



Honoring excellence in school theatre

MISSOURI THESPIANS

An Educational Theatre Association affiliated chapter

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. This organization shall be called the Missouri State Thespian Society, hereinafter referred to as the Society, and shall be affiliated with the Educational Theatre Association and its student organization the International Thespian Society.

Section 2. This organization shall serve as the Missouri Chapter within the Educational Theatre Association.

Section 3. The purpose of the Society shall be the advancement and improvement of the theatre arts in schools in the State of Missouri.

Section 4. The Constitution shall be the final authority in matters of procedural disputes.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership qualifications for schools, directors, and the students of the Missouri State Thespian Society will adhere to the membership provisions of the Educational Theatre Association.

Section 2. Schools in good standing that serve as current members of the Educational Theatre Association qualify for membership to the Missouri State Thespians. Directors of theatre programs for those schools qualify as members as well.

Section 3. Honorary members may be conferred by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article III. Chapter Director

Section 1. The Chapter Director will be elected according to Educational Theatre Association By-Laws.

Section 2. The Chapter Director shall act as liaison to the International Thespian Society.

Section 3. The Chapter Director shall conduct the business of the Society as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Chapter Director shall fulfill all other duties delineated by the Educational Theatre Association.

Section 5. The Chapter Director shall serve as the Chief Officer of the Board of Directors. He/She has final authority on governing matters before the Board of Directors.

Section 6. The Chapter Director assigns responsibilities to all Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Chapter Director shall have served on the Board of Directors for at least one full year before being nominated and/or elected to the position of Chapter Director.

Article IV. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors will consist of 12 members not including the Chapter Director. Each Board Member will serve a 3-year term.

Section 2. Each Board Member will assist the Chapter Director in coordinating the activities of the Missouri State Thespians.

Section 3. Quorum will consist of at least 7 voting members.

Section 4. The Board shall conduct business and establish policy and procedures for the Society through a simple majority vote.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall be elected on a 3-year staggering term. The Chapter Director will appoint an implementation board in 1997 to serve the first set of terms. For all future years the Chapter Director will appoint a nomination committee from members of the Board of Directors. Additional nominations may be made by Directors during the State Conference. Troupe directors in attendance at the State Thespian Conference will elect the Board Members with each troupe receiving one vote. Board Members may be re-elected to succeeding terms.

Section 6. In 2008, the State Board of Directors will expand in number. For that election cycle three additional positions will be added.

Section 7. Members of the Board of Directors of Missouri State Thespians will meet six times a year. Board meetings will occur in March, May, August, December, Leadership Conference, and the State Conference.

Section 8. Any Board Member who misses 50% of the meetings within a year will be considered for removal. The Chapter Director has the right to remove any member of the Board of Directors from office at any time after consultation with the Board.

Section 9. The current Chapter Director will, after consultation with the Board, appoint a replacement for any open seats on the Board to serve the rest of the unexpired term including a new Chapter Director.

Section 10. Each Board Member will be expected to perform a variety of leadership responsibilities on behalf of the Missouri State Thespians. These include but are not limited to: Chapter Secretary, Chapter Treasurer, State Conference Chairperson, State Conference Committee Chairperson, Student Officer Liaison, and Advocacy Liaison.

Section 11. Any Board Member may serve on the staff of statewide projects as deemed necessary by the Chapter Director.

Section 12. Any Board Member may serve as adjudicators for theatrical productions at the State Conference by screening video submissions and/or attending performances. Board Members as Troupe Directors who are submitting entries to be performed at State Conference may not participate as adjudicators.

Section 13. The Board of Directors will be responsible to award and/or revoke Missouri State Thespian scholarships and stipends.

Section 14. Ex-officio members may include the Fine Arts Consultant from DESE and a representative of the Junior Thespians of Missouri. The Chapter Director has the power to appoint any ex-officio members to the Board of Directors.

Article V. Student Officers

Section 1. The student board of the Society shall be composed of 4 members.

Section 2. An officer must be a student in good standing within a Missouri Troupe and the International Thespian Society. An officer must be able to complete the term of office while still a high school student in the state.

Section 3. The term of office shall be from the close of State Thespian Conference to the close of the next year's Conference.

Section 4. Elections of Student Officers shall be conducted as follows:

- A. Each Troupe may nominate no more than one student for each elected state office each year.
- B. The election will be conducted with a combination interview process/popular vote. The interview process will narrow candidate slate up to 8 viable candidates.
- C. The Board shall appoint an Election Moderator to conduct all election activities and enforce all rules as set forth in the registration packet. The moderator shall be assisted by the current Student Officers.
- D. Up to 8 viable candidates shall give pre-written/pre-submitted campaign speech at a general meeting during the State Conference.

Section 5. Any Student Board Member who misses 50% of the meetings within a full year will be considered for removal. The Chapter Director has the right to remove any Student Member of the Board from office at any time after consultation with the adult Board Members.

Section 6. The Student Officers shall serve as liaison from the Board to the students of the Troupes around the state.

Section 7. Each Student Officer will be expected to perform any duties delegated to them by the Board including: attend the International Thespian Society National Conference, attend all board meetings, attend Leadership Conference, and coordinate all student events at Leadership Conference.

Section 8. If a vacancy exists for the Student Board, the remaining Student Officers will fulfill the responsibilities created by the vacancy.

Article VI. Ratification and Amendment

Section 1. This Constitution will go into effect upon ratification by a majority of the Troupe Directors present at the Leadership Conference in the fall of 2007.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Board or by individual Troupe Directors to be approved by majority vote of Troupe Directors in attendance at the State Conference with each Troupe receiving one vote.

Section 3. The Board may suspend the provisions of the Constitution in case of emergency.

*Approved September 2007
Amended January 2010*