

# Florida Thespians District One By-Laws

Presented for perusal: August 13, 2018 To be presented for approval: September 8, 2018

## **Purpose/Mission Statement**

The purpose of the member troupes of District 1 of Florida's International Thespian Organization is to provide opportunities for growth and development for our thespian sponsors and student members through the theatre arts. Our mission is to collaborate with the fellow educators, advocates, and artists to make theatre an instrument of lifelong learning for our students. To achieve this goal, we will strive to honor students in all of the major areas of theatre.

The end goal of our mission is to instill a sense of theatre in all our students so that they may enhance their own enjoyment and appreciation of the theatre as an audience, a performer, a technician, a producer, a patron, a playwright, or a critic. We aim to involve our students in the process of creating theatre, thereby encouraging them to use their talents and interests in the world of theatre and becoming contributing artists or audience members throughout their lives.

## **A.General**

1. District 1 will sponsor the following annual events
  - a. Individual Events Festival
  - b. One Act Festival
  - c. The district may schedule other events such as student leadership events and thespian troupe sponsor events.
  - d. The district may contribute to the Florida Association of Theatre Education.
  - e. The district may contribute to professional development for sponsors.
2. All Troupes who wish to attend the district festival must have representation of at least one Sponsor and one student officer during the mandatory fall meeting. If the official Sponsor is unable to attend, a signed letter of proxy assigning responsibility to another qualified adult who will attend in his or her absence must be presented to the District Chairperson/s that assures that all information will be received for the troupe. In the case that a sponsor is assigned to a troupe or a new troupe is chartered BETWEEN the time of the fall meeting and the district registration

deadline, the new troupe director will meet with the District Chair individually.

3. If the Chairperson/s is also the Sponsor of a participating troupe, his/her will count with his/her troupe.
4. The definition of Affiliation is determined by the standing of a Troupe with the International Thespian Society.

### **B.District Festival**

1. District 1 will hold an annual festival to be scheduled by the District Chair and agreed to by the member schools.
2. Expenses incurred directly related to the operation of the district festival will be paid by District 1.
3. Participants do not have to be initiated Thespians to participate, but all attendees must be registered participants in One Acts and/or Individual Events. Sponsors are to use their discretion in deciding which of their students may participate.
4. Every registered participant, sponsor, and chaperone will be issued badges which must be worn at all times or entry will be denied.
5. Day passes are available for purchase at a cost determined by the District Chair and agreed upon by the sponsors at the fall meeting. Only Adults over 21 may purchase day passes and may be asked to present a valid ID for purchase. Day passes will be issued only to the adults present at the time of purchase.
6. All registration, late, no show, and drop fees will be presented to sponsors annually at the Fall Sponsor/Presidents' meeting. Fees may be increased as needed at the discretion of the District Chair once the financial documentation has been completed and submitted to the state board.
7. The District will adhere to all deadlines, rules, rubrics and assessments in individual events and one acts as stated and published by Florida Thespians.

8. Only the official Troupe Sponsor may drop or change an entry or participating student in One Acts and Individual Events.
9. Each Troupe will agree to help make all district events run smoothly by completing a specific task agreed to when the troupe registers for the festival.
10. The sponsor of each troupe is responsible for registering his or her troupe according to published instructions.
11. The sponsor of each troupe is responsible for making all student travel arrangements and following the protocol for student trips as required by his or her district and school.

## **B. Scholarships**

1. District 1 will offer scholarships at the discretion of the District Chair and the scholarship committee.
2. The scholarship committee will review and make any changes to the application and policy each year.
3. Recipients must follow all instructions as outlined in the award letter or their scholarship will be forfeited.

## **C. Judges**

1. Judges must be adults with professional experience in the field they are asked to assess, and must submit credentials to the District Chair if asked to do so.
2. Judges must apply each year and are subject to criminal background checks.
3. Honorariums and expenses covered for judges are determined and reviewed each year by the District Chair to ensure that compensation is in line with the rest of the state thespian districts.
4. There should be three (3) judges for each Individual Event.

## **D. Chairperson**

1. The term of a Chairperson is to be determined by district sponsors in good standing and must be approved by the state board.

2. A new District Chairperson must be nominated by the current District Chair and approved by the State Director. In the event a District Chair is removed or must step down unexpectedly, the
3. Sponsors in good standing may choose to have a Co-Chairperson to assist with district duties. However, all final decisions and voting rights on the state board remain with the District Chair of record unless said District Chair appoints the Co-Chair to act in his/her absence.
4. The Chairperson of Record will select a student or students to act as the District 1 Student Representative(s) on the State Board of Directors, as well as select students to be assistant representatives to shadow and help the current student representatives.
5. The Chairperson/s will communicate all important information about State and District events to the sponsors in the district in a timely manner.
6. The Chairperson/s will establish a method of communication with all affiliated Troupes including the establishment and maintenance of a website.
7. The District Chairperson/s handles district finances. A yearly financial statement will be supplied to EDTA and a budget will be presented during the fall meeting. There must be multiple signers on all bank accounts including but not limited to the State Director and a representative of EDTA.
8. A District Chairperson may be removed from the position by the State Director upon written request by at least 75% of District 1 sponsors in good standing.
9. The District Chairperson must represent District 1 at ALL State Executive Board meetings or have an adult designee there.
10. In lieu of a salary or honorarium for services rendered, the District will cover all travel expenses for the District Chairperson(s) and Student Representatives deemed necessary to fulfill required and assigned duties with Florida Thespians. Expenses include but are not limited to transportation, substitutes, meals, lodging and other thespian events.

## **E. The By-laws**

1. The by-laws shall be brought before the sponsors at least two weeks before the annual fall meeting for review, and amendments must be voted on at the fall meeting.
2. Other changes may be made, if it becomes necessary, with proper notification all Troupe Sponsors and the agreement of a quorum of 50% +1 of active troupes.