American Association of Community Theatre

Board Report January 30, 2014

Region III

By Joanne Berry, Regional Representative

Activities to Increase AACT Membership
I spoke at the Ohio and Michigan conferences in September encouraging membership. I also talked individually to several people at these conferences. I am in touch with state contacts and other individuals in the five states in Region III and encourage them to "spread the word."

Activities to Engage Members
I have encouraged groups to enter their state AACTFests. While at the Ohio conference, Ron Ziegler, Kay Armstrong and I talked with the OCTA president and the state contact on ways to combine the annual OCTA conference excerpt festival and the biennial state AACTFest. This should increase Ohio's participation in the AACTFest cycle. I have also been promoting the International Festival in Venice.

Future Rep Activity Plans
I will be attending conferences and festivals in Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan. I had planned to attend the recent Wisconsin conference, but severe weather including heavy snowstorms caused me to cancel those plans. I had also planned to attend Indiana's annual festival at the end of February, but that event has been canceled. I have urged the state organizations in the region to share newsletters and information on their events.

Awareness and Referral Items
Dotti Peek, Indiana state contact, and I have been communicating concerning the difficulties of the state organization. She said that the state board has not been meeting regularly and there seems to be a general lack of interest in ICTA activities. I have offered to travel to Indiana to meet with her and ICTA officers to determine what AACT can do to help them revitalize their organization. They have a long history of participation in statewide and AACT events.

Regional Association
Association of Region III, JoanneB@Region3AACT.org

Regional Upcoming Events
The Region III AACTFest will be held April 16-10, 2015. It will be hosted by Center Stage, Midland Center for the Arts. Emily Anderson is the chair. I hope to have a regional board meeting in early fall either in Ohio or Michigan during one of the state conferences. There will also be a Region III board meeting during the regional AACTFest.

Recent Regional Events
No regional events since the 2013 AACTFest.

Other Regional News
Rich Gannon, Illinois state contact, is to be commended for the work he has done to revitalize state-wide community theatre organization. He has held meetings, contacted groups, and started a newsletter. He and Joan Kole are chairing the state AACTFest.

Illinois
Illinois Theatre Association, info@illinoistheatre.org
State Contact: Richard Gannon, RGannon49@gmail.com

Upcoming State Events
The Illinois AACTFest will be held in Springfield on October 24-26, 2014.

Indiana
Indiana Community Theatre Association, kemkokm@aol.com
State Contact: Dotti Peek, pjdeek@aol.com

Upcoming State Events
The CTAM Spring Conference will be hosted by Bay City Players on April 25-27. Joanne Berry is chair. CTAM Master Classes will be conducted July 18 - 20 at the MacMullen Conference Center at Higgins Lake. The annual CTAM Fall Conference, chaired by Nancy Peska and Christy Frick, will be September 26-28. A Theatre Leadershop Conference, based on the Madison Conference model, will be held in November. Betsy Willis is chair.

Recent State Events
A fall conference was held Sept. 27-29. AACT president Gary Walker was the keynote speaker at the annual meeting. Mary Lou Britton was re-elected president. The CTAM board meets every other month usually hosted by a member group.

Michigan
Community Theatre Association of Michigan, peska@cmsinter.net
State Contact: Nancy Peska, peska@cmsinter.net

Upcoming State Events
The annual OCTA conference will be held Labor Day Weekend in Perrysburg. This will be the state festival for AACTFest 2015.

Recent State Events
OCTA celebrated its 60th anniversary this past Labor Day Weekend during its annual conference. It was chaired by John Falkenbach and Christie Thomas. At the first meeting of the new board, John Falkenbach was elected president. The new board held a weekend retreat to plan for the upcoming year on Oct. 18-20 in Heath, Ohio.
Wisconsin
Wisconsin Association, aebert@wact.org
State Contact: Lynn Ruhl, lynn_theatre@hotmail.com

Recent State Events
  The WACT Conference was held Jan. 10-11.