

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, **with the Educational Theatre Association's constitution serving as the ultimate governing authority.**

Section 5. Mission/Vision: To foster a strong foundation of theatre as an essential component of every student's education.

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.~~

Section 3. When in conflict, the Missouri State Thespian Constitution, policies, and procedures supersede individual troupe constitutions.

Section 4. The behavior of any individual troupe member(s) at any Missouri State Thespian sponsored activity may result in suspension of attendance and participation privileges at future state activities or events.

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, **both elected and appointed positions.**

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 a minimum of 12 members not including the Chapter Director. Each Board Member will serve a 3-year term. The positions of Junior Thespian Representative, Secretary, Site Coordinator, Treasurer, Advocacy Representative will be appointed by the Chapter Director either from within the 12 members or from qualified Troupe Directors.

Section 1.1 The Junior Thespian Representative will coordinate events for Junior Thespian Troupes, including a conference component. The Junior Thespian Representative has the authority to establish a Junior Thespian Board.

Section 1.2 The Secretary will maintain archives, meeting minutes, and communicate these to the Board and membership on a regular basis.

Section 1.3 The Site Coordinator will procure the site of the state conference, negotiate contracts pertaining to the site, and serve as liaison between site staff and the Board of Directors.

Section 1.4 The Treasurer will maintain and publish financial records of the organization and communicate these to the Board and membership on a regular basis. The Treasurer is the only Board authority to generate invoices on behalf of the Missouri State Thespians.

Section 1.4a The financial year of Missouri State Thespians shall end on June 30.

Section 1.4b. The accounts of Missouri State Thespians shall be open to inspection by any active Troupe Director on giving reasonable notice to the Treasurer.

Section 1.5 The Advocacy Representative will serve as liaison for the Board of Directors with local and national Arts advocacy initiatives.

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 a simple majority of 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 or appointed 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 Leadership 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 6. Elected members and the Secretary of the Board of Directors of Missouri State Thespians will meet six times a year, as published on the Missouri State Thespian website.

Section 7. Any elected Board Member or the Secretary 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 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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 participating in the adjudication process 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 11. The Board of Directors will be responsible to award and/or revoke Missouri State Thespian awards, scholarships, and stipends.

~~**Section 12.** Ex-officio members will be appointed by the Chapter Director as desired, after consultation with the Board. 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 Missouri State Thespian Board will establish election procedures for a State Student Board. Election procedures will be published on the Missouri State Thespian website. The student board of the Society shall be composed of 4 members.~~

Section 2. An officer must be a student in good standing within their school, community, 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: according to the Each Troupe may nominate no more than one student for each elected state office each year.~~

- ~~A. The election will be conducted with a combination interview process/popular vote. The interview process will narrow candidate slate up to 8 viable candidates.~~
- ~~B. The Board shall appoint an Election Moderator to conduct all election activities and enforce all rules as set forth in~~
- ~~C. Up to 8 viable candidates shall give pre-written/pre-submitted campaign speech at a general meeting during the State Conference.~~

Section 3. Any Student Board Member who fails to fulfill the requirements outlined in the Student Board Contract 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 4. The Student Officers shall serve as liaison from the Board to the students of the Troupes around the state.

~~**Section 5.** 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 6. If a vacancy exists for the Student Board, the remaining Student Officers will fulfill the responsibilities created by the vacancy.

Article VI. 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 1. 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 **sponsor meeting** with each Troupe receiving one vote. **Members of the Board of Directors who are actively involved with conference activities may vote via absentee ballot prior to the meeting unless there are revisions.**

Section 2. The Board may suspend the provisions of the Constitution in case of emergency.

Article VII. Bylaws

Section 1. Notice of Nondiscrimination

Active membership in Missouri State Thespians shall be established without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, color, disability, national origin, age, or marital status. This organization supports and encourages respect for political, religious, ethnic, racial, physical, generational, sexual and affectional, and intellectual differences because such respect promotes free and open inquiry, independent thought, and mutual understanding.

Section 2. Member Protection (Whistleblower) Policy

If any Board Member or Troupe Director reasonably believes that some policy, practice, or activity of Missouri State Thespians is in violation of law, a written complaint must be filed by that individual with the Chapter Director or the Educational Theatre Association in the event the Chapter Director is believed to be the source of the complaint. It is the intent of Missouri State Thespians to adhere to all laws and regulations that apply to the organization and the underlying purpose of this policy is to support the organization's goal of legal compliance. The support of all members is necessary to achieving compliance with various laws and regulations. A member is protected from retaliation only if the member brings the alleged unlawful activity, policy, or practice to the attention of Missouri State Thespians and provides the Missouri State Thespians with a reasonable opportunity to investigate and correct the alleged unlawful activity. The protection described below is only available to members that comply with this requirement. Missouri State Thespians will not retaliate against a member who in good faith, has made a protest or raised a complaint against some practice of Missouri State Thespians, or of another individual or entity with whom Missouri State Thespians has a business relationship, on the basis of a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law, or a clear mandate of public policy. Missouri State Thespians will not retaliate against members who disclose or threaten to disclose, any activity, policy, or practice of Missouri State Thespians that the member reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule, or regulation mandated pursuant to law or is in violation of a clear mandate of public policy,

Section 3. Conflict of Interest

The Missouri State Thespian Board resolves that no member of the Board shall participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in which he or she or a member of his or her immediate family has potential conflict of interest due to having material economic involvement regarding the matter being discussed. When such a situation presents itself, the Board Member must announce his or her potential conflict, disqualify himself or herself, and be excused from the meeting until discussion is over on the matter involved. The Chapter Director or any Board Member is expected to make inquiry if such conflict appears to exist and the Board Member has not made it known.

*Approved September 2007
Amended January 2010*

IF APPROVED - Amended September 2014