American Association of Community Theatre

Summer Board Report submitted on 6/5/2015

Region III

Submitted by Joanne Berry, Region Representative

Region Rep Activities
I have kept in touch with the state contacts by email. I attended the Indiana and Michigan state AACTFests. I could not attend the Wisconsin festival because it was the same weekend as the AACT Winter meetings. Note: I attended the Ohio and Illinois festivals in the fall. I kept in touch with the chair of the Region III festival. I attended the Region III AACTFest, conducted a panel on "Careers in Community Theatre" and conducted a Region III meeting where the new region representative, Lucinda Lawrence, was elected. We also drew for performance positions for the 2017 Regional AACTFest.

We are saddened by the recent death of Indiana State Contact Dotti Peek. She was involved in community theatre for over 50 years. Last year she received the David C. Bryant Outstanding Service Award from AACT.

State & Regional Association Activities
Illinois: Two productions from Illinois went to the Regional AACTFest. Planning is in full gear for the first Illinois Theatre Leadership Conference to be held August 21-22, 2015. Indiana: There were seven companies that participated in the Indiana AACTFest. Elkhart Civic Theatre's The 39 Steps and Kokomo Civic Theatre's Freud's Last Session went on to the Region III Festival where both were selected to move on to the National AACTFest. In May, ICTA changed its bylaws to increase the size of its board by three. They are also surveying member groups to determine how to increase participation in the ICTA off-year festival. Michigan: Michigan had a very successful AACTFest in March. Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM) will offer two Master Classes on July 17 - 19. State Contact Nancy Peska has been working on lapsed individual and group memberships. The CTAM Fall Conference will be held Sept. 25 - 27 in Cadillac. Ohio: The six state regions will hold their annual OCTAFests in June and July to select productions to participate in the Fall Conference. There will be an OCTA Jr. Festival on Aug. 1 to select two shows to be showcased at the fall conference. The Fall Conference is Sept. 4 - 7 in Cincinnati. Wisconsin: The WACTFest (state AACT festival) was held in February in Baraboo. Two of the seven plays in the state AACTFest were original scripts.

Concerns in the region
Since Region III rotates the position of Regional Rep every two years, the new rep, Lucinda Lawrence, may need some help as she begins her job. I met with her at the Regional AACTFest and explained the job to her. I have also copied her on all emails since she agreed to do the job. I will give her whatever help I can.

Additional Comments
Region III is very proud to once again have the greatest number of entries in our state festivals, qualifying us to send two productions to the National AACTFest. All states in Region III will have conferences, festivals, or other activities during the coming year.