**GENERAL BACKERS MEETING**

November 15, 2016; 7:00 pm, LGI-2

**MEMBERSHIP**: CoffeeHouse and Musical Parent Meeting will be a good opportunity to reach out to new members unfamiliar with Backers, or those coming back into theater as their students were not involved in the fall play.

**SPONSOR UPDATE**: Jeanie left auditions to provide updates from the Directors and Producer:

**Dracula** (from Mr. Cygrymus) was very successful with $2,700 in profits. Possible explanations for the higher ticket sales from fall plays in the past may include the Halloween Theme and that there was no school on Friday, which made Thurs. night an extra weekend night.

**CoffeeHouse** (from Ms. Wilmus): Parent meeting Wed., Nov. 16, 6:30 in the auditorium. Personal and Business Ads are due November 22 to Mrs. Barefoot or Mrs. Boni. Forms are on the Thespian Website.

**Les Miserables** (Mr. Cygrymus): Now auditioning with Motion Make-ups on Sat., 11-12:30, and Callbacks starting at 12:30. Cast list will be available on Nov. 22. Student leader applications will be accepted after the cast posting. Student meeting will be prior to Christmas, while the Parent Meeting will be in January.

**Sponsor**: Jeanie discussed during the Troupe meeting today a problem experienced with members of the Dracula Tech Crew not coming to every production. It was emphasized to students that they are not to apply for these positions if they cannot make every show due to the level of responsibility in each position and consistency needed for successful show every night. To help avoid this going forward, job descriptions with responsibilities and expectations clearly delineated will be made available for each show after the cast list has been posted.

~**Conference**: Forms were given to students missing any paperwork. Please return them asap. All are paid except those who are not Backers and those who are doing an IE (Individual competitions which cost $10, checks made to PTHS). Room lists should be available shortly.

~**Prom Fashion Show**: The Thespian Troupe Officers agreed on the April 24, Sunday and want to get PTHS organizational sponsors (teams/clubs) to provide 2 volunteers to get school-wide participation. Laura Shope and Emma McCartney were introduced as the PFS Leaders. When questioned about including underclassmen in some method to boost ticket sales, the Officers felt we could try the “Project Runway/Create a Dress or Tux”, but were not confident that participation will be high. Suggested opening to different winning categories including conventional dresses/tuxes.

~Total **Thespian Points** including Dracula and the Krispy Kreme Doughnut sales are presently being updated and will be posted for students’ view in the near future.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**: Amy Shope reviewed the monthly report. Dracula Concessions’ made approximately $725 (awaiting flower costs) in profit. Also highlighted is the $1600 profit from the Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale which exceeded expected profits, thanks to students and parents selling in less than ideal weather all but a few boxes (that were donated locally) and unexpected donations that were made during the sale! Ideas for teams and distribution will continue to improve this already successful fundraiser. (Thanks again to all those who came out and to Amy Shope and Frank Ruggieri who waited through the sale until the last carful of sellers returned!)

Motion to approve: Janet Getto; Second: Carolyn Mullan. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Frank Ruggieri attended the HS/Theater Dept. meeting:

Job descriptions are being requested by Administration for all positions pertaining to productions and theater. Administration expressed concern for students’ safety regarding tech and backstage operations, especially dealing with the power tools and equipment used in set construction. Also a concern is the School Board Member that inspects the set; typically he appears without notice towards the end of production and without staff knowing his expectations prior to the visit.

Frank proposed that this may be an opportunity for the Backers to be of assistance in one or more of the following ways:

**1. Provide Thespian Students Workshop Opportunities** - sponsor educational opportunities to learn non-performance aspects of production that may include set design, set construction, scenery construction, costuming, make-up……with initial focus on preparing students to be capable with the tools and equipment that is used for construction.

**2. Provide Tech/Construction Supervision** - Provide additional eyes and hands to supervise/work with students during tech and set construction. Either asking parents with pertinent skills or seeking and paying for professionals with the needed skills. Either option would first need the approval and input of the Director.

**3. Provide Clerical Intervention Regarding Scheduling Inspections and Student Tech Hours** – Attempting to schedule the School Board Member’s visits early in the construction process may help to reduce conflicts as construction comes close to completion. Scheduling students in blocks of time for tech shifts may assist with safety and supervision concerns.

Frank will follow up with a conversation with Administration, the Tech Director for Les Mis and Mr. Cygrymus.

**Website Redesign**: Michele Traficante has done a wonderful job with the help of a friend with some of the much needed updates to our website. We are so very thankful to Michele for all she has put into this effort. We are seeking another member to continue this movement as there is so much potential to improve our communication, application, and hopefully, the ticket purchase process.

**CONCESSIONS:** Tracy Dabkowski expressed appreciation to all who donated items for Dracula’s concessions (estimated over $200 profit for us!) as well as to those who helped man the stand. We have a good amount of items leftover that can be used for the next production. SignupGenius for CoffeeHouse will be sent out in an email shortly.

Due to lack of expected attendance, we will **NOT** have a meeting in December.

Next meeting is **JANUARY 17, 7:00pm**, LGI-2

Vote to Adjourn: Tracy Dabkowski: Second - Jen DiLucia