

**BY LAWS
FOR THE
LA EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION
Home of LA THESPIANS**

**ARTICLE I
Name**

The name of the society shall be Louisiana Thespians, INC.(DBA LA Educational Theatre Association

**ARTICLE II
Purpose**

The purpose of LA Thespians, Inc. shall be the advancement and improvement of theatre arts in K-12 schools in Louisiana.

**ARTICLE III
Membership**

Membership shall be open to all schools that have an active Thespian Troupe and are currently in good standing with the Educational Theatre Association.

LA Thespians does **not discriminate based on age**, disability, national origin, race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation in regard to any term, condition, employment, program, event, or service.

**ARTICLE IV
Officers**

Section 1. The chief leadership officer(s) shall be the Chapter (State) Director. They shall hold office for a term of three years starting on August 1 and ending July 31 of the third year. There are no term limits.

Section 2. The State Thespian Officers shall consist of no more than 8 Thespians from across the state who apply to serve and shall be chosen and selected from an application process approved by the Chapter Director.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall be appointed by the Chapter (State) Director(s) and consist 4-6 Board Members, whose duties shall consist of promotions and branding, communications, scholarship coordination and recruitment, and administrative support, and a non-voting EdTA Rep. These duties shall be delegated at the discretion of the Chapter (State) Director(s). The Board shall consist of representation from each region (North, Central, and South) with each region having no less than one member. The executive board members must be active Thespian sponsors and/or retired Thespian sponsors or theatre professionals within the region who are members of EdTA with good standing. All executive board members will serve a three year term and may be reappointed by the Chapter Director(s).

Section 4. The Leadership Advisory Team shall be appointed by the executive board and shall consist of 6-8 members who will handle the following duties: STO Coordinator, Social Media/Troupe Recognition Chairperson, Junior Thespian Rep., Historian, Alumni Coordinator, Teacher Professional Development Coordinator, Membership

Coordinator, Advocacy Chairperson, and Technology Chairperson. The team members must be active Thespian sponsors, retired Thespian sponsors who are members of EdTA or a person with expert knowledge in an area of need. All members shall serve a one year school term* and may be reappointed by the Executive Board. Team positions may be added or removed at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 5 The Conference Planning Team for all Festivals shall be appointed by the Executive Board and shall consist of Tech Challenge Chair, Scholarship Chair, College Auditions Chair, Vendors Chair, Thespy's Chair, Showcase/Chapter Select Chair, Workshops Chair, Hospitality Chair, Entertainment/Activities Chair, Awards Chair, T-shirts Chair, Alumni Coordinator. The team members must be active Thespian sponsors, retired Thespian sponsors who are members of EdTA or a person with expert knowledge in an area of need. All members will serve a one year school term and may be reappointed by the Executive Board. Team positions may be added or removed at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 6. Executive Board members, Leadership Advisory Team, and Conference Planning Team will be asked to sign the EdTA Professional Code of Conduct. If a board member fails to act in accordance with the code or fails to do their assignment, they may be removed by the Chapter Director(s). All members shall complete an informational and statement of commitment form.

ARTICLE V

Elections

Section 1. The Chapter Director(s) shall be appointed by the Executive Board. Members who have served at least one term on the Executive Board, Leadership Advisory Board, or Conference Planning Team are eligible. The Chapter Director(s) will announce the upcoming election by January before the term starts in July. Candidates will be asked to submit a vita by the end of January.

Section 2. If the Chapter Director fails to follow through on their duties, they can be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board. If a vacancy occurs either by resignation or by removal, the treasurer will become the Chapter Director until the Executive Board can appoint their replacement.

Section 3. The State Thespian Officers shall be elected each year at the state conference. The officers shall be elected to serve for a one school year term* and may be reelected for a 2nd term. To qualify for an STO, candidates must:

- a. be a junior or senior
- b. be a member in good standing of an active LA Thespian Troupe,
- c. submit an application and a letter of recommendation from their troupe director by the date determined by the chapter director,
- d. be present at the annual state conference.
- e. be present at the Junior Thespian Conference

Section 4. These officers will be required to attend the annual state conference, annual retreat, other planning meetings as deemed by the chapter director(s) and take an active role in planning and running the state conference. During the year, they will also serve as liaisons to the troupes in the state. They are expected to remain active members in good standing of their Thespian troupes throughout the year.

Section 5. The State Student Board shall be elected by a delegation consisting of one student member from each active state troupe. Each school with an active Thespian Troupe may nominate 1 student for the state board.

Section 6. If the State Board members do not fulfill duties as mentioned in Article V Sections 3 and 4, the Executive Board members shall remove them as State Student Officers.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. The state conference, junior conference, and teacher professional development shall be held on a yearly basis. The date and site shall be determined by the Chapter Director(s) and Executive Board. Meetings may be attended virtually if face to face is not available.

Section 2. The State Thespian Officers and Executive Board shall meet at a fall retreat to prepare for state conference. The date and location of said retreat shall be chosen by the Chapter Director(s).

Section 3. All active Troupes shall be notified of the state conference, junior conference and teacher professional development by the Chapter Director(s).

Section 4. Board meetings and planning sessions shall be open to any interested sponsor. Dates and times of the meeting will be available on the LA Thespians website and Facebook page. They may attend virtually as observers.

ARTICLE VII

Conference rules and regulations

Section 1. Students and sponsors attending the state conference and planning sessions shall abide by the code of conduct that appears in the registration booklet. A student or sponsor in violation of the code will be asked to leave the conference at their own expense. If the violation is extreme, the school will not be invited to state conference the next year.

Section 2. The conference will hold Thespy Awards using the regulations as set down by the Educational Theatre Association. No exceptions are to be made to these regulations. Evaluation sheets from EdTA will be used for adjudication. Students will be given ratings of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, etc. No rankings will be given. Students who receive an overall superior rating will be eligible for Thespys at the International Thespian Conference. The Chapter Director(s) will submit the names of the students who receive superiors.

Section 3. The conference will hold a Showcase using the regulations as set down by the Educational Theatre Association. Chapter Select submissions will receive written adjudication from two - three adjudicators chosen by the Chapter Director(s). When possible, a representative from EdTA will serve as an adjudicator. Adjudicators will choose one play and an alternate to represent LA at the International Thespian Conference. No rankings---1st, 2nd, 3rd---will be given.

Section 4. All conferences may be done virtually in case of a medical crisis or any other extenuating circumstance.

Section 5. Whistleblower Policy shall align with EdTA Whistleblowerpolicy.

ARTICLE VIII
Changes to Bylaws

Section 1. Bylaws shall be reviewed yearly by the Executive Board during the EdTA Leadership Summit. Any changes to the bylaws will require a majority vote from the Executive Board.

Section 2. In extenuating circumstances bylaws may be suspended by a majority vote of the Executive Board under the guidance of the EdTA Rep.

*One school year term will run from August 1 to May 31.

Reviewed and updated August 14, 2021

Kristi Jacobs-Stanley and Cherie Firmin (Co-Chapter Directors)

Anne-Liese J. Fox (Board Member)

Shane Stewart (Board Member)

Laura Beeman Nugent (Board Member)

Carol Eshleman (Board Member)