

## **International Thespian Society Troupe #717 Constitution**

### **Article I. Name and purpose**

**Section 1.** The organization shall be called Troupe #717 of the International Thespian Society, a branch of the Educational Theatre Association.

**Section 2.** The purpose of this troupe shall be the advancement of standards of excellence in the theatre. More specifically, the troupe shall encourage students to attain a better mastery of the theatre arts.

**Section 3.** The organization forbids secrecy; membership is given as recognition for meritorious work in the theatre arts.

### **Article II. Induction Requirements**

**Section 1.** All nominees for active membership shall be regularly enrolled as students of Fayetteville High School.

**Section 2.** All nominees for active membership must have participated in at least two (2) full-length plays/productions, or one full-length and two (2) one acts, or four (4) one acts at Fayetteville High School.

**Section 3.** All nominees must have earned a minimum of ten (10) points, i.e., 100 hours of superior work, 5 of which should be awarded for work done at Fayetteville High School.

### **Article III. Membership**

**Section 1a.** All active members must be enrolled in grades 10– 12 in a theatre arts class and/or participate in Fayetteville High School productions for the current calendar school year, all of which support the Fayetteville High School Drama Department. If any of these requirements are not met, students will be considered inactive members.

**Section 1b.** Inactive members may retain their status on the roll of Thespian Troupe #717. However, their participation in, attendance at, and the conferring of any and all awards/honors at any Thespian activities is dependent on Section 1a above.

**Section 2.** All active members must have *participated* in at least two (2) full-length plays/productions for the current calendar school year.

**Section 3.** Final authority concerning membership requirements shall be vested in the troupe sponsor/director.

**Section 4.** Honorary membership may be granted to adults for extraordinary and worthy assistance in the promotion of the theatre in the school and the community.

#### **Article IV. Officers**

**Section 1.** Fayetteville High School Troupe #717 shall elect officers once a year in the last month of the school term at a regular business meeting.

**Section 2.** Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: Each student, with the exception of the Sophomore Representative, must be an active member of the troupe for at least one school year, and at the time of election must be enrolled in grades 10 – 12 in a FHS Drama Course.

**Section 3.** The elected officers are to have the following duties:

- **President**—this student presides at all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, and directs and supervises troupe activities. This student is the direct liaison between the directors and the students. Responsible of induction ceremonies.
- **Vice President (President Elect)**—this student presides in the absence of the president and is responsible for the induction points of new members.
- **Secretary/Treasurer (Vice President Elect)**—this student keeps the records of the meetings and attends to troupe correspondence. Coordinates fundraising for the Troupe.

**Section 4.** The duties of the sponsor/director will be to oversee all troupe activities, to be the final authority in selection of new members and to be the guide and inspiration of the group.

**Section 5.** The Board of Directors shall be composed of the sponsor/director, all elected officers, and any honorary members appointed by the sponsor.

#### **Article V. Meetings, Department Participation, and Attendance**

**Section 1.** Meetings shall be held for the Thespian Board to plan activities for the year. These meetings will be scheduled by the sponsor/director.

**Section 2.** Special meetings may be called by the sponsor/director, any officer, or by a quorum.

**Section 3.** A quorum shall be fifty percent of the active membership and must include two officers and the sponsor/director.

**Section 4.** Any Thespian Board officer who is absent two meetings per school year or any Thespian member who is absent more than the allotted number of rehearsals during a current production (please refer to audition information per show), unless they have an excuse considered valid by the sponsor/director, or who does not participate in at least 2 current calendar year productions, shall be dropped from active membership, or replaced on the current year's Thespian Board, or be removed from the designated production, depending on the level of the offense as determined by the sponsor/director. Prompt communication regarding attendance is mandatory, either by emailing the director and/or Thespian Board Secretary or leaving a message on the Theatre Department phone at (479) 575 – 1193.

Any member who causes deliberate dissension (quitting productions, dropping out of a Theatre Department Class, discrediting/negating FHS Drama Department students, directors, and the FHS Drama Department, etc.), as determined by the sponsor/director, that would disrupt the workings of any production, business meetings, and/or the FHS Drama Department shall be dropped from active membership by the consent of the sponsor/director.

Students are required to maintain a GPA of a 2.0 to remain in active status.

#### **Article VI. Re-admittance to Active Status**

**Section 1.** Any member requesting re-admittance to active status, based on the criteria noted in Article IV, Section IV, must have the consent of the sponsor/director.

**Section 2.** If the member is re-admitted to active status, he/she will be ineligible for any and all awards/honors for the current calendar year.

**Section 3.** Member shall remain in inactive status until the requirements of Article III, Section 2 have been fulfilled in its entirety following the time of in active offense.

#### **Article VII. Dues, etc.**

**Section 1.** There shall be a one- time induction fee of \$25 to join Troupe #717. This fee contributes to membership fee's required by the International Thespian Society as well as a donation to the Troupe's *Matthew Moore Outstanding Thespian Scholarship* fund.

**Section 1b.** There shall be no annual dues for the troupe except as provided by the International Thespian Society Board of Trustees, unless determined by a two thirds vote of the membership.

## **Article VIII. Amendments**

**Section 1.** All amendments to this constitution must have the vote of two thirds of the active troupe membership and consent of the sponsor/director. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society.

## **BYLAWS.**

### **Article 1. Attendance**

**Section 1.** Late arrival to or leaving early from meetings or rehearsals without a reason considered valid by the theatre director/sponsor will be notated on attendance records. Three such offenses will be counted as an absence from a meeting/rehearsal without excuse.

**Section 2.** Regular lunch meetings will begin at the time scheduled by the sponsor/director. If there is a change of time and/or date, the sponsor/director will post a special notice on the theatre website. ([www.fhsdrama.net](http://www.fhsdrama.net))

**Section 3.** Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore any Thespian Board member who is absent two (2) Thespian Board meetings per school year will forfeit their position on that year's Board. Also, any member who is absent more than the allotted number of rehearsals during a production (please refer to audition information per show) without a valid, written excuse/phone message submitted to the sponsor/director the day of, after the scheduled rehearsal shall be automatically dropped from that particular show.

**Section 4.** Attendance shall be considered in the point award system and active status of membership.

**Section 5.** Absences shall accumulate for only one school year at a time.

### **Article II. Inductions**

**Section 1.** Inductions shall be held once each year, or as often as deemed necessary by the sponsor/director.

**Section 2.** The time and place of induction as well as the form will be determined by the sponsor/director.

**Section 3.** The President and Vice President will be held responsible for the training of the speakers of the induction ceremony, must schedule and rehearse said speakers, as well as take care of the preparation of the stage and induction properties.

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

### **Article III. Point award system**

**Section 1.** The theatre director/sponsor will determine the exact number of points to be awarded in all theatrical and non-theatrical participation.

**Section 2.** Points will be awarded as suggested by the point system of the International Thespian Society. Exceptional hours and level of commitment may be rewarded to active Thespian members by the sponsor/director.

### **Article IV. Elections**

**Section 1.** Officers shall be elected at a business meeting in the month of May/June for the coming fall term. All officers for the coming school year shall be elected prior to the beginning of the Fall Term.

**Section 2.** Nominations for officers are to be made by filling out a Thespian Board Interest form (See attachment) and approved by the sponsor/director. The officer candidate who has the most votes will be elected to office. In the case of a tie, the sponsor/director may choose to either elect both candidates to a Co-office or break the tie with his/her vote. The following constitutes the main points of these documents:

**The mission of the International Thespian society, founded in 1929 as the National Thespian Society, is to promote and strengthen theatre in education. The ITS provides benefits and services for high school and middle school students and their educators through Junior Thespian and High School Thespian troupes.**

**The Thespian troupe at a school is designed to be an honorary organization that recognizes and rewards excellence among the participants in the theatre arts program. A formal troupe organization with officers gives students opportunities for leadership and responsibility, and active student officers can assist the Troupe Directors in numerous ways: establishing and administering a code of conduct to govern all students participating in a production/retaining active membership at Fayetteville High School, planning cast parties and social activities, planning and helping to decorate induction ceremony activities, planning and fundraising for trips, productions, and scholarships; the officers also set goals for establishing scholarships for graduating seniors. Troupes must elect student officers who are capable of and willing to carry out specific duties on their own initiative. Due to the importance of direct communication, it has been decided that all elected Thespian officers need to be enrolled in a Theatre Arts class. It is expected that all student officers act in consultation and agreement with the Troupe Directors.**

**Procedure for Running for the Thespian Board:**

- ✓ **Fill out Thespian Board Interest Form and return to the Troupe Director.**
- ✓ **All Thespian Board Candidates will make a 1 – 2 minute speech to the Thespian Troupe #717 at the forthcoming election meeting.**
- ✓ **Speeches for all positions should explain why the candidate believes he/she is the right person for the position. In addition, please include ideas for activities for active involvement by the entire troupe, and ways the candidate will work with the Troupe Directors to promote and provide a positive, all-inclusive department.**
- ✓ **Voting will be done following all speeches.**
- ✓ **All Thespian Board Member appointments are subject to the Troupe Directors' approval.**

**Section 3.** Voting will be done by secret written ballot.

**Section 4.** Three members, including one officer, may request in writing to the sponsor, a recall election of all or any elected officers. This written request must state the need for such an election. Upon approval of the sponsor/director, a special meeting will be scheduled within five school days upon receipt of the request, for the purpose of voting on whether or not a recall election is necessary. Two thirds of the membership is required to mandate a recall election. If a recall election is necessary, election of officers will follow the procedure set in Article IV. Section 2.

**Article V. Installations**

**Section 1.** Officers shall be installed at the final social or program meeting of the school term.

**Article VI. Adoption**

**Section 1.** The current Thespian Board will vote during the school year to adopt this constitution. The constitution from the previous school year is in effect until this vote is taken.

**Article VII. Conflict Resolution**

**Section 1.** In the event issues/conflicts arise between a Thespian and a Sponsor/Director which cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration.

