

**2015-2016**  
**Trumbull New Theatre Annual Corp Meeting**  
**June 8, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

PRESENT: Bryan Bartzi, Kerrie Bartzi, Lisa Bennett, H. Keith Bowers, Brett Bunker, Amy Burd, Micky Burnsworth, Diane Butler, Niki Cuthbertson, Phil Cuthbertson, Sherman Davidson, Tom DeNicholas, Susan Gillespie, Mike Hill, Suzy Koltak, Dave Lynn, Janet Lynn, Peg McGinnis, Dustin Miles, Patience Miles, Melanie Montoya, Megan Myers, Deb Nuhfer, Rene Penn, Ed Ranttila, Gary Roddy, Jill Sakonyi, Jackie Shannon, Ron Sinesio, John Timmins, Karen Thomas, Emma Wason, Lynda Welke,

VISITORS: Tori Bettura, Violet Burd, Monica Ramdath, Arianna Shannon

- Welcome & Call to Order – B. Bunker called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and reminded people to sign in
- Approval of Agenda – D. Lynn moved to accept, K. Bartzi seconded ... motion carried.
- Reading / Approval of 2015 Annual Minutes – P. McGinnis moved to dispense with the reading. R. Sinesio seconded. Motion carried.
- 2015-2016 Treasurer's Report – S. Gillespie presented the financial statements which were available in printed format. Called for questions.
- Appointment of Three Members to Approve 2016 Minutes – K. Bartzi, M. Myers, P. Miles volunteered and were accepted.
- Appointment of Four Election Tellers – E. Wason, E. Ranttila, M. Myers, P. McGinnis volunteered and were accepted.
- Nominating Committee Report – S. Gillespie went over the two elections we will be holding.
  - Running for Trustees: D. Nuhfer, K. Bowers, R. Sinesio, B. Bunker.
  - Running for Endowment committee – D. Miles, J. Sakonyi. B. Bunker called for nominations from the floor – N. Cuthbertson nominated Melanie Montoya for Trustee, M. Montoya accepted.
  - J. Timmins moved to close nominations for Trustee, M. Myers seconded. L. Bennett moved to close nominations for Endowment. P. Miles seconded. Motions carried
- Roll Call of Dues Paid Members / Ballot Distribution – S. Gillespie called the roll, E. Ranttila, E. Wason, P. McGinnis, M. Myers distributed blank ballots and collected completed the ballots.
- Election of Trustees and Endowment Committee
- Scholarship Presentation – L. Bennett on behalf of the committee presented four \$500 awards to: Tori Bettura, Violet Burd, Ali Limperos (who was unable to attend because of classes at YSU), and Arianna Shannon. The recipients present told the audience where they were attending school and what they were majoring in.
- Introduction of New Members – B. Bunker introduced new members that had joined in 2015-2016 -- Alex Lucas, Dustin Miles, Melanie Montoya, Karen Thomas, Lynda Welke

- Remembrance of Passed Members – R. Penn shared that Jean Doziski passed this past year. Our condolences to her family.
- 2016-2017 Budget – S. Gillespie reviewed the budget for 2016-2017 and how the numbers were derived and fielded questions.
- Annual Committee Reports – All reports in the Annual Report are as printed. The following were offered from the floor.
  - OCTA – The NorthEast Regional will be held June 18 at Hudson Players. TNT will be represented by WHO'S IN BED WITH THE BUTLER. The other shows being presented will be PETE 'N KELLY, CONFESSIONS FROM THE LADIES ROOM, END DAYS, ALMOST MAINE, and 1776. Registration starts at 7:30 first performance at 9am. TNT will be performing at 11am. The State Conference and Annual Meeting will be held Labor Day weekend in Independence. B. Bunker announced that P. McGinnis will be stepping down and anyone interested should submit a letter of interest.
  - SOCIAL – M. Myers thanked everyone who helped especially the WoMen's Committee.
  - Package House – B. Bunker reported for C. Kotopka. 12 houses sold for \$7300 and 1010 attended. The following groups purchased Package Houses in 2015-2016: St Vincent DePaul Deanery, Niles Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Niles Catholic Women Club/Niles Interfaith Dinner Committee, Eastern Star, Blessed Sacrament, TNT Endowment Committee, Sierra Club, Cortland Rotary, Eastern Star, St. William Women's Guild, Southington Community Trust. C. Kotopka extended her thanks to P. McGinnis for serving on the Package House Committee and handling the Sunday packages.
- Announcements of Endowment Committee and New Trustees – S. Gillespie announced the election results: for trustee – D. Nuhfer, B. Bunker and R. Sinesio; For the Endowment Committee – D. Miles.
- New Business – B. Bunker opened the floor for new business.
  - M. Burnsworth reported that the WoMen's Committee's big project is refurbishing the sign out front and they are currently about \$3000 short. As there is no summer show, they are thinking about doing a magic show with Eric Thompson...nothing is decided at this point. Donations for this project are being accepted.
- Acknowledgement of Retiring Trustees – B. Bunker noted that although J. Timmins is stepping down, we all know that he will not be leaving and extended our thanks to John for everything he does here.
- President's Report –
 

*Cleveland Playhouse Managing Director, Kevin Moore, once said that to run a successful theatre you need three things: artistry, smart business practices, and strong community support. The more theatres can focus on developing and strengthening each of those areas, the stronger they will be as an organization, and the more likely they can be sustained.*

*While sustainability has never been a major issue facing this theatre, I sit in front of you today to tell you that while we have made strides in those areas mentioned we must continue to grow and strive for greater success.*

*Our artistic expression can be limited at times due to a variety of factors but done correctly and as professionally possible artistic choices can succeed. We also continue to look at the feasibility of sustaining a permanent Summer stock type season in order to promote artistic expression of young performers who either may not fit main stage season rolls or because of education priorities are unable to commit to a main stage production.*

*It is important to remember, though TNT is a Non-Profit, that does not mean no profit. We must further develop the smart business practices that have gotten us to this point. When striving to be successful in any business you must either provide something that someone else does not or be the lowest cost producer. While it would be nice to say that we are the sole performing arts venue in the Mahoning Valley the reality is we battle for attention not just from other venues such as the Youngstown Playhouse, Kent State Trumbull Campus Theatre and Packard Music Hall but also from seasonal events as well (such as high school football and Relay for Life). This is why constant oversight on controllable*

costs, from paint and lumber for permanent set to wine and supplies for front of house, if not watched closely can easily lead to overspending. Business partnerships, such as the one we share with Berk Enterprises, are the key to keeping costs down.

However, no matter how well we exhibit our artistic vision or how great our cost controls are, it will not matter without strong community support. The past three years I've spent on the board has opened my eyes to many issues that face our theatre. The greatest issue, unfortunately, has been the community has largely forgotten about us. Sure, we have our patron base that ebbs and flows with new patrons, renewals and non-renewals, but outside that bubble the general public thinks this nearly 60 year old performance venue to be at worst an abandoned building, an added blight to the increasingly desolate 422 strip. My main focus since becoming President last year has been to raise our visibility. We have participated in limited opportunities this past year to raise people's awareness of TNT. This upcoming year, we look to invest even more time and energy into building our brand. We start next month with two engagements. We will be participating in the Howland 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade distributing flyers and information regarding our upcoming season. Also, thanks to longtime TNT member Diane Butler and her husband Gordon, we will be scheduling blocks of time to work at the Dairy Bar at the Trumbull County Fair. All volunteers for these events will be asked to wear a TNT T-Shirt (any interested volunteers may see me afterward to sign up to participate). The awareness issue is something that all members and volunteers can help with. Lend your voice to TNT by asking friends, family and co-workers to volunteer, convince them that a night at TNT is something that can't be missed. Sometimes all it takes is a voice, one voice that becomes a hundred, then a thousand. Help us build a brighter future for TNT.

In closing I would like to say thank you to not only our attending membership, but to all of our members and volunteers. Thank you for your time, your dedication and your outright passion for this community theatre that we call ours.

- Open Floor for the Good of the Order –
  - R. Sinesio reminded people about auditions for GODSPELL on Monday June 13. Set on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - M. Myers reminded everyone about the Company Bow on Sunday June 12 at 3pm. Everyone who has been involved in any way is welcome
  - D. Butler asked if 24-Hour Theatre was going to run again. S. Gillespie confirmed that we would be again hosting this event and gave the dates.
- Adjournment – P. Miles moved for adjournment at 7:36, M. Myers seconded.

Minutes Approved:

Kerrie Bartzi \_\_\_\_\_

Patience Miles \_\_\_\_\_

Megan Myers \_\_\_\_\_