

Minutes of Meeting  
March 9, 2013

**MEDAH General Membership Meeting and Board Meeting** – in compliance with the bylaws, a General Membership Meeting was called at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, 2013, before the Board Meeting at Ward's Rafters, 3810 Maunaloa Ave.

**In Attendance** – President Natalie Phoenix, Vice President Anna Han, Secretary Renée Arnold, Treasurer Dorothy Wheeler, Member-at-Large Jasmin El Gohary, MEDAH members Olga Cordero Brana and Marsha Robinson.

The General Membership Meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by President Natalie Phoenix. She asked members for feedback as the following issues were discussed.

Treasurer Dorothy Wheeler explained the state of the treasury and told members about PayPal and the 76 cents fee PayPal charges MEDAH. She explained the membership fee of 20.76.

President Natalie Phoenix discussed the calendar of events and the upcoming Princess Farhana event. Olga Cordero Brana asked about ways to pay for the show and workshops. Natalie suggested performers don't pay to enter the show; and they will get 20% discount on workshops. A vote will be conducted in the Board Meeting following the General Membership Meeting.

There was discussion about the Mission Statement and the Purpose in the by-laws. Treasurer Wheeler explained that MEDAH is legally bound by the IRS to be non-profit and the government approved the organization through documentation based on how we relate to community and educational goals. Changing the Mission or Purpose could jeopardize MEDAH's non-profit status. Motion was made to leave the purpose and mission statement as is. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Board resolved to pay more mind to the purpose and mission when booking future events.

The status of musicians for MEDAH events was discussed. MEDAH would like the musicians to be members, as are dancers, in order to perform at the events. We do not want to hire them. Dancers are not paid for performing at MEDAH events, so should the musicians be paid? Because the Island Oasis Ensemble uses revolving members, should all players be required to join MEDAH? The whole idea is that the organization is not for profit and is member-driven. It is for the benefit of the musicians as well as the dancers to perform at our events. Musicians do not hold another level of respect over the dancers, who must research, rehearse and buy costumes. It was suggested that we could provide a donation jar for just the musicians and the dancers, in addition to the amount brought in for the organization. A motion was passed to approach the musicians through the Island Oasis Ensemble

leader, Kip McAtee, and explain our position and to let them know that we will consider the events on a case-by-case basis.

The MEDAH calendar for 2013 was discussed, as well as the following upcoming non-MEDAH events sponsored by MEDAH members:

Mar. – Masayo, Renée, and Shadiya perform with guest musicians Frank Lazarro and Souren Baronian at Ward's Rafters.

May – Kalae Kaina fundraiser for Tribal Fest

Oct. 10-15 – Malia Delapenia's Belly Dance Convention - needs group dances

Dec. 1-9 Tribal Event – Zoe retreat on Big Island

The General Membership Meeting was adjourned; the MEDAH Board Meeting was called to order by President Natalie Phoenix at 3:00 p.m.

**In Attendance** - President Natalie Phoenix, Vice President Anna Han, Secretary Renée Arnold, Treasurer Dorothy Wheeler, Member-at-Large Jasmin El Gohary, MEDAH members Olga Cordero Brana and Marsha Robinson.

**Minutes** of the February meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report** –read by Treasurer Dorothy Wheeler. MEDAH has a balance of \$2,868.38. The February Membership Drive Hafla brought in \$635 before expenses. Expenses were \$65.39 for pupus; rental of Loading Zone \$50 deposit + \$50 at event; \$12 parking for Dorothy.

### **Old Business:**

Princess Farhana event – March 29 show and March 30 workshops. \$500 deposit has been paid for the workshop fee (\$250/hr for 4 hours of workshops); \$500 balance to be paid at the workshops. Must pay her \$20% of the door and pre-sale tickets at the Venue, plus per diem of \$60 per day for 3 days, and cab ride to the airport. For the Venue show, the Board is to arrive at 5:30; Contact person is Francesco; Alia of Australia will perform but not be paid. Free entrance will be offered to her husband and daughter, and to a friend of Princess Farhana. Renée will provide the names to Dorothy. When Princess Farhana leaves on April 1, Natalie will call a cab to the airport and prepay on the MEDAH debit card.

KCC International Festival - MEDAH has not yet been paid the \$200 stipend for last year's performance. Dorothy has submitted the necessary paperwork twice, due to a change in the way UH pays vendors. Dorothy will email Barbara, the secretary for the Festival director, Carl Hefner. She will ask if there is another contact person.

### **New Business:**

Motion was passed to allow a 20% discount for performers at the Princess Farhana show to take her workshops. They will only pay \$28 for one workshop instead of \$35, and only \$48 instead \$60 for both workshops.

As suggested by Shirlita Jones on email, the Board voted on email to pay \$180 to advertise for 2 weeks in the flash/billboard slideshow on the HNL website. Anna will contact Shirlita and let the Board know how Shirlita will pay for the ad and get reimbursed.

Musicians – Island Oasis Ensemble leader Kip McAtee needs to be contacted and told that the Board is aware of the situation and will give future consideration regarding payment to musicians. However, dancers don't get paid at all, and some of them are professional. The fundraiser was special event for membership. At MEDAH events the only dancers paid are those who are brought in as guests. Reimbursement is for expenditures only.

Website - Tammy Yee-Custodio, the MEDAH webmaster, will be asked to post non-MEDAH events on the calendar.

Print calendar – deferred to a later meeting because Tammy was absent.

Membership fee increase – this discussion is deferred to a later meeting.

Stage decoration - The Board discussed the purchase of background fabric. Motion was passed to pay up to \$400 for fabric to dress stages and dressing areas of venues of future events. Natalie will look on eBay and/or in a fabric store for fabric to use for the Princess Farhana event.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, April 7, 2013, at Ward's Rafters. Renée will contact Larry Ward to let him know.

Respectfully submitted by

Renée Arnold  
MEDAH Secretary