

# Community Players of Salisbury Monthly Board Meeting

January 7, 2026

## Call to Order

Present Mullins began meeting at 6:00 pm

**Board Members Present:** Darrell Mullins, Kyle Hayes, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, Matt Bogdan, David Allen, Lynne Bratten, Pete Cuesta, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelby Thompson

**Board Members Absent:** Charlie Linton, Kim Cuesta, Ken Johnson

**Members Present:** Tony Broadbent, Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kel Nagel, Susan Robinson

**Guests Present:** M. Todd Bounds

**Approval of December 2025 Meeting Minutes** - Minutes were e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting. **Motion to approve as submitted by Rusty, seconded by Lynne. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report** - Tom R gave a brief report. Now have \$43,703.00 in the Capital Campaign, \$33,703.00 of that goes towards the matching funds.

**President's Report** - Kudos to *A Gift To Remember*. Getting excited for *Misery*.

## Committee Reports

**Concessions - Brenda Allen** - No Report

**\*Costumes – Lynne Bratten** - Nothing to report.

**Facilities Management - Ken Johnson** - No Report

### **Fundraising - Matt Bogdan**

1. The special production *A Gift to Remember* was held in December 2025 and was very profitable, making approximately \$10,000.
2. 50/50 raffle will be held at *Misery* performances.
3. The Arts and Crafts Fair will be held on March 28, 2026, with Wendy Stever as the coordinator. (Noted that a personal email is on the first draft flyer. Need to use a players e-mail address, not a personal e-mail address. Matt will talk to the coordinator about this.)
4. A Musical Revue is planned for August 2026, with Rusty Mumford as the coordinator.
5. The special production of *The Great Gatsby* will be held in September 2026, with Matt Bogdan as the coordinator.

### **Grants - Matt Bogdan**

1. We are in the process of raising \$150,000 for the challenge grant from the Henson Foundation for the renovations to our theater. We have till December 2027 to raise the matching funds.
2. A Maryland State Arts Council application for a capital grant submitted in November 2025 is under review.

3. A Maryland State Arts Council application for an operating grant for Fiscal Year 2027 submitted in December 2025 is under review.
4. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is offering a Community Needs grant of up to \$10,000. A letter of inquiry is due by January 22. The letter explains the impact our organization has on our community, notes the amount requested, and explains the intended use of funds. It is best that we have a very specific request (such as the installation of a door to the “green” room). **If you have an idea for a specific request of the intended use of funds and its cost, please let Matt Bogdan know asap, since the deadline is January 22.**
5. A vote is needed for Matt Bogdan to continue being the grant writer for Players.

**Motion to keep Matt Bogden on payroll as grant writer by David Allen, seconded by Pete. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

**Historical - Bonnie Bosies - No Report**

**Hospitality - Rusty Mumford - New Years Eve party was not held as there was no response**

**House - Betsy Metzger - Our first play of 2026 is here - *MISERY*.** I am looking for at least five (5) ushers per show to help scan and show our patrons to their seats. I believe Brenda may need help with concessions for the intermission as well. Here are the details:

Friday, Jan. 30 @ 7:30

Saturday, Jan. 31 @ 7:30

Sunday, Feb. 1 @ 2:00

Friday, Feb. 6 @ 7:30

Saturday, Feb. 7 @ 7:30

Sunday, Feb. 8 @ 2:00

This play is rated 16+ for mature audiences and you can stay and watch once everyone is seated. If you want to volunteer for more than one show, we can use the help. I will also be setting up the jewelry sales table like at our last play. It was quite successful and all proceeds go to Community Players. Thank you all in advance - the patrons' first impressions of our theater are helped by those who greet them with a welcoming smile and a helping hand. I look forward to hearing from you!

\$305 made by Betsy's Baubles jewelry so far.

**Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff - Nothing to report.**

**Marketing – chairman needed - No Report**

Rusty volunteered to hold a committee to look at the committee structure. Need volunteers for a committee of 3 or 5. See Rusty after meeting. Sharon suggested that marketing expenses come out of operating budget instead of out of each show's budget. Take it off the Directors full plate and standardize for each show.

**Membership - Melissa Dasher - Nothing to report**

**Nominating - Sharon Benchoff - Nothing to report**

**Patrons - Kel Nagel - No Report**

**Performance Space - Kel Nagel - We gain 1 or 2 new Patron each show. Letter will go out soon. Will need to update structure for next season.**

**Production – Kyle Hayes - Just a reminder to everyone that the director pitch meeting is scheduled for 2/12 at 6pm and to start reading the submissions if you haven't already.**

**Program / Program Advertising - Tom Robinson - Nothing to Report**

**Publicity – Pete Cuesta - Everything is in place for *Misery*. We do need help putting out yard signs.**

**Scholarship - Lynne Bratten - No Report**

**Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford** - All tickets from *To Kill A Mockingbird* have been transferred to *Old Hams*. TKAM has been removed from the ticket platform and website. Have sold around 1/3 of total tickets for *Misery*.

**Social Media – Cass Dasher & Mary Cathell** - About to push *Misery* “Meet the Cast” on social media. Need graphics for *Old Hams*. Pete will send to Cass and Tom.

## **Old Business**

- **“A Gift To Remember” Update**

Pete- gave thanks to Devon for cutting into her rehearsal time. Many stated they would come to another Christmas show.

- **Costume Donation Process-Lynne Bratten**

Things just show up. In future would like to create a holding/donation space. Do not need any more furs or prom gowns. Can use everyday wear from different vintages. Donation we won't use are donated to Halo.

- **Capital Campaign Update-Kel Nagel**

Have not had a hard opening yet. Money has come from *Annie*, *A Gift To Remember*, and personal donations. Time to start approaching Patrons and Businesses. Let Kel know who you are approaching so we do not duplicate. Damien Sykes has created a thermometer poster to be displayed soon. We will need to decide if we should start remodeling as soon as we reach the matching amount of \$300,000? Sharon – buttons on new website to distinguish between Shore Gives 365 and The Capital Campaign. Matt is sending out a donation request letter. If you forward it to a business or individual, please let Matt know, to avoid duplication.

- **Website- Darrell**

To preview, can login but the code goes to Darrell. Let him know if you want to preview in advance, so he knows who to send code to. Can create a test link, that is not public, but it may not give the cell phone version. Darrell will look into this. Hope to have it live by the beginning of next season. Question – Have we found a new webmaster (Wix) ? Will Townsend might be willing to bridge the gap, but we should compensate him. How quickly can Will T. turnout changes when needed? 24 hours?

## **New Business**

- **Handrails-David Allen -**

Ordered, should arrive Jan 28. *Misery* opens Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. We need help installing.

- **Show Synopses on Website-Betsy Metzger**

Can we put on website so people know what it is about? It is already on website and ticket platform for every show.

- **Special Productions**

How do we define what is a Special Production? Would like a more formal process. Darrell has asked fundraising committee to look at these processes. Must avoid conflicts in rehearsal schedule. Should we consider a holiday show as a 5<sup>th</sup> main stage show? Do they need to be mobile? Low-budget? Small set? Board needs time to read and approve scripts. Needs to be a fundraiser? Should be a reason why it is special.

Summary – We need to clarify the characteristics of a special production? -Do we need to re-format our season to include a 5<sup>th</sup> main stage production? (No longer working around availability of Wor-Wic or Public Schools). - Will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

- **Expectations For Appropriate Behavior**

Survey results for Annie – cast member perceived as acting inappropriate towards young people. Do we need to create a code-of-ethics and consequences? Do other theater groups have a code-of-ethics? Lynne has one with costumes- always have 2 people present. Youth workshops has one, Cass can share it. Sharon volunteered to head ad-hoc committee to look into this. Idea – contact persons not in production, available if any cast or crew member has a concern.

- **Other New Business**

Youth Workshop – Cass – Make it a committee? Does the board need to vote to hold again this summer. No. Move ahead with planning.

Wigs – 55 new wigs donated from Women Supporting Women.

Heating and Air and Pest Control has been in this week. All is up to date.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Rusty, seconded by Pete. All responded yea. Motion Passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.**

**Next Meeting is February 4 at 7:00 pm.**