

SETC - Fall 2010

Semi-Annual Report to the Board of Directors

Reports Received/Not Received:

Southeastern Theatre Conference

2010-2011 Semi Annual Reports

Committee/entity	Person Responsible	Fall Report	Spring Report	Notes from reports
State Reps				
Alabama	Michael Howley	08/20/10		Interest item
Florida	Donna White	08/14/10		nothing to report
Georgia	Dean Slusser	08/20/10		Interest item
Kentucky	Kathi Ellis	08/20/10		Interest item
Mississippi	Tom Booth	08/19/10		nothing to report
North Carolina	David Schram	08/14/10		nothing to report
South Carolina	Leslie Dellinger	08/13/10		Interest item
Tennessee	Darren Michael	08/17/10		Interest item
Virginia	Kimberly Kemp	08/20/10		Interest Item
West Virginia	Greg Mach	08/12/10		Nothing to report
Division Chairs				
Secondary	David Giambrone	08/20/10		Interest item
Theatre for Youth	John Spiegel			no report
College & University	Lesley Preston	08/20/10		Discussion item
Professional	Dewey Scott-Wiley	08/19/10		Interest item
Community Theatre	Lynn Neslson	08/20/10		Interest item
Liaison Chairs				
AACT	Lynn Nelson	08/20/10		Interest item
ATHE	Hardy Koenig			no report
ATME				
KCACTF	Shelly Elman	08/20/10		Discussion item
USITT-SE	David Wheeler			no report
AATE	Lynn Kingsley	07/22/10		nothing to report
Committee Chairs				
Acting/Directing	Paul Crook	08/20/10		Action item
Archives	Christine Woodworth	08/20/10		nothing to report
Auditions	Mike Murphy	08/11/10		Discussion item, Interest item
Ballew Award	Dawn Larson	08/15/10		Action item
Bylaws	David Thompson	08/10/10		Action items, discussion items
Cultural Diversity	Michael Howley	08/20/10		nothing to report

Design/Tech	Jennifer Matthews	08/19/10		Discussion item
Endowment	Duke Guthrie	07/22/10		Action item, Interest item
Exhibits	Ginger Willis			no report
Finance	David Wohl	08/12/10		Action item, discussion item
Graduate Auditions	Marlene Johnson	08/20/10		nothing to report
Halbach Award	Glen Gourley	08/20/10		nothing to report
Hist/Theory/Crit	Dawn Larson	08/15/10		Interest item
Holiday Award	Gary Weatherly	08/05/10		Interest item
KEAP Award	Chris Rich	08/22/10		Interest item
Long Range Planning	Dennis Wemm	08/20/10		Interest item
Nominations	Glen Gourley	07/22/10		Action item, discussion item
Past Presidents	Don Wolfe	08/10/10		Interest item
Personnel Advisory	Beth Harvey	08/20/10		Nothing to report
Playwriting	Steve Burch	07/26/10		nothing to report
Porterfield Award	Pat Gagliano	08/20/10		Nothing to report
Publications	Chris Hardin	08/20/10		Nothing to report
Religion & Theatre	Bert Wallace	07/31/10		Interest item
Secondary School Scholarship	Jesse Bates	08/09/10		nothing to report
Smith Award	Carey Hanson	08/16/10		Interest item
Stage Movement	Cara Rawlings	08/22/10		nothing to report
Secondary School Auditions	John Davenport	08/16/10		Action item - name change
Voice & Speech	Robin Carr	08/12/10		Interest Item
Web Site	Ken Parks	08/20/10		committee no longer exists
Wilson Award	David Giambone	08/20/10		nothing to report

AD Hoc Committees/other Entities

Film & Television	Jeff Green	08/20/10		Discussion item
Stage Management	Patricia Crotty	08/17/10		Discussion item
Ten Minute Play Festival	Michael Carr	08/12/10		Nothing to report
New Play Project	Chris Hardin	08/20/10		Nothing to report
High School Playwriting Project	Nancy Gall-Clayton	07/26/10		Interest item
Sara Spencer Award	Jeremy Kisling	08/20/10		Interest item
Small Theatre Program	Edward Kelly	08/22/10		Nothing to report
Scholarships & Awards	Beth Harvey	08/20/10		interest item
Theatre Symposium Steering	Scott Phillips	08/18/10		Nothing to report

Theatre Symposium Editor	Bert Wallace	n/a		nothing to report
K-12 Theatre Education	Elaine Malone	08/20/10		Interest item
Community Theatre Festival	Scott Kirby	08/20/10		Discussion item

Action Items

- **BYLAWS/DAVID THOMPSON**

Bylaws Committee brings forth four items for consideration, each stemming from the bylaws amendments approved by the membership in March.

Item 1: Move to replace the phrase “President-Elect” with the phrase “Programming Vice-President” in Rule II.1. Rule II.1. **Convention Planning Committee.** A standing Convention Planning Committee chaired by the ~~President-Elect~~ Programming Vice-President (program chair) would consist of the chairs of all Divisions and special interest program areas which would include, but not be limited to the following: Acting, Arts Administration, Design, Directing, History/Literature/Criticism, Playwriting, Stage Movement, Religion in Theatre, and Stage Voice. The committee will communicate electronically to facilitate planning for the annual convention by developing, encouraging, and evaluating program suggestions as well as assisting the program chair. ~~(9/11/04)~~ (9/11/10)

Item 2: Move to replace the word “immediate” with the phrase “elected past President” in Rule II.14. Rule II.14. **Personnel Advisory Committee.** The Personnel Advisory Committee is a standing committee that reports exclusively to the Executive Committee and consists of the ~~immediate elected past President~~ as chair and two additional members elected to staggered two-year terms by the Executive Committee. The duties of the Personnel Advisory Committee will be to advise the Executive Committee on the contents of the personnel policy manual and to review formal employee grievances and appeals and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. ~~(3/5/95)~~ (9/11/10)

Item 3: Move to replace the phrase “President-Elect” with the phrase “Programming Vice-President” in Rule III.3. Rule III.3. **Executive Committee Reimbursement.** Reimbursement allowed for Executive Committee members includes trips made to state meetings to represent SETC, and for no more than two trips to the convention site by the ~~President-Elect~~ Programming Vice-President (Program Chair) for the purpose of convention planning, prior to the convention. For travel to the Winter and Summer Executive Committee Meetings, members of the Executive Committee will be reimbursed for lodging and travel. Travel expenses for those who drive to the meeting will be calculated at a mileage rate to be determined annually at the fall business meeting by the Executive Director and the Finance Committee. For the fall Board of Directors meeting and the annual convention, members of the Executive Committee will be reimbursed for travel expenses not to exceed the cost of two nights' stay at the negotiated rate, including taxes, at the headquarters hotel. The SETC budget will not cover other officer related trips not specifically authorized by this Rule. ~~(9/9/06)~~ (9/11/10)

Item 4: Move to replace the phrase “President-Elect” with the phrase “Programming Vice-President” in Rule III.8. Rule III.8. **Exemption from Convention Registration.** Local arrangements workers may be invited to attend, at no cost, a portion of the convention equal to the number of hours they have worked. Chairs of local arrangements committees may be invited to attend the whole convention at no cost. SETC members who work on on-site convention duties assigned by the Executive Director may be excused from paying part or all of the convention registration fee for that year, prorated by the Executive Director according to the number of hours satisfactorily worked. Cast members of the staged reading of the SETC New Play winner shall be admitted to the convention without payment of registration fees provided they are not also involved in the auditions. Voting sessions, business meetings and meals are not included in these invitations unless the individual is a member of SETC. The ~~President-Elect~~ Programming Vice-President, adjudicators, SETC employees, and guests designated by the ~~President-Elect~~ Programming Vice-President are exempt from payment of convention registration fees. ~~(3/5/03)~~ (9/11/10)

- **AVP REPORT – MANUAL CHANGES**

The following manuals are presented for change approval. The first set of changes is in response to the action presented by the Bylaws committee action item which precedes this item. The changes are listed in categories suggested by the Bylaws committee:

Category 1: Rename & Revise

Immediate Past President (now Past President)
 President Elect (now Programming Vice President)
 Nominations (almost forgot that one)

In addition to the passages pertaining to renaming the positions, these manuals should probably contain the articles describing ExCom positions, particularly the amendments just approved in March. Also, there are four rules that require revision in the fall. Three mention President-Elect (II.1, III.3, & III.8 twice) and should be changed to Programming Vice President. Rule II.14 concerns Personnel Advisory and could still refer to the immediate past president since that applies to both practice and preference; otherwise it should also be changed. You may wish to wait until the Bylaws report in September to present these two manuals so that you can anticipate the changes and revise them just once.

Category 2: Add Revised Bylaws plus Rule III.3

President
 Administrative Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Division Rep
 State Rep Rep

Since each of these individuals serves on ExCom the composition of that body should be included in the manual. Each should have the material passed in March. Rule III.3 pertains to ExCom reimbursement so this group would add the new version of the rule.

Category 3: Possible Change to Rule II.1

Division Rep
 College & University Division
 Community Theatre Division
 Professional Division
 Secondary School Division
 Theatre for Youth Division
 Acting & Directing
 Design and Technology
 History/Theory/Criticism/Literature
 Playwriting
 Religion and Theatre
 Stage Management
 Stage Movement
 Voice and Speech

There is some question concerning whether the rule pertaining to the Convention Planning Committee should exist at all. We have not planned conventions in this way in some time. On the other hand, if a future PVP wanted to convene such a group, this rule would support it rather than forcing the President to name individuals to serve on the committee. Whether it is changed to recognize the new PVP terminology or deleted entirely, the groups above are referenced and so their manuals would need to be revised.

Category 4: Minor Changes

FinCom (Rule III.3 mentions the committee)
 Personnel Advisory (Rule II.14)
 Playwriting (Rule III.8 mentions the New Play cast)

- **ACTING & DIRECTING/PAUL CROOK**

Changes to operations procedures within the Manual

- **BALLEW AWARD/DAWN LARSON**

Changes in manual. Basically all applications will be submitted electronically.

- **NOMINATIONS/GLEN GOURLEY**

Revised Nominations manual – procedures, governance etc

- **SECONDARY SCHOOL AUDITIONS**

Name change to Undergraduate/Transfer Auditions

- **ENDOWMENT/DUKE GUTHRIE**

Adjustment of **Rule III.7**. Life Membership Income. Income from Life Memberships will be committed to SETC's Endowment Fund.

To add at the end of the rule: **Individuals purchasing Life Memberships may specify which established fund their Life Membership Income will benefit.**

- **ALL MANUALS**

All manuals have been formatted to a standardized style and must be approved for this change.

- **FINANCE/DAVID WOHL**

We will be reviewing the FY 2010 audit and (in all likelihood) recommending EXCOM acceptance. Does not need to come before the BOD.

Items for Discussion

- **BYLAWS/DAVID THOMPSON**

Topic 1: Central Office employees as *ex officio* members of committees.

In many organizations, SETC included, descriptions of committees often list *ex officio* members most often interpreted as an automatic service on a committee by virtue of an the office held or duties performed by an individual. Some members of the Central Office staff are listed as *ex officio* members of certain committees. However, Rule V.4 requires that committee members be current individual members of SETC while Article XII and Rule III.12 prevent employees from becoming members by barring members from financial benefit or payment. Clearly, committees need the perspective of the Central Office and the Bylaws Committee notes that our employees are very conscientious about providing input while abstaining from committee votes. How should Bylaws Committee and the organization address this inconsistency between policy and practice? Should we make an exception for Central Office staff? Should we simply replace “*ex officio* member” with another term such as “consultant” or “resource”? Should we clarify the distinction between those who vote and those who meet with a committee by terming members as “voting” members? For example:

Rule V.4 **Board and Committee Membership**. All officers, Board of Directors and Advisory Council members, and voting committee members (except the Local Arrangements Committee) must individually be current members of SETC. (3/3/93)

Topic 2: Duties of Elected Past President

The former Immediate Past President and current “past President elected for a term of one year” serves as a member of ExCom. However, a formal list of duties has never appeared in the bylaws (aside from the tradition of chairing the Personnel Advisory). Should the duties of the office be stated more explicitly or do we desire a flexible advisor with experience within the organization?

- **NOMINATIONS/GLEN GOURLEY**

The Central Office sent out a blast email soliciting nominations this year in an attempt to engage the membership. Two replies (with a single individual nomination on each) were received.

- **AD HOC STAGE MANAGEMENT/PATRICIA CROTTY**

The Stage management committee is working on developing a format for a prompt book competition. Subcommittee chair Amy Baumgartner Hutton is heading up the process.

- **DESIGN/TECH- JENNIFER MATHEWS**

-Thank you for the e-mails that went out thanking participants in sessions.

--As usual, there were concerns over scheduling conflicts of workshops. Two possible solutions that have been discussed are: 1) creating a public schedule that could be viewed by all interested committee members as submissions are sent in, so that people can see conflicts as they arise and can make adjustments early on, or 2) allow an early viewing of the completed schedule in a semi-public venue to suggest changes before finalizing the schedule. We have many new people who do not yet know traditional times for some events, such as the Design Keynote Address is typically Thursday night from 7-10. I think we had some cross over areas, such as stage management sessions that I did not see as a conflict of times, but the presiders did.

-We are also looking into ways to make SETC more enticing to designers and technicians who are working professionals, not students or faculty. There are complaints that there are very few job interviews for work beyond fairly entry-level summer work. That issue is perhaps beyond our committee's scope at this time. We are also considering how to create a venue for non-student designers to display work in public. We do not envision any type of competition at this time, but perhaps allowing them display space might generate some interest from professional companies to consider interviewing designers at SETC.

- **AUDITIONS/MIKE MURPHY, SCOTT LAFEVER**

It may be time for AudCom to solicit insights from a wide constituency to help us evaluate how we can best serve the organization. In the past couple of years we have knocked about a few ideas that could be seen as a departure from the status quo. Some ideas are brought to us from other groups (the Board, ExCom, CenOfc, etc) knowing that we facilitate audition operations. Less obvious to some is that our charge is to support the efforts multiple constituencies. The Audition Sets are simply mechanisms to fulfill our charge. Leaving our "comfort zone" can have beneficial results. In doing so we need to make efforts to maintain the level of service we currently provide.

Ideas: Regional (within SETC) Screening Auditions rather than State Screenings.
 SETC Screenings in conjunction with other Theatre Conferences.
 Reviewing the straight percentage method of selection.

AudCom and ProDiv are often joined at the hip when it comes to focusing our attention on the next cycle of auditions. In the process we have direct impact on students whose only voice may come through the Col/Univ Div. Add the State Reps and the State Audition Coordinators; stir in ExCom and the Board and we have a wide and varied constituency.

Perhaps it's time for a thorough self examination of who we are, who we serve and where we want to go. It would be helpful to get insights from outside the Audition Room. AudCom would support the creation of ad hoc committee to solicit comments, ideas and suggestions from the membership. Ideally there would be no burning agenda or critical time frame. Representatives from AudCom, ProDiv, StateReps, SACs, Col/Univ, ExCom and the Board would be able to drop ideas on the table to be knocked around by all. In short – a Brainstorming Session.

- **FINANCE/DAVID WOHL**

Discussion of the audit usually focuses on the general financial condition of the organization; this is certainly a topic worthy of consideration!

- **KCACTF/SHELLY ELMAN**

KCACTF Region IV thanks SETC for their continued support of college actors and designers!

- **FILM & TV/JEFFERY GREEN**

Is it time to move this from an ad hoc committee to a permanent one? If so, what is the process?

Should Film and Television be a division with encouragement to state organizations to form Film and Television divisions as well? There was informal discussion at the most recent Georgia Theatre Conference state board meeting about possibly piloting such a program.

- **COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL/RICK KIRBY**

Challenges such as food availability, Shuttle?

- **COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY DIVISION/LESLIE PRESTON**

Change requirement for two meetings per year in years when we hold an election to one meeting per year, as right now we adjourn one meeting and start the next one immediately after, which seems odd.

Items of Interest

- **ENDOWMENT/DUKE GUTHRIE**

Scholarships to be announced at Spring 2011 Convention, will match levels of previous 2 years. Endowment Committee thanks Jack Pentz for his stewardship of SETC's Endowment.

- **SECONDARY DIVISION/ DAVID MICHAEL GIAMBRONE**

The idea of changing the name of the division and the play festival in the division from "Secondary" to "High School" has been brought forward.

- **VOICE AND SPEECH/ROBIN CARR**

The Voice and Speech Committee has working very diligently to plan the Voice and Speech Committee *Featured Guest Artist* for the upcoming SETC 2011 in Atlanta, GA. The featured guest artist will be Patsy Rodenburg. Patsy is planning on not only speaking, but also teaching various workshops throughout the SETC conference weekend. There will also be an opening reception for her and she will also be joining the voice and speech committee for a special meet and greet.

- **AUDITIONS/MIKE MURPHY, SCOTT LAFEBER**

1. State Screening Adjudicators have been approached. We have a few slots to fill at this time
2. AudCom attempts to get its adjudicators from the ProDiv ranks, since they know what the companies are looking for in our Audition Sets. It tends to make for a stronger group of Auditionees.
3. It's been 10 years since we moved to a straight percentage for state screenings. There had been lots of concerns about the "Secret Formula". The percentage was seen as an easier and more transparent method of selection. It may be time for us to evaluate its good points and shortcomings.
4. April has been working on expanding AudTrack software particularly a method for the Adjudicator comments to go directly to the auditionee. She'll be doing a few "unofficial trials" this fall. We may be asked to provide insights as we become more familiar with the system.
5. AudCom would like to be like Bell City, CA and have the board approve 6 figure salaries for all of its members. This can be done in Closed Session. All in favor.....

- **HISTORY/THEORY/CRIT – DAWN LARSON**

I have already received one submission for Young Scholars

- **SARA SPENSER AWARD/JEREMY KISLING**

We have broadened our scope a little to include exciting artists who are doing some amazing work with their community youth using theatre.

- **HIGH SCHOOL PLAYWRITING COMPETITION/NANCY GALL-CLAYTON**

I appreciate the assistance of past chair Todd W. Ristau and Webmaster Chris Chandler in updating contest information for 2011. Todd has agreed to direct the winning play, and April Marshall has confirmed times for rehearsal (Friday, 10:30 am) and reading (Saturday, 10:30 a.m.) I've created an electronic distribution list to publicize the contest (and have included Jack Benjamin and Alan Litsey). A notice about the contest appeared in July/August 2010 SETC News.

- **LONG RANGE PLANNING/DENNIS WEMM**

The Long Range Planning Committee met with members of the Executive Committee at the March convention. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of the Committee as it makes decisions based on the Strategic Plan presented by facilitator Bill Mitchell. Because Task Force membership had not been announced, even though the discussion was spirited and fruitful, the meeting closed with far more questions than answers.

In talks with President Alan Litsey regarding the role of the Task Force in July, it was decided that the Task Force's charge is to help advise the reorganization of the governance of SETC in general, including roles and positions on the Board and Executive Committee. This functional task is clearly laid out in the Bylaws as the charge of ExCom. "The Executive Committee shall be the administrative, policy making and planning body of the Corporation." A temporary Task Force of advisors is the natural choice for making this kind of decision. The advisors chosen for the task are those who best know the organization and its needs for the future.

Since ExCom also hires the Executive Director and provides support in management of the Central Office, it is also natural that ExCom directly handle any issues dealing with staff operations of the corporation. Once more, the recommendations of the Task Force, acted on by ExCom, are the correct path to recommendations for the operational branch of the organization.

The Long Range Planning Committee's charge remains to advise ExCom and the Board in making recommendations dealing with the application of policy. It remains the membership's way of influencing membership policy. We will continue to "make recommendations to the Executive Committee with regard to long range goals and specific objectives of the Corporation"-the LRP Committee's Bylaws charge. Long Range Planning looks forward to working with the recommendations of the Task Force and reporting our recommendations for future developments to the good of the membership.

In anticipation of changes that will establish operational procedures for the future, updates on the manual for the committee will be forthcoming at a later date.

- **HOLIDAY AWARD/GARY WEATHERLY**

Deadline for application changed to January 21, 2011. Forms have been updated and sent to Chris and request for website to be updated with new application deadline date.

We would also like to welcome Bill Murray as a new member of the committee. He joins David Boone and myself.

- **AACT/LYNN NELSON**

I have attended two AACT board meetings. I am proud that SETC is consistently referred to as a model region when describing successful operations, participation, etc. The AACT International Festival was held in June in Venice, FL at an SETC member theatre. It was well represented with SETC members and was breathtakingly wonderful! Membership voted to let Venice host again in 4 years. We need to really help promote attendance at that festival...it is not often that it's even held in the U.S.

- **SMITH AWARD/CAREY HANSON**

The committee and I decided to change the wording on the website to make it clear to those applying that the Marian Smith Award is given to a candidate who shows great promise as a costume designer and/or costume technologist. In the past that has not been made as clear. We have had several applicants that were not costume students, but scenic or lighting.

- **RELIGION & THEATRE/BERT WALLACE**

Spring 2010 committee meeting was well attended with many expressing interest in becoming more involved with the committee. Chair is soliciting proposals for Spring 2011 from among those attending.

- **PAST PRESIDENTS/DON WOLFE**

Past President David Weiss's wife Penny died July 21, 2010, of Lou Gehrig's disease.

- **K-12 INSTITUTE/ELAINE MALONE**

New K-12 Institute Chair, Elaine Malone, met in Greensboro on July 29, 2010 with Betsey Baun, Quiana Clark-Roland, and Cheryl Ann Roberts. The meeting participants discussed the history of the Institute, and shared thoughts and visions on its future. The discussion included ideas for future programming and how best to address the needs of our constituents.

- **AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS/BETH HARVEY**

This is the first year that we will offer the Denise Halbach scholarship for performance.

- **FILM & TV/JEFFERY GREEN**

There were 22 entries in the 2010 Digital Cinema and Television festival. Only 5 were able to be screened given the time available. Many more entries were worthy of screen time. Anticipate more entries this year. There has already been an increase in inquiries and interest. There were two sessions at the 2010 Convention. Each had between 30 to 50 attendees.

Really need 1 room designated for a full day, ideally Friday or Saturday. Need reliable playback and projection technology. Equipment in Lexington did not work and tech support was insufficient. Scrambled, found and utilized laptop for playback.

Karina Cruz, from the Osceola County School for the Arts in Kissimmee was awarded a full tuition scholarship for the 4week filmmaking program at The New York Film Academy. The New York Film Academy would like to extend another full 4 week summer Filmmaking scholarship to 2011 SETC contestants. All current High School students are eligible to submit an original film no longer than 10 minutes in Atlanta.

- **KEAP AWARD/CHRIS RICH**

I will be stepping down as chair of KEAP at the end of convention 2011.

- **SMALL THEATRE PROGRAM/ED KELLY**

Acting on behalf of co-chair Fuller, our approach at this year's convention is to offer a two-tiered approach to the Small Theatre Program Workshop. The first session will be entitled STP "Support Group" whereby faculty of small theatre programs can voice their concerns on an assortment of departmental topics. The second session will be entitled STP "Solution session" will attempt to explore solutions to meet concerns of small theatre programs.

- **ALABAMA/MICHAEL HOWLEY**

- 1) The annual "Summit" conference took place in Birmingham at the Alabama School of Fine Arts on August 21. – The largest turn-out with over 90 in attendance, representing all divisions. ---- Elections of officers: effective Jan. 1, 2011 ----

President: Neil David Seibel

Vice President: Tom Salter

Treasurer: Amy Hockinson

Secretary: Elizabeth McCurry

Secondary Division Chair: T. Gary Weatherly

Community Division Chair: Kevin Garrett

College/University Division Chair: Randall Blades

SETC State Rep: Michael P. Howley

Immediate Past President: Katie Pearson

Division Vice-Chairs will be elected at the respective Division Festivals.

Jen Nelson Lane will step down as SETC State Auditions Chair after this year.

Attendees were encouraged by State Rep to promote SETC scholarship applications, SETC membership, and proposals for and attendance at the SETC March convention in Atlanta.

Networking opportunities were encouraged with the Alliance for Arts Education.

- 2) An effort is being made this year to develop each Division. – College/University is developing more activities/workshops to engage faculty at Festivals; Community Theatre Division is adding membership & participation; Secondary Division is continuing its development of the Trumbauer Festival; Theatre for Youth Division is in the process of being developed, and is a top priority for the State organization.
- 3) Following the SETC model, the Alabama Conference of Theatre held a Board Meeting on August 28 to work on a 5-year plan, with first attention being paid to a "Mission Statement", followed by brainstorming in categories for 5-year improvements. A very productive meeting.
- 4) Contracts have been signed to continue Sue Ellen Gerrells as Executive Director. All are happy.
- 5) The Alabama Conference of theatre is additionally pursuing a number of grants for funding.

Festival Calendar:

- a) Summit – August 21 – Bham – Alabama School of Fine Arts

- b) College/University Festival + SETC Screening Auditions – Oct. 15-15 – U of Montevallo
- c) Community theatre Festival – Oct. 22-24 – Pell City Center
- d) Secondary School Festival – Dec. 3-4 – U of North AL [Trumbauer Festival 70th year]
Theatre for Youth --- hope to attend the Middle School Festival

- **GEORGIA/DEAN SLUSSER**

The annual convention of the Georgia Theatre Conference will be held October 14-17, 2010 at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah.

- **KENTUCKY/ KATHI E.B. ELLIS**

KTA is soliciting scripts for its second annual “Roots of the Bluegrass” New Play Festival. Excerpts from the top three scripts will be read at the 2010 conference in November.

Former executive director, Doug Schutte, has opened The Bard’s Town restaurant and theater in Louisville. The theatre is dedicated to works by Kentucky playwrights.

- **SOUTH CAROLINA/LESLIE DELLINGER**

South Carolina has decided to include the secondary festival with their convention. Several years ago, it was moved away with the idea that more schools would participate. Even though this may be true, it was decided that it is more important for the teachers and students to be a part of the convention. Additionally, the SETC screening auditions, which were normally a part of the convention, have been moved. It was decided that we may have more people (not just students) audition if we held the auditions in Columbia every year at a popular semi-professional theatre. Our screening auditions will be held Oct. 30th at Trustus theatre.

- **TENNESSEE/DARREN MICHAEL**

Ana Filippo from Clarksville, TN, has been hired as the Tennessee Theatre Association’s new Executive Director, a new staff position that was created this year.

- **VIRGINIA/KIMBERLY KEMP**

Kate Arecchi from James Madison University will be replacing Wesley Young as our State Auditions Coordinator

- **COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY DIVISION/LESLIE PRESTON**

Looking for a way to connect workshop participants on line

- **COMMUNITY THEATRE DIVISION/LYNN NELSON**

We continue to struggle with some states having trouble with interest and participation at their state level. This issue will be one on which we need to concentrate effort this year. Allowing two entries to the SETC festival cycle from states with a certain level of participation has certainly been a big help to some.

- **PRODIV/DEWEY SCOTT-WILEY**

Due to the high numbers in the Screening Auditions, there was little room for professional applicants last Spring. We are talking with the Central Office and The Auditions Committee about slightly decreasing the percentage of accepted screened applicants in order to alleviate this problem.

Fall Auditions moved this year to Atlanta: companies slightly down, most have reported not coming due to economy (smaller shows, hiring locally, actors keeping positions, etc.)

S.O.R.T. is taking off slowly, but some companies are using it. Will do a push at convention to demonstrate its use to employees and employers.

INFORMATION FOR SETC NEWS:

Ballew Award - Calls will go out to listservs in late Sept. New procedure for electronic submission on website

Hist/Lit/Theory/Crit - Young Scholar's call for papers is on the website. Call will go out on listservs at the end of Sept.

Spencer Award - Theatre for Young People is of vital importance to the entire field of theatre, it is often those first experiences with theatre that can fuel a love and life long passion for the art form. The Sara Spencer Child Drama Award recognizes the work of an individual or organization for dynamic and engaging work for young people. Nominees can excel in such areas as playwriting, performance, audience development, curriculum development, funding, scholarship, community programs, research, television programming, creative drama or other enrichment programs within the their community, state, or regional or national

State of Tennessee - After several years of discussion and work, The Tennessee Theatre Association has created a new and much needed staff position – Executive Director. And we are proud to announce Ana Filippo from Clarksville, TN, has been hired to fill the position. We are incredibly fortunate to have her accept the role and look forward to working with her.

The Tennessee Theatre Association will hold its Fall Festival in Cookeville, TN, October 21 – 24, hosted by the Cookeville Drama Center and Tennessee Tech University. As always, the festival will include the Secondary School and Community Theatre Festivals as well as our State SETC preliminary screenings and our annual workshop offerings. We are very excited to share that our 2010 Fall Festival will offer two new events this year for attendees: the first annual TTA 24 Hour Play Competition and Festival and our new Design Competition. The details for each of these events will be available soon on our TTA website: www.tn-theatre.com. Please join us in October for a celebration of theatre from around the state.

Also please enjoy our newsletter available on our website or at this link: <http://www.tn-theatre.com/spring%202010%20TTA%20newsletter.pdf>

Film & Television - Call for submissions: SETC Digital Cinema and Television Festival entries. Categories – secondary student produced, college/university student produced, faculty produced. All works shorts to feature length will be considered. Selected works will be screened at convention. For consideration submit DVD or MiniDV format by January 18 to:

Jeffrey Green
Chair, SETC Film and Television Committee
Dramatic Arts, GSW
800 GSW State Univ. Dr.
Americus, GA 31709

Design/Tech - Lexington was a great convention! So many interesting workshops, beautiful designs, and fascinating people to inspire us all. This year you could follow the schedule with updates on Facebook and Twitter.

What makes Design/Tech such a dynamic part of the convention is the work of all those involved. Plan to be a part of this! There are so many ways to be involved, such as presenting new technology, guiding student designers as they present their work, and giving young professionals the tools they need to become accomplished theatre artists. Encourage students to present their work to the wonderful guest adjudicators we have every year. Help SETC remain one of the great resources for students and professionals. Come visit us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54914149404&ref=ts#!/group.php?gid=54914149404&v=wall&ref=ts>

Voice & Speech - Information will be coming out shortly about Patsy Rodenburg and workshops that will be offered at the 2011 spring conference.

State of North Carolina - The North Carolina Theatre Conference has launched a new blog – www.theatrenorthcarolina.com. Visit the blog for inside information on NC's theatre community!

NCTC is pleased to report that the organization's advocacy efforts were very successful this year. Working in partnership with ARTS North Carolina, arts advocates were able to sustain the grants funding for the NC Arts Council and are celebrating the passing of Senate Bill 66, which created a task force that will recommend a comprehensive arts education plan for NC public schools.

The 2010 NCTC Producing Theatre Gathering was held at Triad Stage in Greensboro, July 25-27. The event was a huge success, with participation increasing 33% over 2009. Participants attended sessions on Social Media, Programming, Development, Advocacy and more. NC Secretary of Cultural Resources Linda Carlisle delivered an inspiring keynote address and members celebrated NCTC's 40th Birthday.

State of Virginia - The Virginia Theatre Association Conference is October 29 - 31st at the Reston Hyatt in Reston, VA

State of Florida - The Florida Theatre Conference would like to welcome Laura Wayth from Florida Atlantic University who will take over the responsibilities for the SETC preliminary auditions. We are also introducing the new Chair for the Theatre for Youth Division, Gary Cadawallader from the Orlando Rep, and David Clevinger, Chair of Community Theatre, from the Bay Street Players

at the State Theatre, Eustis, Florida. Along with the hardworking new Board members, FTC has a new look; a new logo, a new webmaster with a completely updated and more accessible website, new video conferencing options, monthly E-Blasts that go out to our members, and yes, we're on Facebook!

One of our Board members, Kevin P. Kern from University of West Florida, has posted an excellent outline of helpful audition hints with highlights of things to remember as well as those to avoid. "Read and Heed"

Colleagues,

Here is an amalgam of the many comments I received from those in attendance at the FTC High School auditions. I took the notes, hints, complaints, and pet peeves and distilled them into (what I hope) is an easily digestible format for posting on the website.

THINGS TO AVOID:

I. Inappropriate Material

- A. Material that is too emotional
 - 1. Climatic moments taken out of context
 - 2. Material that relies on screaming, yelling etc. etc.
- B. Material that uses offensive language including racially insensitive words and epithets
- C. Material that is not age appropriate (its hard to watch a 17 year-old Willy Lowman)

II. Inappropriate Appearance

- A. Shorts, ripped jeans, sloppy, ill-fitting, or provocative clothing
- B. Anything above a "moderate heel"
- C. Hair in the face, tongue piercings

THINGS TO REHEARSE:

I. Beginnings and Endings

- A. The piece begins with the name and number, which should be confidently and clearly spoken.
- B. The piece ends with your name and number, which should be confidently and clearly spoken.

II. Timing – There is no reason why you should go over your time limit. Cut and rehearse the piece so that so that you have several extra seconds in case things expand in performance.

III. Diction / Volume / Projection

IV. Focus

- A. To whom are you speaking?
- B. Who, What and Where are they in relation to you?

V. Transitions - Rehearse the whole audition as a "package", not two separate pieces.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

I. Cut your monologues so there is a clear indication of beginning, middle and end.

II. Monologues in which your character has a real objective or need are preferable to those that are just meant to be funny.

III. The songs should have clear intentions, just as a monologue does.

IV. There is no substitute for working with a director or teacher. An amateur rehearses until it's done right, a professional rehearses until it can't be done wrong. Strive for "professional"...