

Board of Directors Meeting  
March 29, 2012  
Minutes

Present at the meeting were John Charron, Kate Mara, Jon Martin, Maye Hart, Doris George, Dee Pitcher, Carole Neveax, Geri Veroneau.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. John Charron asked if there were any items to be add to the agenda. As there were none, we then moved on to the Secretary's Report, which had been emailed to members prior to the meeting. Kate made a motion to accept the minutes, Dee Dee seconded it and the motion passed.

Doris then passed out Treasurer's Reports for February and March, as well as an interim report from March 15 – 29. Kate made a motion to accept February's report as submitted, and Jon seconded the motion. The motion passed. In the March Report, Doris reported that she had a deposit of \$109 but she didn't know where it came from. She also reported a deposit in the savings account of \$244 for the Sprinkler Fund from the 50/50 drawings and she said that she was in the process of going through the checking account to see what funds had been designated for the Sprinkler Fund but had not yet been separated out. Maye asked about the ticket sales figure on the report and Doris explained that the number did not include the Ticketleap figures, which were reported under a different line item. Dee Dee made a motion to accept the minutes and Kate seconded that. Kate then asked if we did a final report for all the shows and John said that we have a spread sheet that shows the budget and the actual figures and the differences in those two. Doris said that she had a preliminary report from Maye but that she hadn't done a final report herself, because sometimes it takes a month before the final receipts are received and processed. There being no further discussion on the March report, the motion to accept the report passed unanimously. We then moved to a discussion of the March interim report and Doris asked about bills from Creative Carpentry and she said that two of them said "fix exit light and install new bulb or new fixture" and she was confused as to whether these were separate bills or the same. Maye said that John Maddox had fixed a light by replacing the battery and then it failed again, which meant that the whole unit had to be replaced. Dee Dee made a motion to accept the March interim report, Kate seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

We then moved to a discussion of shows. Maye said that by her calculation, it looked as though G2K State Fair took in \$2,135 in profits. She said it was a great show, and that she enjoyed it and the kids did too. Jon asked if the \$2,000 figure was what we took in after expenses and Maye said that it was. John asked what Maye was going to do next year, and Maye said she didn't know yet.

We then moved on to a discussion of Proof, the current show. Doris reported that the show was going very well and that the actors were doing a fantastic job, but

she said that it was not a subject that most people were interested in and so many were not coming to see the show. Jon said that he had a comment from an audience member who said that the language was objectionable and that he had seen the show previously at a Christian Academy and they had not used that language. Kate pointed out that technically changing the language goes against the licensing agreement and Doris said that they were told that they couldn't alter the language, but they did in some places anyway. Dee Dee asked how the audiences were and John said they had been 25, 30 and 40 for the three shows, with two more to go. Dee Dee said that her fear had been that the audiences would not be good and that was why she voted against doing Proof, even though she had no doubt that it was well acted. She said that the issue is that we need to fill our houses. Kate agreed and said that if we go with a drama in the future, we have to go with something more classic, better known, such as To Kill A Mockingbird, which could also be marketed to schools. Dee Dee said if you do a show with a bigger cast than just 4 people, you'll naturally have more people come to see the show. Kate said that Mal presented the show as almost like a mystery, with lots of twists and turns and she said it really was just a character drama and Doris said that if you read the script, you wouldn't see the potential; you'd think it was boring. John said we'd wait to see how the final figures worked out and then we'd decide where we go in the future with dramas.

We then turned to You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (YAGMCB, just so I don't have to keep typing all that out!). Geri reported that she has a lot of decisions to make that she hasn't made yet, but she had a sketch of a budget that she passed out to go over. She said that she wasn't sure that her advertising budget figure was reasonable, or if her assumption of 85 people per show was reasonable. She said that she felt that the show would be inexpensive to stage, with not a large set, or big costume show. John asked the cast number, and Geri said there were five members in the cast. He asked the number of shows she was proposing and she said three or four. She said she was considering a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday matinee, because in the summer people may have weekend activities scheduled and would therefore come to a show on Thursday night. John then said that her budget of \$150 for advertising was low, especially if she wanted to continue what we're doing for Man of LaMancha and Proof, and that \$500 minimum was more like it. Doris said that if Proof didn't spend the money on advertising they would not have the few numbers of audience that they had so far. Kate then asked about Red River Theater and the ad money spent there for Proof, and said that so far no one had said that they had seen those ads. Doris said that Nella, who is house manager, has been asking people on the way into the theater how they heard about the show, and that she'd have a better idea at the end of the show what had succeeded. Kate said that Red River ads were an interesting direction for us to go in, but she wasn't sure that it worked out. Maye then said that she had advised against doing the Red River ads, because the same people who read the Concord Monitor go to the Red River Theater, so we were spending extra money to reach the same people. Carole said that the Hippo Press might have been a better

idea, and Maye said that she had recommended that, but the Mal made the decision to go with Red River rather than the Hippo.

We then went back to discussing YAGMCB. Geri asked if the ticket estimate on her budget was correct and John said that would depend whether Granite Image did the tickets or Jim Hart did, because he can do them for the cheapest. He then said that Geri would know best about estimates for musicians and costumes and Geri said she was comfortable with her estimates for those items, but not for the tickets and the programs and the advertising. Maye said that she had pointed out before that the program is costing us a lot for each show, and that next year we'd be going back to doing the inserts, but for now, they ran about 75 cents a piece. Jon asked whether Geri's show would still be under NTW or under the Players' name and Maye said that both of the NTW shows this summer were really Players' shows because they were now insured under our policy. Carole pointed out that NTW had \$500 that they were contributing toward YAGMCB. Maye said that when tickets are done at Granite Image they run about \$120 but when Jim does them they are \$15, because the cost of the tickets is split up between the shows. Maye said she'd ask Jim if he would print tickets for Geri's show. John said that Geri's budget just needed to increase for advertising, depending on how much Geri wanted to do. Kate asked if Geri had decided on her dates for the show and Geri said she hadn't, but she was considering June 28, 29, 30 and July 1. John said she really only had to consider Carole's show, which is slated for August. Kate suggested that maybe that wasn't a problem because they could be rehearsing two shows at the same time, but Carole said that if she did a musical, then she wouldn't be able to have Geri for her accompanist. John said that Geri needed to pick a date and work with Carole to iron out the details. Maye said she needed to know when the auditions were so she could put them in the April Curtain Up.

Since we had no information on the summer show that Carole will be doing, it was agreed that we would discuss that at our next meeting and that Geri would firm up her dates in time for the April Curtain Up.

Maye reported that she still hadn't heard for Samuel French on the licensing for Grease. She said she still wanted to do the show, so she would call them again but if she couldn't get an answer then we'd have to go with something else. She said she'd been thinking about Gigi as an alternative or possibly West Side Story, which has a lot of dancing but would be directed toward the youth in the Players. Or, Maye said, we could go with Dee Dee's proposal for Thoroughly Modern Millie and she could step back and come up with something for the following year.

We then moved to the Christmas Show. Dee Dee said that she and Kate had not been able to get together but she had some ideas for a show with a lot of music, traditional Christmas songs with children involved. Kate said that they had agreed upon that before, and Dee Dee said that many of the songs folks already

know. Kate agreed about the kids and would like to see them in it, but she also thought they should have some other folks in the show that could come in and be ready to go without that much rehearsal. Dee Dee said that many of our adult performers have done these standard songs for so long that they already know them and would be ready to go in no time and that the kids wouldn't have to be there for every rehearsal. It was agreed that Dee Dee and Kate would continue to work on the show and would report back in April.

Maye reported that she had spoken to Minnie, who booked the Community Center, and to lease the kitchen and the big room upstairs, it would be \$275 for the room and \$50 for the kitchen, which includes the dishes and the silverware, etc. She said that Minnie told her that we would normally get a break on that price, but the Center was having financial difficulties, so she wouldn't be able to negotiate that price. Maye said that other anticipated expense would be for the linens, as we would need to rent tablecloths for the tables, which would run about \$100, so the total expenses would be about \$425. Jon asked if this was before you included the cost of the food and Maye said that was right. Maye said that she had been wavering between a price per ticket of \$25 and \$30 per ticket, but, given the up front expenses, she settled on \$30 per person, with a discount for a table of ten. She then said that to sell this event, we each need to go to our own particular group that we belong to, such as Plausawa valley CC, or John with Concord Hospital, or Jon with Locke Lake Colony, etc., and each of us sell a table, so that the burden to sell all the tickets doesn't just fall on Maye. She also said that the money had to be collected up front, so that she could afford to pay for the food and room expenses. She said that the show would be Suitehearts, which Carole did in dinner theater for the Majestic, a Millmore and VanZant play. Dee Dee asked if there was a set involved and Carole said it was minimal and Maye said that they were working on the details of that. Dee Dee then asked how many people Maye envisioned would come, and Maye said 80 people at least. Dee Dee asked if she'd thought about just using the downstairs kitchen area, which would cost less money and use less labor to truck the food upstairs, and has bathrooms right there. Maye said that she had thought about that but that there wouldn't be enough room to do the dinner and the show in that room. John then said that, let's say that everyone couldn't sell a table, then we'd need some advertising which would be an additional cost and Maye said that would mean another \$89 for an ad in the Sun. Dee Dee then said that we might have some senior who may not be able to climb the stairs to the third floor. John then said that we would keep going forward with the plans, since the Board approved it. Maye said that she was hoping to make as much money as possible and if we sold 80 tickets, that's \$2400, and you have fixed expenses of \$500 and then the cost of food, which would be around \$500, so you make \$1000 or so. She said it's a lot of work, but there's no other way to maximize the amount you can make. So for three days of incredible work, you make \$1000. John said to keep the Board in the loop and we'd keep moving forward with the event. Maye said that the biggest thing is for everyone to pitch in with the sales for the event. She said that she would be preparing some articles for the Sun, but that everyone should

be ready to sell tickets. Jon asked for posters and Maye said that she would get some. Dee Dee asked if it was a buffet or a sit-down dinner and Maye said that she would be serving from a buffet line, but that Players would be waiting tables and clearing them. Maye also said that she would be investing the alcohol rules as well.

Maye said that the newsletter should be coming out in the next week if we got the info from Geri.

Dee Dee reported that we were in for the bingo charitable gambling in Loudon at the dog racetrack, beginning in June. We have to pay a \$400 start up fee and that's it, the only thing they ask is that we advertise and get the word out to come and support us at the bingo games. She said that, depending on crowds, profits have been anywhere from \$200 to \$2000 per weekend. It was agreed that we would promote this in our newsletter, and encourage folks to go there on weekends, Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Maye asked Dee Dee if she could get some sort of write-up from them with all the particulars and Dee Dee said she would look into it. Dee Dee said she'd let Doris know when we needed the money.

Maye reported that she had spoken to Laura Okrent regarding our help with balloon rally before she left on vacation and told Laura that the Players would do the job. Laura is still talking about a 50% split, which could be dependent on the weather. Maye said she would continue negotiations toward an extra donation from the Rotary for the Sprinkler Fund. Kate asked if they were going to buy all the food and Maye said they were, and that they'd supply all the equipment as well, and we're just going to man the booth to cook and serve. Maye said she didn't think that we had to work the pancake breakfast. So our job would be Friday and Saturday, and that we'd set up a shift system so we all didn't have to be there all the time.

John suggested that we put a flyer in the programs for bingo, and maybe put a poster in the marquees when there isn't a show.

Kate said that as soon as she had NTW's dates for their shows, she would get going on the band night.

We turned to painting the front of the theater and it was agreed that we had to wait until it gets warmed to schedule that date. Jon asked whether we would be scraping the paint prior to repainting and John said we should power wash it. Maye said that we could paint the first level, but don't have the equipment to do the sideboards on the second and third level. John suggested renting a bucket lift for the weekend and Maye said that that we'd have to be careful of the electric wires in front of the building. Maye then said that Stan Bailey used to come by and pressure wash the vinyl siding for free. Maye said she bought some stuff to take the graffiti off the side of the building. Maye said that we should ask John

Ward if he would do the pressure washing. Jon asked who would do that and Maye said let's wait until we get closer to the painting.

Maye asked if anyone objected to Jim Hart taking over the liaison with the Fire Department and no one objected. Doris then said that the night Proof opened they got a surprise visit from Don Tyler with John Maddox and they were told they need emergency lights back stage, so he's talking about new stuff. Maye said that Jim had not heard about that and the deal between Jim and Don was that anything that Don needed he was to go through Jim. Maye said she will have Jim contact Don Tyler.

Maye said the Fiddler contest was May 11. Geri asked if the speaker would be coming in the night before and Maye vaguely remembered an email regarding that. Maye said she'd follow up on that and get back to the Board.

Kate asked about the Annual Meeting and Maye said that she had offered her house and John said that was good. It was decided that we had to wait until Geri came up with a date and then we'd come up with a date. John asked if there was any objection to having the meeting at Maye's house, and Jon said that there are people that will not go to the meeting because it's at Maye's house. He said he thought it wasn't important, but we needed to consider that. Jon asked if we'd still have time if we wait until next month to get the ballots out. Maye asked if she should start putting info in the newsletter about running for the positions open on the Board and said there were two openings. John said there were three, because Doris was resigning. Doris said that she just couldn't do everything, and it was agreed that Maye would put it in the newsletter that we would be looking for three people to run for the Board. Kate then asked whether we would be proposing an increase in the Board, given the merger with NTW. John said that the Board had already approved the consolidation of the groups, but we had two positions for observers of the Board during the transition period who were not allowed to vote, so the question is whether we increase the size of the Board. Dee Dee said she thought the membership had to vote on that. But John said that they would have to vote if we were going to increase the size of the Board, but now that NTW members will be Players' members, they can run for open positions on the Board too. John said he personally didn't think that increasing the size of the Board would accomplish anything, and that there are three openings, so everyone can run. Carole said then that they had to run for the Board in order to sit on the Board. And John said that they could still come to the meetings, but the voting members would be members of the Board. Maye agreed that we didn't need to increase the size of the Board.

Jon asked again if we were going to have enough time to do all the things, and Maye said that the ballot would be in the newsletter in May. Jon then asked if we had resolved the issue of the definition of a current member after the discussions from the last annual meeting and it was agreed that we had not yet resolved it. John said that you had to be a member for a year to vote and Kate said not

according to the By-Laws. Maye said that it was a matter of how we defined current member, and that a discussion had taken place about how in other groups, such as Wolfeboro, you have to have been a member for a year before you can vote in elections. John said that the members of the Players have to agree to that modification at this years' meeting and that it wouldn't go into effect until the following year. So Jon said that a person can just give their membership dues at the meeting and vote that day, and John said that's the way it would be for this year. Jon asked if the Board had to be supportive of a change and John said yes. Maye said it would be a one sentence change defining how long you had to be a member to vote. Maye asked if we should come up with language to present that to the membership. Geri said she didn't like that change at all because if they joined in the spring they wouldn't be able to vote until the following year. So John suggested that we knock the time period down from a year to six months. Jon said that six months was a good time period. John agreed with Maye that we had to define the definition, and Maye said that we had to come up with some wording and decide what the time period would be. Dee Dee asked whether a long time member, who had not paid their dues for a year, say, and then returned, would they not be able to vote for six months. And John said yes. Maye said that she usually sends out a couple of issues – June, July and August telling people that their memberships are due, and that this might be an impetus for them to pay on time. Kate said that we're trying to encourage membership and she felt that any limit on voting was counterproductive to that end. John then said that we needed language that said that you had to be an active member for whatever time period prior to being able to vote. Maye made a motion that the time period would be six months, Jon seconded the motion. The motion passed five votes to one opposed. It was agreed that Maye would come up with the verbiage for the By-Law change for the ballot.

Kate then brought up that there had been some negative comments made on the last ballot that she felt were inappropriate. John asked did she mean the ballot itself and Kate said she meant the bios. John asked who created the bios and Maye said that everybody wrote their own, and that she deliberately did not edit them. Carole said that in one of the bios the person and said that they were running because of the disparity (not sure if that was the word) as though there was dissention in the group. Maye said that those were the person's words and Dee Dee said that maybe they should have been edited out, and Maye said that, as the editor, she felt she should stay out of the opinions of people who were running for the Board. Kate said she didn't feel that the newsletter was a place to air negative feelings. John said that while he agreed that was not a good place for those feelings, if someone is truly running because of negative feeling, you'd like to think that the membership might not vote for that. Kate said that something like that belonged in a newspaper ad, but not in something that the Board puts out. John said that that was a freedom of speech issue and Kate said that it had no place in a publication that the Board is paying for.

Dee Dee then asked if the Players had any stage lights “hanging around here” that are available because Chichester is in great need of lights. Kate said that Andrew Pinard was also interested in lights. Maye said that we had talked about this and the ones we were going to keep are the new ones and that we have old ones that require quite a bit of maintenance, with old wiring. Kate said that someone like Andy Pinard that does lighting and can fix them. John asked if Jim was going to do an inventory and Maye said yes, and he said that what we have here are really old light, some of which could be used for parts. Maye said if that wasn't acceptable to the Board then they had to come up with what they wanted to do. She also said that Pittsfield High School is also very much in need of lights and she's mentioned that before to the Board. John suggested that we get a list of what lights we have and determine what we need to keep and what we don't. Maye said she would ask Jim for an inventory.

Doris asked if we could get the bathroom light fixed in the handicapped bathroom downstairs. Carole said she would have Tony check on the sale rack at Home Depot and then come out and put up the light in the bathroom.

Dee Dee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, Jon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maye Hart, Secretary