



Newsletter of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association

Summer 2017

Looking Forward to the 2017 Convention – Resilience

By Julie Weishar (*President-Elect, Parkland Community College*)

We are excited for convention coming up Sept. 28-30, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Riverfront in East Peoria! Our theme this year is “Resilience!” and we have a variety of breakout sessions and workshops that focus on building and maintaining resilience in ourselves, our students, our discipline and our organization. Also, we will be building a “Resilience Wall” during the convention using resilience quotes and sayings, so plan to bring a quote or two that exemplifies resilience for you and help us build a wall of resilience for inspiration and to share with others!

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IHSA Update

Susie Knoblach, IHSA Assistant Executive Director

As the 2017-18 school year begins across the state, we look forward to continuing to serve in our role as leaders for education-based high school activities. The IHSA recently concluded the 77th year of the IHSA State Series in Speech-Individual Events, Drama & Group Interpretation and Debate! Before we look ahead, let’s reflect on the 2016-17 season.

At the State Level, in Illinois:

197 IHSA member schools enter the IHSA Speech – Individual Events State Series.

59 IHSA member schools participated in the IHSA Drama/Group Interpretation State Series.

48 IHSA member schools participated in the IHSA Debate State Series.

Looking to the future, we want to continue to provide the opportunity for generations to come. In a world of education-based high school activities every single participant is a winner. Maybe it’s not an actual trophy, but it’s by being recognized for effort, encouraged for being a part of a team and praised for continuing to do their very best. While winning state championships might be the top-end benefit of participating in education-based activities, the real difference in school-based programs is the opportunity to participate. Going forward, we must do all we can to ensure those opportunities continue to exist!

Entries for the 2017-18 competitive season are due November 1st, so make sure your school has entered through the *IHSA School Center* if you are participating in Individuals Events, Drama – Group Interpretation or Debate this season. If you have any questions about your entries, contact Carol Carr at the IHSA Office ccarr@ihsa.org 309-663-6377.

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Convention from page 1

Investigating the traits that comprise resilience has been a personal interest of mine for many years. I have been curious about the character traits that predict resilience in people and organizations and whether we can teach people to build resilience skills – if so what would that look like? I believe the disciplines of Communication and Theatre have much to teach us about how we build and embody resilience. Research around this topic ranges across many disciplines including Psychology, Sociology, and Medicine. I believe resilience is much more than surviving the stress and traumas of life – it is using those difficult experiences to thrive and grow in positive ways that in turn make us better, stronger and smarter. I believe we can look at the way people communicate about events or situations to discover the presence (or absence) of resilience traits. In the literature, resilience has many definitions. The personality traits that comprise resilience have been associated with maturity, responsibility, optimism, perseverance, and cooperation (Eley, Cloninger, Walters et.al., 2013).

Plan to join us for stimulating conversations with colleagues, as well as sessions and workshops to learn more about how you can cultivate resilience in yourselves, your students, and your classes. Come away with ideas from a variety of topics you can begin using now.

Registration is now open at <http://www.illinoiscta.org> Be sure to make your reservations at the Embassy Suites before September 6th to get the discounted rate. I am looking forward to seeing you there!

“All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost. — [J.R.R. Tolkien](#), [The Fellowship of the Ring](#)

Convention Panels (full list will be posted online)

Friday panels

- IHSA Policies session
- Lesson Plans
- Artmaking and/as/is Resilience
- IHSA I.E. Hot Topics
- Resilient Pedagogy: How to Create Innovative and Effective Curricula, Instructional Strategies, Classroom Climates, and Assessments
- Devised Theatre: Creating Original Productions with Young Actors Pt.
- Methods of Modifying Speaking and Listening Assessments for Student IEP or 504 Plans
- The Forensics Camp Experience: What We are Doing and Where We should Go
- Troubling “Ally” as Identity: Bolstering Resilience Experienced Coaches Workshop – Building and Maintaining a Team
- Graduate Student Paper Panel
- Uncovering the Rhetorical Veil
- Performing Culture and Identity
- Recruitment - We are All In This Together; A Working Session to Produce Forensics Resilience in Illinois
- GIFTS (Inclusion in the Classroom)

Saturday Panels

- Finishing Strong: Developing Classroom Resilience and Motivation
- Creating a Catalog for Scenic Inventory
- Incorporating Communication Across the Curriculum
- Experienced Coaches Workshop: Making Scripted Events Resilient to Changes in Publishing
- Finding Resilience In Listening to Self
- New Coaches Workshop: Judging: Writing Effective and Constructive Critiques
- GIFTS (Various topics)
- The Resiliency of Alternative Limited Preparation Prompts
- Finding Resilience In Listening to Others
- Techniques for Utilizing Socratic Discussions in the classroom
- Developing Resilience Through Creating A Web Series
- Experienced/New Coaches Workshop Making Speech Resilient on the National Level: NSDA
- What Does It Mean to Be College Ready?
- New Coaches Workshop: Guiding Your Team Through the IHSA State Series

Consider a Life Membership

By Anna Wright (Executive Secretary & Illinois State University)

ICTA offers a life membership option. The \$500 payment can be made via a single payment or five \$100 payments. Once the \$500 membership fee is fully paid, the member no longer pays a membership fee and if they choose to attend the convention, do so at a reduced convention rate.

If you wish to begin a payment option for the 2017 year and attend the 2017 convention, you would pay \$260. That amount gets you current membership (\$60), convention attendance (\$100), and your first payment (\$100) accomplished. Once all five payments are completed, then you would only need to pay the \$75 convention fee or whatever convention fee is imposed at that time. Members who are considering long term commitment to the Association will find this option to be money saving.

IHSA from page 1

Below are some important dates to remember in 2017-18 school year:

IHSA Speech-Individual Events – <http://www.ihsa.org/SportsActivities/IndividualEvents.aspx>

January 29th – Speech-Individual Event entries due online by noon & Regional Entry Meetings (at designated regional sites)

February, 3rd – Regionals @ assigned sites

February, 10th – Sectionals @ assigned sites

Feb. 16th & 17th – State Final @ Peoria Civic Center

IHSA Debate - <http://www.ihsa.org/SportsActivities/Debate.aspx>

October 15th - Policy Debate Topic Resolution Ballots Rd. 1 due

December 15th - Policy Debate Topic Resolution Ballot Rd. 2 due

January 30th - Congressional Debate Legislation due

February 28th – List of Participants due online

March 16th & 17th – Debate State Final @ U of Illinois - Springfield

IHSA Drama/Group Interpretation <http://www.ihsa.org/SportsActivities/DramaGroupInterpretation.aspx>

January 30th - Drama/Group Interp. performance titles and authors due online

March 5th - The entire final cast lists due online

March 16th & 17th – Sectionals @ assigned sites

March 23th & 24th – State Final @ **Peoria Civic Center Theatre (NEW VENUE)**

The IHSA Speech Advisory Committee meets at the IHSA office on **Wednesday, April 11th** – So contact your advisory committee member with any recommendations for change.

<http://www.ihsa.org/SportsActivities/DramaGroupInterpretation/AdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

Also, contact the IHSA if you would like to judge or volunteer at any of the State Finals!

Nationally millions of students from nearly 20,000 high schools participate in performing arts. Given budget issues, declining enrollments and the influence of competing programs in some areas, we are pleased with the “*staying power*” of interscholastic activities.

Thanks for all you do in working with student – the future leaders of our country! Best wishes for a great 2017-18 school year!

Other Convention Highlights

By Tina Winings, Executive Vice President (Retired- Charleston High School)

NEW ICTA CONVENTION RECEPTION

Kick off your 2017 ICTA convention experience by attending the Past Presidents reception on Thursday evening from 8:30 - 10:00 p.m. in the hotel Lobby Lounge! On September 28, the ICTA convention will feature a new opportunity for networking and reconnecting for current and new members at the Past Presidents' reception. This reception is open to ALL ICTA members and will be hosted by ICTA Past Presidents Ellie Marvin & Doug Jennings. Current members will have an opportunity to socialize before convention programs start on Friday. New members are encouraged to attend and meet current members, past presidents, and ICTA executive board members. Come and join the fun!

ICTA INTEREST GROUP MEETING INCLUDE NEW SESSION FOR RETIREES & "NEARLY RETIRED"

For many years, the ICTA convention has featured a time slot for a variety of Interest Groups to meet to discuss important issues, plan activities, and network with those who share common interests. This year's Interest groups have been modified to include Higher Education (as well as higher ed forensics & theatre), Secondary Education (including speech competition & theatre), Advocacy, & Retirees/Nearly Retired. These groups will have an opportunity to meet on Friday, September 29 from 2:15 - 3:00. The Retirees/Nearly Retired Group will be open to all convention attendees who are currently retired, or who will retire within the next few years. Long time ICTA members Doug Jennings & Doug Springer will host this session, which will include socializing, as well as opportunities to suggest how retirees can benefit ICTA, and how ICTA can benefit retirees. All convention attendees are encouraged to attend one of these great sessions.

CREATING A STRONGER ICTA COMMUNICATION NETWORK

One of the valuable functions that ICTA serves involves networking and mentoring for new teachers and coaches throughout the state. Often, opportunities to help new professionals are lost because of a lack of information on new teachers and coaches. To try to improve our overall communications network, we are encouraging ICTA members to provide names and contact information of new communication teachers and coaches throughout the state. Names, school affiliations, and contact information (e-mail & phone) can be sent to Rich Jones (Higher Ed Chair), Judy Santacaterina (Higher Ed Forensics Chair), Justin Matkovich (Secondary Forensics Chair), or Tom George (Secondary Education Chair). This will enable ICTA board members &/or their committee members to reach out and provide assistance to new professionals in the communication discipline. If you are a new member, be sure to connect with your Higher Ed or Secondary Ed reps at convention to become part of a valuable professional network.

2017 Slate of Officers & Award Winners

By Tina Winings, Executive Vice President (Retired- Charleston High School)

At the July Board Meeting, the ICTA Executive Board approved the following slate of officers, submitted by the nominating committee, to be sent to the membership for approval at the annual business meeting.

- Executive Vice President – Lauren Morgan – College of DuPage
- Vice President – Brian Rohman – University HS
- Secretary – Heather Danek – Minooka HS
- Newsletter Editor – Jennifer Keith – Keith TEC

The ICTA Executive Board appointed the following individuals as committee and commission chairs at the July Board Meeting:

- Secondary Forensics – Justin Matkovich – Downers Grove South
- Secondary Education – Tom George – Huntley HS

The ICTA Executive Board is proud to accept the nomination of the award winners submitted by the Awards Committee. These award winners will be given during our September Convention.

- **W.P. Sandford Award – Ed Jodlowski – Olympia HS**
- **Edith Harrod Award – Adam Jenkins – Belleville West HS**
- **Connie Link Outstanding Mentorship Award – Richard Hunsaker – retired**
- **Jerry Mathis Young Teacher Award – Brian Rohman – University HS**
- **L.E. Norton Outstanding Higher Education Speech Student Award – Allison Metz – ISU**
- **Richard A. Hunsaker Outstanding Secondary School Speech Student Award – this was already selected & awarded to Emily Hill of Huntley HS**

Speech and Debate Results

This summer, Illinois was well represented at the NSDA National Tournament in Birmingham, Alabama. Downers Grove South High School and Prospect High School both placed as Speech Schools of Excellence while Glenbrook North High School placed as a Debate School of Excellence. Final Round Results are listed below:

Impromptu Speaking

5th Place: Shamika Patil, Huntley High School

2nd Place: Samuel Cannova, Wheaton North High School

Poetry

3rd Place: Maggie Wenhul He, Hononegah High School

Extemporaneous Commentary

6th Place: Himal Koshy, Downers Grove South High School

1st Place: James Han, University High School

Expository Speaking

4th Place: Natalie Thomison, University High School

3rd Place: Vanessa Copeland, Downers Grove South High School

2nd Place: Caroline Pickering, University High School

Policy Debate:

10th Speaker: Nina Fridman, Glenbrook North High School

4th Place: Jonah Jacobs & Alana Levin, Glenbrook North High School

2nd Place: Nina Fridman & Ben Mnushkin, Glenbrook North High School

Original Oratory

13th Place: Jimmy McDermott, Prospect High School

United States Extemporaneous Speaking

4th Place: Tessa Lawler, Downers Grover South High School

Dramatic Duo

4th Place: Benjamin Marshall & Molly McDermott, Prospect High School

Humorous Interpretation

10th Place: Brianna Leys, Downers Grove South High School

Dramatic Interpretation

13th Place: Abigail Grott, Prospect High School

Congratulations to these students, their coaches, and anyone else that competed at nationals for a successful season!

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

By Kacy Ablen, President (College of DuPage)

The ICTA annual convention is right around the corner (September 28-30th) in East Peoria, IL at the Embassy Suites. In preparation for our annual meeting at convention 2017, and in keeping with ICTA's Constitution Article 8.1, a change has been proposed to the Constitution of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association. ICTA members will vote on the proposed change at the Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, September 29th held at the annual Friday Luncheon.

Proposed Constitutional Changes:

(1) Change Article 4.10 from "Newsletter Editor" to "Communications Director."

(2) Strike the current language from Article 4.10.1 which reads: "The Newsletter editor shall gather and publish materials in the Newsletter periodically as approved by the Executive Board." to "The Communications Director shall gather and publish information electronically and otherwise through the organization's website, digital newsletter and other avenues as approved by the Executive Board."

(3) Change the language in Article 4.10.2 which reads: "The term of office for the Newsletter Editor shall be three years." to "The term of office for the Communications Director shall be three years."

Justification from the Executive Board:

As the world has moved towards more digital information, ICTA has as well. The ICTA Board would like to amp up our member only content and the best way to do so would be to roll the responsibilities of the current Newsletter Editor into a "new" position with additional responsibilities. As ICTA moves toward more online member only content, we need a designated position to fulfill these responsibilities.

I look forward to seeing everyone at convention!! Please let me know if you have any questions. ICTA members will vote on these changes on Friday, September 29th at our Annual Membership Meeting.

The New Newsletter

By Brian Rohman, Newsletter Editor (University High School)

Over the last three years, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Newsletter Editor for ICTA. After a hiatus from its existence, the Newsletter became an outlet for the membership and the Executive Board to exchange information as well as post important updates and accomplishments. My goal was to bring together the voices and experiences of our organization in a forum that would be available to our members. I want to thank every individual that contributed to the newsletter over the last three years. Your voices have been helpful in shaping the future of our association as well as, selfishly, achieving my goal.

That being said, my term as Newsletter Editor is coming to an end. This is my final newsletter. I have grown from the experience and would like to thank everyone who has supported me along the way. However, times and technology change. The idea of a Newsletter is not useful on the quarterly scale when we have social media platforms and a website with the ability to host a plethora of resources. As a result, I hope that you will support our constitutional amendment to update the title of the Newsletter Editor to Communications Director. The idea is that we will move all of our content to our website as well as post updates on membership and association business. This includes launching our members-only content as well as regular news updates.

Please continue to check our website for new content, organizational updates, and other news. If you have ideas for that new content, please contact myself or any other member of the ICTA Executive Board. We want to make your membership more useful outside of convention. This is your organization, so let us know how we can best service you. I look forward to continuing to serve ICTA in any capacity.

Questions for a specific interest group can be directed to the persons below:

Higher Education & GIFTS: Rich Jones
(rgjones@eiu.edu)
Secondary Education & GIFTS: Kenny Knox
(kknox@spoon-river.k12.il.us)
Secondary Individual Events: TJ Kahrman
(tkahrman@olchs.org)
Higher Education Forensics: Judy Santacaterina
(jsantaca@niu.edu)
Theatre: Patrick Santoro (psantoro@govst.edu)

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