MAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, October 22, 2016

12:00 pm

Studio 353, 353 W. 48th St. Studio 3

Board Members Attending:

Lennie Watts, President

Julie Miller, Vice President

John Koprowski, Treasurer

Frank Dain

Bob Diamond

Thomas Honeck

Sidney Myer

Total attendance: 30 (including Board members)

Meeting began at 12:08

1. President Lennie Watts welcomed the members and introduced the Board members in attendance and mentioned those who weren’t there, including Advisory Board members.
2. John Koprowski gave the Treasurer’s report, stating MAC’s finances are solvent with $65,000+ in the bank account. Stated that was a safe level to maintain in order to finance the various events MAC sponsors. Stated that no Board members are paid, which keeps our overhead low. A full financial report is given at each Board meeting. There were no questions.
3. Lennie gave the membership report. Current membership, people and clubs, is 605, 100 more than in 2012.
4. Lennie announced these upcoming events:

- Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 3:00 pm at Don’t Tell Mama: Julie Wilson plaque dedication.

The event is sold out. Holt McCallany (Julie’s son), Jonathan Groff, Debbie Damp, Christopher Denny, Lina Koutrakos, Lorinda Lisitza, Sidney Myer, Chris Zelno with perform. Holt will show a clip of the documentary his is producing.

- Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm at The Duplex: Jan Wallman plaque dedications.

1. Lennie urged the members to visit the MAC YouTube channel, which has nearly every performance from every MAC Awards. Also to listen to the MAC AccuRadio channel. Twice a year we do a CD round up to submit to the channel.
2. Vice President Julie Miller reviewed all upcoming events:

- MAC Open Roving Mic: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm; Don’t Tell Mama. Rick Jensen is M.D.; Bob Diamond hosts. (MAC pays the cover; members meet minimum.) Great networking opportunity and a way to work on new material.

- Julie Wilson Dedication: Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 3:00 pm at Don’t Tell Mama.

- They Write the Songs: Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 4:00-6:00 pm at Baruch Performing Arts Center. Reception to follow. Julie Gold is host. Scheduled songwriters are David Friedman, Alex Rybeck, Lynne Shankel. The 2016 MAC Award winners in the song categories— Carolyn Montgomery-Forant & Jeff Cubeta; Derek Gregor & Sam Carter; Meg Flather & John Mettam. The Burman and Wallowitch Award winners will be featured. A link for tickets will be on the web site.

- MAC Open Roving Mic: November 29, 2016 at 7:00 pm; Laurie Beechman Theatre. Tracy Stark is M.D.; Lennie Watts hosts. (MAC pays the cover; members meet minimum.) Great networking opportunity and a way to work on new material.

- MAC Holiday Party: December 5, 2016 at Elmo (7th Avenue between 18th & 19th) at 6:30 pm. Food and open bar. She asked for donations for the raffle prizes: tickets to a show, restaurants, design package, etc.

- Spring series of Open Mics will be scheduled.

- 31st MAC Awards: March 28, 2017 at B.B. King. Award submissions will start in early December. As with the Board of Directors election, voting will be done on-line.

Lennie introduces Thomas Honeck and asked about the Burman and Wallowitch Awards. Thomas explained that each year a group of judges is chosen. They review submissions through the end of October and the finalists are reviewed by a celebrity judge.

Finalists announced November 1; Winners announce November 8. Awards come with a cash prize.

MAC supports Wingspan for the Arts, an after-school program for teens. MAC provides scholarships. Performers sing for the Board who picks one, sometimes two, teens to get the scholarship to take the cabaret program. The winner(s) perform at the MAC Awards.

Open Floor:

1. Linda Amiel Burns. Question: How much did the MAC table at the Broadway Flea Market raise?

Answer: More than ever, over $3,400.

Linda thanked Amy Wolk for picking up CDs at Linda’s home.

1. Question: How to submit for a MAC Award?

Answer: Process in on web site. Download form. Submission process will be the same. Fill out forms. Supply documentation. Most performances need 4 per year; debut is 3. Piano bar is 12 performances a year. CD: submit 5 copies. Singers should submit themselves; not all clubs do that. Lennie suggests submitting early to avoid rush and holidays.

1. Question: For debut, do you need to have completed the 3rd show before submitting.

Answer: No, as long as the 3rd performance happens before the end of the year.

1. Question: Queen Diva. (new member) Does MAC make introductions to musical directors?

Answer: Lennie suggests using MAC Google group and joining MAC Facebook page. Check our resources on the MAC web site. Got to shows and hear musical directors. Open Mics are a good source, too.

1. The Elegant Ivories: Thanks to MAC for the Open Mics.
2. Ann Dawson. Question: What percentage of the membership is non-performers.

Answer: MAC is open to all. We don’t have a breakdown, but the majority are involved as performer, director, M.D., booking manager.

1. Debby. Question: Was at Cabaret Convention. Wondered who the audience was and why she hasn’t seen them in the clubs. Has there been an attempt to cultivate that audience and get them to the club.

Answer: MAC and Mabel Mercer are 2 separate organizations.

The conversation veered towards who gets asked to perform, not saying Joshua Lance Dixon had won Mama’s Next BIG Act, Lena Moy-Borgen cleared that up….

Question came back to the audience and why they aren’t in the clubs.

Answer: Frank Dain said he’s heard over the years of attending the Convention that its audience likes to pay for a night of 20 performers, no cover, and it’s the only cabaret event they attend.

Linda Amiel Burns announces a new room in Philadelphia, Dino’s Backstage Celebrity Room. Marilyn Maye opened it. Beautiful room. Holds 50. She told them about MAC.

Lennie said to use info@macnyc.com with questions. They will be sent to the appropriate person. MAC has created a load of programs. We have a hard-working Board which puts in a lot of time. Stresses how important MAC Open Mic is to generate your audience. MAC to School had 30 people for the weekend. $50 for workshops and seminars.

1. Ann Dawson: Thanks to the Board for all of the work. Special thanks to Amy for getting back so quickly.

Lennie explains google group.

If sending something to the Google group, whatever is put in the body of the email goes to everyone. MAC does not monitor it, edit it, or post it. We do not see it. It goes out as is. Graphics don’t always work. Not everyone can see them. Be sure to put text. Suggests you proofread before sending it, to avoid having to send multiple corrections. Which can cause recipients to delete without reading. You’re doing yourself a huge disservice.

Two ways to receive:

1. Get every blast as it’s sent out
2. Default setting: The digest, which goes out once a day.

Rules on how many times you can post.

If you belong to a number of groups, send out announcements on different days. Many belong to multiple groups and, if you send an announcement to all of your groups on the same day, recipients are getting them all at once. Spread them out.

We have a new MAC hotline that transcribes all calls into emails. Bob Diamond then sends the email to the correct person.

1. Christopher Lowe. Question. Is Pangea a MAC club.

Answer: We’ve been after them to join.

Christopher: People are doing shows there and wonder if they are eligible for MAC Awards.

Answer: If they are MAC members, they are eligible.

Julie Miller urged everyone to get involved with the MAC Facebook page. She approves quickly requests to join. There are a lot of non-MAC members in our FB page so it’s a good way to reach others interested in cabaret, to advertise your shows, etc.

The meeting **ended at 1:02 pm**

**---**