****Troupe #984 Constitution**

*Adopted August 2016*

**Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance**

**Section 1.** Name: This organization shall be called Troupe #984 . The troupe has been chartered by Liberty High School. The charter affiliates it with the International Thespian Society (ITS).

**Section 2.** Purpose: The troupe is the honors component of the school’s theatre program. Its purpose shall be the advancement of standards of excellence in theatre. More specifically, the troupe will encourage students to attain a better mastery of the theatre arts and will reward those who achieve it with induction into the troupe. Thespians achieving honor ranks and scholar distinctions shall receive recognition of their exemplary accomplishments.

**Section 3.** Governance: This troupe constitution and its bylaws are two components of a hierarchy of documents that govern members of the International Thespian Society and its parent organization, the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). The documents affecting troupes, in order of authority, are: the EdTA Code of Regulations, the membership policy, the troupe handbooks, the troupe constitution, and troupe bylaws. This constitution may not be altered in any way that conflicts with a superseding document or school policies and procedures.

**Article II: Organization and Officers**

**Section 1.** Membership: Membership is achieved by complying with all induction criteria as defined in the troupe handbook. The Thespian point system is the official guideline for awarding induction points. Any changes to induction criteria, including the Thespian point system, must be adopted as a troupe bylaw.

**Section 2.** Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have the following officers: president, vice president, and second vice president. Duties shall be defined in the troupe’s bylaws.

**Section 3.** Elections: The troupe and drama club shall elect officers for the next school year in the last full month of the current school term.

**Article III: Meetings and Participation**

**Section 1.** Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held as needed throughout the school year. Special meetings may be called by the troupe director, any officer, or by a quorum of Thespians.

**Section 2.** Quorum: A quorum shall be a majority of the troupe’s active membership.

**Section 3.** Denial of Participation: Any Thespian who causes deliberate dissension or disruption of any production or business meeting may be denied participation in troupe activities by a vote of two-thirds of the troupe’s membership and the consent of the troupe director. Any member requesting reinstatement of participation rights may have them restored with the consent of the troupe director and two-thirds of the troupe’s membership. In extreme cases a Thespian’s status as a member in good standing of the local troupe may be suspended or withdrawn by the troupe director for just cause. Such decisions are subject to oversight by the school administration. This may affect any or all participation rights and benefits that require the troupe director’s authorization, but will not affect membership and benefits that come directly from the ITS national office.

**Article IV: Dues and Fees**

**Section 1.** Dues: At the time of induction, troupe members shall pay their troupe dues. Dues shall be used to purchase honors, awards, and troupe membership.

**Section 2.** Fees: Troupes may approve additional fees for local Thespian troupe participation. This requires consent of the troupe director and a two-thirds vote of the active troupe board at a regular troupe meeting. The school and its troupe director may also assess user fees in accordance with school policy.

**Article V: Induction, Eligibility, and Maintaining Membership**

**Section 1.** Eligibility: Any student who fulfills the following requirements will be inducted into the Thespian Society.

1. Student must be enrolled at Liberty High School.
2. Student must have earned a minimum of 12 points, 6 of which must have come from participation in Liberty Drama productions. Students may not begin to accumulate points until after the start of high school. (i.e. summer points will only count after freshman year.)
3. Student has participated in at least two different areas of theatre (i.e. acting, production & design crews, directing)
4. Student must have participated in two full length production, or one full length and two one acts, substantially.
5. Student must take a drama class or have substantial participation in two full length productions each year following induction.
6. Student must maintain a 2.75 weighted GPA in all academic classes or they will be put on probation for one year.

**Article VI: Submission of Points**

**Section 1.** Accuracy:Any studentwho fulfills the following requirements will be ensured their points will be counted towards becoming a member of the troupe or maintaining an existing membership.

1. Student must fill out a completed point sheet for each season to have their points considered and counted.
2. Student may only turn in the regulated point sheet in order for their points to be considered and counted. If a student fails to follow this, their points from that season will be considered void.
3. Student may only turn in one point sheet per season to have their points considered and counted. If a student is involved in multiple productions, they should mark so on the same sheet.
4. Student must provide proof for any productions outside of Liberty productions. (i.e. other company shows, dance and vocal performances)
5. Student must turn in their point sheet by the given date at 3:00pm in the appropriate box in the drama classroom in order to be counted. Emailed points will not be accepted. Student has one week prior to the deadline to turn in their points and may check with the troupe board that they were received.
6. Student must ensure they mark if they are currently in a drama class and their grade. If a student fails to do so by the end of the year, they will be put on probation or not be inducted.

**Section 2.** Void Points: Any students who fail to comply with the regulations in Section 1 will have their points from that season become void and unnegotiable. The student will not be able to resubmit those points.

**Section 3.** Appealing Points: If a student believes there was a miscalculation of their points, the student must submit any concerns in writing, calculations of their points from the beginning of the year, and proof of all points within 2 weeks of publication of the points.

**Article VII: Bylaws**

**Section 1.** Purpose: Bylaws provide additional guidance for the governance and operations of the troupe. No bylaw may be in conflict with the EdTA Code of Regulations, membership policy, troupe handbook, troupe constitution, or school policy or procedures.

**Section 2.** Adoptions and Amendments: The troupe director and thespian board may adopt or amend bylaws as deemed appropriate. Bylaws may also be added or amended by approval of a simple majority of the troupe’s active membership and the consent of the troupe director.

**Article VIII: Amendments**

**Section 1.** Exclusion:Article I may not be amended.

**Section 2.** Procedure: Articles other than Article I may be amended by approval of two-thirds of the troupe’s active membership or the Thespian Board with the consent of the troupe director. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society.

**Troupe #984 Bylaws**

*Adopted August 2015*

**Article I: Attendance**

**Section 1.** Meetings will be held during PAWS as needed. The thespian board or troupe director may call additional meetings dependent on the needs of the troupe.

**Section 2.** Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent two meetings per school year without an excuse submitted to the troupe board shall be put on probation. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the probation.

**Section 3.** Attendance shall be considered in the thespian point award system if a student is put on probation.

**Section 4.** Absences shall accumulate for only one school year at a time.

**Article II: Thespian Points**

**Section 1.** Induction points must be earned over the minimum of one year.

**Section 2.** Induction points can be awarded for theatre-related work done outside the school’s theatre program. To qualify for points, a copy of the program or other verification must be provided.

**Section 3**. One point may be earned for attending non-school productions. To qualify, a ticket stub or a program must be provided as proof of attendance.

**Article III: Induction**

**Section 1.** An induction ceremony shall be held at least once each year. Additional ceremonies may be held as often as deemed necessary by the troupe director.

**Section 2.** Each inductee must provide his or her current mailing address and email address. Individual inductees are responsible for their own induction fees unless payment has been prearranged by a booster group, fundraising, or other source. The troupe will pay for additional honor items that are included in its officially adopted recognition system. Students may ask the troupe director to purchase honor items on their behalf that are not included in the troupe’s official system. Such items will be available at the troupe director’s discretion and at each student’s expense.

**Section 3.** The troupe president determines the time, place, schedule, and format of induction ceremonies.

**Section 4.** The troupe director and president conduct inductions. The principal, superintendent, and/or like officials will be offered a role in the ceremony whenever possible. The vice president is responsible for training induction ceremony speakers, scheduling and rehearsing said speakers, and preparing the stage and induction properties as directed by the troupe director.

**Article IV: Officers**

**Section 1.** Duties: Troupe officer duties are defined below. The troupe director may assign other duties.

A. The president presides at all meetings, appoints all standing committees, and supervises troupe activities. The president is responsible for the induction of new members and the recording of current membership points.

B. The vice president presides in the absence of the president and is responsible for the induction of new members and the recording of current membership points.

C. The second vice president presides in the absence of the vice president and is responsible for the induction of new members and the recording of current membership points.

D. Other offices such as secretary, treasurer, clerk/scribe, historian, publicity chair, Student Advocacy Works chair, and TOTS-EAT chair may be added at the troupe’s discretion. All officer positions must be listed in the troupe’s constitution.

**Section 2.** Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: each student must be an active member of the troupe for at least one school year, and at the time of election must be enrolled in grades 9 through 11.

**Section 3.** Nominations for officers are to be made by a committee that includes the troupe director, with additional nominations being permitted from the floor. Students may self-nominate from the floor. Officers will be elected by a majority vote.

**Section 4.**  Elections will be conducted at the last drama club meeting for the next school year.

**Section 5**. Voting will be done by secret written ballot at an official troupe meeting.

**Section 6.** Three members, including one officer, may request a recall election of all or any elected officers. This request must be submitted to the troupe director in writing and state the need for such an election. A special meeting will be scheduled within five school days upon receipt of the request for the purpose of voting on whether or not a recall election is necessary. Two-thirds of the membership is required to mandate a recall election. If a recall election is necessary, election of officers will follow the procedure set in Sections 2 through 4 above.

**Section 7.** Officers shall be installed at the end of the year drama gala/banquet.

**Article V: Troupe Activities**

**Section 1.** The troupe is not a secret organization. All interested faculty, students, parents, Honorary Thespians, troupe alumni, and administrators are welcome at troupe meetings.

**Section 2.** The troupe shall sponsor at least one *good neighbor* program a year for the purpose of establishing good relationships with nearby Thespian and Junior Thespian troupes and other dramatic groups. Examples of this include Maryland State Festival, National Thespian Festival, and/or helping to establish a neighboring troupe.

**Section 3.** The troupe shall cooperate with all other departments and clubs in the school in helping them with their programs in any way it can.

**Article VI: Probation**

**Section 1.** Probation will be defined as exclusion from participation in troupe events until the probation period has ended.

**Section 2.** The following actions will result in probation period.

A. Failure to turn in points during the duration of a school year.

B. Failure to participate in a drama class or two productions, as stated by the eligibility requirements, each year following induction.

C. Academic ineligibility as determined by the standards of the school.

**Section 3.** Probation periods will begin as follows:

A. Academic ineligibility will be grounds for immediate probation beginning as soon as the ineligibility is determined.

B. Failure to turn in points or actively participate as determined by the eligibility requirements will become probation when spring points are counted. The student has until the following year’s spring points to correct the issue.

**Section 4.** Probation period will be for one year or until the issue causing probation has been solved to an extent that it will not occur again.

**Section 5.** Any issue not solved during the period of probation, therefore transferring the probation to the following year, will be grounds for dismissal from the troupe.

**Article VII: Conflict Resolution**

**Section 1.** In the event issues or conflicts arise between a Thespian and the troupe director that cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration as indicated in the troupe handbook.

**Adopted:** *August 2016*

**Troupe Director:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Troupe President:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**