



Newsletter of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association

Summer 2015

Annual Convention Planning on Target

By Adam Jenkins (President-Elect / Convention Planner)

Registration for the 2015 ICTA Conference is now open! The conference will take place **September 24-26** at the **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington**.

In order to guarantee a hotel room at the conference rate of \$95 per night, which includes a hot breakfast buffet and in-room wifi (amenities which are not usually included by the hotel), you must book your room by **September 2!** Call [309-664-6446](tel:309-664-6446) and ask to book with the IL Communication and Theatre Association block.

The conference registration and annual membership form is available on our website: http://www.illinoiscta.org/uploads/2/6/0/4/26041819/2015_icta_convention_reg_and_membership_form.pdf

See more information about the theme for our conference and more important information below. I look forward to seeing you in September!

At this year's convention, we embrace the theme "**Let's Meet in the Middle!**" as a call for meaningful collaboration on the challenges we face within our classrooms, our departments, our campuses, and our disciplines within the communication arts. (Plus, we are meeting in the middle of the state!) I am excited we will offer all the great professional development you have come to expect at convention (page 2).

Please see Convention on page 2

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President's Welcome!

By Kevin Long (President)



It is August and I hope that you are having a wonderful summer. As the new school year will soon begin, it's also that time of year we start thinking about various ways in which we will strive to ensure that each and every one of our students receives the best possible experience in our classrooms. Like me, I know you are gearing up for the beginning of the new school year with energy and optimism.

Please see *President* on page 3

Consider a Life Membership

By Doug Jennings (Co-Executive Secretary)

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 2015 year and attend the 2015 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 \$100 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.

Convention from page 1

1. **GREAT PROGRAM SESSIONS** - Dozens of great programs on a variety of topics, including Common Core Teaching Standards, coaching high school forensics, the new college event: international public debate, avoiding burnout, theatre, and much more! CPDUs will be available for all sessions. If you would like to be on a program (or need to do so to be able to attend the convention), contact Adam Jenkins at ajenkins@bths201.org for general program openings. If you would like to be a presenter on one of the GIFTS programs (1. Speaking/Listening Skills Assessments other than the Traditional Speech, or 2. Your Favorite Communication Lesson Plan for the Communication or Language Arts Classroom), contact Jan Heiteen at jari88@aol.com.
2. **COACHING WORKSHOPS** – Once again this year, we have Saturday-only workshops which include all 14 IHSA speech individual events. While the main focus of the workshops is helping new coaches, experienced coaches can also pick up tips and tricks. If you would like to present in one of the five coaching workshop sessions being offered on Saturday, contact T.J. Kahrman at tkahrman@olchs.org.
3. **ELECTRONIC SCRIPT EXCHANGE** – For many years ICTA has sponsored a script exchange as one of the key services at convention. All of those who would like to participate need to send an electronic copy of a performance-ready script for prose, poetry, OD, HI, DI, HDA, or DDA. Be sure to include specific publication information, as well. Scripts should be sent to T.J. Kahrman at tkahrman@olchs.org between NOW and September 15. The collected scripts will then be e-mailed to all who contributed. Feel free to share more than one script. Don't miss your chance to share your expertise with colleagues and to find some great new scripts. Everyone should participate.
4. **ELECTRONIC SWAP SHOP** – We are also following the same format for the Swap Shop. The Swap Shop has been a highlight of ICTA for many years. Members are asked to select a lesson plan, article, activity, etc. for the classroom or extracurricular activities, they would like to share with their colleagues. Members who would like to participate should e-mail activities, lesson plans, articles, etc. to Amanda Ams at Amanda.ams@d214.org. Please feel free to send more than one item; this is a great way to share your expertise with your peers. Send your Swap Shop items between NOW and September 15. Everyone should participate.
5. **MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS** – Another highlight of the ICTA convention has been special recognition of accomplishments by our members at the Presidents' reception. We recognize members for awards won, special recognitions, upcoming retirements, etc. If you know an ICTA member who deserves to be recognized for his/her accomplishments, please send the name of the person, the title of the award (accomplishment, etc.), and a brief overview of what the achievement involves to Adam Jenkins at ajenkins@bths201.org by September 15. Also, send a picture, if you have one. Don't let a colleague's accomplishment go unrecognized!

Any questions? Contact Adam Jenkins at ajenkins@bths201.org.

2015 Board Slate of Nominees Announced

Members of the ICTA Nominating Committee have submitted the following slate of new officers/board positions for the 2015 convention. Each of these positions is a three-year term. Members will vote on the slate of officers at the 2015 convention. Nominees include the following:

Executive Secretary - Anna Wright – ISU

Vice President - Julie Weishar - Parkland College

Treasurer - Laura Bruns _ Bradley

Higher Ed - Forensics Chair - Judy Santacaterina - NIU

Theatre Chair - Patrick Santoro - Governor's State University

Membership/PR - Higher Ed - Alyssa Obradovich - U of I

As outlined by the ICTA Constitution and By-Laws, the positions of Executive Secretary, Vice President, and Treasurer must be voted on by the membership while the others are simply appointed by the Board. While the Board has approved this slate of officers, anyone can be nominated at the Annual Business Meeting.

President from page 1

Here's something else to think about: joining us for our annual convention entitled "Let's Meet in the Middle." The convention takes place at the Doubletree in Bloomington, IL on September 25 and 26, 2015.

President-Elect Adam Jenkins has done a wonderful job of planning our upcoming convention. Join us as we explore new territories of best practices, validate the importance of the communication arts in the training and educating of our students, and grow through meaning professional development. Our annual convention is a time to reflect, plan, share, and celebrate with friends and colleagues new and renewed. ICTA is your state's communication organization. ICTA is strong because of the connections members make with each other. So please plan on joining us in September and bring a colleague with you. You will feel a strong sense of

camaraderie, insight, and inspiration. I will see you there.



2015 ICTA Award Winners

The Awards Committee has been hard at work this summer sifting through the various nominations for the Annual Illinois Communication and Theatre Association's prestigious awards. After careful consideration, the committee made the recommendations below, which have been accepted by the Executive Board.

The winner of the **W.P. Sandford Presidential Award**, which recognizes long term contributions to ICTA & to the profession, is **Judy Santacaterina** from Northern Illinois University. The Sandford Presidential Award recognizes long, exceptional and distinguished service to the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association over an extended period of at least 15 years.

Doug Jennings, who recently retired from Illinois State University, has been selected as the recipient as the **Edith Harrod Award**, which recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of speech communication and/or theatre by an Illinois speech educator. The qualifications include outstanding achievement in the profession as well as distinguished service to ICTA.

The newest of the ICTA awards is the **Connie Link Outstanding Mentor Award**. The qualifications for this award include distinguished service to the association and outstanding achievement in the profession, especially in mentorship or teachers and/or speech/theatre coaches and directors. This year ICTA honors two recipients of this award: **Marvin Kleinau & Marion Kleinau**, who both taught at Southern Illinois University.

The **Jerry Mathis Outstanding Young Teacher Award** recognizes an outstanding young communication and/or theatre educator in Illinois. This year's recipient is **Anna Wright**, who teaches at Illinois State University.

The **L. E. Norton Award Outstanding Higher Education Student Award** recognizes an outstanding higher education student enrolled in any Illinois college or university who is majoring in speech communication and/or theatre. The recipient must have demonstrated outstanding leadership and significant service within his/her department in particular, and to the college or university and community in general. The **undergraduate recipient** of this award is **Marques Brown**, who is currently a communications major at Eastern Illinois University. The graduate recipient of the award is **Yanelly Villegas**, who currently attends Northern Illinois University.

The **Richard A. Hunsaker Outstanding Secondary School Speech Student Award** recognizes an outstanding secondary education student enrolled in any Illinois high school. This year's recipient is **Callen Brown**, who just graduated from United Township High School. She received her award earlier this spring.

These awards will be presented at the ICTA convention in September. ICTA congratulates the accomplishments and service of these outstanding award winners.

Illinois Well Represented at NSDA Nationals

The State of Illinois was well represented at the 2015 National Speech and Debate Association's National Tournament in Dallas, Texas. 23 schools from the 3 Illinois districts attended the tournament. Several Students advanced to the Top 60 and Top 30 in Main Events. The following students advanced to Semi-Final Rounds of Main Events: Dramatic Interpretation: Georgette Voss (Buffalo Grove High School) and Presleigh Renner (Hinsdale Central High School), Original Oratory: Jimmy McDermott (Prospect High School), and Julia Couillard (Downers Grove South High School). In Policy Debate, Brian Roche (Glenbrook North High School) took sixth place as a speaker while Anthony Trufanov and Ryan Spector (Glenbrook North High School) placed fourth and first respectively. The team of Trufanov and Spector were also crowned National Champions in Policy Debate.

Following the success in Main Events, Illinois was very well represented in Supplemental events as well. Erik Thomas (Southland College Prep Charter High School) was named the National Champion in Poetry Reading while teammate Charnnia Jones took third place in Prose Reading. In Extemporaneous Commentary, Parth Patel (Huntley High School) took fifth place and Bethany Dain from Belleville West High School took second. Illinois had half of the finalists in Expository Speaking including Donnie Bland (Belleville West High School) who took fifth place, Parth Patel (Huntley High School) who took fourth, and Viraat Goel (University High School) who took third. Congratulations to these competitors and their coaches! Full Results can be found here:

<http://www.speechanddebate.org/asp/content.aspx?id=1309>

By-Law Update Proposal

At the 2014 Annual Business Meeting, a proposal to include language about the John M Hires Distinguished Service Award (which has been awarded for several years to those that have made distinguished service to the field of High School Individual Events) in the ICTA By-Laws was tabled and later sent to the Long Range Planning Committee for review. Throughout the year, the Committee, in consultation with the Executive Board, agreed to formalize that award and allow the opportunity for the leadership in the other areas of competitive high school and collegiate competitive speech, debate, and theater to create similar awards. Thus, the Executive Board will be proposing the following language added to the By-Laws:

5.6 ICTA Sponsored Awards. These awards are to recognize extended distinguished service in the area of speech, debate, and drama. The awards are sponsored and funded by ICTA, and they will be selected and presented by the governing bodies and/or state chairs of the specific activities in consultation with the Executive Vice President of ICTA. Cost for these awards will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual awards budget, and the Executive Vice President will facilitate payment for these awards.

5.6.1 Secondary Speech: John M. Hires Distinguished Service Award.
Contact Person: IHSA Speech State Chair

5.6.2 Secondary Debate
Contact Person: IHSA Debate Chair

5.6.3 Secondary Drama/Group Interpretation
Contact Person: IHSA Drama/GI State Chair

5.6.4 Collegiate Forensics
Contact Person: IIFA Board/President

The Gift of Discernment

By Brian Rohman (Newsletter Editor)

I want to begin by thanking everyone who has helped me ensure that the Newsletter is getting off to a wonderful reboot! Please feel free to submit any accomplishment, news item, or other piece of information that you think will be useful to be shared with the entirety of the membership of ICTA. After watching the most recent Republican Debate (or what the main stream media is being told was a debate), I think one idea has been made crystal clear to me: WE NEED ORAL COMMUNICATION NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. For those of you that are unaware, I left my teaching position at United Township High School in May for an English Faculty Associate position at University High School. I am fortunate enough to be returning to a school where I will be teaching two classes in Debate and Rhetoric and two classes of Sophomore Oral Communication. As we enter a Presidential Election Cycle, it will be important for us to teach our students to make an informed decision. Advocacy of a specific candidate is NEVER the goal. Ensuring that our students can sift through the wide array of messages to come to an informed decision of why they want one candidate to hold office over another is crucial. I think it is also worth mentioning that students have every right to be frustrated with the idea of voting or becoming politically engaged in our current political climate. Many times we all are as well, but for different reasons. We may be frustrated that education policy does not always reflect best practices, or that we are paying too much or too little in taxes. The frustration of our students comes out of the fact that they have not found their passion, or they do not understand that becoming politically engaged will actually help them work with their passion. As educators of communication skills, we must aid our students in making this crucial connection. The best gift we can give to our students is not always the content of our courses, but the skills in critical analysis. In a world of a 24 hour news cycle and seven major corporations controlling almost all of our media outlets, now, more than ever before do young people need to have the gift of discernment. It is our job to help students realize, they have had the gift all along.

Congratulations to ICTA Coaches on their success at the AFA and NFA National Collegiate Tournaments. Results can be found here:

AFA:<http://www.speechwire.com/r-tournament.php?tournament=2965d=3640>

NFA:<http://www.speechwire.com/r-tournament.php?tournament=3561>

“As educators of communication skills, we must aid our students in making this crucial connection.”

Congratulations to ICTA member Elighie Wilson on his promotion to Interim Dean of Liberal Arts at Prairie State College. Elighie is also celebrating his 15th year at PSC. Dave Naze is now the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Co-Director of Forensics Ed Schwarz will be joined in his 20th year at PSC by Joshua Green.

Convention Tips

By Brian Rohman (Newsletter Editor)

With the upcoming convention, I wanted to just share some thoughts on how to best enjoy convention.

1. Enjoy the company of friends that we have not seen in some time. We have all been back in our routines, but we have not seen our friends. It is important to remember we come to ICTA to learn as well as continue to foster a sense of community away from our schools and families.
2. Share that sense of community with new members. We have new members that come in every year, whether they be 19 years old and nervous to be around a group of people they have respected for years (as I was), or an individual that was told two weeks ago they were going to be coaching the speech team, and they need to attend this conference to learn, everyone is important. I attribute much of my professional success to the fact that I come to ICTA every year, but also because the people that are here have made me feel at home. We all need to work to pass that on to the next generation of new members and help them feel at home, and in the larger communication community.
3. Attend panels! I understand that CPDUs compose a large reason that secondary education folks attend convention in the first place. If you are attending with someone else from your school, split up. Many times we have a panel here or there that is not as widely attended as others, despite the fact that the information is just as good. If a panel does not directly apply to you, maybe you can take that information back to a colleague at home.
4. Get involved. ICTA is always looking for people to get involved whether it be on a panel or in the leadership of the organization. We want as many people to be involved with the organization as possible.
5. Keep ICTA in mind throughout the year. Often times we return to our normal routines and forget what we discussed at ICTA. Doing what we need to do to keep ICTA alive is vital to the continual survival of our core mission to spread the education of communication and theater skills across Illinois.

Questions for Convention can be directed to the persons below:

Higher Education/Posters: Rich Jones
(rgjones@eiu.edu)

Secondary Education: Kenny Knox
(kknox@spoon-river.k12.il.us)

Secondary Individual Events: TJ Kahriman
(tkahriman@olchs.org)

Debate: Carol Harms (charmsway@yahoo.com)

Theatre: Ann Witting (awitting@tfd215.org)

GIFTS: Jan Heiteen (jari88@aol.com)

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