**EL TORO HIGH SCHOOL THESPIAN CONSTITUTION TROUPE #2823**

**Article I Name and Purpose**

Section 1:

The name of our organization shall be the El Toro High School Thespians, Troupe #2823 of the

International Thespian Society, a branch of the Educational Theatre Association.

Section 2:

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide eligible students with the opportunity to enjoy and participate in theatrical activities. More specifically, the troupe shall encourage students to attain a better mastery of theatre, to develop poise and self-confidence, and to appreciate dramatic literature and techniques.

Section 3:

This organization forbids malicious secrecy. (Ex: Slander will not be tolerated.) Attendance to meetings is required for all inducted Thespians; all non-Thespians are welcome to attend as well. Membership is given as recognition for work in the theatre arts and will be offered when minimum requirements are met and the sponsor has given his approval.

**Article II Membership**

Section 1:

The prospective member can be initiated once they have completed the requirements for membership in accordance with the International Thespian Society. 150 hours, equal to 15 points, must be accumulated, along with participation in either (a) two full- length shows (b) one full-length and two one-acts or (c) four one acts. Participation must be in at least one of the listed categories found in Article V Section Four. The prospective member must also be enrolled in a drama class or Theatre Arts class for one and a half years before being inducted. After dues are paid, the member will become a Thespian of Troupe #2823 with all rights and privileges thereof.

Section 2:

If you decline induction into the International Thespian Society, you will not be offered induction again unless at the discretion of the sponsor. If the declination is due to financial difficulties, the troupe sponsor will resolve the problem.

Section 3:

Final authority concerning membership requirements shall be vested in the troupe sponsor.

Section 4:

All Thespians are required to sell at least one ad per show (not including Mr. Charger). Failure to do so will result in a strike. Further participation in a show is still required in addition to selling an ad.

Section 1:

**Article III**

**Bad Standing and Good Standing**

Bad standing is defined as not having maintained at least a 2.5 GPA and/or receiving 3 strikes.

Section 2:

Failing to participate in required Thespian activities (including productions), failing to wear the approved Thespian shirt all day on the specified day of Thespian meetings, and unexcused tardies of ten minutes or later/departures during Thespian activities will result in the reception of one strike for each listed offense. You can receive a maximum of one strike for one meeting (ex: a tardy and a non-dress at the same meeting would result in only one strike.) An unexcused absence from a Thespian meeting will also result in the reception of one strike. The strike count is reset at the end of each year.

Section 3:

Any member who causes deliberate dissension which would disrupt the workings and production of business meetings shall be dropped from active membership at the discretion of the sponsor.

Section 4:

Any member who has been placed in bad standing may be reinstated by accumulating 70 hours (equivalent to 7 Thespian points), at least 20 of which must be in either the Theatre Arts or the Technical work category. Any of the hours accumulated will not be added to their point sheet. In addition, they must write a letter of intent to the Sponsor. The officers and the Sponsor shall review the letter and work before reinstating the member. After reinstatement, one unexcused absence from a Thespian activity will cause them to be dropped. There will be no reinstatement upon being dropped a second time.

Section 5:

**If you are in bad standing you are still required to participate in Thespian activities as if you were still in good standing.** This includes meetings, shows, fundraisers and other activities deemed fit by the officers and/or the sponsor. All Thespian requirements are still applied with a renewed strike policy. The consequence of not meeting these requirements will result in the student being dropped from the troupe permanently.

Section 6:

In order to remain in good standing, a member cannot be removed from a Thespian office, must participate in all productions associated with the El Toro Drama Department to some capacity, and must be involved in any fundraisers that the troupe deems necessary. If you are working concessions/ushering you must help for at least three quarters of the performances.

**Article IV Meetings and Attendance**

Section 1:

The officers will meet once a week. The times and days are to be determined at the beginning of each school year.

Section 2:

The Thespian Troupe will meet  **every Second and Fourth** Wednesday of every month unless specified by the President or Sponsor. Excused absences include school business or having an excused readmit. For school business one must submit a note from the teacher to the Vice President, which will then be authorized at the officers’ discretion.

Section 3:

The Sponsor, President, or Vice President may call special meetings for an official officer meeting.

Section 4:

A quorum for voting shall be at least 50% of active members and include at least 2 officers.

Section 1:

**Article V**

**Point Award System**

Points will be tracked in the El Toro High School Thespian Point book. The book will be closed each year and changes cannot be made to previous years except at the discretion of the sponsor.

Section 2:

The sponsor and secretary will determine the exact number of points to be awarded in all theatrical participation.

Section 3:

Points will be awarded in accordance to the International Thespian Society and the El

Toro High School Point Sheet.

Section 4:

The categories in which one can receive points are: Acting, Production (technical), Business, Directing and Miscellaneous. (For further inquiries, see the Secretary or check the point sheet found on ethsdrama.com) All work must be done for El Toro High School unless approved by the sponsor.

Section 5:

ComedySportz points shall be awarded at the discretion of the ComedySportz manager. A

maximum of six points for returning players and three points for new players can be earned per year and will be approved by the sponsor.

Section 6:

A cap of six points (equivalent to sixty hours of service) will be awarded per show. If multiple point-meriting jobs are performed, the ones awarding the most points will be counted up to the six point cap.

Section 7:

You must be a Thespian in good standing with a G.P.A. of 2.5 or above in order to wear the Thespian Honor Cords at graduation, as well as to receive any and all honors. In

order to receive Thespian Honor Cords to wear at graduation, one must have accumulated 60 Thespian points, been inducted into Thespian Troupe #2823 by the end of their junior year, and remained an active Thespian throughout their senior year.

Section 8:

Any member of the International Thespian Society who was previously inducted through a different troupe will have their points transferred at the sponsor’s discretion.

**Article VI Officers**

Section 1:

The officers of this organization shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Manager, and ComedySportz Manager. To be eligible to be an officer, you must be enrolled in an acting or technical theatre class at El Toro High School at the time of the interviews. In addition, you must already have to be a member of Troupe #2823 if not being inducted by the end of the school year.

Section 2:

The following are the offices to be elected and their duties:

PRESIDENT: The President attends all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, directs and supervises all Troupe activities and delegates’ authority over these projects if and when needed. The President is in charge of the End of the Year Awards.

VICE PRESIDENT: The Vice President assists the President in implementation of all troupe activities and polices and oversees and coordinates fundraisers, field trips, and registration information for troupe activities. They are also responsible for tracking strikes and communicating with members in bad standing.

SECRETARY: The Secretary is responsible for keeping track of the Thespian points, taking minutes at meetings, and reading selected Thespian minutes at each meeting. The Secretary will

take charge of ordering awards and sending out invitations for Induction and will register the upcoming inductees with the International Thespian Society.

TREASURER: The Treasurer oversees payment of the department’s bills, is in charge of all accounts, and collects and records any monetary payments.

Examples: fees, fundraisers, shirt dues, ticket sales, etc.

PUBLICITY: The Publicity manager publicizes all Troupe activities, performances, and festivals/competitions. This person makes posters and programs for each performance. Their job is to go out into the community to make El Toro’s name known.

COMEDYSPORTZ MANAGER: The manager auditions and selects players, plans and runs meetings and practices, reviews points with the Sponsor and Secretary, organizes home and away matches, and creates and distributes ComedySportz-related publicity items.

Section 3:

The duties of the sponsor will be to oversee all troupe activities, to act as the final authority in selection of new members and officers, and to be the guide of the troupe.

**Article VII Elections**

Section 1:

Candidates for office must fill out and submit an officer application form and have an interview with the sponsor and officers. Officers must remain in good standing throughout the year to remain in office.

Section 2:

The Sponsor of the El Toro High School Thespian Troupe #2823 shall select the new officers for the upcoming year.

Section 3:

Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: Each student must have been an active member of one Theatre Arts class for at least one and a half school years. They must have at least a 2.5 GPA and be inducted to the Thespian troupe by the year of their installation as an officer. Thespian officers are not permitted to run for/have any position in El Toro’s A.S.B. program during the year they wish to be an officer.

**Article VIII Installations**

Section 1:

Officers shall be installed at the End of Year Awards.

Section 2:

When a Thespian officer is removed from office, the sponsor decides whether or not elections are held for a replacement officer. If not, the sponsor must first hold a meeting to notify the current officers of any/all changes concerning a new officer replacement. The final decision is vested in the sponsor.

**Article IX Inductions**

Section 1:

Inductions shall be held at the End of the Year Awards.

Section 2:

The Thespian Sponsor and the officers will determine the time and place of the End of

Year Award ceremony.

Section 3:

The induction ceremony will be followed as written in the Thespian Handbook or adapted at the discretion of the officers and the sponsor.

Section 4:

The President will be held responsible for the training of the speakers of the induction ceremony, scheduling and rehearsing said speakers, and overseeing the preparation of the stage and induction properties as run by the remaining officers.

**Article X Dues**

Section 1:

The initiation fee, as required by the International Thespian Society, is due to the Treasurer before induction. The shirt fee is due after the induction. The Thespian shirt must be purchased in order to be a part of Thespians.

Section 2:

There shall be no dues for the troupe except as provided by the International Thespian Society, unless determined by a two-thirds vote of the membership at the regular meetings.

Section 3:

If you sign up to buy something but fail to pay for it the day that it is due, you will be placed on the school-wide debt list.

Section 4:

Any financial difficulties will be resolved at the discretion of the sponsor.

**Article XI Authority**

Section 1:

All powers of Thespian Society officers and Constitution are derived from the Sponsor and are subject to revocation at any time if the Sponsor feels that it is against the International Thespian Society’s rules or may inflict on the safety of the students.

Section 2:

In the event that issues/conflicts arise between a Thespian and a Sponsor which cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration.

**Article XII Amendments**

Section 1:

Amendments to this constitution must be approved by a unanimous vote of the Thespian officers and approved by the Thespian Sponsor in the beginning of each semester.

Section 2:

All amendments need to be approved by the Sponsor in accordance to the International

Thespian Society and must be in the best interest of the Thespian Society.

**Article XIII Ratification**

Section 1:

This constitution shall be ratified by a unanimous vote of the Thespian Officers per semester. If ratified, this constitution shall become effective immediately, and shall replace all previous constitutions.