

## **IOWA THESPIAN BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Saturday, July 29, 2017

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Adult Board:** Sam Burns, Aaron Dean, Kate Baumgartner, Helen Duranleau-Brennan, Katie Howard, Mike Hunter, Nate Jorgensen, Stacie Kintigh, Leslie LaCorte, Bill Myatt, Elizabeth Powers, and Tom Stephens

**Student Board:** Oswaldo Ambrosio, Brady Booth, Melanie Comer, Ali Girsch, Isobel LaCorte, and Kate Struble

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Student: Maaz Ahmed

Adults: Colleen Babcock and Liz Hansen

### **CALL TO ORDER: 9:35 AM**

#### **I. General Session**

A. Approval or corrections of previous meeting minutes (Howard moved, Hunter seconded; motion passed)

#### **B. Financial Report**

- Written report with travel expenses will be available at the next meeting
- Wells Fargo credit cards are now available

#### **C. 2017 EdTA Leadership Summit & Advocacy Day Report**

- Liz, Aaron, Helen, and Brittney Smith attended Summit and Advocacy in Washington
- One workshop at Summit was about managing Junior Thespians (festival, funding, board members, etc.)
- There is discussion at the national level of holding regional Junior festivals
- Another workshop was about recruiting and retaining membership
- Liz submitted notes about alumni boards and leadership camps
- Aaron attended sessions on risk management, budgeting, and overall board business
- All three attended advocacy with representatives of Iowa legislators

#### **D. Leadership Day**

##### **1. Registration Update**

- Current t-shirt/registration count is 112
- Some new schools are attending (A-D-M, Waukee, Des Moines Lincoln, and Lewis Central), but Davenport West and CR Jefferson are not attending (and have in the past)

##### **2. Plans and Work to be Finished**

- Students will rehearse workshops today

#### **E. Iowa Thespian Festival**

##### **1. Festival Schedule**

- Aaron provided a draft schedule with two tracks, including adjustments based on last year's post-mortem
- Schindler is back online this year which should help with scheduling

##### **2. Festival Reports**

###### **a. Registration**

- All forms, applications, and submissions will be available online this year directly through our website instead of using Google Forms
- The Festival registration packet has been updated but needs to be finalized
- Registration will open on August 15

###### **b. Tech Challenge**

- Mike is making modifications to the event guidelines based on 2017 International Festival changes
- Mike will contact UNI to coordinate events, materials, prizes (ETC), and judges
- c. Mainstage
  - No report until after UNI conference call
- d. Studios
  - Clinton will be performing Desk Sentence instead of Nineteen Minutes
  - Pleasant Valley, formerly TBD, will be performing 12 Hr Life
  - Indianola is still TBD and has until Leadership Day to accept or decline
  - West Delaware contacted Tom yesterday and will be applying
  - The goal is to have a full five show slate to allow more involvement and to encourage future mainstage participation
- e. Scholarships
  - Steps involved in audition process need to be very clear
  - Students should be encouraged to adhere to guidelines and the sample resume
  - Discussion of paper versus electronic materials for judges; no change for this year
- f. Workshops
  - Stacie will send an email soliciting presenters
  - Last year we had 26 (session 1) and 28 (session 2) workshops and have a goal to grow by five workshops per year, but need to work with UNI to find enough appropriately sized spaces
  - Helen would like to add an advocacy workshop for adults
- g. STO alumni
  - Sam will use social media and the current student board to generate a list of potential STO alums and a list of duties jobs
  - She is having a reunion from her board (13-14) soon and will reach out to them as well
- h. Special Projects
  - Liz submitted notes on special projects that are being explored
- i. Troupe Recognition
  - The student board will work via social media to develop a state-wide performance calendar; asking students to submit dates and photos will be likely be more effective than asking troupe directors to submit something
  - Katie will coordinate brainstorming ideas on how we can further recognize troupes (slideshow, certificates, plaques, etc.)
- j. Individual Events
  - The NIES guide has been released with a few minor event changes; students must now be an inducted Thespian to be involved in the NIES
  - At the state level we will allow non-inducted Thespians to perform but will need to make it very clear what the requirements are to move on to International
- k. Webmaster
  - We have a new website now (migrated to Weebly) that will be much more user-friendly (layout, forms, etc.)
  - The website needs more photos, so please submit relevant information to Liz or Aaron

## II. Committee Work Session (10:43-12:38)

### III. New Business

#### A. Committee Reports

##### 1. Leadership Day

- Everything is ready to go; Leslie will finalize registration and will send out an email blast with arrival instructions

- Leon will be paid a \$200 stipend for the keynote; he will not be staying for workshops
2. Junior Thespian Festival
    - Schedule has been adjusted to allow for movement between workshops
    - Waukee will perform a “mainstage”
    - Workshop ideas are being developed including some kind of “make and take”, technical theatre, IEs, theatre games, and auditioning
    - Registration cost will be approximately \$30/delegate
    - Looked at theme ideas – eat, sleep, theater; act out; warning: Thespian at work
    - Would like to reach out to other adults to form a committee/board
    - Motion by Burns to hold the Junior Thespian Festival on March 24, 2018 at the Waukee Theatre Arts Center, seconded by Duranleau-Brennan; motion passes
  3. All-State Committee
    - The committee submitted a proposal for an hour-long revue-style show
    - the upfront cost would be \$5000-6000 (after deducting a \$25/student audition fee)
    - Liz will begin the process of identifying and contacting major sponsors
  4. Student Board
    - Finalized Rest Stop program
    - Worked on fundraising specifics (Pie an STO (Broadway Cares), Minute to Give It (Send a Troupe), silent auction (scholarships), and T-shirt grab (scholarships)); Send a Troupe funds will be split between Iowa and EdTA
    - Discussed possibly selling Iowa Thespian branded merchandise at events throughout the year – potentially as a fundraiser for the All-State show or scholarships
    - Identified where STO alumni will be most helpful
- B. Voting on Motions
1. STO application process
    - Discussion on whether Leadership Day is a necessary component of the STO application process – are we limiting applicants?
    - Consensus is that Leadership Day is an important component and we can do more to publicize the event with students and directors
    - Discussion of having Leadership on a different date to make it more accessible
  2. Mainstage/Studio recognition
    - Discussion on awarding banners (like IHSSA does) for mainstage and chapter select participants
    - Two options would be to make a generic banner available for purchase or to provide a banner to mainstage schools instead of a plaque
    - Aaron will contact Craig Ihnen to determine potential cost

#### IV. Leadership Day Workshop Rehearsals

#### V. Meeting Wrap-Up

- A. Review final details for Leadership Day and Festival registration
- B. Agenda for next meeting (October at Waukee)

### **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

- **Leadership Day** Saturday, August 5 – Des Moines Playhouse (10:00 AM)
- Saturday, October 14 at Waukee High School (9:30 AM)
- **2017 Iowa Thespian Festival** Friday, November 10 & Saturday, November 11 – UNI

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 3:26 PM