



FATE E-LETTER

Volume Two, Number Two

February, 2005

From the President

Good News -- Our Efforts Bring Results!

Your letters, emails, and calls to legislators may be working! It has been reported that the governor's proposed budget for the arts is finally approaching what it was in the 2003 fiscal year. With your help and the efforts of Florida's Cultural Alliance, we seem to be making some headway. Of course, it must survive and be passed by the legislators.

However, we must not end our efforts since this budget is for "the arts" and not specifically: arts education. We must continue to advocate for what we believe: that every child in Florida is entitled to a well-rounded education--one that includes the arts. We must educate our principals, parents, school board members, and legislators to understand that the arts are CORE CURRICULUM. We must quote from statistics that prove that ARTS EDUCATION

IMPROVES TEST SCORES and more importantly: KEEPS KIDS IN SCHOOL!

To learn more about how you can help this cause, go to the ACE (Arts for a Complete Education) web site: www.faae.org and the links on the front page to help you talk the talk so those in position of power will listen.

To better understand how the class-size amendment has caused this turn of events against arts education, go to Palmbeachpost.com, then Opinion, then Editorials, and: "Jeb Punishing Schools to Repeal Class-Size Law" (Sunday, January 30, 2005). This editorial is a quick reference you may use to educate your fellow voters. This problem is not just our problem: it is a problem that every taxpayer should know about.

Also reserve October 13-16 for our annual FATE Conference and join us for a weekend of activities that will help you become not only a better educator, but an employed educator!

Please remember that we are your voice. We can do more with you, than without you.

Break a leg in all of your endeavors!

Calendar

March 2 – 6	SETC
April 6 – 10	State Thespian Conference
June 8	Executive Committee meeting (tentative), Sarasota
June 30	Deadline for special \$145.00 '05 Conference registration fee

Arts Executive Committees To Meet in Sarasota in June

Plans are underway for the executive boards of the Art, Music and Dance organizations, FATE, and the Florida Higher Education Arts Network (FHEAN) to meet together in Sarasota June 8th and 9th to discuss common problems, goals and strategies. (FHEAN is the organization of college and university arts departments.)

ACE/FAAE is sponsoring and coordinating the event after receiving requests from the various arts organizations. The sessions will include meeting with the ACE/FAAE Board, and with representatives of the various arts coalitions throughout the state.

The executive directors of all the arts organizations have been meeting and communicating for the last two years, and this gathering of executive committees seemed like the next logical step. It will mark the first time all of the organizations' executive committees have had the opportunity to share concerns, and to communicate them to the wider audience that comprises ACE/FAAE.

The meetings are timed as a prelude to the annual ACE/FAAE Leadership Summit which runs June 9 – 11. Check out the next page of this newsletter for information about the summit.

Dreyfoos Production Demonstrates Importance of Theatre Arts

According to **Dennis Sims**, Dreyfoos School's March production of *Of Mice and Men* aligns academics and the arts, since it is a required English text in Palm Beach County.

The school's English and Social Studies departments are assisting, and all the area's high school English departments will be encouraged to attend.

As Dennis says, "this is an important tool to demonstrate how crucial theatre arts education is in every high school." And an idea worth implementing in your school?

Congratulations to ...

Ana Mederos-Blanco, who was recently honored by the Miami United Way with the Green Family American Values Award. The award recognizes people "who perform their professional duties with excellence and go above and beyond in helping the community through volunteer service."

Karen Ruggerio, who was recognized as the technical theatre teacher of the year by Stage Directions Magazine.

Jonnette DeMarsico, who is currently appearing as the guest adult artist in the Unified High School Theatre Project production of *The Spitfire Grill*. The production is being directed by **Matthew MacDermid**.

Sean Brennan for the great reviews he received as Hysterium in the recent production of *A Funny Thing Happened... Forum* at St. Petersburg Little Theatre.

All-Expense-Paid Seminars Available for Florida Teachers

Florida Teachers are invited to apply for an all-expense-paid summer seminar at the Florida Center for Teachers in St. Petersburg. Each week-long seminar is a hands-on program that takes teachers into the field to explore topics of interest: Asian Religions, the Harlem Renaissance, Ethics and Issues in the Press, Sense of Place, and Los Latinos.

Sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council, the program is held in St. Pete and is open to all Florida teachers with a minimum of three years teaching experience. Each seminar is limited to 25 teachers, pre-K through 12, and in-service credit is available.

Teachers meet and talk with noted Florida authors and artists during visits to historic sites, museums and communities of interest.

Get applications and program descriptions at www.flahum.org or by calling 727-553-3808.

Unclaimed Raffle Prizes “Sitting on the Shelf”

Two lucky winners of the raffle held at the October Conference have yet to claim their prizes. Each person received a certificate entitling him or her to the services (educational only!) of **Keith Tucker** or **Don Jones**, who will come to their respective schools to work with them or their students in the classroom or rehearsal for a day. For some inexplicable reason, the lucky winners have yet to claim their prizes, the services of these outstanding educators.

Don't let these wonderful prizes just sit moldering on the shelf. Put them to work. Claim your prize. Redeem the certificate before the school year ends. If you are one of the winners, contact Murray Mintz by email (murray_mintz@msn.com) for Keith or Don's address.

ACE/FAAE Leadership Summit 2005

Mark your calendars now!

ACE/FAAE Leadership Summit

June 9 – 11, 2005

at

The Hyatt Sarasota

Located in the heart of Sarasota's exciting arts district!

Arts Education: Part of the Solution

You'll return home with solutions, strategies, and a prioritized plan for meeting your own arts and arts education challenges.

Pre-conference Focus: Coalitions Development

Invited Speakers: Arnold Aprill (Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education), Dick Deasy (Arts Education Partnership), Doug Herbert (USDOE), Commissioner Winn (FLDOE), and Florida First Lady Columba Bush

For more information, visit:

www.faae.org

