19, 2023**

Present

Frank Berman – President
Susan Berman – Vice President
Louise Ross - Secretary
Derik Shopinski – Treasurer
Tony Bogard - Director
Charles Harvey – Director
Roger Medanich – Director
John Toogood – Director
Gina Bikales – Director

Absent

Karen Schmitt - Director

Call to Order

Frank Berman called the meeting to order at 6:25PM.

Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 15, 2023 Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Derik Shopinski reported a balance of \$15,407.91 in the checking account. The CD balance is \$10,266.86.

The CD will be due for renewal in October.

The only expense has been PO Box Renewal at \$194.

Outstanding expenses at this time are limited to the \$1,000 scholarship to be presented in October at the Gala.

Director Elections

Election officials (Charles Harvey, John Toogood and Derik Shopinski) retired to a separate room to count the ballots of those already in attendance.

All Member Meeting

Joining the Meeting via Zoom at 7:05PM:

Jerome Elliott	Lisa Nicolay	Steve Rosenbaum
Ray Limon	Marcia Stein	
Patricia West Del Ruth	Brenda Weinstock	
Jonathan Epstein-Brenner	Steve Ciceron	
Basil Bernstein	Janet Miller	
George Ramos	Allen Jensen	
Michele Davis	Rich Malokoff	

► Frank greeted the members joining via Zoom, gave a Financial Report and an overview regarding the Scholarship and upcoming Awards Ceremony including the fact that costs are up from previous years.

► He announced that the Gala will take place on October 1, 2023, once again at Sun City Palm Desert.

► He iterated that approximately 85 productions will have been judged by the end of June and that the redesigned ballot has been working well. He also reminded those present that DTL does not intend to make a profit from the Gala. Last year, DTL lost about \$1,300 due to cost increases after

the ticket price had been set.

► In answer to an inquiry from new member Steve Rosenbaum of The Bent regarding judging, Frank explained the process of sending five judges who do not necessarily all see the same performance. More information about judging and DTL is available on the website.

► Jerome Elliott informed the Board that the Desert Theatre Alliance was holding community-wide auditions for its theatre companies at CVRep this weekend and that there are a few audition openings available through the CVRep website.

Annual Election

After tabulating additional ballots of those who joined via Zoom, the election officials returned with the following results: Current Board members Frank Berman, Susan Berman, Louise Ross and Karen Schmitt were re-elected to the Board. New members elected were Michele Davis and Jonathan Epstein-Brenner.

Patricia West Del Ruth asked if it was possible to run again next year and Frank answered in the affirmative.

At 7:30PM Frank thanked the Members at Large for attending and the Board Meeting resumed.

Desert Star Awards

► **Format** After noting the response to the letter requesting input as to format and general discussion, it was agreed that once again, the gala would be a seated dinner with chicken as the most acceptable entrée, with a vegetarian option, in the hope that food and service would improve over 2022.

► **Special Awards** Following discussion regarding the fact that the Special Awards increase the cost of the event by more than \$4 per ticket, the suggestion was made that all five of the Special Awards need not be presented each year.

In addition Derik suggested that the Special Awards be sponsored, and will compose a letter to all members regarding sponsoring an award in return for special recognition in the Desert Star Awards program.

Frank will email the Membership to request candidates for Special Awards.

► **Hosts and Music:** Since Constance, last year's Musical Director, is not available Derik will ask Jaci Davis and Scott Smith regarding their availability. Darci and Paul are happy to return as hosts.

► Derik will price programs for this year's event.

► Pricing for trophies is several hundred dollars more than last year at \$3,170.

Judging Coordinator

► John Toogood moved that the new Judging Rules as previously disseminated by email be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

► John reported a total of 86 productions will have been judged by June 30 in the following categories:

Youth:10	Comedy:15	Drama: 12	One-Acts: 7
Musical:17	Cabaret: 10	Stage Readings: 15	

Membership

Susan reported that the initial dues invoice sent in early June had already resulted in several payments and that she would send an additional invoice in July. She will contact CVRep to see if they will join this year.

Website

Charles will publish the election results on the website.

Old Business

New Business

▶ John Toogood nominated the incumbent officers for re-election. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed regarding each officer.

▶ It was agreed that the Post Office Box will be re-keyed so that more than one person will have access.

Next Meeting

The next DTL Board Meeting will take place on Monday, July 24 at 4:30 PM.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Susan moved that the Board thank Gina Bikales for her many years of service to DTL and the Board. General applause followed. DTL is grateful to Gina for her many contributions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise B. Ross, Secretary

June 24, 2023

cc: Michele Davis

Jonathan Epstein-Brenner