

Enjoy this new format of Center Stage, the ICTA newsletter!



ICTAs "Center Stage"~September 2017

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Welcome to the electronic world of Iowa Community Theatre Association newsletters. Please provide feedback to the editor, Loween Getter, or any board member. Members without email access will continue to receive their newsletters in the mail.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS OCTOBER 15, 2017

Please submit your news, photos, and production info for the next issue of "Center Stage" to Editor Loween Getter at loweengetter@wmtel.net by October 15, 2017.



ICTA Well-Represented at AACTFest 2017

Nationals held in Rochester, MN June 25-July 1

Top Photo: Three ICTA members participated in the week-long adjudicator training at Nationals. AACT Fellow Kathy Pingel led the dozen classmates through 45 hours of coursework and practice adjudication. Helen Beneke of Pocahontas (Pingel) Jennifer Make of Farley; and Sue Beukema of Newton enjoyed the opportunity provided by AACT for life-long learning for theatre veterans and volunteers.

Bottom Left: Donna Smithson of Lenox received recognition of her 10 years of service to AACT as Iowa's Region 5 representative from AACT Executive Director Julie Crawford.

Bottom Right: Loween and Doug Getter of Webster City enjoyed watching 15 productions, hearing the adjudicators' remarks and applauding the winners, learning at the workshops on a wide variety of topics, meeting the vendors in the marketplace, and networking with other community theatre fans from across the country.

Other Iowans journeying to Minnesota for the bi-biennial event were Peggy Borwn, Lenox; Cheryl Clark, Rod McCullough, Mark Toebben, John Viars, David Kilpatrick and Gloria Filean of greater Des Moines; Penny Hall, John Harper and Dante Benjegerdes, Iowa City; Albie Nicol, Cedar Falls; Blake Carlson and Rusty Ruth, Spencer; Wesley Beitzel and Zack Werner, Farley; and Stephanie Michalecek and Taylor Fiser of Cedar Rapids.

Check out the September/October 2017 issue of AACT's "Spotlight" for full details of Nationals.

Plan now to attend AACTFest 2018 in Gettysburg, PA

Iowa Community Theater Association - August 2017 Minutes

President Rick Myers convened the Iowa Community Theater Board into session at 12:16 P.M. on August 19, 2017, at Newton Community Theatre. Other members present were Loween Getter, Cheryl Zieringer, John Olson, Mel Wilson, Bobbi Lutzen, Cheryl Clark, Gerard Schwicherath, and Donna Smithson.

Gerard moved the acceptance of the May minutes as printed and distributed to board members; John seconded; carried.

Before the treasurer's report was presented, Rick explained the procedure used by the ICTA Board as to the reception of information. Gerard then presented the financial data which separates the general account from the L.K. Boutin account, delineates the number of theater members and individual members, and specifies all income and disbursements since the last board meeting. Gerard is also endeavoring to find the highest rate of interest

through reliable agencies in order to have more money that can be spent for the sustaining and enlargement of community theater within the state. Various investment plans were laid out which depict their stability, ease of retrieval of funds, and interest trends. After much discussion Cheryl C. moved acceptance of Gerard's proposed plan; Mel seconded; carried. Rick presented a \$300 check which was the receipts of the 50/50 project at Festival. This money will be placed as a part of the L. K. Boutin fund which was specifically endowed as a support for the advancement of new or small community theaters. The principal may not be spent; only the generated interest is used.

Liability insurance was a large topic of interest. Gerard has been soliciting information from individual theaters to discover which company and plans they are using, the article from "Spotlight" was referenced, incidences of local law suits were cited, and Gerard will contact AACT for input and bring that information to the next meeting.

Rick had received a box of archival information regarding this state theater organization and was asking for suggestions as what to do with it since ICTA does not have its own structure. It was noted that several boxes of historical theater artifacts are housed in the Iowa State Historical Society in Iowa City. Cheryl C. volunteered to get the material electronically preserved since much of it was produced on a mimeograph machine.

Loween had a list of theater and individual members for whom she was needing e-mail addresses. It would be another cost-saving venture, and more expedient, if the Center Stage newsletter could be sent via e-mail rather than U.S. Postal Service.

Webster City is hosting the 2018 ICTA Convention so Loween listed topics of workshops which she was suggesting and asked the board members to suggest others. Her committee will investigate the availability of the numerous suggested speakers and topics and have a plan laid out by the next board meeting. The ICTA committee in charge of conventions and festivals is comprised of Jason, Cheryl C., and Bobbi.

Jason was not present to explain the computer program he decided might best fit the organization, and it was noted that the board members had not received the needed information to make a relevant decision. This will be an item for the next meeting.

Send requests for reviews of your shows to

ICTAreview@gmail.com

There was much discussion over the request for nominations, reviewer results, the form to be used, and recruitment of board reviewers. Mel suggested that, for the ease of making a

reservation, the form for reviewers should include the name and e-mail of the nominator plus the name and address of the theater. John stated there definitely needed to be an ICTA account and personal accounts should never be used for this very important function of the Awards in Excellence Program. Immediately following the discussion, Gerard created an e-mail account that is to be used for asking for a show's nomination: ICTAreview@gmail.com. Pam will be the primary responder; Mel will be the secondary in case Pam is unavailable.

Gerard and Cheryl C. reported on other awards programs that were conducted within the state of Iowa. They saw a positive impact of the ICTA awards committee (Mel, Pam, John, Cheryl Z.) meeting to share information with these other awards committees in order to improve this constantly-evolving project. Communication is always productive.

Help keep ICTA's website current

Submi your theatre's productions and news to

<http://www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.com>

Gerard moved providing a free one-year membership to Timothy Rose in order to make a connection between his listing of productions in Iowa along with the ICTA's web page of productions; Mel seconded; carried. It is vitally important that the information on the ICTA web (<http://www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.com>) be kept current. All people are responsible for submitting their theater's information to the webmaster whose address is listed on the site.

Gerard moved that 1000 business-sized cards be created to provide information about how to contact ICTA. The board's services cannot be utilized unless the people are aware of them. New theaters or members, or those who have not belonged for awhile, would receive one year of free membership which would acquaint them with various opportunities. The goal of the board is to serve all people, not just a select few. John seconded; carried.

Cheryl C. suggested it would be to everyone's advantage to have meetings set farther in advance. Gerard moved the second Saturday of the months of February, May, August, and November; Cheryl seconded; carried.

If your theatre would like to host any of the ICTA Board Meetings

on November 11, 2017 or in 2018 on May12, August 11 or

November 10, contact President Rick Myers.

The next business meeting was set for November 11, 2017, at a site to be announced. One important item on the agenda will be the L. K. Boutin grant applications.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Smithson, Secretary

YOUR ICTA BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Myers, President (2018) imacting@yahoo.com

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Sue Beukema, Newton Community Theatre veteran, received the "Friend of Education" award for helping middle school and high school students in Newton with their theatrical productions. Many of those kids have since become active at NCT and do the children's workshop every summer. Congrats, Sue!

Webster City Community Theatre to Host ICTA State Convention 2018

March 23-25

- Workshops--send your ideas of workshop topics and/or presenters to loweengetter@wmtel.net
- Networking opportunities with theatre folk from across Iowa
- Awards of Excellence Gala
- Great entertainment--Come see *UTOPIA--The Iowa Musical Revue* by Robert John Ford, a native of Fort Dodge, IA. Performances by Epic Stage Productions, a professional troupe, will be Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoon-- Ticket price included in registration!
- Annual Meeting & Election--5 board member positions will be open. Have you thought about running?
- Tasty food--continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, post-show parties, brunch
- 3 area hotel properties and cabin accommodations at Briggs Woods Park.
- Conveniently located in north central Iowa, just off I-35 on Hwy 20

Watch for More Information Coming Soon!



WORKERS COMPENSATION--Who Else Is an Employee?

by Ken Roberts as it appeared in the July/August issue of the AACT "Spotlight"

A few months back, I attempted to shed some light on what constitutes an employee for all-volunteer, nonprofit theatres in regards to workers compensation insurance. Since then, I have had conversations with several theatre who still don't believe they have any employees, yet they regularly execute contracts with individuals who direct productions or teach various theatre classes for a small stipend or fee. Even though these directors and teachers do not receive a steady paycheck, and are technically *subcontractors* who may only recipient a 1099 from the theatre, workers compensation law mandates that they are employees who must be insured for any potential injuries they sustain.

The initial confusion seems to revolve around what is considered to be compensation. As I mentioned in the March/April article, any amount of monetary exchange, no matter how small, triggers the workers compensation requirement in every state but Texas. In fact, if a theatre doesn't pay one penny for those subcontractors' services, but only provides them with temporary housing, that housing is considered to be compensation in most states. The amount that should be considered to be "payroll" varies by state, and it is vital not to overlook this benefit as compensation.

There have been documented cases recently where state insurance commissions have discovered that various nonprofit organizations were not purchasing the required workers compensation insurance for their non-employee subcontractors and those commissions were not only going back two years to collect premiums that should have been paid, but they were also tacking on penalties that exceeded the premiums in some cases. We have all heard the old adage that ignorance of the law is no excuse, and that includes workers compensation law. This is especially true in monopolistic states, where the only avenue for workers compensation insurance is through the state fund. The states of ND, OH, WA, and WY do not allow competition for workers compensation insurance, so compliance is tightly regulated and the states look for ways to boost revenue for their workers compensation funds.

The bottom line here is that we should never assume that just because we don't pay someone regularly, or very much, or at all, that we are not required to provide them with workers compensation insurance. There are too many different components, variables and jurisdictions that figure into the process of defining compensation, and as such, there are many different ways to define an employee. As a general rule--when in doubt, ask a licensed professional broker or agent for guidance.



Webster City Community Theatre is sponsoring a dream tour of Italy April 7-17, 2018. The itinerary includes Venice, Padua, Bologna, Tuscany, Florence, Assisi, Frascati, Rome, and Vatican City. The tour is led by Robert Oliver of Legacy Tour & Travel, who lead our wonderful trip to England in 2016.

The tour includes round trip air, luxury motor coach travel, accommodations in 4-star hotels, 18 meals, luggage handling, a commemorative jacket, admissions to all listed attractions, professional local guides, and time to browse and dine on your own, too. For complete information, contact Loween Getter at loweengetter@wmtel.net.

Cost of the tour is \$4,999 per person double or twin occupancy or \$6,299 per person single occupancy. Travel insurance is extra. A deposit of \$1,500 is required by December 1, 2017 to hold your reservation. Final payment is due by February 2, 2018. A \$100 tax deductible donation to WCCT will be made in each traveler's name.



Princess City Players Present "Our Town on the Prairie"

During Heritage Days in June, the Princess City Players presented original skits at the Rialto Theater. Topics of these stories are: Princess Pocahontas, Life on the Prairie, the Village of Pocahontas Center, The Bissell House, the Railroad (finally!), Girls' Basketball in the early 1900s, the Chautauqua and Other Amusements. Each of the actors researched their own story and wore corresponding costumes which lent authenticity to the production. The presentation was directed by Joan Reinhart. Artifacts of the early years of our town were on display in the Green Room.

PICTURED

John Smith, Dick Gruber, Ben Olson, Susie Ott, Marge Spear, Joan Reinhart, and Helen Beneke Missing from photo: Jane Kirchner. Photo by Noah Herman



You are encouraged to support your peers and broaden your theatre experience by attending performances at their theatres. Be sure to contact the newsletter editor at loweengetter@wmtel.net and the webmaster at iowacommunitytheatre@gmail.com to share your upcoming productions and dates. Check the ICTA website for more details at www.iowacommunitytheatreassociation.com.

SEPTEMBER

6-9, 15 "The 26th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" Judge Story Theatrical Troupe, Story City
8-9, 15-16 "Glass Menagerie" Boone Community Theatre
810, 14-17 "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence:" Waterloo Community Playhouse
14-15 "The Spitfire Grill" Wilson Performing Arts Center, Red Oak
22-24 "Peter and the Starcatcher" City Circle Acting Company, Coralville
28-30, October 1, 5-7 "Catch Me If You Can" Opera House Players, Elkader
September 29-October 1 "A Walk in the Woods" Wolf Creek Players, Dysart
Sept 29-October 8 "The Addams Family" Players Workshop, Burlington

OCTOBER

6-7, 13-14 "A Wrinkle in Time: Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo
6-8, 12-15 "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" Ankeny Community Theatre
20-29 "Escanaba in Love" Marshalltown Community Theatre

NOVEMBER

2-5 "The God Committee" Ankeny Community Theatre
10-12, 17-19 "Making God Laugh" Webster City Community Theatre
10-12, 17-19 "All My Sons" Chanticleer, Theatre, Council Bluffs
10-18 "The Trip to Bountiful" Waterloo Community Playhouse
16-19 "A Christmas Story" Wilson Performing Arts Center, Red Oak

DECEMBER

- 1-10 "It's A Wonderful Life" Union Street Players, Pella
1-2, 8-10 "Story Theatre" by Paul Sills Boone Community Theatre
1-10 "The Savannah Sipping Society" Players Workshop, Burlington
1-3 "The Most Amazing Christmas Play Series in the Entire History of the World" Judge Story Theatrical Troupe, Story City
1-3, 8-10 "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Opera House Players, Elkader
8-17 "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" City Circle Acting Company, Coralville
8-10, 14-17 "A Christmas Chaos" Ankeny Community Theatre
8-16 "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo

JANUARY

- 13-15 "The Velveteen Rabbit" Ankeny Community Theatre
19-28 "Middletown" Chanticleer Theatre, Council Bluffs
19-28 "The Library" Waterloo Community Playhouse

FEBRUARY

- 2-4, 9-11 "All My Sons" Webster City Community Theatre
9-10, 15-17 "Nunsense" Boone Community Theatre
9-11 "On Golden Pond" Wilson Performing Arts Center, Red Oak
9-11 "Chess in Concert" City Circle Acting Company, Coralville
9-11, 15-18 "Almost, Maine" Ankeny Community Theatre
16-18 "Done to Death" Judge Story Theatrical Troupe, Story City
16-24 "The Princess and the Pea" Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo
February 23-March 4 "Come Back, Little Sheba" Players Workshop, Burlington

MARCH

- 16-25 "The Full Monty:" Waterloo Community Theatre
23-25 "UTOPIA--The Iowa Musical Revue" ICTA State Convention, WCCT
March 23-April 1 "Urinetown" Chanticleer Theatre, Council Bluffs

APRIL

- 6-8, 12-14 "A Comedy of Tenors" Opera House Players, Elkader
6-8, 12-15 "A Few Good Men" Ankeny Community Theatre
13-21 "Winnie the Pooh" Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo
20-29 "What Is Susan's Secret" Players Workshop, Burlington
26-29 "Doubt" Ankeny Community Theatre
27-29 "The Dining Room" Boone Community Theatre
April 27-29, May 4-6 "Little Women" City Circle Acting Company, Coralville

MAY

- 11-20 "Weekend Comedy" Waterloo Community Theatre
May 25-June 3 "Company" Chanticleer Theatre, Council Bluffs
May 31-June 3, 9-10 "Fiddler on the Roof" Judge Story Theatrical Troupe, Story City

JUNE

8-10, 15-17 "Annie" Wilson Performing Arts Center, Red Oak

8-10, 14-17 "Honk!" Ankeny Community Theatre

15-17 "Return to the Forbidden Planet" City Circle Acting Company, Coralville

JULY

6-8, 11-15 "Seussical the Musical" Webster City Community Theatre

AUGUST

3-5, 9-12 "Over the River and Through the Woods" Ankeny Community Theatre



