

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 19, 2011**  
**Minutes**

Present at the meeting were John Charron, Doris George, Maye Hart, Kate Mara, Carole Neveux, Geri Veroneau. Guest was Jim Hart who arrived at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by John Charron at 7:01 pm. He passed out agendas and asked if anyone had anything to add to the agenda. Maye asked to add under fundraisers a Balloon Rally update as well as the wording for the proposed By-Law change. She also requested that the Ad campaign be added and said that sometime after 8 pm, Jim Hart would be joining them with a lighting inventory and report.

John then asked if there were any changes to the Secretary's report that Maye sent out. Maye said that only John responded with an OK. John asked for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report and Kate made that motion, seconded by Doris and the report was accepted.

We then turned to the Treasurer's Report. Doris said that she had not gotten a chance to do the final numbers on Proof, but that we were somewhere around \$1900 for a profit. Maye asked Doris to get her an address for Indian Meadow Farms, who had donated \$1000, so that she could send a thank you note to them. Doris then said that she had a bill for \$16 from Tams Witmark, and didn't know who had ordered from them. Maye said that she had ordered perusals from them for her fall show and that she was planning on paying the bill herself. Kate said that she felt that the Board should be covering the cost for perusals, as long as it wasn't out of control and John agreed as did Doris, so it was agreed that the Players would pay for the perusal. John then asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Kate made that motion, Maye seconded it, and the motion passed. John and Maye signed a copy of the manifest rather than the original that Doris had inadvertently left at home.

Doris reported that all the Proof shows went really well and that we did make money on it because there weren't a lot of expenses. She said that the biggest expense was the royalties, and that the set only cost about \$300. Kate asked for the final rough numbers, and Doris said that the expenses were around \$850 and the income was \$3113, and she did not have a bill for the Red River advertising yet, but the show did make money.

We then turned to a discussion of Charlie Brown. Geri reported that the auditions were not well attended and that she only had four women try out. She needed 4 men and 2 women, and Snoopy could be played by either a man or a woman. She said that she had other feelers out for additional cast and didn't think that holding more auditions was necessary because she was going to pull cast from

other resources. Kate asked if we could put a message on the website saying that we're still trying to round out the cast. Maye said that she could put a message out to NHCTA and nh-ma-theater lovers email groups. Geri then said that she had found out through Kate that the leukemia and lymphoma society had adopted Charlie Brown as their theme for the year and so Kate contact the society and they have given us permission to use their logo. In return we would give them a dollar of every ticket and we would do some outreach in the community to maybe get Senior Center people to do some refreshments and baked goods that we could sell during the performances at intermission. John said that we really don't have the capability to put up a refreshment stand. Kate said that she thought we could sell them right outside the door because most people go outside anyway. Carole said that she had sold them in the handicapped area and they made a pretty good amount from them. Kate said that we haven't really tried selling refreshments and that she knows that she does very well on concessions at school and can make at least \$200. Geri said that that was her experience with the community players as well, which is only contributions. Geri said that the refreshments were not as important as the community outreach, getting other people in the community to become aware of what we're doing and sign on to the project and thus bring more people in. Kate then said that she had put a feeler out to WJYY asking them if they would help us to promote given that it is a good cause, given that there was a child in the community effected and she said that Nasi(SP?) said that he could set up a taped interview.

John said that he thought that the promotion ideas were great but that the first thing we had to do was get a cast, the second thing was to establish the ticket price as it is a musical and to have the Board approve that, and then the Board needs to approve whether we're going to make a donation out of that ticket price. John said that the typical ticket price for a musical is \$15, and he sought a motion to donate \$1 of that price to the leukemia foundation. Kate made a motion to donate \$1 from each ticket to the leukemia/lymphoma association. Doris seconded the motion. The motion passed with three voting yes and one abstention.

John then said that he didn't think that we needed to have any further discussion on the "snack shack" proposal. He said that we've never known how much the PYW makes on refreshments from our shows and that he'd hate to pull from their profits. Carole said that she sold \$108 on refreshments for the three shows of The Odd Couple. John said that maybe we should look at concession going forward. Kate said that she thought it was a good starting point and that she had put in a call to the senior center but the director wasn't there, but if they're willing to handle it, it would be a widening our outreach by bringing in more people that gives us a greater audience potential. She also said this would be a good experiment to see where this would potentially go because we haven't done it before. John said that we had to be careful because this was the Pittsfield Players and leukemia is a special thing and if we were going to start bringing in

ancillary groups to hang our hats on he thought it could be dangerous. Carole asked for a clarification of John's position. John said that if we were raising money continually for other groups, we needed to know what the Players were gaining out of it. Kate said that we're getting free promo that we wouldn't have gotten otherwise. John said that on this show, it would be great, but he was concerned that we would be getting wrapped up with other groups like breast cancer or a hundred different other things. Kate said that we have done a show with the proceeds going to the breast cancer fund. Maye then spoke up and said that the Players are already losing money on tickets because we have a \$2 discount for members and a flex ticket that's been abused and she wanted to remind the Board that we are a not for profit group and we need money too and then she asked if she was to be involved as the publicity chairman at all or if Kate was going to take the lead for this show.

Kate then said that she resented Maye's remark because actually if you look back on it Kate was publicity chairman and she got pushed out the way, and all she had done in this case was to put out some feelers, and that she felt that her talents were being under utilized. Maye said that was fine, she just wanted to know what her role was to be in this production. Geri then said that she was hoping that Maye would be willing to help out and Maye said she certainly was willing to help, but she was just asking what arrangement Geri had made in this regard. Kate then said that she knew how Maye felt, having been left out before. John said we were off track, but Kate said the issue needed to be settled. John said that we were not here to pit people against people, we're here to do what's best for the Players and, in Maye's defense, we're here to make money and he agreed that giving a dollar to leukemia is a great cause but he was concerned because we're barely making ends meet. Kate then brought up the issue of Man of LaMancha spending a \$7,000 budget in the past and yet now John was worried about giving a dollar to another cause. John said that a profit is a profit, and he then said that he would go on record saying that he would hang his hat on the number of people that had never seen a show in Pittsfield that came to LaMancha and that will come back and see future shows. So \$500 or \$10,000 it didn't matter, he said, it was a profit and then he said that people could keep taking cheap shots at him but that the bottom line was that it was a fantastic show. Kate said that she wasn't taking a cheap shot, John disagreed, and Kate said we were talking about money and that one show was the same as another. John said that he had already voted to give a dollar to the leukemia association, but he still said that his concern was that we had to be making money for the Players.

Carole then asked if we could raise the price of the ticket to \$16. She said we could go out there with advertising that we're doing this for the leukemia fund, just like they did with This Here City, then the Players will still get their \$15, with a dollar still going to the leukemia association.

Maye then apologized for even bringing up the issue of publicity for Charlie Brown. John said there was no issue about the tie-in with the leukemia association, and Kate said that we haven't signed any contract with anyone. John said the Board has already approved that we're going to give a dollar to the leukemia association and that it didn't matter whether WJYY was involved, but Maye was in charge of publicity as it stands and that we have to incorporate all the people who are involved in order to make the Players a success.

Kate then said that she didn't think that she had anything more to contribute to the Board so she was just going to leave. Carole asked her not to leave. Kate said she was tired of fighting uphill and that she had the concern of the theater at heart too. John said we all have that concern and that you can't just get up and walk away because we've all had frustrating moment and if we all got up and walked away there wouldn't be a Board. He said that we all have to march the march and that the ultimate goal for the Players was to do the best we can. And he said that he'd be the first to say that he only made \$500 on LaMancha but that it was one of the best shows the Players have ever done and a lot of people had a lot of fun and there was no controversy. He said the house was sold out every night and he can't control that there was \$6000 between royalties and the band and he said that his \$900 for set offset the cost of set for Proof because they didn't have to buy anything because all the stuff was there, proving that it does trickle down. He said it was all about the Pittsfield Players, it was not individualistic here. Kate said that that's what she had in mind when she put out these feelers, that maybe we could just go in a different direction and if you look on the record she was on the publicity committee. John said it's not about who's there or who's where, we're supposed to be a unified team working together and for whatever reason it's not happening and we need to bring that back together.

He then said that as it stands right now, the leukemia association has been approved to get a dollar from each ticket, which will be \$15, so we'll make \$14. He said that going forward we have to sure what we gain from this. Kate said that she had already told him what we gained and that was number one, networking out and getting other folks involved and she said that sometimes she thinks that we hold a lot of stuff into the Board and that we need wider networks and she said that she thought some people would be more inclined to say that maybe they would go to the show because it is for a good cause. Kate said that she will not benefit from this, nor will the child at her school directly benefit from it, and that the money will go to research. She said we talk all the time about community and that we allow certain programs to happen in the theater and give certain breaks because of community and that some of these people who have leukemia are also part of our community as well. John said that he did not disagree with anything that Kate said, but his point was that we have no data or research, and this might be the beginning, to say what benefits the Players gain by doing this. So if we do this, which we already agreed we were going to do, we need to find out from the audience, like they did at Proof, when they asked how they heard about the show, so that we can recognize if there's some value to this. He said if

there is value, then he doesn't disagree that we should do more of it. He said our primary focus is to make money for the Players. He said that we have to ask the pointed questions such as are you here because of the link to the leukemia foundation, or because you saw it in the Sun and wanted to come anyway in order to try to get some data as to whether this works or it doesn't work.

Kate then pointed out that technically, this was Northwood's last show, not the Players, and John said that at the last meeting we agreed that this was a Players show. Carole asked if the senior center was going to handle the bake sale, and Kate said she was just trying to get an idea of whether that was something they'd want to do because if some of the seniors at the center are baking they're going to let other seniors know about it and it creates a network. Carole asked if the proceeds from the sale would go to the Players, or the senior center, or who, and Kate said that her intention was to give the leukemia association the proceeds. Carole then asked if we would be doing a 50/50 raffle at the show and Geri said yes. John said that a 50/50 raffle should be a standard going forward.

Maye asked if she could have the show dates for Charlie Brown and Geri said they were Thursday, June 28, Friday, June 29, Saturday, June 30 and Sunday, July 1 at 2 pm. Geri said the night shows would be at 8 pm.

Carole did not yet know what was going to be produced for the summer show. She said it depended on Geri's schedule because she would be the accompanist if she does the Broadway revue. She said she will know by next month's meeting. She asked Maye when she would be holding auditions and Maye said mid-August. Carole asked if Maye could do auditions on a set and Maye said sure, so Carole said her show would probably run the last week of August or the week before that.

Maye reported that she had never heard back from Samuel French and so she went looking for another show to do and found a script that she really liked called I Remember Mama, and it has kids in it, it has adults, it's a fabulous show and she would like to propose it. She said she had no idea what the royalties were yet but the show is family, wholesome, and its right up her alley. She said it was the last musical that Richard Rodgers wrote the music to. Doris made a motion to accept I Remember Mama as the fall musical, Kate seconded it, and the motion passed. Maye said that she would work on getting performance dates and royalty information for the next meeting.

Kate reported that the Christmas Show would be a collection of musical numbers that she and Dee Dee would put together.

Maye reported that she had a discussion with a friend who does newsletters and she said that she was having the same problem that we were to get people to go to electronic formats, but she said that often if you start eletters, other people tend to get on board. Maye said that she only has 30 names, but 30 times the

postage and the printing might be worth putting it together. Maye's friend told her about a web program that makes it easier to do and so Maye will be talking to her to try to get newsletters going.

On the subject of Balloon Rally, Maye reported that she had a call from Laura Okrent and they had scheduled a meeting for Monday, April 30. Laura had reported, however, that there is some discussion as to whether there will even be a Rally this year, due to police and fire department issues with overtime, but she'll know more after Wednesday when the Rotary was intending to meet with the Selectmen. Maye said that was a fundraiser that may or may not happen. She then said that the dinner and a show fundraiser had to be postponed until September and she said that she understood Kate's frustration in a way because she couldn't understand why we can't all work together on projects like this. She said that the short time span between the time she came home from vacation and the date possibly contributed to the problem, but she said that it was important that we all work together on these fundraisers or we're not going to be able to raise the money that we need for the Sprinkler Fund. She said that she sometimes gets the feeling that she's out there tap dancing as fast as she can to raise money and no one else is helping. She said that Carole and she were determined to pull off the event in September and that she hoped that when she and Carole asked the Board members to invite six friends to come to the event that they do so, because that's the only way we're going to raise money.

John said that he agreed that the Board need to be unified but he said that unfortunately the Board can't do everything. Maye said that in a major fundraising effort like this every Board member must be involved. She said that the Board is responsible for getting a Sprinkler system in the theater and therefore, the Board is responsible for raising the money to do that, and if we don't all work toward that goal, with 50/50 raffles and other fundraisers, to support them and sell tickets to them, then it's not going to happen, and eventually the fire department is going to come in and close us down. Kate said that she had tickets sold, so did John. He said that all he could do was put up a poster at the hospital. Maye said she wasn't going to belabor the point at this time, but we all had to work on these projects. Kate said she felt that we all had to have a piece of the project, and that sometimes she felt that she'd like to be more involved than just selling tickets. She felt that if members could participate more in the meal they'd feel more ownership in the project. She also said she had questions about doing this upstairs at the senior center as she felt that some of our supporters were seniors and going up to the third floor was hard for them. Maye said that Carole and she were discussing that and that we had no other place in town to have the event but that they were talking about having the meal downstairs and then bringing people to the theater to see the show. Maye said that if Kate had these objections before, she needed to say them. Kate agreed but said that she brings them up and, she's had discussions with people who say that she's been targeted as the "bad girl" of the Board and that bothers her. John said that the concern about going to the third floor had been brought up at the last Board

meeting. Carole said that she's been pushing for having the dinner at the senior center and then coming to the theater for the show, but she brought up the possibility of using the Elk's Club in Epsom and Maye said the American Legion Hall might be a possibility as well. Maye said that they should look into the cost and that she'd chosen the community center because she thought that was the cheapest way to go. She said that she had been to parties at the community center and they were fine. She said that she'd had one inquiry about handicapped accessibility and clearly, the venue wouldn't have been. Maye said that she and Carole would work on it. Geri said that she'd be willing to help with cooking so that Maye wouldn't be doing the meal by herself, and Maye said not to worry, that she already had volunteers that had called her and asked if they could help. She said that that was the way she got her volunteers, that they called her. Carole said that Maye and she would iron out all the details.

John went back to the Balloon Rally and asked when Maye would know whether it was on or off and Maye said that Laura would call her if they had decided not to have the Rally, and if they didn't know yet, Maye and Laura would still meet on April 30.

The Board then turned to the subject of painting the front of the theater. John said that we've been asking for volunteers but he didn't think Maye had gotten any response. Maye said that getting a painting team together was going to require a phone call to each of them as soon as we know when we want to do the job and she said it also probably required hauling a grill down to the theater and providing burgers and dogs for the crew for the weekend. John suggested that we promote this at the Annual meeting and Maye said we should have a sign-up sheet at that time. Carole said that she had the new light for the handicapped bathroom and that Jim was going to show her where the fuse was so that Tony could install it.

Under new business, the Fiddler Contest is slated for May 11, and on May 10 the Pittsfield Historical Society is meeting in the theater. Doris had volunteered to be the Board member on duty for those nights. Maye asked who was going to set up the stage for the events, putting up the blue curtain and maybe some legs. It was agreed that John and Doris would do the stage.

Maye then said that it was nearing the time to sell ads again for the program book and she said she had the forms and she will bring them in with the ad attached to them and we'll split them up and all go out and sell them. She said if there were new folks who might want an ad there will be extra forms for that. It was agreed not to raise the price of the ads. We have a drop dead date to sell them of the first of July. Carole asked if we had sold the inside covers yet and Maye said that last year they had been taken, but they could be moved.

Maye then passed out the new wording for the By-Law change redefining voting members as those who have been a member for six months. The change is to

Article III, Section (3.2) and will read: For the purposes of voting at annual meetings and at special membership meetings, each member of the Board and each person who holds an individual membership for at least six months prior to the meeting shall be allowed one vote; and each family which holds a family membership for at least six months prior to the meeting shall be allowed two votes. Members must be a minimum of sixteen years old to vote.

John asked how the members would get the wording and Maye said that it would go out in the May issue of Curtain Up in an extra page inserted into the edition. That page will contain the bios of those running for the Board, the merger proposal, the By-Law proposal, and the ballot.

John then brought up the subject of the Annual Meeting and the Board set the date for Sunday June 10 at 2pm.

Carole asked if we had a calendar and said she wanted to get the rehearsal dates posted. Maye said that she could put it on the website, and Geri said she knew how to do it and Maye said that would be fine.

Maye reported that she had an inquiry from Andi Riel regarding a concert for Old Home Days, which the Players have done for the last 20 years with Encore. Jon had said that we should do a Broadway show and Maye thought that she might be able to put together a show using the kid's workshop group and her performance CDs. She contacted the kids and got an OK reception, but then she thought that for the last two or three years there were no more than 20 audience members for those shows and so she said she didn't think it was worth the effort. She said that on the Friday night of Old Home Days folks were busy prepping their floats and so forth and the audience just wasn't there for a show. Maye made a motion not to do an Old Home Days show this year, Kate seconded it and the motion passed.

Maye then passed out copies of the lighting inventory that Jim Hart had done for the Board to look over. When Jim arrived, John asked that when you get down to the selling of the lights and you say that you'd keep 8 and that "nobody in their right mind would buy the others" because of the asbestos wiring, but if you were to sell those that you're talking about to an organization such as Chichester school, where they use the lights once a year, isn't there a benefit to them and not us? Jim said that the 8 lights he talked about were Par 64's, because we don't use them. Maye said that Jim had reported that the only ellipsoids that he would even consider selling are old, and Jim added that in reality those ellipsoids are a problem and it doesn't make a difference whether you let them sit and use them once a year or not. He said that lights deteriorate even if they sit, and he said that we don't even use our lights that much because of the work lights on stage, so when you turn them on the bulbs go. He said that letting lights sit causes them to rust, causes the sockets to fail, and that Jim replaces the sockets on those lights and it takes a while to replace them because the sockets are not



in stock anymore. He said that he went on ebay and you can get decent Altman lights, that you can get parts for, for as cheap as \$50. John said that he interpreted Jim's report to say that anything we had would basically be good for parts. Jim said that we need more ellipsoids for color because right now we're using the parcans and they're not conducive to our theater because they have a lot of light coming out of the back of them. He said that once he reconditioned our existing lights, he would use ellipsoids in place of those cans, but he said that would take awhile because the sockets are \$22 a piece and the wires are \$10, and he said then they'd be useable. He said that prefocused sockets are a problem, even in the Frenels.

John asked Jim for a summation of what his recommendation is about our lights. Jim said we need to get rid of some of the cans, he said he didn't think people would want the ellipsoids and he thought we could fix them and use some of them for parts and fix and use the others for color, and that the rest of the frenels need to get repaired and the asbestos wires need to be phased out. He also said we have analog lighting boards that we can get rid of. He said we need to keep the Players' old one, and he said the board from Northwood is identical to ours, so we don't need that. He said there's another dimmer pack and a single scene board in the attic in a case. He said the Northwood dimmer packs are all Edison connector types and ours are all stage pin and he said you can adapt them to a certain extent but they're all analog, which don't fit on our board. He said he was trying to find a replacement adapter that would enable us to run analog stuff and we would be able to run the Northwood stuff on that as well, however, you would have to have adapters for all the lights.

John said that the only lights Jim recommended getting rid of are the cans and Jim agreed, adding that one of the follow spots could also go. John asked if the cans could benefit Chichester and Jim said he didn't know. He said that cans are non-focusable and are basically wash lights. John asked if it would be safe to assume then that everything that's hanging is good and Jim agreed and said that everything on stage is also good as well as the lights on the back bar. He said there were four ellipsoid lights in the booth that did not work and he believes they have socket problems, as well as two frenels that he hasn't had a chance to fix. He said he knew that some of the frenels that Northwood brought were going to require work and in any case he would be removing the asbestos wiring from them. Kate asked how often we use parts in other lights and Jim said he used them all the time and it's usually the electrical parts that he uses. He only had to replace a lens once. Kate then asked about clearing the second floor stage of the theater for use for rehearsals and so forth and Jim said that what he wanted to do was to get rid of some of the cans in the attic on the two bars, and he wanted to add a couple of more bars in the attic to store little lights that are used for lighting backdrops. John asked if we get to the point after cannibalizing lights where we just throw them away and Jim said that if you get to that point, you would just junk the rest. Kate asked if there was a timeline for getting rid of the cans and clearing the stage. Jim said we'd need to find someone who wanted

them. John asked the value of a can and Jim said that ebay has them for \$25 to \$30. He also said that you could get some decent Altman ellipsoids for \$50. He said he had to fix a light from Northwood that was missing a piece and that would cost almost \$50 for the parts and he said you could almost buy a used light for that amount. John asked if Jim could say to the Board which lights we didn't want anymore and Jim said yes he could and he also said there were some that needed to be junked. John said that wasn't clearly identified in Jim's report and Jim said if you look at the list of lights on the stage and look at the ones that have asterisks are classified as junk, such as 3 kleigles and the row of pictures that he has identified.

Jim told Kate that if she was looking for lights there are many on ebay of all different focal lengths and they are most under \$100. Kate said that she didn't really know what she would be getting and Jim offered to help her figure that out. Maye mentioned that Pittsfield might need cans and she said that she would check with them to see if they could use them. John asked Kate to assess if she could use them. John asked if the Board wanted to table the light subject until Kate could assess what she needed and Maye could contact Pittsfield. Kate said she didn't think she needed cans. John asked if there was a market for cans on ebay and Jim said maybe. He then said that Prescott Park might want them or some other non-profit. John suggested that we table the subject for a month, and Jim said if anyone knew anyone who wanted a board and a dimmer pack and Kate said she needed one, but Kate didn't know whether she had an analog or digital board, but she said it was about five years old. We agreed to table the light discussion until the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Doris, seconded by Maye and the meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Maye Hart, Secretary