

Community Players of Salisbury Monthly Board Meeting

December 3, 2025

Call to Order at 6:00 pm

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

Board Members Absent: Charlie Linton, David Allen, Ken Johnson,

Members Present: Brenda Allen, Sharon Benchoff, Bonnie Bosies, Mary Cathell, Sherri Hynes, Kel Nagel, Susan Robinson, Damion Sykes

Guests Present: Ben Hamilton

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

Treasurer's Report Tom R gave a brief report; *Annie* had the 3rd highest gross income and the highest net profit ever.

President's Report Darrell was impressed with *Annie* on stage and backstage and is looking forward to *A Gift To Remember*.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen Will have concession for AGTR. Need help for *Misery*.

Costume – Lynne Bratten (*Needs to be approved as a committee) Accepted another donation and sent a thank you note. Donations just show up. Need a separate spot to place/leave them?

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson No Report

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. A fundraising committee meeting was held November 19. Fundraisers for 2026 were discussed, including a 505/50 raffles, the second annual Arts and Crafts Fair in March and a silent auction at 1776 performances in June. Rusty Mumford volunteered to be the coordinator of another Music Revue in August, but if someone else is interested in coordinating it, please let him know. Matt Bogdan will be coordinating the special production of *The Great Gatsby* in September. Tony Broadbent recommends that we have local musicians perform on weekend nights or Sunday afternoons at our theater to help raise funds. Pete Cuesta is interested in performing a show entitled *Booth*, but no date has been set. If anyone has ideas for fundraisers or would like to coordinate one next year, contact Matt Bogdan.
2. A group of Community Players, under the direction of Matt Bogdan, presented a murder mystery on November 22 at the home of the owners of Bordeleau Winery in Eden, MD. This was a gesture by the owners of Bordeleau Winery to say thanks to members of Habitat for Humanity. The owners donated \$500 to Players. Thanks to all who participated.

3. Possum Point Players presented a comedic radio play based on the theme of Thanksgiving at Community Players' Theater on Sunday, November 23, at 2 p.m. Players split the gate with Possum Point. We raised \$130 for Players. Thanks to all who helped with this fundraiser.
4. The Community Players of Salisbury will present *A Gift to Remember*, a heartwarming play in which strangers become friends, at Community Players' Theater. The dates and times are as follows: Thursday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 12, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, December 14, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students, \$15 for children, and \$65 for families. Tickets are available at sbyplayers.org.

Additional Comments: The potential fundraisers are under consideration, still need Board approval.

Grants - Matt Bogdan The Henson Foundation Trustees have approved a challenge grant of \$150,000 for Community Players to help pay for the renovations of our theater. This means that if we raise \$150,000 by December 31, 2027, then Henson Foundation will grant us \$150,000. The funds cannot be used to retire debt or support operations. We must have the cash in the bank for the full \$150,000 and provide the Henson Foundation with documentation to support our funds raised to receive our award. Thanks to Matt Bogdan, Kel Nagel, and Tom Robinson for their assistance with this grant.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies No Report

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford New Years' Eve event announcement made. If we do not get at least 20 RSVPs will reconsider.

House - Betsy Metzger Need ushers for *A Gift To Remember*.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchhoff Nothing to report.

Marketing – Chairman Needed No Report

Membership - Melissa Dasher Nothing new to report.

Nominating - Sharon Benchhoff Nothing to report.

Patrons - Kel Nagel Always seeking new patrons. Doing well.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel No Report

Production – Kyle Hayes The show submission period has closed. We have received a total of 14 show submissions.

Musicals:

1. Come From Away
2. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
3. Newsies
4. Snoopy
5. Sweeney Todd

Plays:

1. All My Sons
2. Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

3. Birthday Candles.
4. Buddies
5. Clue: On Stage
6. FAILURE: A Love Story
7. Laughter on the 23rd Floor
8. The Moors
9. Murder on the Nile

Will send out scripts & forms to Board tonight. Working on a pitch meeting for mid- February.

Program / Program Advertising - Tom Robinson Rough program is ready for AGTR to preview.

Publicity – Pete Cuesta Advertising for "A Gift to Remember" is well on the way, although minimal at best. I will soon begin to work on everything for "Misery".

Kel and Matt will be on Delmarva Life to promote shows and capital campaign.

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten Scholarship applications are going out this week and hopefully the information can be in the next newsletter.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford We have 2 new people volunteered to work in the box office.

Social Media – Cass Dasher & Mary Cathell We have gained over 100 new followers on our Facebook page over the last 60 days. Most of those new follows occurred in the first two weeks of November. As of 11/29/2025 we are now at 2,614 total followers.

In the last 60-day period, the most widely shared post was the post announcing tickets on sale for Annie, with a reach of 8,983--that is the number of individual people who saw the post at least once.

Posts including photos of rehearsal or of cast members continue to be some of our most popular in terms of interactions (comments, likes, shares, etc.) The "Meet the Cast" posts on Facebook collectively received 611 interactions.

If you have something that you would like to have posted on Players' social media in the next month, please send it to the social media team at SocialMedia.SbyPlayers@gmail.com.

Keep in mind that we all have day jobs and can only devote so many hours a week to creating graphics and managing the page, and also that we may already have posts scheduled in advance for certain days, so it may take at least a couple of days to be able to turn around a post. The sooner you can get the information to us, the better. Thanks!

Old Business

- **Capital Campaign-Kel Nagel**

Received \$150,000 matching grant from the Henson Foundation. Money must be raised after November 5, 2025 through December 2027. Entire \$150,000 must be in the bank in order to receive the match. The Community Foundation has a page set up for our Capital Campaign.

Motion to move \$20,000 from operating (*Annie Profit*) to The Community Foundation for the Capital Campaign by Tom R, seconded by Rusty M.

Discussion : Should we move a % of each show? Do we get the \$150,000 as soon as we raise the match or not until Dec 2027? (Yes, as soon as \$150,000 is raised.) Need to keep \$ from productions in operations in order to produce shows. Can a \$ amount from each ticket go to Capital Campaign? Reminder that the monies to be matched must have been raised after November 5.

Motion that we “call the question” by Rusty M, seconded by Matt B. 9 Board voted Yea, approved.

Motion amended that we move \$20,000 from *Annie* profit to The Community Foundation for the Capital Campaign by Tom R, seconded by Pete. All responded yea, with one abstention. Motion Passed.

Kel – need Board members who are willing to be on the Capital Campaign committee. People who send checks to us instead of Community Foundation, we will get them to the Capital Campaign. Must make it easy for donors, even if more work for us.

- **Bar**

What steps have been taken to make this profitable? Would like to keep pre-measured bottles and raise the price. Do not sell on Sunday and Thursday, so do not have to pay for the license on those days when less profitable. Currently \$5 for beer and wine. Motion to raise the price on beer and wine to \$ 7 by Rusty M, seconded by Pete C. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

- **Website-Darrell Mullins**

Darrell and Kyle met with Will. If want to take a preview look at new site, reach out to Darrell for password.

- **Other Old Business**

Rusty – makeup tables here, mirrors on way, should be set up for *AGTR* in our front lobby.

Rusty – sent thank you notes.

Rusty – need to order stationary, need a local print shop, let Rusty know if you have a business contact. Tom suggested Minute Man.

New Business

- **Use of Square-Betsy Metzger**

Gifted a lot of beads. Want to make jewelry to sell at shows with all profits going to Players. We need another square machine. We have one currently being used by tickets. Concessions could use a second reader as well. Motion to purchase another square machine, spending up to \$300 by Rusty M, seconded by Matt B. Yes all, approved. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Other New Business

- ***To Kill A Mockingbird***

Publisher has not yet approved rights and will not give a date when they will approve. Matt can look to see if another version is available. Matt wants a deadline to have rights by or look for another show. Decided on December 15. If you presented a show for consideration for this season start considering if you want to put up your show in April 2026 slot and look into getting the rights, just in case.

- **Shore Give 365**

Raised \$4038.11. Will get a matching \$2500. This money will not go towards the Capital Campaign; it is for operation expenses.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm. Next meeting to be held Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 pm.