

MEDAH MEETING MINUTES

Time: 7:58 p.m.

Date: September 11, 2017

Location: Office of V.P. Miko Ries, Century Square Building, 1188 Bishop St.

Meeting Facilitator: V.P. Miko Ries

Minute Taker: Sec. Renée Arnold

Attendees: V.P. Miko Ries, Sec. Renée Arnold, Members at Large Bob McKeand, Helena Ratzlaff-Bauer, Holly Rudin-Braschi; Guest Guisa Suttles-Bell

Next meeting: Same location as above, 7:30 p.m., October 2, 2017

Last meeting's minutes adopted? Yes

Agenda Item: Treasurer report

Presenter: Renée Arnold

Discussion: Treasurer Seiko Nishida was absent, so the full report was deferred to the next meeting. For the next meeting, we must discuss payment to Aabaco for the hosting of the MEDAH website. Renée brought the \$29.25 Shimmy Mob donation from the Glean event. Seiko has the \$23 donation from the May 12 Shimmy Mob event. $\$23 + 29.25 = \52.25 collected for the Windward Spouse Abuse Shelter. The Board voted to send a round figure of \$50. We also need to know if a check has been received, and the amount, from Amber's Nefertiti event.

Action Items: Send check to Windward Shelter; Deposit Amber's check if received

Agenda Item: Amber's Nefertiti Fundraiser

Presenter: Miko Ries

Discussion: The August 19 event was very successful. Helena performed, Adly sang, Miko drummed. Malia's dancers were also very good. Great comments were received, and Guisa helped with the MEDAH table. However, the MEDAH donations to the silent auction were not included and there was no explanation. Amber was upset that Pres. Amala Gameela did not show up to perform at the last minute, nor did she follow up with Amber after the event. Amala reported later that she had sprained her ankle. Amber was also upset that more MEDAH members were not there to help. Sec. Renée said that she and others likely would have come had we been able to enter without paying, but we were never informed that we could. Miko was allowing all MEDAH members free entry; however, Amber had announced that members had to pay \$40 (\$5 discount). Obviously there was miscommunication, and the Board is anxious to hear Amala's perspective at the next meeting. The Board decided to send Amber a thank you card and apologize for any confusion on our part. Amber communicated to Helena that she would send us \$500, rather than the \$1000 she promised to Amala. There was discussion about asking for the amount that was agreed upon, but the Board voted to accept the \$500.

Possible wording for the card to Amber: "Thank for the check (if we got it), for including MEDAH as a beneficiary of your Nefertiti's Night on Nile event and for featuring our performers Miko, Helenka, Teresa and Adly. We were delighted to support your vision. Please accept our sincere apology for the last minute cancelation and any miscommunications regarding our silent auction donations (photo shoot with Bob McKeand, hypnotherapy/psychotherapy with Miko Ries, dance lesson / bird tour by Amala Gameela, and the Ukelele book by Holly Rudin-Braschi). Believe it or not, our reputation is stellar in the community for being professional, reliable and fun to work with, and this is the first time anything like this has ever happened. We would welcome the chance to collaborate with you in the future."

Action Items: Send card to Amber; discuss the event with Amala

Agenda Item: Greek Festival

Presenter: Renée & Holly

Discussion: MEDAH members attended: Renée Arnold, Holly Rudin-Braschi, Shirlita Jones, Dee Dee Valencia, Tammy Yee-Custodio, and Adly Mirza.

Action Items: None

Agenda Item: First Friday - Ong King, Sept. 1, 2017

Presenter: Miko Ries

Discussion: Some MEDAH dancers and drummers performed, as well as some non-members. The manager interrupted one MEDAH member's performance, which was being appreciated by the audience, thus insulting the performer. Miko spoke to the manager about it afterward.

Action item: None

Agenda Item: Shimmy Splendor in Sept., Ala Moana Ctr **Presenter:** Renée Arnold

Discussion: This event will be on Center Stage on Sat., Sept 16. Holly's new MEDAH flyer needs to be edited to add a photo and the website. Renée is still collecting late music files and bios. Holly will announce at the event; Helena will provide a playlist; Miko will man the MEDAH table; dancers will bring flyers. Dressing room to be available at 2 p.m.; call time is 2:30 p.m.

Action Items: Music files are to be sent to Helena to make a playlist, and to Holly for a backup; bios will be sent to Holly to edit to fit the time of 45mins. and she will print out the lineup.

Agenda Item: Open mike, Sat., Sept. 16, 6 p.m.

Presenter: Miko Ries

Discussion: This event is at Mirage Art & Coffee on 10th Av. Dancers are invited to come after the Shimmy Splendor event. This is not a MEDAH event.

Action Item: None

Agenda Item: Culture Day, Nov. 4, 2017

Presenter: Miko Ries

Discussion: Event to be at Ong King, 1154 Fort St. No rental fee, as this is in exchange for the free performances MEDAH supplied for a First Friday event at this venue. The Board discussed who will be able to contact various artists and invite them to participate. This is open to all performers (musicians & dancers). Several Board members volunteered to perform and to contact other artists. Renée is keeping a list of confirmed acts. We may need a door person; An entrance fee of \$5 or \$10 was discussed. Guest Guisa Suttles-Bell offered to perform salsa and Miko contacted Robbie Vargas during the meeting, and he agreed to be her partner; She also may cater food at the event. Advertising will be on the Ong King site, during Miko's radio show on Hawaii Public Radio 7-11 p.m., and on the Honolulu Weekly.

Action Items: Board members to contact artists; Advertise right away; Send eblast call for dancers of diverse styles; avoid too many of same belly dance style.

Agenda Item: Waterfront Plaza Wellness Fair

Presenter: Renée Arnold

Discussion: This event is on Wed. Oct. 4, 11:30-1:30; not a MEDAH event; MEDAH invited to have a table & tent to promote MEDAH. Contact was through Amber's Nefertiti event on Aug 19. Dancers are needed to help man the table and to perform. Sound system to be verified, but Bob McKeand will attend and he can bring his system if needed. Currently only Helena Ratzlaff-Bauer is free to attend; all other Board members are unavailable. Renée filled out all the paperwork and submitted it online to the Jessica Vogt, the contact person.

Action Item: Send eblast for more dancers. Ask dancers to bring their own music and flyers for the Table.

Agenda Item: Regular Haflas at Honolulu Club

Presenter: Holly Rudin-Braschi

Discussion: Holly is a member and said that the club is wishing to provide events for their members. She suggested maybe MEDAH could organize regular haflas to provide opportunities for members to dance and socialize. She suggested we may have to pay rent, or we could split the door 60/40.

Action Item: Holly & Helena will approach the club with the idea.

Miscellaneous Items:

Zagoreets - Several years ago, the MEDAH Board started archiving MEDAH's old Zagoreet newsletters by scanning them and posting them on the website. Former Member Allison Chung emailed MEDAH recently and offered to loan us her old copies, dating back to the time before MEDAH was officially a non-profit. She is on Maui and she offered to scan them herself. Renée contact Tammy Yee-Custodio who created a drop box for Allison to easily submit the scanned newsletters. This is important for preserving the history of the organization.

Grant writer - MEDAH would need to say why we need a grant (ex: for hiring a hall for performances, to bring guest dancers and speakers).

New venues - Island Zouk Lounge? Paradise Tango?

Vegetarian Festival - Renee attended this year's 2nd annual festival and Murat performed. She suggested MEDAH try to participate in August, 2018

Mid Pacific festival - Renée received a University email about this event after the fact. She suggested MEDAH try to participate in next year's event.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:03

Respectfully submitted by:

Renée Arnold, Secretary