

2022 Board of Director Nominations

A call for nominations from the membership went out in April and after a May 15th deadline, the Nominations Committee comprised of Travis Springfield (Committee Chair), Missey Head, Aquilla Aubrey, Rick Garcia, Jim Mammarella and Wendy Pratt vetted all of the candidates submitted for the 2022 open positions: President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect and At Large K-12. After lengthy discussion and consideration, the following candidates were selected by the committee and approved by the Board of Directors to be placed on the ballot:

President-Elect:

Kelsey Kling



Kelsey is a proud product of the Texas public education system and the UIL OAP contest; she had the great fortune of being a student participant in the 5A State meet back in the day. She earned a BFA in Acting ('01) from Southern Methodist University and an MA in Theatre History and Directing ('07) from Texas State. Kelsey is a member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA) and has earned several awards and nominations for her work on Austin-area stages. She has taught at the middle school, high school, and university levels, and has also directed professionally in Austin.

Kelsey is, above all things, an advocate for theatre and the fine arts. After serving for eight years as the Fine Arts Coordinator at Texas Education Agency (TEA) where she was also the Texas representative for State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE), she recently moved to a Government Relations (lobbyist) position with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)--Texas and will be working statewide and nationally to improve both respect for the profession and the working conditions of teachers. Continuing in the work she began at TEA, she sits on the Commissioner of Education's Extra-Curricular and Co-curricular Taskforce working to add fine arts and other student engagement measures to the state accountability system and the Arts Education Taskforce for the Texas Cultural Trust focused on improving equity of access to arts education across Texas. She is a subject matter expert in Texas law and rule as it pertains to the fine arts in public education, including the TEKS for fine arts, and has built solid and trusted relationships with arts organization leadership throughout the state and nation.

Kelsey has been involved in Texas Educational Theatre Association (TxETA) leadership for several years; first, as a member of the of the Board of Advisors and more recently on the taskforce to charter the new Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) committee for the organization where she continues that work as the administrative representative. She also sits on the Public Affairs Committee and has served on the Programming Team for TheatreFest

2021 and 2022.

Kelsey is an At-Large board member for the Texas Theatre Adjudicators and Officials (TTAO), having served for three years as the Region IV Adjudicator Rep on Standards & Practices. This coming season marks her 14th as an adjudicator, and she has been honored to judge at every level of competition across Texas, including 2A (2016), 5A (2018), and 6A State (2021), and will judge 3A State in May 2023.

She would bring to the TxETA Board more than fifteen years of arts non-profit board experience ranging from Austin Shakespeare, Summer Break Theatre, the Austin Creative Alliance (ACA), and as Executive Director of the B. Iden Payne Awards. Kelsey's skills in this area include needs assessment, membership development, organizational effectiveness, grassroots organization and campaign execution, and coalition building.

Kelsey is the proud mom of sophomore twin boys at Dripping Springs High School; both involved in marching band and one in technical theatre as well as other extracurriculars. She lives with her family in the beautiful Texas hill country outside Austin.

Erin Moore



I am a long-time active member of TxETA. I wasn't planning on being a Theatre teacher at all until, as a sophomore in college, I attended my first workshop at my first TxETA convention. Since that first hat making workshop in 1988, TxETA has been a source for training, networking, and inspiration. I continue to try to give back to this organization that has given me so much. I have presented over 60 workshops at Theatrefest and Summerfest. I have served on the board as K-12 Chair – I actually took my materials for the May 2001 meeting to the hospital when I had my son so that they could be picked up and delivered to Austin for the meeting the next day. I have also served as Secretary on the Board of Directors and as a member of the Curriculum Committee. I have been a Fine Arts presenter for Regions IV and VI as well as for UIL Super-Conference and Capital Conference. I also worked on the Board of Directors for Texas Thespians and Shakespeare's Globe Center, US. I am a graduate of the University of Houston (BA Theatre Teacher Certification), Lamar University (MS Instructional Leadership) and have been a part of the program at Texas A&M Commerce (MA Theatre). I have directed OAP for 29 years and have been fortunate to advance to the state level a few times. I teach Theatre at Sealy High School and I serve as the Sealy ISD Fine Arts Director. I also teach dual credit theatre classes with Blinn College. I live in Sealy, Texas with my husband, son and sassy Australian Shepherd.

Treasurer-Elect:

Adrian Gallardo



Adrian Gallardo is the principal and theatre director at Rankin High School. In his 16 years at Rankin ISD, he has taught theatre from Pre-K through high school. Prior to returning to his hometown school of Rankin, he taught at Midland High School for one year (6A school) and Valentine ISD (the smallest 1A district in Texas).

As most theatre people from small towns are, Adrian owes his love of theatre to UIL One-Act Play. He participated in OAP all four years of his high school career, being exposed to several shows in the process. That experience guides much of his philosophy towards OAP today. He believes that OAP is a key component to letting rural students learn about theatre and experience the best form of storytelling that exists.

*Adrian believes producing a show is a collaborative process. As one of the directors at his school, his students have qualified for the regional level of OAP competition every year since 2015, placing 3rd for two of those years. In 2021, his students were named the class 1A state champions for their production of *The Boys Next Door*. This year, the students of Rankin were the class 1A second runner-up at state with their production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.*

Growing theatre in small, rural schools is one of Adrian's greatest passions. His school has worked with nearby schools to host joint public performances so that the two communities can experience more than one show. He also actively recruits clinicians to the remote area of West Texas to work with small schools. He offers any assistance and advice he can give to new directors, even if they are his direct competition because he believes it is more important to grow the positive experience of theatre for all students.

As a principal, he has extensive experience managing budgets, applying for grants and managing all the paperwork associated with state and federal funding. He has also worked hard to increase the fine arts course offerings on his campus from band, theatre I and dual credit music appreciation. Now, students have the before-mentioned offerings along with art history, dual credit theatre appreciation and technical theatre.

Adrian, along with his wife Elidia, plan to have a long career working with students and creating a family atmosphere through theatre – one where students can feel as if they can be themselves. And when they retire, they hope to work and produce plays by Hispanics.

Kathy Harvey



Kathy Harvey enters her 32nd year as a theatre participant in the U.I.L. OAP program. Her involvement began as a high school student and continued as a high school director before moving on to adjudicating and contest managing. She holds a B.A. in Theatre with a minor in Radio/TV and an M.A. in English, Counseling, and Education Administration.

Some of her previous theatre service work includes member-at-large for the TxETA K-12 Board; past Treasurer of TTAO; and a member of TTAO's Standards and Practices Committee. She is employed by Region 9 Education Service Center as Federal Programs Education Specialist which is a position that requires familiarity with budget guidelines and regulations. Kathy considers it an honor to be nominated and is committed to being a diligent Treasurer for TxETA.

At-Large (K-12):

Jose Flores



Jose A "Joe" Flores has been a teacher on the South Texas Border for 25 years, teaching a variety of subjects such as Professional Communications, Debate, U.S. History, and Theater Arts I, II, III, IV. In that time, he has taught at Laredo United South High School (5A at that time, 5 years), Bruni High School (1A, 1 year), Laredo LBJ High School (5A at the time, 1 year), and most recently Laredo J.W. Nixon High School (4A, 5A, 6A, 18 years). In that time, Joe has directed the One-Act Play and advanced at all levels, including 2 State Appearances (2014 (4A) Twelfth Night, 2017 (5A) Mother Courage and Her Children), and coached a variety of other events, such as CX and LD Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Prose and Poetry. He has also had the privilege to take two groups to the AHSTF at Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland (2013 Bocon!, 2017 The House of Bernarda Alba). He has also participated in various summer camps including the University of Texas Summer Theater Workshop (1999), TAMUCC Camp On the Coast (2005, 2006, 2011) being influenced by some of the greatest teachers in the state, and that drives him to help students to develop to the best of their potential. Most recently this summer (2022), Joe has been selected as the new Theater Arts Teacher for the Vidal M. Trevino Fine Arts School in Laredo, Texas.

Magda Mirelez



Magda Irizarry Mirelez has directed the Speech and Drama Company at Bay City HS for 25 years. She earned a BA in Theatre from Sul Ross State University and her MA in Theatre from the University of Houston - Go Coogs! In her work as Speech Director she coached two TFA State Champions, twelve UIL State Champions, and multiple NSDA National Qualifiers including a National Champion in Cross Examination Debate, Finalists in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, Duet Acting, Commentary, Prose and Impromptu. Her students competed at the Montgomery Bell Academy and the Extemp TOC at Northwestern University.

Since becoming lead Director in 2010, Magda has directed twelve award winning musicals, including Gypsy, Chicago, Shrek, West Side Story and Hairspray. However, her passion is sharing the joy of storytelling through the UIL One Act Play.

Magda has directed the UIL One Act Play to the State Championship five times including Champions in 2003, Finalists in 2001, 2015, 2016, a Bronze medal in 2017, and regional finalist from 2018-2022. Magda stresses inclusive casting and honest discourse of faith, family and human dignity as the focus of meaningful storytelling. She encourages all students and herself to trust the process and "Carpe Diem." Seize the Day.

The election will take place during the annual TxETA Business meeting to be held on September 22nd at the TxETA TheatreFest in Galveston, TX.

Should a member who is not included in the submitted slate of nominees wish to be considered for an office, they may be nominated from the floor at the business meeting. In order to do so, a letter of intent must be submitted to the Nominations Committee Chair at president-elect@tetatx.com at least 30 days prior to the business meeting. The letter must include the name and office for which the potential nominee would like to be considered. The deadline for this year to submit a letter of intent will be August 23rd. This nomination will not be considered official and will not be included on the ballot until the name of the potential nominee is nominated from the floor during the business meeting. Once a nomination is received from the floor, a verification period ensuring nomination processes were completed prior to the 30-day deadline, will take place. Once the nominee is verified, members can use the space on the ballot for a "write-in" candidate should a voting member choose to cast their vote for a nominee from the floor.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Business Meeting on September 22nd at TheatreFest in Galveston!