

Thespian Troupe # 3491 Constitution

ARTICLE I: Name, Purpose, and Governance

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be called Troupe # 3491. The troupe has been chartered by Belton ISD. The charter affiliates it with the International Thespian Society (ITS), a division of the Educational Theatre Association (ETA).

Section 2. Purpose: The troupe is the honors compound of the school's theatre program. Its purpose shall be the advancement of standards of excellence in theatre. More specifically, the troupe will encourage students to attain a better mastery of the theatre arts and will reward those who achieve it with induction into the troupe. Thespian achieving honor ranks shall receive recognition of their exemplary accomplishment.

Section 3: Governance: This troupe constitution and its bylaws are two components of a hierarchy of documents that govern the Educational Theatre Association and its membership. The documents affecting troupes, in order of authority, are: the Educational Theatre Association Code of Regulations and Membership Policy, the troupe handbook, the troupe constitution, and the troupe bylaws.

Article II: Organization and Officers

Section 1. Membership: Membership is achieved by complying with all induction criteria as defined in the troupe handbook. **In order to remain an active member, one must complete at least one tech credit during the year of service.** The ITS Thespian point system is the official guideline for awarding induction points.

Section 2: Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have the following officers: President, Vice President, secretary, historian, sergeant at arms, **clerk, social chair, and treasurer.** Duties shall be defined in the troupe's bylaws.

Article III: Meetings and Participation.

Section 1: Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held biweekly throughout the school year. **Members will recite the Thespian pledge at the beginning of every meeting.** Special meetings may be called by the troupe director or any officer. **Thespian officers will meet on alternating weeks to plan the meetings and to discuss the troupe's activities.**

Section 2: Denial of Participation: Any Thespian who causes deliberate dissension or disruption of any production or business meeting may be denied participation in troupe activities by a vote of two-thirds of the troupe's membership and the consent of the troupe director. Any member requesting reinstatement of participation rights may have them restored with the consent of the troupe director and two-thirds of the troupe's membership.

Section 3: Troupe members cannot hold a vote until $\frac{2}{3}$ of active membership are present. In order for anything to pass by vote, it must be supported by at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the active members.

Article IV: Dues and Fees

Section 1: Dues: **All inductees must pay a one-time induction fee. In addition, each member must pay a \$10 membership fee each year by the first meeting in October.**

Section 2: Fees: Troupes may approve additional fees for local Thespian troupe participation. This requires consent of the troupe director and a two-thirds vote of the active troupe members at a regular troupe meeting. The school and its troupe director may also assess user fees in accordance with school policy.

Article V: Bylaws

Section 1: Bylaws provide additional guidance for the governance and operations of the troupe.

Section 2: Adoption and amendments: Bylaws may be added or amended by approval of a simple majority of the troupe's active membership and the consent of the troupe director. **An emergency committee may be called by the officers if the need arises.**

Article VI: Amendments

Section 1: Exclusion: Article 1 may not be amended.

Section 2: Procedure: Articles other than article 1 may be amended by approval of two-thirds of the troupe's active membership with the consent of the troupe director. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society.

BYLAWS

Article VII: Attendance

Section 1: A student arriving late to or leaving early from meetings or rehearsals without a reason considered valid by the troupe director will receive a **strike**. Three such offenses will be counted as an absence from a meeting without excuse. **The task of recording strikes falls under the jurisdiction of the secretary.**

Section 2: Meetings will be every other **Wednesday**. **They will start at 4:00, and run until everything that must be said has been said.**

Section 3: Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent **three** meetings per school year without a written excuse submitted to the sergeant of arms or troupe director shall be automatically suspended from troupe activities. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the suspension.

Section 4: Attendance shall be considered in the Thespian point's award system. **In-active members cannot receive points until the troupe director has reversed their suspension.**

Article VIII: Thespian Points

Section 1: Induction points must be earned over the course of more than one Belton H.S. production.

Section 2: Induction points will be awarded for theatre-related work done outside of the school's theatre program. To qualify for points, a copy of the program or other verification must be provided.

Article IX: Induction

Section 1: An induction ceremony shall be held at least once each year.

Section 2: Induction fees are the responsibility of the inductees. **These fees are separate from the yearly membership fees.**

Section 3: The troupe **Vice President** determines the time, place, schedule, and format of the induction ceremonies.

Section 4: The President and Vice President conduct inductions. The vice president is responsible for training induction ceremony speakers, scheduling and rehearsing said speakers, and preparing the stage and induction properties as directed by the troupe director.

Article X: Officers

Section 1: Duties: Troupe officer duties are defined below. The troupe may assign other duties.

- A. The president presides at all meetings, appoints standing and special committees, and directs and supervises troupe activities.
- B. The vice-president presides in the absence of the president and is responsible for the induction of new members
- C. The secretary keeps the records of meetings, **as well as strikes and absences.**
- D. The historian keeps a **scrapbook** of **social media posts**, posters, programs, and photos. **Historian is also required to attend all Thespian events.**
- E. Sergeant at Arms keeps **order at meetings and events.** **The Sergeant at Arms also leads the pledge at the beginning of every meeting.**
- F. **The Treasurer manages the troupe's finances.**
- G. **The Clerk keeps a tally of all of the active members points.**
- H. **The Social Chair plans all of the troupe's social events.**

Section 2: Requirements for all elected officers are as followed:

- ī President: Must be at least a junior with at least 50 BHS Thespian points and must have been an active in at least one BHS Production from the current year **in order to be nominated for election.**
- ī Vice President: Must be at least a sophomore with at least 25 BHS thespian point and must have been an active in at least one BHS Production from the current year **in order to be nominated for election.**
- ī Secretary: Must have been an active in at least one BHS Production from the current year **in order to be nominated for election.**
- ī Sergeant-At-Arms: Must have been an active in at least one BHS Production from the current year **in order to be nominated for election.**
- ī Historian: Must have been an active in at least one BHS Production from the current year **in order to be nominated for election.**
- ī **Treasurer: Must have been active in at least one BHS Production from the current year in order to be nominated for election.**

Ī Clerk: Must have been active in at least one BHS Production from the current year in order to be nominated for election.

Ī Social Chair: Must have been active in at least one BHS Production from the current year in order to be nominated for election.

Section 3: Elections will be conducted at the last meeting prior to awards.

Section 4: Voting will be done by secret ballots at an official troupe meeting.

Section 5: Officers shall be installed at the last social program meeting of the school term.

Article XI: Troupe Activities

Section 1: The troupe is not a secret organization. All interested faculty, students, parents, Honorary Thespians, troupe alumni, and administrators are welcome sit in at troupe meetings.

Section 2: At least one meeting or special event of Troupe #3491 shall include an open invitation to all students for the purpose of **recruitment**.

Section 3: The troupe shall sponsor at least one “good neighbor” program a year for the purpose of establishing good relationships with nearby Thespian and Junior Thespian troupes and other dramatic groups.

Section 4: The troupe shall cooperate with all other departments and clubs in the school in helping them with their program in any way it can.

Article XII: Conflict Resolution

Section 1: In the event issues/conflicts arise between a Thespian and the troupe director that cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration as indicated in the troupe handbook.

Addendum A:

Discipline Issue Clause:

Disciplinary actions shall be carried out by the active Sergeant-at-Arms, unless the matter is one of serious violation. In this case the current director or fine arts coordinator shall determine punishment.

In the case of attendance to International Thespian Society meetings, members are required to attend. A leeway of two meetings will be granted. After the third meeting is unattended that member will be placed on temporary probation. To be relieved of probation the member must attend three consecutive meetings and check in with active Sergeant-at-Arms (if not available, member will check in with Vice President). **The inactive member must also complete service hours for the department. The number of service hours shall be decided by the Sergeant at Arms.**

Adopted: September 19, 2011

Amended: October 4, 2017

Troupe Director: Melissa Stuhff