

Board of Directors Candidate Statements

2018 Annual Meeting

Four County Players

Elaine Fogliani, standing for reelection

Elaine has been involved with Four County Players for 40 years. She auditioned for *Ten Little Indians* and Bill Thomas, a founder of the theater, cast her in the role of the doctor. She also played Mrs. Keller in *Miracle Worker* directed by Frank Faust. She allowed Bill Thomas to age her through make-up so she could play the part of the grandmother in *Uncle Vanya*. She was the wife beside her late husband, Tony, in the one-act play, *To Open Pry Cover*, directed by Martha Robinson. She was cast as Faye in the Virginia Players production of Neil Simon's *Chapter Two*. She has directed numerous shows at Four County. Her directorial debut was with the show, *House at Pooh Corner*, with children playing all the roles. Two years later in 1985, she directed *Velveteen Rabbit*, a musical. In 1986, Elaine directed Four County's first production of *Annie*. In 2001, Elaine Brown and Elaine Fogliani joined as a team to direct *Mame*. She has worked back stage as a co-stage manager on the wonderful production of *The King and I* and worked with her current husband, Doug Ponton, to costume *My Fair Lady*. She states that this was an exercise in "begging and borrowing and a total team effort" as neither she nor Doug can sew. In 1983, Elaine produced the 10th Anniversary Show, *The Best of Barboursville* with many of the original performers returning to the theater to recreate show-stopping songs. In 2017, she produced *Blithe Spirit*.

Elaine served on the Four County Players Board from 1980 to 1985 and was President. As a current Board member, Elaine is the chair of the Membership Committee and states that, along with the team who invites patrons to become members at each show, they have been able to add over \$20,000 each year to the Four County Operational Budget. Elaine seeks to continue on the Four County Board of Directors to serve as the Membership Chair and to serve the Board as a historian of the theater and in any way her skills and talents can be used. She states that she is deeply passionate about Four County Players and is so thrilled to see the evolution of the quality of productions. She says, "I often stand in the foyer after a show and see the delight of the audience as they leave and I think of all those who have kept this community theater going for 46 years. I know how proud they would be of where we are today."

Matt Gargett, standing for election to unexpired term ending June 30, 2019

I first fell in love with theater as a pre-teen while performing Gilbert and Sullivan operettas at my church. I performed in one show per year there through high school, and while we only did two performances of each show, it was thrilling. The culmination of each year was a trip to Ann Arbor to see the "real" performers from the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society (UMGASS) put on their spring G&S show. When I moved to Ann Arbor to attend the University, I joined UMGASS and got to be on stage with them for the first time in the spring of 1998 in *Princess Ida* –

the first of many shows over the next few years. That fall I joined their Board of Directors and met my future wife in our fall production of *Patience*. Meeting Jane opened a whole new world of theater to me beyond G&S. She took me to see my first Broadway show, *Cabaret*, at Studio 54. With that, I was truly hooked.

In my non-theater life, I work in IT, and I would be happy to lend my expertise in this area, as I have for several volunteer organizations over the years. Within theater, I've worked in various roles on stage and off, but most of my offstage work has been in finance-related activities. I love working with the creative people that surround a theater organization and feel that I can contribute significantly to the Four County Players Board. I have found that the folks at Four County are passionate about theater, want what's best for the theater and its patrons, and are all around just great people. I want to contribute to the life of this organization and help it continue to be the best it can be. I think my background and skills will be a great complement to those already serving on the board.

James McConnell, standing for reelection

As a CPA, and a CGMA, having worked with large and small for-profit corporations as well as not-for-profit entities, I feel that I am well equipped to assist our organization in reaching our goals through contributing to the continuance of our sound financial operations. Further, I can contribute through involvement in the overall direction of the enterprise through the activities of the Board through my previous experience. This is my home theater having first becoming involved in Four County in 1998 back in the days of Bill Thomas. I met my wife in this theater, and Four County holds many memories and friendships not to be forgotten for me. I want to help it continue its journey of providing quality cultural entertainment to the community.

Wendy Novicoff, standing for reelection

I am pleased and proud to put my name forward for re-election to the Four County Players Board of Directors. I have been a part of this organization for 25 years, and I have been an integral part of more than 50 productions during that time. I have been on the Board of Directors and its Treasurer since 2006, and I am hoping to spend one more term with the Board. I look at Four County as my family and my home away from home; I look forward to the chance to serve this great organization for the next three years.

Debbie Owen, standing for re-election

Debbie Owen has lived in the Charlottesville area for over 20 years and first got involved at Four County Players in 2007 when her children were cast in *Miracle on 34th Street*. Since then, she has been involved in many productions as a stage manager, kid wrangler, and producer. Memorable shows include *Cabaret*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Fantasticks!*, and most recently *Chicago*. During the day, Debbie works as a bookkeeper and administrative specialist at Elder Research, Inc., a small consulting firm.

Debbie has served as president of Four County Players for two of her past three years on the board. In that role, she has provided oversight for the administrative tasks of running the theater, concluded the lease renewal process with Orange County, supported productions in multiple capacities, and worked with the Build a Backstage committee to keep the Backstage project moving forward. Debbie looks forward to continuing the pursuit of her goals to support this hard-working board and foster the family atmosphere of this theater community.

Tres Wells, standing for reelection

In the past three years I have been proud to serve as your VP of the Arts. I feel I have helped Four CP grow by serving on the Bistro, Education, Scholarship, and Programming Committees. In addition, as VP, I oversee many other committees and help out when needed.

As a member of the Bistro committee, I helped with the new renovation, keeping the Bistro stocked and organized, and bringing new ideas for product choices and equipment.

As chair of the education committee, I have expanded our mission to provide theater experiences for teens by adding a new summer theater production intensive as well as continuing the well-oiled machine that is our main summer theater camp.

As we look to the future, I hope you will consider allowing me to once again serve you on the board of directors.