

**Marathon Community Theatre  
General Membership Meeting  
Minutes \* December 3, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Claudia McEwen. Twenty-six members were in attendance. One new member, Cathy Duff, joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Arnie Steinmetz to approve the agenda, seconded by Tom O'Neil.

A motion was made by Arnie Steinmetz to approve the minutes from the September meeting as posted on the website, seconded by Alicia Merel.

General Manager's report was given as follows:

**General Manager's Report**

- I previously estimated that season tickets were down from last year. However, when running the numbers from previous years, we are actually up a few season tickets from last year's sales. The 2006-2007 season sold 329 season tickets / 2007-2008 season sold 323 / to date 2008-2009 season tickets sales are 336.
- Ticket sales for the first show of the season (November) have also been compared to previous years. *Social Security* in 2005 sold 1832 tickets / *You Can't Take It With You* – 2006 sold 1234 / *California Suite* – 2007 sold 921 and to date *The Amorous Ambassador* has sold 914 with one more weekend to go. OWO sales in 2007 were 323 / OWO sales in 2008 were 220.
- The chairs in the gallery are in the process of being painted. They will hopefully be completed within the next couple of weeks.
- The Volunteer School held in November yielded some new volunteers who have already been active. This is the first time that I have had volunteers scheduled (approx. 98%) for the run of the show prior to the show opening. Keep calling and thank you. A snowbird volunteer school will be scheduled in February. If you know someone interested in volunteering, please have them call me to set up a time to meet prior to their first time to volunteer.
- We have made some sales from the current art show provided by the Artists in Paradise Gallery in Big Pine Key. The seven artists who will be displaying their work during *Steel Magnolias* are Julie Joyce, Ann Lynch, Sandy Mezinis, Mary Ringemann, Betty Rondeau, Judith Conner and Jan Lawliss who provided the art for last year's MCT brochure cover. The name of the art show for January will be *Art Fandango!* Julie Joyce and I are scheduled to tape a segment on BUZZ TV on January 6 to promote *Steel Magnolias* as well as the entire season at MCT and *Art Fandango*. The show will air on Tuesday, January 13 at 8:30 on Comcast Channel 5.

- The Florida Keys Watercolor Society will hang their juried show during the musical, and Marianne Motches will display a different selection of her work during the final production in May.
- On February 20, 21 and 22, we will host 'Henry Flagler' on-stage for a historical monologue presentation. If you have association with any historical societies or groups that would help promote this event, please see me for flyers and information.
- I have sent out a call to artists for submissions for future brochure covers. If you know of anyone who is an artist that may be interested in submitting an entry, please have them call me for details.
- The Christmas Concert is approximately half filled at this time. Tickets are free but mandatory; we are using assigned seating.
- I am available to speak to any organization that may be looking for a speaker regarding local opportunities. This provides an avenue to not only promote our current productions, but to encourage the community to get involved with MCT as a volunteer or come out for auditions. Please call me or email me with any potential engagement.
- A membership list is available at your request, hard copy or via email. This helps me avoid being directory assistance. If you do **not** want your name or email distributed, please let me know.
- Please remember to check the alarm lights before entering the theatre. Check with a director or Loretta if you are unsure of the procedure for entering at times when no one else may be here. Loretta's cell phone is 305-797-1704.
- Please remember anytime you are using the theatre, make sure the A/C, lights, etc. are not left on unnecessarily. Our utilities are expensive! Pick up, clean up, lock up.
- I am available at 743-0408 any time with any questions or concerns.

**Committee Reports followed:**

**Executive – Claudia McEwen**

Claudia reports that some changes in the lineup for the season were made, specifically the director of the musical due to Heidi Ferrell's necessity to step down and Rita Irwin stepping in. All else is ok and we're off to a great season start.

**Finance – Lauren Spinelli** was not present; however he supplied a financial report as follows:

1. Cash Balance as of November 20, 2008 is \$101,933
2. The *One Weekend Only* income account in the November statement was not closed at the time of this report. It will be at least \$9,700. This will more than offset the \$9,365 deficit in the playhouse profit/loss column.
3. The body count in both the cinema and, very significantly, in the playhouse suggests that we are continuing to show "we're on a roll"!
4. The committee agreed to pay one additional mortgage payment toward the principle. Please call me at 743-6538 if you have any questions.

Submitted by Lauren A. Spinelli, Treasurer

**VP of Production – Alicia Merel**

Comedy workshop with the authors of *The Amorous Ambassador* was a success.

Individual Directors/Producers for 2008-2009:

\**The Amorous Ambassador* is a big hit. One more weekend to see it!

\*Alicia introduced the cast of *Steel Magnolias* who very colorfully introduced themselves in character. Looks to be a fantastic show!

\**Company* is in rehearsals and working hard.

\**Rumors* has a great cast and will be a very funny show.

**Playreading – Alicia Merel/Jackie O'Neil**

Plays are still being read. Please submit any suggestions to the playreading committee.

**By-Laws – Gail Burnett – No report**

**Stage and Sound – Tom O'Neil** states that all the dimmable lights have been installed and that over the summer the committee pulled all the instruments from the ceiling in the sound booth for cleaning and re-organizing.

**Building – Paul Buckley** explained that the seams on the new roof needed to be repaired and that this was taken care of by the manufacturer, Stevens Roofing, very efficiently and at no cost to MCT. All else is in good shape.

**Entertainment – Pat Robenolt** was not present. Claudia stated that the entertainment committee did a knock-out job with *OWO* and the opening night party for *The Amorous Ambassador*. Loretta stated that cookies, brownies, etc. are needed for the Christmas program on December 14. Call her with donations.

**Nominating – C.J. Geotis** states that the committee is poised and waiting. Paula Pettorini volunteered to be on the nominating committee if this is not a conflict with the by-laws.

**Program – Loretta Geotis** reported that the program is printed and will be in need of collators for the upcoming shows.

**Cinema – Alicia Merel** reported that we purchased the assisted hearing devices for the cinema in accordance with the ADA. They are in use and working very well according to users.

**Historical/Library – Paul Buckley** asks that you bring in any old programs, photos or historical items relating to MCT for archiving purposes.

**One Weekend Only – Kathryn Rummery** reports the 2008 OWO was a smash hit and that she received many wonderful compliments about the show. Pictures are available for viewing online at [www.marathontheater.org](http://www.marathontheater.org) and individual photos of couples taken by Larry Benvenuti are available by contacting Loretta.

**Membership – Suzanne Terpos** was not present. Loretta reports we currently have 166 members. This is a significant increase over past years.

1. 2009 Quarterly General Membership meeting dates  
March 4 \* June 3 \* September 2 \* December 2

**Props/Costumes – Riet Steinmetz** – no report

**Other – no report**

6. **Old Business**

Paula Pettorini brought up the idea of recruiting more non-acting members for board positions for potential increased efficiency. Claudia pointed out that committee members need not be all board members. At this point, Jim Pettorini has decided to become a member of the Finance Committee. Welcome, Jim.

7. **New Business**

Paula also brought up the question of opportunities to bring children in thus bringing in parents and grandparents. Much discussion resulted in the fact that a specific “person” is needed in order to make this type of program work and at the present time, we do not have anyone available or willing to take on this task. It has been tried and accomplished in the past, but there are numerous factors to consider which make it unlikely at this time.

8. **Good of the order** – nothing

9. **Adjournment**

Arnie Steinmetz made a motion to adjourn, Nancee Rainaud seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Loretta Geotis sitting in for Secretary, Sylvia Rickett