

THE INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY

The department sponsors Troupe #1761 of the International Thespian Society, a theatre honor society for high school students.

To become a member of this international society that has existed more than 75 years, a student must:

- Have worked in at least two areas of theatre work in at least two productions,
- Have accumulated at least 10 Thespian points for this work, and
- Have paid the required lifetime membership fee that is established by the Headquarters of the International Thespian Society.

At HSPVA one Thespian point represents approximately 10 clock hours of theatre work for the Theatre Department that is done outside of class hours. Actual membership points are calculated by multiplying the number of work hours documented by the grade received for that work. For example: 100 hours x 85% = 8.5 points, 45 hours x 90% = 4.05 points, 5 hours x 100% = 0.5 points.

The Thespian Union Steward keeps a Record of Hours Book, which contains clock hours worked, grades received, and Thespian points earned. Toward the end of each year, as the last major show is completed, the Union Steward and the Faculty Troupe Sponsor will invite into membership those students who have accumulated more than 10 Thespian points. Initiates are honored at an Initiation Ceremony at the end of the year.

Members continue to accumulate points while they are at HSPVA and at the end of each year the member with the greatest number of points is designated Best Thespian.

Yearly the members of Troupe 1761 elect new troupe officers: a President, a Vice-president, and a Secretary.

All of these officers should serve as exemplary pre-professionals for lower level students.

The **Thespian President**, elected by current Thespians,

- Serves on the Thespian Board and the Appeals Board
- Provides leadership in troupe meetings and Thespian board meetings
- Represents the students of the department
- Organizes and maintain the Thespian call board as a communications tool with the troupe
- Supervises and heads the induction ceremony

HSPVA Theatre Department Handbook

The **Thespian Vice-president**, elected by current Thespians,

- Serves on the Thespian Board and the Appeals Board
- Assumes the duties of the president in the absence of the president
- Assists the other members of the Thespian board in their duties.

The **Thespian Secretary**, elected by current Thespians,

- Serves on the Thespian Board and the Appeals Board
- Assumes the duties of the president in the absence of the president and vice-president
- Assists in disseminating and posting information received from the state and international offices
- Files and safeguards Thespian troupe records book
- Assists the Union Steward in maintaining the Record of the Hours Book
- Assists the Union Steward in developing a list of students eligible for Thespian membership
- Prepares invitations, signed by the troupe president and the faculty sponsor, for new eligible members and delivers them to the eligible students.

The **Union Steward**, appointed by the theatre faculty

- Serves on the Thespian Board and the Appeals Board
- Keeps the Records of Hours worked by students in the department
- Determines the number of points they have earned
- Issues union cards
- Posts to the Thespian callboard point totals shortly after the strike of each major show
- Informs the faculty sponsor and the Thespian secretary at the end of the school year of eligible new initiates.

Other Positions, appointed by the theatre faculty, to fulfill departmental needs each year may be assigned the following duties and become a part of the Thespian Board and the Appeals Board:

- Create and supervise publicity campaigns for departmental shows under the guidance of the faculty supervisor
- Head the yearly season ticket sales campaign and season ticket crew
- Supervise the storage, check out and check in of properties and costumes under the guidance of the faculty supervisor

UNION CARDS

The department issues union cards to all its students. The value of each card is calculated by the procedure described above. The color of the card reflects the number of points each student has accumulated:

0 to 9.99 points	white
10 to 29.99 points	yellow
30 to 49.99 points	green
50 to 69.99 points	blue
70+	red

For certain infraction of rules, the faculty may fine the student points. Every five points reduces a card by "one corner." With four corners cut, a card is reduced to the next level below.

Casting and crew head assignments are partly dependent on this card seniority.