

# OUTREACH STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

## DTASC SURVEY

PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED DURING THE LAST 5 YEARS

At the first meeting of the Outreach Committee, we focused on serving our members past and present who have been actively involved in DTASC. To this end we sent the following survey to 178 present members, minus 34 emeritus, minus 10 associates, minus 10 adjunct members(those who are members only because they coach) so 122 possible ....had 50 responses for most of the answers; some did not answer each question.

Red number indicates the response with the highest total.

Blue indicates the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest response.

The weighted average is an attempt to prioritize the priorities.

\*\*after the numbers means some gave comments-printed as the respondent stated the comment

In the big section at the end of the report, every \*\*\*\*\*means a new respondent

### Aspects of DTASC Membership

0 Does not apply to my school	1 Low priority	2 Not important	3 Somewhat important	4 Very Important	5 High Priority	Weighted average	
0	0	0	2	7	33	4.74	Written Share Sheet
2	1	0	3	9	30	4.36	would like friendly atmosphere at meetings
1	1	2	3	9	28	4.32	validation of my students' achievement in the process and product of festival work
2	1	1	0	11	25	4.30	Festival participation
1	1	0	4	13	21	4.25	web access to register
0	0	2	9	11	20	4.17	networking with theatre educators
0	1	3	6	9	18	4.08	professional adjudication
1	4	1	6	7	25	4.02	seeing the 1 <sup>st</sup> place winners perform
2	2	3	5	10	20	3.88	cd of the DTASC booklet
0	1	2	13	8	14	3.84	procedures of the Rules committee on Festival Day
2	2	1	7	14	15	3.80	length of festival day...Put ideal time you would like to see it end with awards
6 @ 4PM	4 @ 5PM	6 @ 6PM	10 @ 7PM	1@ 8PM			
<p>***would like to see B without additional rounds if numbers do not merit them*unless ideal time is 5 or 6PM, don't care; it's too long with unproductive down times for students*7:30 for C, 6pm for B*** as long as it is consistent with what is sent out ** went too long-we had to leave before awards*** NO 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE PERFORMANCES***as is</p>							
1	3	2	7	14	12	3.69	performance with code letters
1	1	4	12	14	10	3.60	the sharing of resources/script ideas
1	3	5	9	13	12	3.53	being able to give input for each aspect of the festival which might affect me or my students
1	1	6	13	14	7	3.40	hearing about theatre opportunities
0	3	5	9	5	9	3.39	other benefits of DTASC membership not mentioned above
<p>***ONGOING BUDDY SCHOOLS: VALIDATION OF MY STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PROCESS/PRODUCT-POSITIVE COMMENTS ON SHARE SHEETS ARE MOST VALUABLE;*** WE NEED TO FIND SOMETHING TO FILL THE DOWN TIME AT FESTIVALS; ***having my students witness the possibilities of other performances;*** love getting opportunities, jobs by email:***like discounts to other schools' shows for my kids;***membership card could be used for discounts for gas-ha;***</p>							

4	2	2	10	8	12	3.37	tangible trophies
0	4	6	12	9	10	3.37	separate day for A/B and C festivals
1	5	3	14	5	13	3.37	detailed rules for leveling the performance field
***clarity in rules for expectation and enforcement; limit singing to 1 category;***but not if we have to have endless meetings to discuss them							
4	2	5	6	8	12	3.30	scholarships to attend the CA Youth in Theatre Day event in Sacramento
1	2	6	25	14	6	3.24	workshops for teachers which are sometimes offered in conjunction with meetings
2	4	5	12	8	10	3.22	would like financial break on membership dues if teacher/school belongs to one or more educational theatre associations i.e. CETA, Thespians
3	1	10	9	8	11	3.21	the sharing of coaching techniques for festival success
1	5	8	9	10	9	3.17	freedom of rules, except for safety
1	4	2	18	5	6	3.11	having Awards and 1 <sup>st</sup> place performances in gym
***if we don't have auditorium, don't do performances;*** must have venue big enough for all to sit comfortably and maintain audience behavior, not like a rally							
6	1	6	8	8	11	3.10	would like financial grants for busing students to festivals
2	5	6	14	8	9	3.09	travel distance to festivals
3	1	6	12	14	3	3.08	committee work
3	5	6	7	9	9	3.05	transportation financial aid from DTASC
2	9	8	9	4	15	3.04	would like non-mandatory attendance at pre-festival meeting
8	2	4	6	10	11	3.00	scholarships for my students
5	6	2	8	12	7	2.93	professional development units for attending meetings and festival
2	5	9	12	9	6	2.91	would like to alternate location of mandatory meeting
5	3	5	13	10	6	2.90	would like financial discount on festival registration fees if teacher/school belongs to one or more educational theatre associations
1	9	6	10	6	5	2.70	same day for A/B/C festivals***Fall no, Spring yes
3	12	10	7	3	11	2.61	DTASC membership card for teacher
4	9	6	7	6	7	2.59	Salute to Winners evening
***big waste of time;							
3	11	9	8	5	6	2.45	DTASC membership card for students who participate in Fall festival
**would like discounts from all teachers when students present card at box office							
5	10	10	14	3	0	2.00	opportunities to run for executive board of DTASC

Below is a **brainstorming** idea for Reconfiguring the Mandatory Meetings. We would like your input on the following idea for meetings.

**April**-collection of rules, categories, nominations

**June meeting**-non-mandatory meeting to vote, "flesh out rules, categories, etc

**June**-Open Active Web page on which any member with password(must be a paid current member) could enter reactions of what was discussed at June meeting...cut off date to be determined; then all information

would be considered by Ex. Board. At a Summer meeting, the EX Board would determine the final decisions on rules, categories. Communicated by Web page posting in August.

**September meeting** would be Mandatory, but have a tone of KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR, with Clarification, Information only about decisions, Sharing of seasons, Committee Sign ups, Opportunities, Motivational, PDI, Workshop, welcoming new members.

**Organizational Meetings-** Each Festival Committee Chair mandatory attendance-1st hour would be information about site and any information which would affect all chair; then only those who need to work stay for stuffing, etc.

**January Meeting** would be mandatory for those who are new to the organization or any teacher who had never entered a Shakespeare festival or for any teacher who wants more clarification about Shakespeare categories- might have one meeting in LA area, then one in the afternoon for south Orange County and S.D. counties(with board traveling to the 2 meetings)

**Now we need constructive, positive reactions to the above ideas. We will consider any ideas which are pleasantly offered.**

\*\*\*\*\*ONE THING ABOUT 2 MEETINGS IS THAT WE GET TO KNOW THE TEACHERS BETTER IF WE SEE THEM OUTSIDE THE FESTIVAL;

\*\*\*\*\* THE JAN. MEETING IS A STRAIN, MAYBE THE JAN. MEET COULD BE FOR NETWORKING, ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS, PLUS CLAIRFICATION, LESS CONFONTATIONAL, DTASC TONE, WHICH HAS BEEN TONED DOWN THE PAST FEW YEARS:

\*\*\*\*\* sounds great-non-mandatory=less pressure;

\*\*\*\*\*Want to do anything we can to stop the negative meetings, particularly from old timers with grudge agendas;

\*\*\*\*\* want to get rid of the B division, since most go to 6,7,8 or 9-12;

\*\*\*\*\* Feel Jan. meeting probably has to be mandatory;

\*\*\*\*\* I want to see one festival that is ALL straight scenes, no festival schtick, closer to playwright's intent; looks great;

\*\*\*\*\* I approve of anything which shortens the meetings;

\*\*\*\*\* I don't like that some teachers only want to make rules which will allow their students to win and not support other schools if they win:

\*\*\*\*\*I approve of this liberal approach giving gung-ho organizational types ample opportunity to participate in the nuts and bolts, and mavericks and analyzers room to ruminate;

\*\*\*\*\* want to congratulate the quality of judges and their comments over the last 5 years; seems that the board during the last 2 years is listening to membership concerns and doing something;

\*\*\*\*\* doesn't really have to do with meetings,

\*\*\*\*\* but I think we should have to show proof of performance for Salute to Winners-it is public performance;

\*\*\*\*\* need to keep June meeting to plan the year-online discussion should not replace the face to face interaction to get to know fellow in the field teachers-when I first joined, learned much from listening to others-would be hurting generation of teachers if we could not pass along knowledge at meetings-it is our only social meeting-look at meeting rotation-Fall in S.D; winter in Orange; June in LA, etc-perhaps compromise(if drive 100 miles, go on line to find out what happened at meeting)-applaud for opening discussion gates;

\*\*\*\*\* we are choosing not to participate because of following reasons-find mandatory meetings, insulting and full of petty arguments-found students disrespectful at festivals-they talk during performances-not an appropriate model for my students-awards assembly resembles unsupervised football rally-teachers don't

supervise-does not foster discipline-does not further integrity of sharing respect of other's work-don't have time to go to mandatory meetings;

\*\*\*\*\*seems to be that unless you are in tabs, your school does not win;

\*\*\*\*\*I am not on the "inside" DTASC workings-older members have their voting groups and don't care about helping new ones feel welcome;

\*\*\*\*\*I go to other festivals where the rules and categories are online-I show up-kids perform, and I don't have to drive 2 hours for a meeting where people argue about chairs/dress for 3 hours; the revision of the mandatory meeting sounds like an option-especially non-mandatory attendance at Shk meeting;

\*\*\*\*\*I am in favor of the proposed ideas, especially the move toward the southern end of the members' map. I like being able to think about categories and calendar and then give input via computer..just hope all are given consideration the decision process;

\*\*\*\*\*THE OPEN WEB ACCESS FOR A PERIOD IN THE SUMMER TO RESPOND TO CHANGES, RULES, ETC. IS A GREAT IDEA, MYBE EVEN A BLOGGING TYPE SITE FOR PEOPLE TO VENT AND MAKE SUGGESSTIONS. THIS WOULD KEEP THE MANDATORY SEPT. MEETING AS SHORT AND FUNCTIONAL AS POSSIBLE WHICH STARTS OFF THE YEAR IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION;

\*\*\*\*\*I think the proposed ideas are brilliant;

\*\*\*\*\*good on Shk spring meeting as not mandatory;

\*\*It would be lovely if there was a scholarship opportunities for winner that could be applied to their college tuition;

\*\*\*\*\*The process of hashing out rules year to year is tedious at best and completely revolting at worst;

\*\*\*\*\* Festival participation is an important resource for my kids and I enjoy associating with other theatre teachers but several aspects of participating in DTASC festivals concern me. I feel guilty every year when I can't get judges or room-chairs. Parents aren't willing to drive to events. We use a big chunk of our budget for transportation. I'm always in production for our shows while I'm preparing the same students for festival. I wonder how I can make a mandatory meeting before our matinee shows without feeling resentful about being at the meeting.

There always seems to be an "Us and Them" mentality in any organization and ours is no different. The Us's for us are those who have the time and desire to run DTASC. "Us's" are also those whose schools win the events at least 75% of the time. I've always felt like a "Them" in DTASC . I don't really mind this since I know I can't be more committed than I am and I just don't have the talent pool other schools have to draw from so we can place more often. Unfortunately, there's a lot of guilt and a little fear that goes along with being a "Them" - guilt in that I can seldom bring judges and now I can't even get kids to volunteer as room chairs. My fear comes from wondering if I can once again convince my students, their parents and my administration that I really am a good director/teacher even if my groups don't place in the finals at a festival. This guilt and fear always dampen my enthusiasm when signing us up for a festival.

When DTASC was young, the drama teachers in San Fernando Valley and the surrounding areas were a much tighter group with much more in common. There were no magnet or charter schools and parents had time to help us motivate and even train the kids.

It's a real challenge to keep this organization alive and I salute all the Us's from my heart. Maybe the SC of DTASC has grown beyond the ability of any one governing board to handle. Perhaps branching out into DTASF (San Fernando), DTAOC (Orange County), DTAVC (Ventura County),DTALAC (Los Angeles County), DTASD (San Diego) might be an answer.

\*\*\*I think the mandatory meetings are problematic. As long as the school sends a rep, this should be fine, no matter how many years a teacher is represented.

\*\*\*Rules need to be very visible and need to be enforced.

\*\*\*I like things the way they were for Fall festival because there were not soooo many rules. I like the June meeting to determine all and if people could be professional that would be nice. My only concern is the age old problem of finding qualified judges. Could we use media to help us? What happened when HBO came?

And I would love a day to share teaching ideas and lesson plans that is not connected to the meeting. That's for any help on creating a drama credential and I dream of the AP Drama course!

\*\*\*sounds great