

ISTA Board Meeting

August 25, 2007

Mission Statement of ISTA – written in 2004 as a result of the Mission and Vision Retreat held at ISU.

“The mission of the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association is to develop, cultivate and educate (speech) communication and theatre professionals through instructional and assessment resources, research, and performance. ISTA fosters continuing development of both disciplines through mentoring and community outreach in order to promote the value of communication as an integral function of our society.”

Notes from the Long Range Planning discussion:

1. The need to maintain the ISTA website on a regular basis was considered the primary goal of the board. We will work with Doug Jennings and ISU on securing an intern or student worker who is dedicated to the website. ISTA will consider paying the worker, if necessary. The website should be the site for all ISTA documents: Manual of Operation, Mission Statement, convention schedule, convention program and conference evaluations, speech camps, photos, etc. The board discussed the possibility of merging the SCOTIE and SDTC membership directory lists through the website to avoid the need for publishing of directories. The information on the website should be password protected and the password provided to a member when membership in the organization is renewed each year. (Follow the process used by NCA). The possibility of adding a webmaster to the Executive Board to oversee the content and presentation was discussed.
2. Include the Mission Statement on the website, in the convention program and on every document of ISTA.
3. We all agreed that we need a New Board orientation during the convention to introduce board representatives to the responsibilities for the ISTA Board of Directors. New members need to be provided at their first board meeting with a list of position duties and other pertinent documents.
4. New board members will be invited to the Thursday board meeting during convention (before they take office). They will be asked to write an interest statement for the board. The new member training session should be held during an established time of the convention.
5. We will continue to strive to maintain continuity on the board with the commission members: SCOTIE, STDC and Theatre. We will encourage the commission members to view their position as an ISTA board member representing their commission. We discourage the change of members on a

- yearly basis as is currently done. Commission board members must follow the constitution for appointment to the board that stipulates the ISTA president take a stronger role in appointing and reappointing commission/committee representatives. Ken and Christine have agreed to remain on the board and will recommend their replacement to the board if and when they decide to step down.
6. Each board member is charged with the responsibility of developing one realistic goal for the year. Goals will be submitted for discussion at the Thursday October board meeting. Goals will be published for membership and board use. Each board member will also submit a proposed budget for their position for the upcoming year in October. The final budget will be approved in January.
 7. Members will be encouraged to identify with special interest groups at the October 2007 convention. The interest groups will be returned to the registration form for the 2008 convention.
 8. Jan Heiteen moved and Ed Schwarz seconded that ISTA create an ad hoc committee that focuses on special interest groups in ISTA to determine the broader needs of the organization and to better serve members and others in our fields. Jan and B.J. will initiate the committee.
 9. SCOTIE & SDTC would like to investigate changes to the administration of their members to provide a more personal touch. They want to have all checks sent through the Central Office for better financial accounting. The idea of adding their membership fees to the convention registration form was enthusiastically supported.
 10. The idea of creating a SCOTIE and an SDTC scholarship fund was discussed and will be investigated by Ken and Christine.
 11. The length and date of future conventions and other convention changes were not discussed due to time limitations.
 12. The Board did not see the name of our organization as a “problem,” although some expressed concern that the term “speech” is out of date (“communication” is now being used by national and regional professional organizations).

Thank you to all for a stimulating, productive discussion. The ideas generated will continue to move the Board forward in addressing the needs of the membership and making ISTA a leader in the field of communication in the State of Illinois.

