

**NATO of Illinois Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Downers Grove, Illinois**  
**June 25, 2009**

**DRAFT**

Willis Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Willis Johnson, Classic Cinemas  
Chris Johnson, Classic Cinemas  
Mary Ann Frank, NATO of Illinois  
Tony Kerasotes, Kerasotes Theatres  
Dean Kerasotes, Kerasotes Theatres  
Mark Gramz, Marcus Theatres  
Brian Wester, Goodrich Quality Theaters  
Melissa Recar, Goodrich Quality Theaters  
Angelique Brunsman, Hollywood Blvd.  
Brandon Sartor, Regal Cinemas  
Dino Vlahakis, Pickwick Theatre

**Absent:**

F & F Mgmt.  
Reynolds Theatres  
Cinemark  
Times Theater  
Lorraine Theatre Corp.  
Glen Theater

**Guests:**

Jeff Glass - Capitol Consulting (CCG)

**Legislative Session Review**

Jeff Glass, Capitol Consulting Group, commented on the current status of several issues being discussed by the Illinois Legislature.

Teen wage: legislation supported by Rep. Lightford to eliminate the teen wage, has no significant support.

Menu labeling: proposed by Rep. Flowers, but is still not supported by a majority of legislators.

Income taxes: budget shortfalls are likely to result in passage of income tax increases by January, along with changes in the State pension system for newly hired government employees.

Prevailing wage: this ill-written bill strongly opposed by NATO of IL, is still under discussion, but will not move forward without significant changes which we anticipate being involved in.

Amusement taxes: budget legislation passed by the Senate included admission taxes to offset property tax reductions, but is not currently supported by House leadership or Republicans. CCG strongly suggested that NATO of Illinois draft a letter for House and Senate leaders addressing our concerns regarding admission taxes. CCG will also work with Sox and Cubs lobbyists to continue to oppose this revenue option. Mary Ann will draft a statement of opposition including arguments that movies are affordable, offer family entertainment, already pay local admission taxes in some areas, support teen employment levels, and are still struggling with recent minimum wage increase related expenses. The draft will be available for review by members prior to distribution.

**Legislative Issues**

Minimum Wage: Willis noted that the IL Minimum wage will increase effective 7-1-09 to \$8.00 with a \$7.50 teen wage provision. One more increase is scheduled for 2010 as a result of the current multi-year legislative increase.

Employee Free Choice: "card check" legislation which members actively opposed, has at least been "bottled up" for some time due to the opposition legislators heard from theatres and other business organizations, but may come up again in early 2010.

**Approval of June 26, 2008 Minutes**

No corrections or changes. *Motion by Tony, second by Mark. All in favor.*

**Membership Development**

Mary Ann discussed the current status of some potential members:

Southport Music Box, CineMajestic, & Village Roadshow – all new national members who have or will be sent letters to join Illinois.

Eagle Theaters & Peoria Cinemas – have requested membership, but have not paid dues.

AMC / Carmike – updates from Belinda Judson suggested that discussions with both companies are ongoing and will hopefully result in greater support of regional units. Tony Kerasotes noted that he has a good relationship with Fred Van Noy of Carmike, and would be willing to help NATO in their recruiting efforts.

### **Appointments to Board of Directors**

Term renewals (2009-2011): Willis Johnson – Dean Kerasotes – Robert Fink

*Motion by Tony, second by Mark, to approve the term renewals . All in favor.*

### **Election of Officers, effective July 2009**

Nominations for all Officer positions were opened for all members to consider. Willis noted that Willis, Tony, Bob and Mark were all willing to continue, in the absence of any other interested members. Officers were elected as follows: Willis Johnson, President; Tony Kerasotes, V.P.; Bob Goodrich, Secretary; Mark Gramz, Treasurer.

*Motion by Dean, second by Angelique, to approve the slate of officers. All in favor.*

### **Program Review / Update**

Willis reviewed the current Scholarship Program and 2009 results, thanking Melissa Ricar, Kim Barengo and Kyle Mitchell for their assistance as judges. Members supported the current digital distribution of applications. Members were also thanked for supporting the Organ Donor Trailer program. It was noted that Hollywood Blvd. and Reynolds Theatres continue to promote the program with rolling stock.

*Motion by Dean, second by Dino, to continue the Scholarship and Organ Donor programs. All in favor.*

### **New Business**

Willis noted that the Annual Budget and expense reports were included in Agenda packets. The checking account is currently being moved to Downers Grove Community Bank to avoid fees recently imposed by Midwest Bank.

NATO of IL recently activated a new Website at [www.natoillinois.com](http://www.natoillinois.com) with some basic information for general exposure and name recognition, as well as member access to forms and contact information. Website design and support services are being provided courtesy of Classic Cinemas.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **Announcements**

NATO General Meeting: September 15-16, 2009 - Newport Beach, CA

ShowEast: October 26-29, 2009 - Orlando, Florida

82<sup>nd</sup> Academy Awards: March 7, 2010

ShoWest 2010: March 15 – 18, 2010 - Bally's/Paris Las Vegas, NV

Geneva Convention 2010: Sept 28-30, 2010 - Lake Geneva, WI

Willis recognized Tony and Dean Kerasotes on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kerasotes Theatres. It was also noted that NATO of IL will be well represented on the new NATO Executive Committee by Kerasotes, Cinemark, Regal and Marcus.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Frank