

**Minutes**  
**Stage Machinery Working Group**  
Friday, 06 October 2023  
Marriott D/FW Westlake - Westlake, TX

**Chairpersons:**

Joe Jeremy; Show Distribution Group, Inc.; P; CP  
Dan Culhane; Wenger Corp.; P; MP (presiding)

**Recording secretary:**

Richard Nix (ESTA)

**Attendees:**

Jane Harrington, ARM; The Hartford Group; A; G  
Drew Becker; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; A; CP  
Mike Brubaker; CM Buck Associates; P; DR  
Bruce Darden; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; P; CP  
Robert Dean; ZFX, Inc.; P; CP  
Bruce Downer; SERAPID, Inc.; P; CP  
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; P; G  
Julian Hoare; Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC; P; CP  
Jeremy Hodgson; Jeremy Hodgson; I; G  
Charles McCafferty; Cirque du Soliel Entertainment Group; P; U  
Cole Muth; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.; P; MP  
Reid Neslage; Reid Neslage; I; G  
Jim Niesel; Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.; P; DE  
Chris Peterson; Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC; A; CP  
Peter A. Scheu; Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; P; DE  
Steven Serafin; The Hartford Group; P; G  
Steve Walker; Steve A. Walker & Associates; P; DE

**Visitors:**

RJ Kenney, Link USA

**1 Opening Remarks**

Dan Culhane called the meeting to order at 16:05, welcoming everyone and thanking them for taking time out of their Friday to attend. Attendance is important, and the fact that we have a supermajority present shows everyone's commitment to support our working group efforts.

**2 Patent and anti-trust statements**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

*ESTA and its members take seriously their obligation to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. Therefore, during this meeting and during all ESTA events, all discussions will be limited to those subjects that are permitted by the antitrust laws. All members should refrain from any discussion or mention of competitively sensitive subjects such as the current or future prices charged for any member product or services, current or future marketing plans or strategies, and current or future costs, including employee salaries. There also must be no agreement on the suppliers or customers that members will or will not do business with or the markets in which members will conduct business.*

*Violations of the antitrust laws can have serious consequences. If you have any questions or concerns about anything that is discussed at an ESTA meeting, please bring your concern to ESTA management. An easy to read pamphlet describing the antitrust laws is available from the ESTA staff.*

Richard Nix held up the pamphlet for all to see.

**2.2 Reading of the call for patents**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

*ESTA intends not to publish any standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that information can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent and copyright disclosures to implement its intent. ESTA does not conduct patent or copyright searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.*

*In keeping with the open disclosures policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify this working group of the existence of a patent, patent application, copyright, or other protected intellectual property that might protect material in a standard being developed by this working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright to notify this working group of its existence.*

Nothing was revealed.

### **3 Attendance and Membership**

#### **3.1 Requirements for membership**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

*Membership is open to all parties who are affected by the work of the group; membership in ESTA is not a requirement, but there is a \$100/person/year participation fee to help fund the costs of running the Technical Standards Program. New applications shall not be processed until the participation fee has been paid. Voting members are required to attend meetings and vote on letter ballots. Any principal member and alternate that both miss three consecutive meetings or that miss three consecutive letter ballots will have their membership status changed to observer. This action will be taken at the beginning of the first meeting after such inaction and will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.*

#### **3.2 Introduction of attendees**

Everyone introduced themselves.

#### **3.3 Determination of a quorum**

*There are presently 26 possible votes. A quorum is 9, a supermajority is 14.*

Richard Nix confirmed that the quorum and supermajority requirements had been met.

#### **3.4 Processing of new membership and status change requests**

*As of today's meeting, the following applications and status change requests have been received:*

*Charles McCafferty; Cirque du Soliel Entertainment Group; P; U (new application, applied as Alternate but CDS has no Principal on SMWG)*

Joe Jeremy moved to approve the application. The motion was seconded, and carried without objection or abstentions.

#### **3.5 Changes to observer status**

##### **3.5.1 Changes due to attendance**

*The following voters have missed two consecutive meetings. If they are not in attendance today, their voting status will be changed to Observer. For voting entities with multiple representatives, only one need be present.*

*Creative Conners, Inc.: Gareth Conner, Michael Wade, Harry Beauregard  
ZFX, Inc.: Robert Dean*

None of the Creative Conners representatives were present, so their status was changed as noted.

##### **3.5.2 Changes due to missed letter ballots**

*The following voting entities have missed two consecutive letter ballots. Their voting status will be changed to Observer if the next letter ballot is missed.*

~~Bruce Downer; SERAPID, Inc.~~  
~~Gareth Conner; Creative Conners, Inc.~~  
~~Michael Wade; Creative Conners, Inc.~~  
~~Harry Beauregard; Creative Conners, Inc.~~  
~~Marco Robles; I.A.T.S.E. Local 80~~

### 3.5.3 Automatic status changes

*There are none.*

### 3.6 Consensus body

*The table below shows the full consensus voting body after this meeting's actions.*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Int Cat</b>
Peter A. Scheu	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P	DE
R. Duane Wilson	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A	DE
Ben Clark	Ben Clark	I	U
Mike Brubaker	CM Buck & Associates	P	DR
Charles McCafferty	Cirque du Soliel Entertainment Group	P	U
Cole Muth	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P	MP
Joe Golden	Gallagher Staging & Productions	P	DR
Marco Robles	I.A.T.S.E. Local 80	P	G
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	CP
Drew Becker	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	A	CP
Jeremy Hodgson	Jeremy Hodgson	I	G
Sam Michael	Sam Michael	I	DE
Troy Atkinson	Production Resource Group	P	CP
Matt Jordan	Production Resource Group	A	CP
Reid Neslage	Reid Neslage	I	G
Richard J. Nix	Richard J. Nix	I	G
Jesse Adams	Rose Brand Wipers, Inc	P	DR
Bruce Downer	SERAPID, Inc.	P	CP
Joseph Jeremy	Show Distribution Group, Inc.	P	CP
Sanford P. Gilzow	Shur-Rig, LLC	P	DR
Steve Walker	Steve A. Walker & Associates	P	DE
Julian Hoare	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	CP
Jim Love	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Chris Peterson	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Craig Roberts	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Nathan Dye	Texas Scenic Company	P	CP
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	P	G

Jane Harrington	The Hartford Group	A	G
Jim Niesel	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	P	DE
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	P	G
Paul Brunner	Thern, Inc.	P	MP
Dan Lisowski	University of Wisconsin Madison	P	U
Dan Culhane	Wenger Corp.	P	MP
Peter V. Svitavsky	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Paul Zagajeski	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Robert Dean	ZFX, Inc.	P	CP
<b>Total possible votes:</b>		<b>26</b>	
	Custom market producer (CP)	7	
	Designer (DE)	5	
	Dealer rental company (DR)	4	
	General interest (G)	5	
	Mass-market producer (MP)	3	
	User (U)	2	
<b>Voting status key:</b> P = Principal voter, A = Alternate voter, I = Individual voter			

#### 4 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

[See *SMmin07-2023\_Draft.pdf*]

Steve Walker moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

#### 5 Approval of agenda

Joe Jeremy moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

#### 6 Old Business

##### 6.1 BSR E1.42-201x, stage and orchestra lifts

*Steve Walker (leader), Jim Niesel (co-leader), Bruce Downer, Michael Nishball, Pete Svitavsky, and Chris Tilton*

*The public review will have ended by the time this meeting occurs.*

Steve Walker said that no public review comments had been returned.

Peter Scheu said that some of his ASTC constituents had questions about static load testing, and if the intent of the standard was to require testing, since it gave recommendations for how to accomplish the testing. There was discussion about load tests in general, that static load tests are generally impractical, and that most load-handling issues present themselves during the dynamic load tests, which is required by the standard. Jim Niesel said that static load testing is intended to be a specification requirement, outside of this standard's scope. Bruce Downer agreed, as did Steve Walker. Peter Scheu, satisfied with the results, thanked the group for discussion, and said he would take the essence of the discussion back to the ASTC membership.

Steve Walker moved to approve as ANS. The motion was seconded. A letter ballot will be issued.

##### 6.2 ANSI E1.44 – 2014, Common Show File Exchange Format for Entertainment Industry Automation Control Systems -- Stage Machinery (*Reaffirm, revise or withdraw by 07 May 2024*)

*The working group has three meetings, including this one, to decide which action to take.*

Dan Culhane said he preferred to let this simmer for a couple of meetings. There were no objections or requests for discussion.

### **6.3 BSR E1.64, Stage Machinery Motion Control**

*Task group members are: Joe Jeremy (Chair), Jem Hodgson, Bruce Darden, Nathan Dye, Julian Hoare, Robert Dean, Cole Muth, Craig Roberts, John Ringelman*

*The public review will have ended by the time this meeting occurs.*

Joe Jeremy reported. They are working on comment resolutions, and hope to deliver them to the working group before January's meeting.

### **6.4 BSR E1.71 Curtain Machines**

*Jesse Adams (task group leader), Reid Neslage, Bruce Darden, Mike Brubaker, and Paul Brunner.*

*The public review will have ended by the time this meeting occurs.*

Bruce Darden noted there were no comments received, and moved to approve as an American National Standard. The motion was seconded. A letter ballot will be issued.

### **6.5 ANSI E1.72 – 2023, Powered Floor Machines**

*(reaffirm, revise, or withdraw by 18 September 2028)*

*It's published!*

## **7 New business**

## **8 Other business and announcements**

### **8.1 Above & Beyond Awards**

*Information on the Above & Beyond Awards may be found at [http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award\\_recipients.html](http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award_recipients.html). The nomination site is open year round, and the award is designed for members to highlight the work of their peers. The deadline for nominations is 01 November.*

### **8.2 Other other business**

Richard Nix said that the NATEAC planning committee is seeking proposals. This working group may have subject matter appropriate for that audience. Anyone having suggestion please go to the ESTA webpage and click the NATEAC banner to submit a proposal.

## **9 Schedule for future meetings**

*The meeting schedule is posted at <http://www.esta.org/ESTA/meetings.php>. The Winter 2024 meetings will be held in Anaheim, CA, in conjunction with the NAMM Show, during the week of 22 January 2024. The Spring meetings will be held in conjunction with the USITT Conference, in Seattle, WA. the week of 18 March 2024. The Summer meetings will co-locate with NATEAC in NYC, the week of 08 July 2024. The Fall 2024 meetings will likely return to Westlake, TX.*

## **10 Adjournment**

The agenda business being complete, there being no further business brought forth, Dan Culhane adjourned the meeting at 16:58.

Stage Machinery Working Group members as of 06 October 2023

Name	Representing	Status	Int cat
Jesse Adams	Rose Brand Wipers, Inc	P	DR
Jane Harrington, ARM	The Hartford Group	A	G
Troy Atkinson	Production Resource Group	P	CP
Harry Beauregard	Creative Conners, Inc.	O	MP
Nils Becker	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	O	MP
Drew Becker	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	A	CP
Justin Bennett	University of the Incarnate Word	O	U
Daniel Brinker	USITT	O	G
Mike Brubaker	CM Buck Associates	P	DR
Paul Brunner	Thern, Inc.	P	MP
Joseph Champelli	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	O	CP
Ben Clark	Ben Clark	I	U
Gareth Conner	Creative Conners, Inc.	O	MP
Dan Culhane	Wenger Corp.	P	MP
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	CP
Robert Dean	ZFX, Inc.	P	CP
Jim Digby	Event Safety Alliance	O	U
Bruce Downer	SERAPID, Inc.	P	CP
Nathan Dye	Texas Scenic Company	P	CP
Joshua "Fritz" Friedensohn	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	O	CP
Sanford P. Gilzow	Shur-Rig LLC	P	DR
Joe Golden	Gallagher Staging & Productions	P	DR
Tiny Good	Showtech Australia	O	U
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	P	G
Robert Haycock	Robert Haycock	O	U
Phil Heid	Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.	O	DR
Julian Hoare	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	CP
Jeremy Hodgson	Jeremy Hodgson	I	G
Joseph Jeremy	Lefrancois Family Trust	P	CP
Matt Jordan	Production Resource Group	A	CP
Edwin S. Kramer	1501	O	U
Dan Lisowski	University of Wisconsin - Madison	P	U
Jim Love	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Charles McCafferty	Cirque du Soliel Entertainment Group	P	U
Sam Michael	Sam Michael	I	DE
Rick Montgomery	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	O	MP

Stage Machinery Working Group members as of 06 October 2023

Name	Representing	Status	Int cat
Cole Muth	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P	MP
Reid Neslage	Reid Neslage	I	G
Jim Niesel	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	P	DE
Michael Nishball	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	O	DE
Richard J. Nix	Richard J. Nix	I	G
Chris Peterson	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Kurt Pragman	Pragman Associates, LLC	O	G
Craig Roberts	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Marco Robles	I.A.T.S.E. Local 80	P	U
Eric Rouse	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	O	CP
Peter A. Scheu	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P	DE
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	P	G
Michael Shaw	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	O	MP
Zachary Stevenson	University of North Carolina School of the Arts	O	U
Peter V. Svitavsky	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Kevin Taylor	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	O	CP
Christopher B. Tilton	About the Stage, LLC	O	DE
Michael Wade	Creative Conners, Inc.	O	MP
Steve Walker	Steve A. Walker & Associates	P	DE
R. Duane Wilson	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A	DE
Jeong Sik Yoo	Ghost LX	O	DE
Andrew Young	Andrew Young	O	U
Paul Zagajeski	Wenger Corp.	A	MP