

MO Thespian Newsletter

End of the School Year

May 2012

For Sponsors

This newsletter is full of basic information for next year. Please make sure you look through all of the information and share with your students. Summer is a busy time for the state board and the student officers as we will be putting together the conference schedule and putting the finishing touches on Leadership. We hope to take all of the great suggestions from our sponsors and students and make this year's Thespian experience the best ever!

Also Sponsors: If you have suggestions for workshop presenters for the 2013 Conference, please e-mail his/her name, contact information, and workshop ideas to Lara Corvera at LCORVERA@psdr3.org by July 1, 2012. Thanks!

Missouri Gives Back

The annual silent auction raised \$841.25 for Broadway Cares – way to go, Missouri! Also, Missouri Thespians raised \$415.50 for the Joplin Thespian troupe from lanyard sales and coin wars! We will continue our fund raising efforts next year with the silent auction, as well as a Thespian store that the student officers are planning! Be sure to bring some extra cash for lanyards and other goodies to be sold at conference!

Colleges/Vendors

We encourage all students and teachers to visit the many tables next year, and bring some extra cash to purchase scripts, educational DVDs and even some whimsical jewelry to take home. We are very excited about the move to the Marriot, which will put our colleges and vendors in a much more accessible area! Remember – the college tables are not just for seniors! Encourage juniors and sophomores to research their future plans now!

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Conference Registration

Conference consent and health forms will be posted online this summer for anyone wishing to get a head start on registration for next year.

This year, our hotel accommodations will be in the same site as our conference (St. Louis Grand Renaissance), making for "one-stop conferencing"!! The hotel has plenty of rooms for all.

All troupe reservations will be made through Missouri State Thespians. Food options are still in progress, but will be available for you by Leadership. A rooming list form will be on the website by mid-summer.

Handy information concerning rooms:

All rooms with hotel tax – \$116.74 (1-4 persons)

- All reservations, (numbers only) to Debbie Corbin, by email, mail or phone.
- All rooming lists (names) to Debbie Corbin by email or mail only.
- All monies for hotel rooms to Jennifer Forrest-James by mail or paypal.

Dates/deadlines:

- You can begin to order your rooms NOW!
- October 1 - Numbers of rooms per school
- November 1 - All rooming lists due
- November 30 - All rooming finalized

Contact Information for Debbie Corbin:

corbind@branson.k12.mo.us or happyhills@juno.com, 1426 State Hwy 176 E, Spokane, MO 65754

Contact Information for Jennifer Forrest-James:

jforrest-james@parkwayschools.net or jforrest-james@gmail.com, 419 Sorrento Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021

Missouri State Officers

Any student interested in running for state office must submit the application by May 30, 2012. The application is available on the Missouri Thespians website under the State Conference tab. Click on Student Board Member Application.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN FESTIVAL 2012

PLACE: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

DATE: JUNE 25-30

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2012

PLACE: JEFFERSON CITY

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8

MO STATE CONFERENCE 2013

PLACE: MARRIOTT GRAND (ST. LOUIS)

DATE: JANUARY 10-12

Scholarship Information

The scholarship registration process will undergo some changes for the 2013 conference. All changes will be discussed at Leadership conference.

For Your Information...

Samuel French, Inc. and professional playwright Matthew Burnett are thrilled to make the following educational opportunity available to all Missouri high school theater groups! Every high school that licenses the play *THEOPHILUS NORTH*, by Matthew Burnett, based on the novel by **Thornton Wilder**, has the opportunity to request a **free Skype Q&A** with the playwright. Additionally, at your request Mr. Burnett will autograph all copies of the play purchased through Samuel French. The Skype Q&A program has proved a resounding success. As Stephanie Fomby, Director at Paloma Valley High School, states, "Incredible! I've never had an opportunity like this for my students. The experience has given them new passion and ownership of their work, and I can tell that they feel their part in the theater is now taken seriously, in a way they never have before. This is the best use of technology!" Visit www.TNorthThePlay.com for full information on this Wilder-based, flexible-cast play, set in Roaring 20's America, and be sure to visit the Education Page there. You can also read Mr. Burnett's article on the Skype Program in Samuel French's new online magazine, *Breaking Character* (www.breaking-character.com). If you would like more information on the *THEOPHILUS NORTH* Skype Q&A Program, or to schedule your own, contact Katy DiSavino at Samuel French, Inc, at Outreach@SamuelFrench.com!

Mainstage and One Act Productions

Sponsors!!!! Contact ahetz@parkwayschools.net if you are interested in serving on the one act reading committee, as well as the main stage adjudication process for the 2013 conference! One Act submissions are still being accepted. We are looking for any productions that went to MSHSAA state competition and other pieces without huge set/costume/lighting needs.

Page to Stage

This state-wide playwrighting program is a wonderful opportunity for young playwrights to submit their work for critique from a reading committee. If selected as one of the three to workshop, present and perform at the 2013 State Conference you will be working with a professional playwright to revise and perfect your script for production. Not a writer? Students may also audition or apply to be a stage manager for the selected plays. For further inquiry on playwrighting, acting and stage management, please go to the MO-Thespians webpage or email mstpagetostage@gmail.com with questions.

Leadership

Unlike the state conference, schools will still be responsible for making their own hotel reservations for Leadership. The Truman Hotel (where Leadership will be held) has a block of rooms available for \$62 + tax (\$66.34). The group code is THESP and phone number to reserve rooms is 573-635-7171.

A reminder that the cost of Leadership this year will be \$12 per person attending (students and adults) and this will include lunch and all registration materials. Registration is now open for Leadership on the mo-thespians website and the final date to register and make hotel reservations is Aug 24th. Payment for Leadership is due by Sept 8th (payment can be brought to Leadership). There will be some activities planned for Friday, Sept 7th. Officially the start/stop times of Leadership on Saturday, Sept 8th will be as follows: Registration 8:15-8:45 and Closing Session 5-5:30. A complete schedule will be posted on time sometime before July 31st.

A reminder to all students attending Leadership - Trucker Hats and glo materials for the dance will be available for sale at Leadership Conference!

Individual Events

The Individual Events will be back for conference 2013! Detailed information will go up on the web site this summer, but here are the basics for you:

1. Each school may have up to 5 different entries.
2. Each school may only have one entry for each category.
3. Categories for performance include monologue, duet acting, group acting, solo musical, duet musical, group musical, group Broadway dance and mime.
4. Categories for technical theatre include Costume Design, Lighting Design, Theatre Marketing, Scenic Design, Short Film, Sound Design, and Stage Management.

All categories, except group Broadway Dance, are also national categories. Students who receive a superior rating at state level will be eligible to compete at Festival. All superior ratings may also be asked to perform/display their entry at Missouri Arts Education Day in Jefferson City.

Improv Olympix

The Improv Olympix was once again a great success! We are looking forward to bringing this event back to conference next year. Each school may enter one team. There will be a limit to the number of teams that will be allowed to compete, so make sure to register your team early!

Honor Troupes

Just a reminder that to earn Honor Troupe status this year, a student-led presentation of no more than 3 students will present to a panel of judges (1 state board student, adult state board, and another troupe sponsor) at Leadership Conference in September. Presentation must be in a scrapbook, powerpoint, or Prezi. Troupes choosing a powerpoint/Prezi presentation must provide a copy of the slides on a CD. This will be surrendered to the judging panel at the presentation and will be returned at Conference. A projector will be provided, but each school must bring their own laptop. Honor Troupe's will be announced at state conference. If you have any questions, please contact Mikelle Cortez at mcortez@fulton58.org.

Contests!

Be sure to visit the Missouri State Thespians Facebook page for logo and hat design contest information! From your newsfeed or homepage on Facebook, search "Missouri Thespians." There are a few groups. Be sure to join the one with over 180 members.

Congratulations!

Ben Martin, who retired from Lee's Summit West in 2010 and continues to serve on the Missouri State Thespian board as Scholarship Chair and advocacy liaison has been selected as one of 5 members of the Class of 2012 inductees into the Educational Theatre Association's Hall of Fame.

Advocacy

Our efforts to advocate for the arts and arts education have had some real success this year. For the first time in 3 years the Missouri Legislature has appropriated new money (\$600,000) for the trust fund that supports Missouri Arts Council. Unfortunately, that amount falls far short of the money that will be used from the fund to support arts and arts education programs around the state. The legislature has also appropriated money for the 2013 Fine Arts Academy which follows closely on the heels of the announcement by Governor Nixon that he was releasing the money that had been appropriated but sequestered for the 2012 Academy. Be sure to thank your legislators and the Governor for these steps. AND then be sure to be ready to make your voices heard next year. You do make a difference when you speak up.

An outstanding addition to this year's Fine Arts Education Day on March 20th at the Capitol in Jefferson City were several Thespian scholarship winners and candidates. Performing or displaying at this year's advocacy session at the Capitol were: Raymore Peculiar Middle School cast of *The Music Man*; The Parkway All-District Cast of *Spelling Bee*; Nick Raef, Lebanon; Joshua Decker, Waynesville; Olivia Hammack; Jeffrey Behm, Chaminade; Bianca Zachary, Center; Kelly Phelan, Lee's Summit North and Colton Williams, Staley.

A note to next year's winners of IEs and Scholarships. You will receive an invitation to perform at Fine Arts Education Day 2013.