

Community Players of Salisbury Monthly Board Meeting

May 6, 2026

Call to Order by President Darrell Mullins at 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Darrell Mullins, Kyle Hayes, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, Matt Bogdan, Lynne Bratten, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelbie Thompson

Board Members Absent: David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Pete Cuesta, Ken Johnson

Members Present: Sharon Benchoff, Bonnie Bosies, Bobbie Calloway, Devin LaFemina, Kel Nagel

Guests Present: 2 guests Blake Radsworth and his mom

Approval of April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting. **Motion to approve as submitted by Charlie L., seconded by Charlie S-T. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Treasurer's Report

Brief report by Charlie L. April was a very good month with a \$12,000+ profit from *Old Hams*.

President's Report

Congrats to all involved in *Old Hams*. *1776* is going very well. We have received rights to all shows for next season. I've put together Ad Hoc committees for Capital Campaign and Special Productions.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen - No Report

***Costumes – Lynne Bratten – Received 2 donations, military related.**

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson - No Report

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. The 50/50 raffle held at the performances of *Old Hams* raised \$1185. Thanks to all who helped with this raffle, as well as audience members who participated. The raffle will be held again at *1776* performances.

2. The Friendly Feud Fundraiser that was to be held at the end of April was cancelled due to lack of teams willing to participate.

3. We will be holding a silent auction in the lobby of Wicomico High School Auditorium during the performances of *1776*. Please consider contributing an item, gift card, or gift

certificate to support the auction. Contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com if you would like to contribute. **Motion that CPOS donate a basket with 2 season tickets for next season and some merch to the silent auction by Matt B. Seconded by Charlie L. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

4. Another fundraiser is the production of *America 250: A Birthday Celebration*, to be held June 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m. at Community Players' Theater. The show is sponsored by the Wicomico Historical Society in cooperation with Community Players of Salisbury. The Wicomico Historical Society is contributing \$850 to pay for the band and road signs for the event. Expectations are that they will donate \$1000 to Players since they are using our theater for the show. Admission is free; donations are encouraged. Auditions were held May 3. Show has been cast. * Another production had been added at the American Legion the following weekend

5. *A Music Review* is tentatively scheduled for August 14-15-16, with auditions in Late June. All plans are tentative, pending audition dates for *Come From Away*.

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program has awarded Community Players \$10,000 for the production of *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. The project is a documentary in play format featuring the key events in Frederick Douglass' life. Addressed will be his years on the Eastern Shore, as well as Baltimore and other areas throughout the world. Also, the project will emphasize the impact Frederick Douglass had on the abolitionist movement and social reform, using Douglass' speeches, dramatic readings, songs, and slides to show how he became the most important leader of the movement for African-American civil rights in the 19th century. Performances of the play will be held at various venues on the Shore during 2027 and 2028. Players thanks the Maryland Heritage Areas Program for its support.

2. As a reminder, Players has received \$2400 from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to pay for counselor stipends and \$1000 from Coastal Association of Realtors to pay for other costs associated to the workshop. Lynne Bratten has approached the Salisbury Optimist Club, asking for a \$1000 donation to help with costs of the T-shirts for workshop participants, and is meeting with them next week.

3. As a reminder, Players has been awarded a \$150,000 Challenge Grant from the Richard A. Henson Foundation so that Players can complete renovations on the Community Players' Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury. Renovations include installing handicapped bathrooms, dressing rooms, and costume storage. In order for Players to receive the \$150,000, we need to raise \$150,000. One way to donate to this worthy cause is to go to our website at Sbyplayers.org. On the home page click on the donate button which takes you to the Players' Capital Campaign page. There, donations can be made by credit or debit card. If you prefer to write a check, make the check out to Community Foundation of The Eastern Shore, with Community Players' Capital Campaign fund on the memo line. Mail the check to Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont

Ave., Suite 401, Salisbury, MD 21804. All donations will be acknowledged and tracked by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, who will verify compliance with IRS and other regulations. Your donation will be instrumental in helping the Community Players' mission of encouraging education, interest, and participation in theater and providing quality theatrical productions for local audiences. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kel Nagel, Capital Campaign Chairperson, at 410-726-0670.

4. \$10,000 grant received from the Jack and Ann Smith Foundation. Charlie will look into if it can be applied to the Capital Campaign.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies – Believes we have found the script from our very first play from May 1938 from the Library of Congress.

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford - No Report

House - Betsy Metzger - Still having falls, even with the added handrails. David will look into how to better secure the end seats.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff - Nothing to report

Marketing – (Chairperson needed) - No Report

Membership - Melissa Dasher - On the agenda

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff - On the agenda

Patrons - Kel Nagel – Will be changing membership levels and some language, such as, will be eligible to apply for X# of tickets.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel - New committee is getting everything in order, the first meeting to be scheduled soon.

Production – Kyle Hayes - No Report

Program / Program Advertising - Tom Robinson –Almost complete for 1776. Waiting on final details for program

Publicity – Pete Cuesta - No Report

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten - On the agenda

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford – Tickets are being sold for 1776. Working on a more permanent way to label the seats in the house.

Social Media – Cass Dasher & Mary Cathell - No Report

Old Business

- **Website Update-Darrell Mullins**

Will T has cleaned up 98% based on feedback. Will be ready to launch in the next week or two. New websites cannot handle all the pages of history. Can link it to the old website. Need to clarify this with David and Will.

- **Capital Campaign Committee Update-Darrell Mullins and Kim Cuesta**

Kim C. appointed Chairman, she will call a meeting soon. \$66,678 current balance.

- **Ad Hoc Committee for Special Productions Approval Process-Darrell Mullins**

Has been formed.

- **Other Old Business**

Youth Workshops – Currently have 18/25 Elementary students registered and 12/20 high school students. We have received a large number of counselor applications. The deadline to apply for the counselor is May 15th. Our theme this year is *True Colors*.

New Business

- **Summer Performance Opportunity at the Amphitheater-Darrell Mullins**

Caroline Ohare reached out would we like to perform something this summer? The normal usage fee is \$175, will be waived for first time. Are we interested? Rusty may take the music review if we can charge a fee. Darrell will ask.

- **2026 Nonprofit Summit Report-Lynne Bratten**

Lynne attended the summit presented by the Community Foundation, United Way and SU. Some takeaways included: Many boards include people of influence; this does not fit in with how our Board operates. Capital Campaign needs to “get to the ask”. Donors want to know “what is the value for them”. Recognition for donations was not stressed. IA was a big topic. Set guidelines in advance. Insurance policies for officers.

- **Online Membership/Application-Melissa Dasher**

Melissa would like to create an online form (Google) and an online payment option (Square). Those paying online would incur an additional small electronic processing fee. Agreed that Melissa could continue exploring this option. Was suggested we change the name of the form from “member application form” to “membership form”.

- **Building Cleaning Issue-Darrell Mullins**

Britney did not come and clean the second weekend of Old Hams. She was paid for the second weekend (She billed in advance). Darrell will talk to her. Tom knows someone who would be good if Britney cannot continue. She was also given a list of duties. Stage manager is in charge of taking out trash during rehearsals.

- **Nominations for Board of Directors and Officers-Sharon Benchoff**

Discussion about what we would do if no one agreed to run for an officer. Melissa did not wish to continue as recording secretary but no one else agreed to run. Melissa willing to continue. **Motion to close ballot by Charlie L. Tom seconded by Tom R. All responded yea. Motion Passed.** Nominees include:

- Vice President: Lynne Bratten
- Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher (continuing)
- Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford (continuing)
- Treasure: Charlie Linton (continuing)
- Board of Directors: Bob Herbertson, Ken Johnson, Devin LaFemina, Emily Lawson

- **“1776” Production Liaison-Sharon Benchoff**

Cass willing to be liaison. **Motion to appoint Cass Dasher as Liaison by Tom R, seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

...Should there be a liaison for special productions – Yes. Need one for next *American 250 : A Birthday Celebration*. Discussed the need for liaisons to be appointed sooner, so they can attend and be introduced at readthroughs.

- **Scholarships**

Motion to award our two \$500 scholarships, based on ratings by the Board, to Isabell and Adithya , seconded Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed. Lynne will present award to Isabell and look into when the Parkside award ceremony is held.

- **Other New Business**

Betsy put a large calendar in the office

SWAC requires us to submit a 2-minute video by May 16th as part of a grant we received.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tom, seconded by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Next Meeting- June 3, 2026, 6:00 pm