

WATCH Organizational Meeting
9/12/99
Reston Community Players' rehearsal hall

Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Present at the meeting were:

Judy Mayer, Montgomery Playhouse
Danny Brooks, Prince George's Little Theatre
Craig Allen Mummey, Bowie Community Theatre
Elie Pisaria, Potomac Theatre Company
Al Edick, Little Theatre of Alexandria
Mary-Anne Sullivan, Castaways Repertory Theatre Company
Sue Pinkman, Reston Community Players
Don Wilson, Prince William Little Theatre
Eleanore Tapscott, Tapestry Theatre Co.

Al Edick provided an update on companies that were still interested in joining WATCH (Washington Area Theatre Community Honors) and welcomed newcomers representing Prince George's Little Theatre, Bowie Community Theatre and Castaways Theatre Co.

According to Al, the incorporation process is pending. WATCH membership criteria were reviewed and the adjudication process was discussed to address questions of the first-time participants. Al and Don noted that each production would be seen by 10 judges; judges would complete ballots and the ballots are tabulated by an independent consulting firm. It was further noted that adjudicator assignment process would be computerized. Each theatre company would identify a specific number of judges based upon of the number of shows the company produced in a season (e.g., if a company produced four productions annually, they would have to provide four judges).

Discussion then ensued on the feasibility of groups to have an alternate adjudicator. Consensus was that the appointment of alternate judges be at the discretion of the participating group. However, if a group did elect to have an alternate, that individual's name would have to be submitted to the adjudicator database. In response to the question, who is responsible for contacting member organizations who have not supplied sufficient number(s) of adjudicators for the database, it was noted that the Adjudicator Coordinator was the responsible party.

Al reported that an accounting firm had been hired: Deloitte Touche, located in McLean, VA. and that an individual from this organization would make a presentation to WATCH when the member groups have been determined.

Discussion then ensued on what process should occur if less than 10 judges were able to review a production ('no shows' were attributable to emergencies, extremely poor weather, cancellation of a performance, etc.). Therefore, a recommendation was made that the bylaws be amended to state a minimum number of votes--minimum number to be determined.

In response to providing judges with two complimentary tickets, consensus was that comps would be provided for judges and not guests (resulting in 10 free tickets per production instead of 20).

The following officer appointments were made: John Monette, TAP, as Chairman and Eleanore Tapscott, Tapestry, Recording Secretary

The following offices need appointments: Treasurer and Adjudicator Coordinator. Meeting participants were encouraged to discuss job description of Adjudicator Coordinator with their organizations and submit the names of potential candidates at the next WATCH meeting.

Agenda items for the next meeting include: judging criteria, process for training adjudicators and timeline for developing written criteria.

November 1, 1999 is the deadline for participating groups to pay the \$100 membership fee; mailing information will be available shortly. The awards ceremony for the 1999-2000 season would be held March 4, 2001.

The next WATCH meeting will occur Sunday, Oct. 17, 1999 at Reston Community Players' facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Eleanore