

Membership Meeting 01/31/09

The membership meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by President Amy Bright at Wards Rafters. In attendance at the meeting were MEDAH members: Amy Bright, JanDee Abraham, Bob McKeand, Renee Arnold, Suzanne Keyser, Beth Biller, Jessica Schmidt, Dorothy Wheeler, and Bernice Lee (via telephone). The current membership list stands at 30 members; there was a quorum for membership meetings (9 members equals a quorum of 30).

Old Business:

- I) President Bright reviewed last year's events and happenings. Discussed was the Honolulu Hale, and the possibility that future events could be held there. This led into a discussion on what events were happening this year, so that they could be noted, and MEDAH events planned around them. The following is a list of known events (not MEDAH sponsored) for the 2009 year.
 - February 13: Ala Moana Shopping Center will have Belly Dancing presented by Suzanne Hamdi.
 - February 28th: Mardi Gras (Member at Large Abraham will check with Samantha Tavares for more information)
 - March 8th: (9pm to midnight) Belly dancers in Paradise at the Brew Moon .
 - March 12/13: Sabrina Fox / Honolulu Festival / Tahiti Festival
 - April 12th, 13th etc: The Indigo and Beats Antique is being presented by Shakti Dance Movement.
 - May: Tribal Fest
 - June 1st week of June: Pujah by Willow Chang and Sangha Dance Theater.
 - June: The Marry Monarch Festival, also Robyn (Persian dance) Workshops (Suzanne Hamdi will do an interview that can be put in the Zagoreet.)
 - Other events: The North Shore Haleiwa festival. Normally attended by dancers out on the North Shore, it was discussed that perhaps one of the members or former members that lives on the North shore, such as Laura Boles might know details about this event.
- II) Treasurer's Report:
 - i) Treasurer Wheeler will check with Anis to see if the band received money from Jackie for the Wards rafters' end of the year 2008 hafla.
- III) Vice President Schmidt noted that Kajira will send in a picture to MEDAH upon renewing her membership, and MEDAH will frame it, and then retry to do the Borders Art Gallery with the additional pictures that have been received. If we are not accepted into the art gallery, VP Schmidt suggested holding an auction for the framed pictures at a future MEDAH event, in order to raise money for future events.
- IV) Nominations and Elections:
 - i) Vice President Schmidt brought up the Elections, as at the December Membership meeting it was decided to postpone elections until the January membership meeting, at which Member at Large Chang proposed changes to the MEDAH Bylaws that could

make elections moot. Member at Large Chang choose not to put her proposed changes to the Bylaws in writing prior to the meeting, and thus the election is going to go ahead. The following members of MEDAH have chosen to run for office:

- President: Amy Bright
- Vice President: Suzanne Hamdi Keyser
- Secretary: Renee Arnold
- Treasurer: (none)
- Member at Large: Bob McKeand, Dorothy Wheeler, (none).

- ii) Vice President Schmidt reminded the members present at the membership meeting that nearly every single MEDAH member was nominated for office, and with the exception of a handful of interested members, overwhelmingly turned down the nominations. Some offices are not going to be filled by the elections; in addition, since the members running are all running unopposed, the bylaws state that:

Section C. Election of Officers

The officers shall be elected by secret ballot by a simple majority of the votes received of members in good standing. The President shall vote only in the case of a tie. **If an elected office has only one nominee, at least one vote must be cast for that nominee.** Elected officers shall serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected.

Section D. Vacancies in Office

A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President. **Is a vacancy occurs in any other elected office, the President shall appoint, with Board approval, a member to fill the office.**

Section E. Terms of Office

No person shall be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive terms in the same office.

- iii) Because Treasurer Wheeler was originally nominated for the office of Treasurer again, but due to *Section E* of the Bylaws is not eligible for office this year as Treasurer, she has chosen to accept the nomination of Member at Large. Vice President Schmidt noted that if sent to the membership 10 days in advance of the next membership meeting, this amendment could be repealed or changed, and if the appeal passed at the membership meeting, Treasurer Wheeler could be appointed to her former office for another term by the President. Someone else would then need to be appointed to fill the vacant Member at Large position.
- iv) It was decided unanimously by all present that Vice President Schmidt, with help from President Bright, will send a voting email to the membership to start the elections. Since voting has previously been accepted via email, a precedent has been set, and votes shall be cast online, to a special email account created for the elections: vote@medah.org. The

email account can be accessed by the head of the Election Committee (Vice President Schmidt); the President has also been given the password to the email account. Votes will be counted in accordance with the bylaws.

New Business:

- I) President Bright noted that different MEDAH members have volunteered to be in charge of event planning in order to make MEDAH have quality events for the membership. The following is a list of events and the members who have volunteered to be in charge of planning for that event:
 - Kalae Kaina: April 25 Saturday Hafla
 - Amy Bright : The Student Recital held at the Honolulu Hale Mission Memorial in June.
 - Suzanne Hamdi Keyser: the Gleam in July.
 - TBA: 4th of July President Bright is going to inquire with Kalae Kaina and Member at Large Willow Chang for info on possible parade performance opportunities and ideas.
 - Willow Chang: Teachers Workshop
 - TBA: September 19th Recital/Fundraiser at Wards Rafters
 - Beth Biller: An October Halloween Hafla
 - TBA: Girl Fest in November
 - The Nomination Committee (TBA): December Wards Rafters/Voting Dec 12th, Saturday
- II) Ideas for dates for the future Nominations committee are as follows: Nominations start on Nov 14th and close out on the 28th. On Nov 30, send out a list of members running for office, so that the membership has two weeks to vote via mail, email, or in person on Dec 12th. At the December Membership Meeting and Hafla at Wards rafters
- III) What are we doing for a membership drive? All members present agreed to call teachers and have them encourage their students to join. Teachers that get 5 or more students to join MEDAH could receive perks, such as more time to dance at the Gleam for their dance troops, and more time at the MEDAH student recitals.
- IV) Vice President Schmidt proposed that the newsletter is put online at www.medah.org, and no longer sent to members via regular mail. If a member wishes a printed copy, they would be charged, or have the opportunity to print their own copy from the internet. This would make updates easily accessible to anyone with an internet connection, (which is more than 95% of the membership) and allowing for more pictures, no printing costs (which are in excess of \$150 per issue for a membership of 30, even with printing only in black and white), and would allow for easy monthly, and even weekly updates to events. This motion was seconded by Renee Arnold. All members were in favor. The vote passed unanimously.
- V) Archiving was discussed. Back issues of the Zagoreet will be available online from now on. They will be archived in PDF format on the medah.org website and available for download.

- VI) Online maintenance of the Zagoreet will be done by Vice President Schmidt. As long as the Board and members send in pictures and articles, there will be monthly updates. Events will be updated as they are received.
- VII) Member at Large Abraham proposed for MEDAH to get a debit card so the internet fees for the website can be taken out of the MEDAH account, rather than coming out of Jessica Schmidt's account, who then has to be reimbursed by the Treasurer. This motion was Seconded by Vice President Schmidt. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
- i) Because Yahoo (the internet server) only accepts credit or debit cards, and does not accept checks, MEDAH's lack of a debit card makes the internet transactions seem less than transparent. Vice President Schmidt pays a monthly fee (\$12.95) to Yahoo, which is the server that the MEDAH website sits upon. There are no additional fees, and all internet assistance that Vice President Schmidt receives (such as the internet help from non-member Mana Taylor, who has helped set up the email accounts for the board) is at no cost to MEDAH. The Treasurer will be responsible for keeping the MEDAH debit card. Vice President Schmidt will check to see if the fee can be paid annually, rather than monthly.
- VIII) It was discussed by the membership present, that due to hard economic times this year, and a healthy MEDAH fund, that MEDAH dues be lowered. Vice President Schmidt proposed to Change MEDAH dues back to \$20. Beth Biller Seconded, and all were in favor. This was done in accordance with the Bylaws:

Section A. Dues

The dues shall be determined as follows:

1. Regular Members

Annual dues, payable by January 31st, shall be determined by the Board with approval of a majority vote of members present at a Formal Membership Meeting, attended by a quorum of the members. A quorum in this case is defined as 30% of the membership.

An email will be sent to the membership to inform them about the dues change and to remind them about paying their annual dues for renewal. Election results will be sent out via email after the election has been completed, but before the next membership meeting.

The next MEDAH membership meeting will be on Feb 21, 1pm at Wards Rafters. This way, changes to the Bylaws can be voted on, and the year can be further planned out.

The meeting was adjourned by President Amy Bright at 4:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Outgoing Vice President, Jessica Schmidt.