

**STERLING PLAYMAKERS  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

**Call to Order/Opening Comments:** Chairman Kim Fry called the Annual Meeting of the Sterling Playmakers to order at 7:34 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Gregg Carter  
Shanna Christian  
James Collinson  
Bill Fry  
Kim Fry  
John Geddie  
Barbara Gillen  
Judith Harmon  
Angela Hepola  
Steve Schrader  
Colin Taylor  
Rachel Veal

**Board Members Not Present**

Justin Winters

**Members Present:**

Tim Alberth	Julie Jacoby
Mary Abbott	Susan Kronenberg
Lauren Baker	Margie Lazo
Kathy Bleutge	Don O'Brien
Lora Buckman	Sue O'Brien
Joe Campanella	Dylan O'Connell
R.C. Castaneda	Suzanne O'Connell
Caren Christiansen	Ellen Price
Joe Christian	Scott Ruegg
Peggy Darr	Darlene Veal Salvadore
Jeannie DeLisi	Chris Sanner
Terry DiMurro	Claire Severson
Rick Dulik	Tim Silk
Aubry Fisher	Robyn Stafford
Eric Fisher	J. Kareem Taylor
Helen Gernhardt	Nick Wilt
Mark Humphrey	

**Recognition of Current Board of Directors:** Kim recognized current Board members: Gregg Carter, Shanna Christian, James Collinson, Bill Fry, Kim Fry, John Geddie, Barbara Gillen, Judith Harmon, Hepola, Steve Schrader, Colin Taylor, and Rachel Veal. She also mentioned Justin Winters who was not present.

**Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting:** The meeting minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting were presented.

**Treasurer's Annual Report (see handouts):** 2018-2019 was a strong year for Sterling Playmakers fiscally. We increased our net assets by \$24,402.86. Our largest sources of revenue were through ticket sales, followed by donations and our largest expense is the mortgage followed by royalties. The organization is currently 7 years in on a 15 year mortgage to pay for the building. The Board continues to increase the building fund, working towards having the revenue to complete Phase 2 of the warehouse build-out.

## REVIEW OF 2018-2019 SEASON

### ***Eerie Evenings in the Park* – Director Gregg Carter/Producer Aubry Fisher**

Aubry spoke and said the show was held outside in the gazebo at the Sterling Community Center. It was a successful production. The attendance was 176 and profit was \$1,301.

### ***Sweeney Todd* – Director Megan Stockman/Producer Lora Shanna Christian**

Shanna said the show was technically challenging and was very successful. The attendance was 617 and profit was \$1,860.

### ***The Philadelphia Story* – Director John Geddie/Producer Andrew Lee/Aubry Fisher**

John spoke about the show and that it was a lot of fun and had a lot of talent. The attendance 380 and profit was \$2,734.

### ***Steel Magnolias* – Director James Collinson/Producer Shanna Christian**

Jimmy spoke and said that this show was more than he dreamed for his directorial debut. The show had a small talented female cast. It was a fun and enjoyable show. The attendance 403 and profit was \$1,206.

### ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* – Director Caroline Scarborough/Producer Kimberly Fry/Robyn Stafford**

Kim spoke and said it was a good show with a very talented cast that was a mix of about 50% new and 50% returning cast members. The attendance was 984 and they are still in the process of closing out the show.

### ***Sterling Swordplayers* – Steve Schrader**

Steve said the Swordplayers had a successful season last year. This is a year of transition and rebuilding for the group. If anyone is interested in directing for the group this season, submit a Director Application.

### ***On That Note* – Director Ellen Price/Producer Tim Silk**

The group had eleven new members. They had several public performances this past spring/summer and are always looking for more opportunities. The profit to date was \$2,000.

### **WSPR (We're Sterling Playmakers Radio) – Co-Directors Terry DiMurro and Don O'Brien/Producer Gregg Carter**

The troupe performed one show a month and meet Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Sterling Community Center to rehearse. The group will perform *Birds* and *Chicken Heart* on October 30 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Sterling Community Center and will be collecting donations of can food. If anyone has ideas of venues for the group, contact Don or Terry.

## Raffle #1

## BUSINESS ITEMS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### **Introduction of Candidates for Board/Balloting:**

Kim thanked the contributions to the Sterling Playmakers of Board Members Gregg Carter, Shanna Christian, Bill Fry, Angela Hepola, and Colin Taylor, whose terms expired as well as Steve Schrader and Justin Winters, who have had to step away from the Board. She introduced the candidates running for the seven available positions on the Board of Directors. The candidates were Tim Alberth, R.C. Castaneda, Shanna Christian, Aubry Fisher, Eric Fisher, Bill Fry, Angela Hepola, Susan Kronenberg, Ellen Price, George Schrader and Tim Silk. Each was given a chance to address the membership and express their desire to serve on the Board. Kim read a statement from Justin who was unable to attend the meeting. Ballots were then distributed, members voted, and ballots were collected.

### **Sterling Community Center Report:** Nick Wilt, SCC Manager

Kim introduced the Sterling Community Center by stating that the Sterling Playmakers is in partnership with the Sterling Community Center through Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. This partnership allows the Playmakers to use the Sterling Community Center for free and the use of the schools for the cost of

the custodians during rehearsals and shows. Kim introduced Nick Wilt, Center Manager, and thanked him for all the assistance he gives to the Playmakers.

Nick reported the following events planned at the community center:

1. SterlingFest – October 12 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
2. Monster Mash – October 25 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. open to all ages. The center will have stations with crafts, candy and various activities. Admission is one canned good.
3. Costume Party – October 31 from 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for ages 1-12.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kim said the Board puts in a lot of time working on committees, but the Board members cannot do it alone. She encouraged the membership to fill out the 2019-2020 Committee Interest form and join a committee.

**Information Technology:** Colin chaired the IT committee for the past year and stated that the IT committee maintains and supports systems for emails, the website, the phone system, and social media. They manage ticket sales, membership forms, and donations online and new devices to accept money. He gave specific recognition to Gregg Carter and Tim Silk for all the work they did on IT during the past year.

**Membership:** Shanna and Kim chaired Membership for the past year. Shanna reported that the Membership committee is responsible for planning social events, the newsletter, and email communications. She encouraged others to join the committee to help plan annual events and new social events as well. Kim told everyone about the 2019 annual picnic/warehouse clean-up day and then invited everyone to purchase tickets and attend the upcoming paint nite social/fundraiser at Casanel Vineyards to help the sound system fundraiser.

**Outreach:** Gregg and Barb chaired Outreach this past year. Barb stated that the Outreach committee is responsible for introducing the Playmakers to the community. The committee includes the Chamber of Commerce, community relations, SterlingFest, the Sterling Community Center, Swordplayers, On That Note and WSPR. The major event for the committee is participation in SterlingFest. The event will be held on October 12 at the Sterling Community Center. Volunteers are being asked to help: setup, man the Playmakers table and help with tear down. SterlingFest is one way that Sterling Playmakers supports Sterling Community Center, and in return we receive part of the event's proceeds.

**Publicity:** Angela and Rachel were the 2018-2019 Publicity co-chairs. Angela reported that the Publicity committee focuses on getting the word out about Sterling Playmakers. This includes advertising, program ad management, bulk mail, public relations, and the season brochures.

**Season Development:** John and Justin have been chairs of the Season Development Committee this year. John reported that Season Development committee is responsible for proposing the slate of show for the new seasons as well as director selection. The Sterling Playmakers uses play readings to determine what the community wants to see Sterling Playmakers perform on stage. They host play readings about every two months. They are working to increase our pool of directors and producers. They will be hosting a producer round table dinner on September 4<sup>th</sup> at Travinia in Leesburg for anyone interested in learning more about producing.

**Technical:** Bill and Judith serve as the Technical committee chairs. Bill reported that the Technical committee oversees maintaining the props, sound, lighting, and costume equipment. The committee also provides outreach to other theatre companies and schools by lending and renting equipment, props, and costumes. Judith reported that the Sterling Playmakers has rented out props and costumes to 62 organizations over the past year. Generally schools can borrow costumes, sets and props for free but we do rent out set, props and costumes to organizations for a nominal fee. The committee is working on purchasing sound equipment and planning for the Phase 2 build-out for the warehouse.

**Ways & Means:** Steve chaired the Ways & Means committee this past year. This committee focuses on fundraising for the organization. He gave special recognition to Shanna for managing the donor program and for coordinating various fundraising events such as bingo night. The focus for the committee during the past year has been donations for a new sound system the Playmakers wants to purchase. The cost is \$23,000 and will be completed in four phases. We have raised approximately \$19,500 so far.

## Raffle #2

### PREVIEW OF 2019-2020 SEASON

#### *Anne of Green Gables*

**Director Kathy Bleutge/Producer Lora Buckman**

**October 4-6 and 11-13, 2019**

Kathy shared that this is the story of what happens when an older pair of siblings adopt what they think is a boy to help out on their farm Green Gables. Instead they receive a spirited red-headed girl who captures their hearts. The show is in rehearsal. Kathy reported the show is in rehearsal. The cast is great. They will have a matinee performance for scouts on October 12.

#### *Much Ado About Nothing*

**Director Robyn Stafford/Producer Aubry Fisher**

**November 15-17 and 22-24, 2019**

Robyn reported that this will be a Shakespeare play with a twist. It will be set in modern day focused on the element of communication through technology. Get ready to see Shakespeare with texting and more. They have a great cast and are rehearsing.

#### *Puffs; Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*

**Director Terry DiMurro**

**March 6-8 and 13-15, 2020**

Terry introduced everyone to this Potter inspired comedy that tells a very familiar story from the perspective of the Hufflepuff students. The show just closed off Broadway and this will be the first production in the area. It will be held the first second weekend in March. She is in the process of gathering staff. Please see Terry if you are interested.

#### *The Laramie Project*

**Director John Geddie**

**June 2020**

John reported that this is the story of the people of Laramie, Wyoming in the wake of the hate crime murder of Matthew Shepherd. It explores what happens to the town in the aftermath of the crime. John shared that this will be a travelling show with performance dates to be announced as venues are booked.

#### *Matilda*

**Director James Collinson/Producer Kimberly Fry**

**July 31-August 2, 7-9 and 14-16, 2020**

Jimmy reported that he is very excited to be directing this show. Matilda is set around a 5- year old girl named Matilda and her dreams of a better life. The show has lots of fun characters with Matilda's cruel and unloving parents, her school's headmistress' who hates children, Miss Trunchbull, and her loving teacher Miss Honey. This show has a lot of neat effects and is not one to miss.

#### **Sterling Swordplayers**

**Artistic Director Steve Schrader**

The Swordplayers is a performance fight group that performs at festivals around the area. If anyone is interested in getting involved or directing the Swordplayers, Steve would be happy to share more about what it entails.

#### **On That Note**

**Director Ellen Price/Producer Tim Silk**

Tim shared that after building on their successful spring/summer season, On That Note is working on a Christmas/holiday cabaret show to perform at various venues. He and Ellen already have several bookings and are in the process of looking for more this holiday season.

WSPR (We're Sterling Playmakers Radio)

**Co-Directors Terry DiMurro and Don O'Brien/Producer Gregg Carter**

Terry and Don shared that WSPR is a group that performs old time radio shows. The troupe rehearses every Wednesday at the Sterling Community Center from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. Both Terry and Don extended an invitation to all attendees to come to one of their rehearsals to listen or participate.

**Report of Election Results**

The result of the elections was Shanna Christian, Aubry Fisher, Bill Fry, Ellen Price and Tim Silk were elected to serve three-year terms. Angela Hepola was elected to serve a two-year term and Eric Fisher for a one-year term.

**Announcements/Adjournment:**

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2019. It will be at Sterling Community Center at 7:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.