The Region III Festival was hosted by South Bend (IN) Civic Theatre April 17-19, 2009. *Intimate Apparel* produced by South Bend Civic Theatre was selected to advance to the national festival. For more about the festival go to region3aact.org/.

The Board of the Association of Region III met while gathered for the festival. Ginny Morrison from Ohio was elected to serve as the Region Representative to the AACT Board for the next two years.

The 2011 Region III AACT/FEST will be in Columbus, Ohio, April 29, 30 & May 1.

**Illinois**
State Contact: Toni Higgins-Thrash

Illinois had its AACT State Festival at Northbrook Theatre in Northbrook on March 28, 2009. Illinois had two entries: AgeQuake Theatre's entry *Why Are We Here? Oh...I Know! We're Here Because We...* and Highland Park Players’ production of *Alice in Wonderland*. The winner, Highland Park Players went forward as the Illinois entry to the Regional Festival in South Bend, IN, receiving a Regional AACT participation certificate and an adjudicator award certificate went to the choreographer of *Alice in Wonderland*, Annie Jo Fischer.

After the National Festival in Tacoma, WA, the Illinois AACT contact Toni Higgins-Thrash, plans on sending out an e-mail to both Illinois Theatre Assn and AACT Illinois members requesting interested Illinois theatres who may want to host the next cycle Illinois State Festival to respond back by a certain date. Toni Higgins-Thrash will assume the role of AACT Illinois State Contact for an additional two years.

**Indiana**
www.ictl.net
State Contact: Marty Grubbs

The Indiana State AACTFest ’09 was hosted by the Muncie Civic Theatre Association in Muncie March 27-29, 2009. Eleven companies entered, with two advancing to the

**Michigan**

www.communitytheatre.org  
State Contact: Joanne Berry

Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM) scholarship auditions were held in February. Scholarships were awarded to two students for theatre study at a Michigan college.

Four theatre groups participated in the state AACTFest hosted by Monroe Community Players February 27-March 1, 2009. The two groups that went on to the regional festival in South Bend, Indiana were Monroe Community Theatre performing *Upon the Heath* and Master Arts Theatre (Grand Rapids) performing *Smoke on the Mountain*.

The CTAM Playwriting Contest is accepting original scripts written by Michigan playwrights (deadline is May 15). There will be two cash prizes and the winning play is available to member groups, royalty free, for one year. Two weekend-long master classes will be offered this summer. The Actor's Toolbox, a class that will focus on how to use the voice and body in creating characters, will be conducted by Penny Notter, Associate Director of Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Leeds Bird, a director, designer, actor, and playwright from the Bay City Players will conduct Directing Musicals: Making the Pieces Fit.

The annual CTAM Fall Conference will be held September 25 – 27, 2009 at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac. A variety of workshops will be offered including improvisation, starting a teen theatre, adapting high tech musicals to your stage without destroying the show’s integrity, and two workshops on how community theatres and the Michigan's film initiative can work together. Rich Brauer, owner of a film production company and an experienced film director and director of photography, including *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, will conduct the latter sessions. Brauer and his crew will film a portion of *Upon the Heath* following a workshop that will show how the play script is adapted for film.

**Ohio**

www.octaweb.org  
State Contact: Jerry Zimmerman; Eleanor Smith reporting

The Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA) will be holding five regional excerpt festivals during June/July 2009. Southeast at New Philadelphia, OH June 6th; Northwest at Ft Jennings, OH June 12-14th; Northeast at Hudson, OH June 20th; Southwest at Cincinnati, OH June 25-27th; and Central at Dublin, OH July 11th.

The Annual Conference for OCTA will be held at the Holiday Inn-Eastgate in Cincinnati, OH on September 4-7, 2009. The theme is “Yo Ho Ho on the OHIO.” There will be
pirates all over the place and we will have a pirate ship where people can have their picture taken. The masked ball on Sunday night will be a pirate theme. Fifteen theatres will be showcasing their excerpts from the five regions and several workshops have been planned as well. All theatres have been asked to prepare a pirate flag that can be used for decoration on the banquet tables as well as other locations in the Hotel. There will be an annual meeting and new board members and officers will be elected. There will be lots of awards given in several different categories. We are looking for a big crowd to come enjoy being pirates.

OCTA is in the process of updating all of its job descriptions and policies. This update has not been done for a few years and with the changes in some of our programs, this is definitely needed and we have started with the officer job descriptions. I am sure this project will take another year to finally complete every item that is required of our Board Members and Programs.

Interest Items: A concern in Ohio is many of our theatres do not compete in our Statewide AACTFest because they are not members of AACT and they do not wish to pay the minimum fee to AACT unless they win and go on to the regional. So this has become a big problem for us. In 2007 we had four theatres drop out due to this additional fee that was required over and above our state entry fee.

**Wisconsin**

www.wact.org
State Contact: Lynn Ruhl

The Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre (WACT) was hosted by the Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild February 27-March 1, 2009. Selected to proceed to the Region III festival were Kettle Moraine Players' production of Lovers: Winners -- Losers and the Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre's *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged).*

On February 28, 2009 the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre announced that their individual achievement award would now be officially titled the "Frank Peot Award for Individual Excellence." Fittingly, the first recipient of the renamed award was Frank himself.