

Peters Township Thespian Backers

9/11/24 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Julie Collins, Alan Skillings, Becky Lipinski, Mandy Feitt, Lorraine Mszanski, Julie Serenyi, Tanya Kotonoglou, Pamela Gasher, Joanne Gudenburr, Lisa Gensler, Anne Gavorcik, Margi Swellie, Scott Blasey, Denise Blasey, Amy Racunas, Heidi Todd, Christine Chapas, John Chapas, Erin Fallon, Linda Malaspina, Dan Taylor, Kristin Taylor, Stacy Henderson, Colleen Boland, Jennifer McCabe, Traci Powell, Liz Myers, Jill Clydesdale, Jackie Laughner, Amy Berner, Holly Wall, Mike Zukowski, Missy Meyers, Mike Pavlik

Julie Collins (President)

- Welcome to new and returning members
- Overview of the Thespian Backers organization to clarify for new members. See “Backers Guide” in previous email for 1-page summary of the program.
 - **“Backers”**-term used for boosters; role is to support thespians financially and with our time and talents
 - **“Troupe 185”**-student group at PTHS of thespian students aspiring to be part of the International Thespian Society. The student organization is led by a student board that is elected by students at the end of each school year. Students can earn “points” by participating in various theater experiences both in and out of school. A student must earn at least 10 thespian points to be inducted into the International Thespian Society. Jeanie Cygrymus and Lorraine Mszanski oversee the student group as sponsors. Students are encouraged to participate in the Troupe, but membership is not a requirement for participation in school theater productions. Additional information is available in the Troupe 185 Handbook on the PTHS Thespian Backers website.
 - **Fundraising:**
 - “Set the Stage for Fall” as our biggest fundraiser of the year. Alan Skillings will provide additional information.
 - Membership: Use QR code on agenda to access form. Parents are urged to join for the many benefits offered to families each year (e.g. discount for conference and field trip, banquet dinner for seniors, senior panos, snacks at rehearsals and more). Dues are \$100/family (by check, to “PT Thespian Backers”). Must join before 9/16 to receive \$40 discount on field trip (dinner and show).
 - “Patron of the Arts”: Financial campaign, similar to donor program for Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Donations of \$50, \$100, or \$150 are recognized in performance programs. Use QR code for information.
 - Troupe 185 also participates in fundraising as society requirement. This year they will use donut sales and an additional fundraiser (details to come).

Lorraine Mszanski (Troupe Sponsor)

- Student meeting overview
 - Led by student board, discussed upcoming events
- Field Trip-November 26
 - MJ the musical, dinner at Hard Rock Café
 - Deadline extended to 9/16 to sign up
 - \$115 deposit due by 9/16/2024
 - Children of Backers members will receive \$40 discount; non-members will have balance of \$40 due prior to field trip
 - Parent volunteers will be needed to chaperone-cost is \$155
- Activity form-due with \$10 fee
- Student Contract-agreement for conduct and expectations, to be signed and submitted by all students
- Improv Workshop-10/23 at 6:00 pm-organized by sponsors. Was held last year and well received by students. Mia Taylor will conduct workshop; fee paid by Backers. Students can sign up in Band app
- Conference: To be held Jan 2-4 at West Chester University
 - Troupe will perform a one act, "The Cast List"
 - Auditions will be held on 10/17 6:30-8:30 pm
 - Commitments and deposits due by 9/27
 - Juniors and Seniors are invited to audition for one act and/or sign up for tech. Once juniors and seniors are signed up, any additional spots will be offered to 3 or more sophomores according to highest number of points held.
 - Question raised by Anne Gavorcek regarding timing of auditions. Band has rehearsal from 3:30-6:00 and they will be needed whole time to practice with alumni band (homecoming game). Lorraine expressed that timing should work with auditions held at 6:30. Jeanie will provide any updates in band app.

Brian Hyjurick (Vice President)-not present, information relayed by Julie Collins:

- P-rade: 10/16, sponsored by dance team
 - Includes food trucks, parents are encouraged to attend
 - Thespians will have float with Mamma Mia theme to highlight spring musical
 - Students will meet at Rolling Hills park at 5:30 pm to decorate
 - Students should see Brian Hyjurick if they need to start decorating earlier
 - 7 pm-parade in bus circle
- NYC Senior Trip-20 person minimum usually required; travel agency agreed to accommodate a smaller group if necessary
 - Cost is higher than expected due to smaller group; Brian is getting details on using train as alternative
 - More details to come in email to families; Teams meeting will be held
- Coffeehouse: held 12/5, 12/6, 12/7
 - Overview provided by Jen McCabe and Kristin Taylor (co-chairs)
 - Auditions 10/28-10/30; Beth Wilmus is director

- Theme is “The Eras Pour”-celebration of 25th year
- Coffee and desserts sold by Backers and served by student volunteers; profits are shared with school theater fund

Becky Lipinski (Secretary)

- August Minutes-printed copies available; also online
 - Vote to approve August minutes:
 - Motion made by Joanne Gudenburr; 2nd made by Christine Chapas
 - Unanimously approved by attendees
- Connect with us
 - Email distribution list is being updated; email ptthespianbackers@gmail.com to be added
 - Join the Band app (QR code on agenda)
 - Visit our website for information: www.ptthespianbackers.com

Alan Skillings (Treasurer)

- Financial presentation
 - Referred to budget outline provided to attendees
 - Note the following lines:
 - Membership dues received: \$3,205
 - Patron of the Arts donations: \$1,700
 - Expenses: Senior yearbook ad (\$354.99), website fees (\$403.98), picnic t-shirts (\$760.05)
 - Concession donations received: \$380
 - Balance: \$20,124.83 (bank) + \$853.25 (PayPal to be transferred)
 - Requested motion to approve budget as presented
 - Motion by Joanne Gudenburr, 2nd by Liz Myers; attendees voted unanimously to accept budget as listed
- 501c3 Status approved by IRS and PA. Members can see Alan to get tax ID number for any donations from businesses/organizations.
 - Can now set up Dine and Donate fundraisers (see board if anyone would like to chair the committee)
- Set the Stage for Fall raffle: See Alan to pick up tickets. Each family is encouraged to sell at least 10 tickets. Tickets are \$20 each and 3 prizes will be drawn (1 winner drawn per fall play performance). Members can use electronic flyer posted on Band app to advertise on social media.
- Romeo and Juliet concessions
 - Families encouraged to donate \$30 to help cover the costs of candy/drinks
 - Check payable to “PT Thespian Backers”

Mandy Feitt (Parliamentarian)

- Donut Sale-11/9/24
 - Troupe will sell 325 dozen (if we purchase 300 dozen, krispy kreme will donate 25 dozen)
 - Cost to us is \$7.75/dz. Cost to buy at Krispy Kreme is \$15.50.
 - Backers will consider raising price to \$15
 - Online donut sales will close 3-4 days prior to delivery; can pay online or at delivery
 - Parent drivers will be needed; students are not permitted to drive
 - Parents will also be needed to supervise sales at Heislers
 - Sign up on pthsthespianbackers.com, following the “Volunteers” tab
 - Question raised by Kristin Taylor regarding student participation, as Room 100 will be on field trip on 11/9. Julie Collins noted that an additional fundraiser will be added this year to allow for additional opportunity. More details to come.
- Senior Pano Day
 - 10/15 at 6:30 pm in Black Box auditorium
 - Seniors wear denim and white tops
 - Pictures taken by Tri-Color Photo
 - Pano keepsake is provided at no cost to children of Backers members; non-members children may purchase for \$55

Kelly Barefoot-could not be present. Romeo and Juliet information relayed by Julie Collins

- Volunteers
 - Parent volunteers are needed. Great response so far for volunteers. Additional help is needed for backstage supervision; see Sign up Genius for needs
 - Set construction will also need parent volunteers
 - Sewing help-Christine Chapas has volunteered to do alterations. Pamela Gasher and Liz Myers offered to assist. Costume volunteers that do not sew will also be needed to help Sophia (student) organize costumes
- Show merchandise: Orders and money due no later than 9/13
 - Only students can access Google form to order
 - Check made payable to “PTSD”
- Show bios: Due 9/20; students can use Google form provided
- Tickets: Online sales now open. Tickets will be general admission

Meeting Adjournment: 7:15 pm

- Motion to adjourn made by Maura McCabe
- 2nd made by Kristin Taylor
- Attendees voted unanimously to approve adjournment