



THE

BACKSTAGE PASS

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June 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETING SET FOR JUNE 24

The Players Workshop annual general membership business meeting and election of new members to the board of directors will be held June 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the workshop.

Because of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, those attending will be required to maintain social distancing and to wear masks.

Also, because some members of PW may be uncomfortable with person-to-person interaction, even in a venue as large as the PW auditorium, for the first time absentee ballots will be allowed; **however, there is a restriction.**

Since the PW by-laws do not allow proxy voting, a mail-in ballot will be counted **only if the person who sent in the ballot also attends the meeting online via ZOOM!** Those wishing to take advantage of this should contact Kent Lewis (kwlawyer@msn.com), who will explain how a ZOOM meeting works and arrange for the member's attendance via ZOOM on June 24.

In addition, proposed changes to the Players Workshop by-laws will be presented to members, for voting. Election of the president will also occur.

Only dues-paying Players Workshop members may vote on any matter presented to the general membership; however, anyone interested in learning more about Players Workshop is welcome to attend the meeting. For more information, contact Pres. Mary Fox.

STATUS OF 2020-21 SEASON

UNCLEAR!

Although the board of directors has selected a season of shows for 2020-21, they are still wrestling with how to handle the theatrical season in a time of pandemic restrictions and guidelines.

They will announce their final decision after the July board meeting. They are grateful to the Players Workshop patrons for their patience in this matter.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Six candidates are vying for the five open positions on the PW Board of Directors. Below (in alphabetical order) are the answers (edited for space) they provided to questions asked by the nominations committee.

KARA EWINGER has been involved with PW since she was a child, during the times when her parents were living in Burlington. She most recently portrayed Mme. Curie in *The Radiant*. Kara would like to serve on the board to be a part of the team helping PW grow. She feels she can also utilize her position at the Capitol Theater to help both organizations work together, to foster arts in the community. She is very interested in working with the youth production committee team and is also interested in the marketing and production committees. She says, "Theater is a powerful outlet for our community . . . in our world today it is especially important in helping an audience to step into someone else's shoes, encouraging empathy and showing how we are all much more alike than different."

BRITTANY GERST has been involved in PW on the production side, having run lights/sounds for *Savannah Sipping Society* and serving as stage manager for two of the summer youth productions, *Are Dragons Real?* and *Girls Only*; in fact, she currently serves on PW's young actors production committee. She would like to be on the board to have a voice in the decisions which will help PW grow. She says, "Technology is becoming mainstream, and, being in the millennial generation, I can add input to those decisions." Although she would like to be involved in multiple theatrical areas in the future, right now she would like to concentrate on the YAP committee and be active in board decisions.

KEVIN GOBBLE was appointed 2 years ago, to fill out an unexpired term; in that short time he has been on audit, by-laws, house/grounds, and membership and involvement committees. He has also appeared in several plays and regularly works at theater clean-up days. He says he would like to continue on the board "to help navigate through these unprecedented times and to help keep the theatre relevant. It has meant many things to many people, and I'm sure Burlington will continue to support it if we can foster the atmosphere of inclusion and provide entertainment that also provides revenue sufficient to maintain the theater's viability." He will continue to audition and would like to continue his work with the house/grounds committee; he is also interested in set construction.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES (con't.)

DUANE HARTMAN became involved in PW when his daughter was cast in *Girls Only*; bringing her to and watching rehearsals introduced him to a “great experience that . . . others should experience.” He made his stage debut in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, when he brought his daughter to auditions, was asked to read some lines to “fill-in” during auditions, and ended up being cast as the fireman. During practices he filled in for absent actors, helped decorate and drove the parade float for the Burlington Holiday Parade, corralled kids, plus, fixed and repaired things around the workshop,” to help make things a little safer.” He feels he can fill many roles on the board and would like to serve “to see the excitement I saw during the last play, in others. I would like to show that anyone can enjoy a show or even participating in a play.” He feels his best talents would be in the area of fixing and repairing things around the workshop, but he is open to helping wherever needed.

KENT LEWIS has been a part of PW since 1985 and has been involved in virtually every aspect of this theater. He has been in too many shows to count and has directed over 20 shows. He says “I have been on the board for a long time. I think I went on in 1990, but will have to check the records.” He served as board president for 5 years. Currently he serves on the marketing and house/grounds committees. He would like to remain on the board to “continue to contribute to the future of the theater, both as a board member and as an active member.” He is willing to become involved in whatever needs to be done.

GRETCHEN LEWIS has been involved in PW for many years and in several areas of production—painting sets, gathering props, handling costumes, being a dresser, running concessions, working on clean-up days, running lights/camera during shows, etc. She is a long-time member of the board and has been president and secretary in the past; currently she is in charge of the costume shop, helps run the box office, and maintains the hard-copy mailing list for *The Backstage Pass*. She is the chair of the ticket sales committee and would like to continue on the board “in order to continue with the work being done,

especially in regard to online ticketing and reservations, and to promote the theater.” She is interested in serving on the production committee again.

PRES. CANDIDATE MARY FOX

Current PW board president Mary Fox is seeking a third one-year term as president of Players Workshop. Below are her responses to questions posed by the nominating committee.

Mary Fox became involved in PW in 2014 when she was cast in *Sex Please We're Sixty*, and she “fell in love” with the workshop and community theater. She has since appeared in 3 additional plays, plus, has served as assistant director, director, producer, stage manager, book holder, dresser, reservationist, concession worker, helper with youth workshops, etc. She assists with the garage sale each summer, rarely misses a PW work day, and has worked on numerous fundraisers. She served on the board as an at-large member for 3 years and is completing her 2nd year as president. She says, “I have a passion for Players Workshop. The more I give to PW, the more it enhances my life. I have grown as a person and a leader during my time here. I have a great desire to help our theater be successful in the 21st century.” She has “found that I don’t understand as much as I would like to about ticket sales . . . and box office processes,” so she would like to become more involved in that.

The Backstage Pass will continue its series profiling PW board members & standing committees in the next ed.

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