

Peters Township Thespian Backers

8/28/24 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Julie Collins, Brian Hyjurick, Becky Lipinski, Alan Skilling, Mandy Feitt, Julie Serenyi, Stacey Griffith, Michelle Skillings, Tanya Kotenoglou, Pamela Gasher, Natalie Severns, Claire Holekamp, Molly McNally, Joanne Gudenburr, Lorraine Mszanski, Lisa Gensler, Anne Gavorcik, Margi Swellie, Denise Blasey, Amy Racunas, Susan Tsou, Heidi Todd, Danielle Pavlik, Michael Pavlik, Christine Chapas, John Chapas, Sally Jeswilkowski, Yun Zhao, Erin Fallon, Kelly Barefoot, Chelsie Klein, Deise La Camera, Linda Malaspina, Dan Taylor, Kristin Taylor, Joelle Koucomaris, Stacy Henderson, Matt Henderson, Colleen Boland, Jennifer McCabe

Julie Collins (President)

- Welcome to returning Thespian Backers and to prospective members
- Introduction of 2024-2025 Thespian Backers board
 - Julie Collins-President, parent of a recent thespian graduate, a junior and a freshman
 - Bryan Hyjurick-Vice President and NYC Senior Trip Coordinator, parent of a senior
 - Becky Lipinski-Secretary, parent of two juniors
 - Alan Skillings-Treasurer, parent of recent thespian graduate and a junior
 - Mandy Feitt-Parliamentarian, parent of recent thespian graduate and a sophomore
- Call attention to various forms available at meeting; forms can also be found on website, www.ptthespianbackers.com and on Band App
 - Reminder to parents to join Band app as best source for ongoing updates
 - QR codes for Band App is on reverse side of agenda
 - Brian Hyjurick added that updates on app can be frequent and notifications can be turned off
 - See a board member if you need help with Band App
- Important Dates handout-please refer to tonight's copy as changes were recently made. It will be corrected on website.
- Program Update-Backers previously handled printing of programs for each production. This year, the school will resume this responsibility. Thespians will support their efforts by helping to collect Ad payments and reminding parents to submit ads by due date.
 - Ad payments are to be made by check to PTHS
 - 9/9-Due date for ads to be included in Romeo and Juliet program
 - Ad copy will go to Kelly Barefoot-she was present and assured parents that she can assist with ad design (as Colleen Gallagher has done in past years)
- Patron of the Arts-overview provided
 - Donations help fund activities for students (field trip stipend, snacks at shows, senior banquet dinners, senior scholarships)

- Donations can be made at various levels (see handout)
- Donors are listed in program, similarly to Pittsburgh Cultural Trust donors
- Check can be made to PT Thespian Backers; see Julie with any questions
- Field Trip
 - Overview: Offered each year and includes transportation to/from show, show ticket, and dinner (traditionally at Hard Rock Café)
 - Student is responsible for payment; children of Backers' members receive discount
 - 2024 field trip to MJ on 11/26; details to follow
- Committees that need assistance
 - Treat Bags-Kristin Taylor will continue this year but will need replacement for next year. Joanne Gudenburr volunteered to assist Kristin this year and anticipates taking chairperson position for 2025-2026. Board expressed its gratitude to Kristin and Joanne.
 - Dine and Donate-Backers plans to implement once 501c3 process complete
 - Will need chairperson for this committee

Kelly Barefoot (Producer)

- Introduced herself to parents
- Was Producer for 8 years, then stepped down for a period of time for family commitments. Expressed that she is excited to resume this position and is looking forward to this year's events. She is enjoying her work with students on Romeo and Juliet, where she also serves as Director.
- Parent meeting for Romeo and Juliet to be held tonight, in auditorium, 7:30 pm
- Questions to barefootk@pt-sd.org

Lorraine Mszanski (Troop Sponsor)

- Welcome to parents and introduced herself as co-sponsor to support Jeanie Cygrymus this year
 - Lorraine is current executive director of South Park Theater. She is familiar with our program and has attended PTHS shows in the past. She
- Troupe 185 Meeting Highlights
 - Lorraine expressed that the students ran meeting well
 - Spring musical was announced (Mamma Mia) and students were very excited
 - P-Rade-float theme will go along with spring play, students began offering ideas
- Points System
 - Students need 10 points to be inducted into the Thespian Honors Society
 - ≥ 5 points from outside activities (plays, musicals, etc) and ≥ 5 points from within troupe
 - Students submit Google form of activities to receive points

- Membership: Students can miss no more than 3 student meetings and must participate in 2 fundraisers to maintain membership in student troupe organization. Students do not need to be members to participate in school theater events.
 - *Note added from board after meeting: description of membership can be found in Student Handbook provided to students and found on PT Thespian website*
- Forms: Given to students but can also be found online
 - Activity form-includes \$10 Activity fee (check made payable to PTSD)-required for participation in any theater events, one fee per academic year
 - Commitment Form-signed by student
- PA State Conference
 - Held 1/2/25-1/4/25 at West Chester University
 - Open to Juniors and Seniors only
 - Will perform a One Act this year titled The Cast List-a comedy, students were very excited

Brian Hyjurick (Vice President)

- Membership-Urged parents to become members of Thespian Backers
 - \$100 per family, check made payable to PT Thespian Backers
 - Can give check and membership form to any board member or drop off at Brian's home (box on front porch)
 - Membership benefits: discounts given for field trip, conference; senior dinner at banquet is covered; senior eligible for scholarship (if parent was Backer member for 2+ years)
- Concession donations
 - \$30/family (check to PT Thespian Backers)
 - Committee chairpersons: Denise Blasey and Stacy Henderson
 - New system implemented last year by Julie Collins to equally distribute the donations among the families. Committee used funds donated to purchase items. Limited redundant snack donations and we were able to offer better variety of items, look for best pricing, and track which items sold most/least. Feedback from families was positive
 - Please donate as soon as possible so funds can be used for Romeo and Juliet
- Volunteers
 - Asked parents to consider volunteering throughout the year. Many opportunities to support the students in a variety of ways depending on your availability. Stressed that students are appreciative and enjoy seeing their parents helping
 - Sign Up Genius is open (see reverse of agenda for QR code or watch for email)
 - Backstage parents: needed at all performances; must have clearances on file with district (see district website for process and to see if you are on the list). Parent sits backstage during performance to assist students as needed; great opportunity to see behind the scenes
 - Concessions-needed at each show
 - Snacks-provide cookie/vegetable trays for students backstage
 - More opportunities to be added

- Senior Trip-Brian met with seniors interested in the trip and their parents prior to this meeting. More details to follow, but see Brian if you were unable to attend meeting but interested in learning more.

Becky Lipinski (Secretary)

- Asked if there are any questions about May meeting minutes
- Motion to approve May minutes made by Margi Swellie, 2nd made by Joann Gudenburr
- Review meeting schedule: Printed on bottom of Important Dates handout. Next meeting 9/11 at 6:30 pm, LGI
- Asked members to update email addresses if not receiving emails from Backers. Also let Becky know if you're receiving emails to multiple accounts and would like to delete an address.
- Send email to pthsthespians@gmail.com to update; can also add email to tonight's sign in form

Alan Skillings (Treasurer)

- Budget spreadsheet provided at meeting
- Motion to approve budget made by Dan Taylor, 2nd made by Ann Gavorcik
- Fundraisers
 - Set the Stage for Fall-Raffle fundraiser that provides for many troupe activities
 - \$20/ticket
 - Requesting each family sell 10 tickets
 - See handout for 3 prizes; 1 prize to be drawn at each show
 - Pick up tickets from Alan; please give one check for total from each family after selling
 - Ticket money/stubs can be submitted at next meeting on 9/11 if sold but must be turned in no later than before first play performance
- 501c3 Update: forms are done and EIN provided to state; need to submit to IRS and should be completed within 4-6 weeks
 - Can do additional fundraisers such as Dine and Donate and receive sponsorship from businesses

Mandy Feitt (Parliamentarian)

- Donut Sale-11/9/24
 - Students are required to participate to get credit for Troupe 185 membership
 - Parent driver volunteers will be needed; time commitment is minimal as routes are organized by Mandy and the Skillings family. Generally 8-10 am, but no later than 12 pm
 - Sign up on pthsthespianbackers.com, following the "Volunteers" tab
 - Google form can be used for ordering in advance; online sales close 11/6
 - Prices may be changing, will update at next meeting

- 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
- By-Laws Committee
 - By-Laws must be reviewed every 2 years; needs a committee to review this year
 - Michelle Skillings and Julie Serenyi volunteered to head committee
 - Mandy thanked them for volunteering and will provide details

Meeting Adjournment: 7:20 pm