



## Summer Board Meeting

Apologies to everyone for the lack of a May newsletter! I have included the conference feedback from 2018 at the end of this newsletter. We appreciate all of the feedback, and hope we can continue to improve each state conference!

Our summer board meeting finds your adult and student board working on details for both your Leadership and State Conferences. Your STOs attended Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska this summer, and have returned with some great ideas for chapter bonding and conference workshops. Please remember that all board member information is on the MO Thespians webpage, along with individual duties. Please email the board member in charge of any event you have questions about to receive more information! Please note that our Chapter Director has opened a new email exclusively for Missouri Thespians. Contact Jennifer Forrest-James at [missouristatethespians@gmail.com](mailto:missouristatethespians@gmail.com).

## Leadership Conference

Registration for Leadership Conference is now open and will close August 31<sup>st</sup>. Workshops will start on Friday, September 7th for those groups wishing to arrive the night before. This year for the first time we will have some Technical Skills based workshops in make-up and props from experts in the field (starting on Friday night) as well as Advocacy, Leadership, State Events, Troupe Building, and Honor Troupe Presentations and voting for Logos and State Board members.

**Want to run for the adult board?  
Applications are due by August 30<sup>th</sup>!**

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## 2019 State Conference

### All State Show

The Missouri All-State Show, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, will audition at this year's conference! Come to Leadership to find out about this awesome opportunity!

### Opening Number

Join us under the big top for the 2019 Conference opening number! Each troupe is invited to send 2 students to be a part of this year's opening number, a medley of songs from *The Greatest Showman*. Sponsors will register their students on their troupe registration for conference. Come sing and dance along with us on the Mainstage at the Kansas City Music Hall! Contact Brad Rackers for information.

### Tech Challenge

Tech Challenge Updates- There are some small, but important changes to Tech Challenge this year. Details will be shared at leadership and updated on the website. Contact Sarah Serbus for information.

### Individual Events

IEs are back for 2019! All IEs, including film, need to be included in your troupe's registration for conference. Some changes are coming down from National about which publishing houses may be used for cuttings. These changes will be finalized in August. Be sure to come to Leadership for all of the information. We will also update changes on the website as soon as it is all finalized. Contact Theresa Nigus for information.

### Lights, Camera, Action

Get ready for your video auditions for MusicalWorks and Page to Stage. Start finding 2 contrasting monologues for Page to Stage or 16 bars of 2 musical songs for MusicalWorks. Learn more about these events and tips on video auditions at Leadership. Don't miss out on an amazing opportunity to perform at our conference this year! Contact Tabatha Babcock for information.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PLACE: CAPITOL PLAZA

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

## STATE CONFERENCE 2018

PLACE: KANSAS CITY MARRIOTT

DATE: JANUARY 10-12, 2019

## 2019 State Conference

### Creative Writers/Composers

We are now accepting Page to Stage original one-act scripts and MusicalWorks opening numbers for an original musical. Find out more about these events & requirements at Leadership. Contact Tabatha Babcock for information.

### Workshop Ideas

If you have suggestions for workshop presenters for the 2019 Missouri State Thespian Conference (especially those within the Kansas City area), please send the name, contact information, and content to [LCORVERA@psdr3.org](mailto:LCORVERA@psdr3.org) no later than October 1, 2018.

## Save the Date!

Show-Me Arts Summit will be March 26th at the DoubleTree in Jefferson City with the Fine Arts Advocacy Day following on March 27th at the Capitol!

NEW FORMAT this Year! Keep an eye out soon for the registration link!

## Arts Advocacy Day

Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. is March 4th and 5th this year. The Missouri Alliance for Arts Education will be graciously hosting another essay contest for an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for the Arts Advocacy Day. DEADLINE for the contest this year will be January 20th. Look for the application soon! [Missouri Alliance for Arts Education website](http://MissouriAllianceforArtsEducation.com)

**Sign up for Advocacy updates to your phone! Go to:**

<https://www.remind.com/join/mothespadv>

## STO Corner

Hello Thespians! Your Missouri State Thespian Board just wrapped up another successful meeting to help plan things to come. While we are hard at work, here are a few reminders for you to get to workin' on! Each year over 2,000 people attend our State Conference and are given a themed t-shirt. Remember, this year's theme is "Circus, What's your Act?" You could design the t-shirt worn by all state Thespians at the 2019 conference! Submit an original (no copyright infringement) logo to be printed on a single color t-shirt by August 31st to [clittle@parkwayschools.net](mailto:clittle@parkwayschools.net) or [mostatethespians@gmail.com](mailto:mostatethespians@gmail.com). Next, our Leadership Conference is coming up! Come with us and learn skills to make you a better leader, vote on the next board of Student Thespian Officers, and prepare yourself for our State Thespian Conference!

Additionally, each year, we honor ourselves on giving back. We will be donating to Broadway Cares as well Kansas City Young Audiences. If you feel so inclined to donate, either donate straight to the charities online at [www.broadwaycares.org](http://www.broadwaycares.org) and [www.kcya.org](http://www.kcya.org) or bring your donation to the State Thespian Conference. Chad Little will collect them with your troupe's information so you will receive recognition from Broadway Cares. We are also accepting basket donations for the silent auction! Baskets are like themed goody bags on a larger scale that we auction off at State Conference.

Lastly, we will be doing a large Script Swap at Leadership in Jefferson City in September. If you have any duplicates, sets of or extra scripts, please bring them and exchange with other thespians directors.

If you have any questions about anything above or you want to sign up to help with something, please email the STOs at [mostatethespians@gmail.com](mailto:mostatethespians@gmail.com)  
Sincerely,  
STO's Trinity Madison, Samantha Thomas, Dominic Barbosa, Matthew Christofferson

**Email [tnigus@fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:tnigus@fz.k12.mo.us) to have your season included in the newsletter!**

**Have your alumni sign up for the Missouri State Alumni Association at:**  
[https://mst.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com\\_m&view=mc&Itemid=130](https://mst.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_m&view=mc&Itemid=130)

## Conference 2018 Feedback

Thank you to everyone that submitted conference feedback on Guidebook! We want you to know that we take the suggestions very seriously, and try to incorporate some new ideas every year. However, there are some items that may be beyond the board's control. To address some of your concerns:

### 1. More hands-on technical workshops

Getting tech workshops has long been an issue. Bringing the computers, software, and equipment needed to teach a hands on lighting, CAD, or audio design class is challenging for the presenters, as well as almost impossible to accommodate in the conference setting with the electric provided. Please send in any ideas you may have for hands-on workshops that can be presented with limited resources. **Also, please send us names for teaching artists (especially for lighting and sound). Email your name, school name, suggested presenter name, affiliation and contact email to [MSTworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:MSTworkshops@gmail.com).**

### 2. Better/varying performances

The mainstage shows are each adjudicated by a panel of judges from around the state. The shows are selected based upon an established, comprehensive rubric. The top-scoring shows are invited to conference. The one acts are selected by reading committees. We do the best we can to ensure variety and excellence in all selections, but we realize that art is subjective, and opinions differ. Next year, we will also be sending out a description and rating for each show in the December newsletter to keep sponsors informed.

### 3. Better food

Unfortunately, we are not in control of the menu at the conference meal sites, but there are many options around the conference sites for those troupes that would like to explore that option.

## Conference 2018 Feedback

### 4. Spaces/Sign Ups for Workshops

The placement of workshops is dependent on several factors. The guest artists are sometimes only available on certain days and certain times, which can make it challenging to set the rooms up in the most desirable way. We understand that there is a problem sometimes with noise bleed and space within the rooms, and we do the best we can to avoid those situations, but sometimes it is unavoidable. However, we want you to know that we are aware of the problem, and do everything we can to avoid those issues.

We also encourage presenters to cut the number of participants, or put out a sign in sheet. We also encourage delegates to individually gauge the room situation and have a backup plan if a room is too full.

### 5. Bigger space/better music/turn off lights for the dance

We are limited by the space offerings in the hotel spaces, but will continue to put the dance in the largest space that is available. Obviously, turning off the lights is not an option for safety reasons. The new dance format was a change for this year, and we will be exploring the pros and cons of a guided dance activity versus a traditional dance. There were also requests to make the dance longer. We have to remember that we are not the only groups in the hotel, and the dance has to end at a reasonable time for all the guests.

### 6. Overall scheduling

We try to limit the amount of downtime at conference, while also providing enough time to get to various activities. Students need to be reminded that attendance at conference activities and workshops should be your priority, and to minimize loitering in the conference venues.