

Four County Players Board of Directors candidate statements, 2019 election

Members may vote for not more than six candidates for five expired terms and one unexpired term (one year remains.) If reelected, incumbents will serve three year terms. The successful new candidate with the lowest number of votes will occupy the unexpired term.

Candidates running for reelection:

Jeff Ward, incumbent

"Why did you choose to become members of 4CP? We were Season Subscribers to the Pantages in LA when we lived in Southern California, and Matty's sister, Amanda, was a member of the Laguna Beach Youth Theatre Conservatory for many years. We loved being part of that organization and missed being connected to a theater family. It took us about two minutes to feel right at home at 4CP, so we were very excited to become members. The whole experience of rehearsals, set building, tech week and the performances has been so much fun and the people so friendly, funny and helpful that we look forward to being part of 4CP for many years to come. We are "theater people," so we feel it's important to support local theater. But becoming a member of 4CP makes membership even more special by adding the camaraderie, teamwork, and friendship of working together towards a common goal of putting on quality shows. I cannot say enough about the amazing people we have met during A Christmas Story! We are really going to miss the cast, the crew, their families, the volunteers and everything about this experience, so we look forward to staying connected as new members of Four County Players. We can't wait for the next show that we can be part of!"

To come full circle, we participated as a family in this year's production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", and had the same wonderful experience building sets, volunteering, vacuuming up popcorn, cleaning bathrooms (which I understand is a requirement of board membership!) and even running one of the follow spots. We all had a blast and love the family feeling of warmth and love that we get every time we walk into the Four County Players building. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board.

Edward Warwick White, incumbent

May 20, 2019 To: The Membership of Four County Players 5256 Governor Barbour Street
Barboursville, VA 22923 Dear Membership of Four County Players, It is with great appreciation and sincere interest that I write to seek your support for my reappointment to the Board of Directors at Four County Players. As evidenced by my previous terms, I care deeply about this organization and its growth, and I hope to continue my service as a dedicated member of the Board of Directors. For those

who don't know me, I became involved with Four County Players when I joined the 2011 cast of Annie on the Mainstage. In joining this cast, I instantly felt the family and community feeling that is so hallmark to Four County, and I instantly fell in love with this special place. Shortly after, I joined the Board of Directors, and since then, Four County has truly become a home away from home. Since joining the Board, I have been active on-stage as an actor (Stepping Out, Into the Woods, The Scarlet Pimpernel, A Christmas Story: The Musical); I have directed numerous productions (I Love You Because, The Fantasticks, Chicago, The Best of Barbourville, Avenue Q, and most recently, Hello, Dolly!); designed costumes (I Love You Because, Snoopy!!!, Godspell, The Food Chain, Bedroom Farce, Black Comedy, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Addams Family, and most recently, God of Carnage); designed sets (Endgame, A Charlie Brown Christmas); and produced/co-produced several shows (Snoopy!!!, Godspell, Shrek!, Dirty Barbie & Other Girlhood Tales, Bullet for Unaccompanied Heart, and Young Frankenstein.) I have also been fortunate to serve as Marketing Director for the theater—helping grow the theater's presence in Central Virginia through targeted outreach, social media, print, and digital content. Through these efforts, 4CP has gained significant traction in the social media playing field, managed a transition to a new graphic designer, and continues to grow as a household name and community resource. In my spare time, I co-chair the 4CP Costume Shop/manage the theater's large costume collection—including loans/rentals, maintenance, orientation, and stock. I have been fortunate to use my skills as an event planner to host several Volunteer Appreciation Parties, opening night celebrations, fundraisers, and 4CP's first ever Season Reveal party. I have served as an enthusiastic emcee for several 4CP events, as well as planned and hosted the board's last two leadership retreats. I currently serve on the theater's programming committee and bistro committee. As evidenced by my commitment, I care deeply about this wonderful theater, and I choose to devote my spare time and energy to helping achieve its full potential and success. If re-appointed, I would promise to maintain this level of service and commitment moving forward during this exciting phase of growth of development. When not at Four County, I am fortunate to work with the full-time, residential MBA program as the Associate Director of Student Affairs at UVA's Darden Graduate School of Business and am active with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Virginia. No stranger to the local performing arts community, I have also been active with Live Arts (actor, assistant director) and the Heritage Theater Festival at UVA. Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for your support of Central Virginia's longest-running community theater!

Candidates running for vacant seats:

Scott Bates

Let me begin by saying I am delighted to have been nominated for what I consider to be a serious and honorable position on the board of directors.

I began playing musical instruments in the 4th grade but the first play I ever saw was *The Ransom of Red Chief* when I was in the 6th grade. It was the most exciting thing I had ever seen in my life. As soon as I entered the 7th grade I began taking Theater classes and from that moment on I became heavily involved in music and theater. My entire life has been dedicated to the arts and music and I have spent a lot of time producing quality live entertainment in coordination with a variety of talented individuals. I have performed a variety of styles of music with many musical groups I have also spent a lot of time in the recording studio producing my own projects.

The first play I ever saw in this theater was *Noises Off* and I have looked forward, with great anticipation, to every production since. When I first had the opportunity to volunteer at 4CP during *The Lion in Winter* I was thrilled to volunteer my services on the run-crew and have enjoyed every opportunity to volunteer since. I have fallen in love with this enchanting little theater and the people who populate its amazing place and am excited to participate in whatever capacity to further its success by encouraging participation in the arts and to contribute however I can to provide quality entertainment and education in the arts.

I feel that my experience combined with the desire to be a contributing member of this amazing organization and if appointed I will accept the responsibilities of the office with great sincerity and dedication.

Brittany Eversberg

I am thrilled to announce my interest in joining the Board of Directors at Four County Players (FCP). Since moving to the Charlottesville area in 2014, I have been involved with FCP largely through assisting in the Bistro area; I have also helped with set builds, and participated in the annual clean-up event held at the theater. Over time, I have expanded my involvement to include being a part of the Bistro Committee, as well as training new volunteers and Bistro Managers on how to handle Bistro tasks. I have also assisted with the recent renovation of the Bistro.

Even as my involvement has continued to grow over the years, I have always felt at home at FCP. A large part of that has been the wonderful folks I have met in various capacities, many of whom have been on the Board. While I may never get onstage in an acting capacity (my stage fright is too great), everyone has been very kind and welcoming to me, and encouraged me to want to contribute to this Little Theater That Could in any way I can.

As a Board Member, I would continue to be on the Bistro Committee. I would also be open to expanding my talents to assist with Membership committee duties, as well as Volunteer committee

duties. Additionally, I would love to do community outreach for FCP. Word of mouth can go a long way to spreading word about what is going on at the theater! To me, becoming a Board member would be a natural progression, and would allow me to help continue the welcoming, family atmosphere FCP exudes.

I appreciate your time and consideration, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Robert Eversberg

It is with distinct pleasure that I announce my candidacy for the Board of Directors at Four County Players.

I've always been close to the arts. I was born about 200 yards from my hometown community theater, in the rural area of Southern Maryland. Unfortunately, my upbringing didn't really allow for artistic participation or in-person audience experiences, save the periodic art class and some mandatory appearances in school pageants. I was a great admirer and consumer of the arts, though, through books and free television and radio broadcasts (mostly NPR and PBS), vital connections for a poor kid in the middle of the woods.

My time as a community performing artist began in 2001, when I joined the concert choir at my local community college; over the next 11 years I would perform and record with the college's concert and chamber choirs, and perform in other local choral groups. In 2006, things got theatrical. I finally attended a play at the theater I was born so near, along with my then-girlfriend (now wife); during intermission, we saw an audition notice for a production of *Stalag 17*. That production would become my first involvement with Port Tobacco Players, and over the next six years (including hopping around for finishing college, a graduate school stint, and the start of married life in a new area) I was involved in 10 productions, with a roughly equal split between acting and tech work (the latter mostly set construction and painting help, as is the case today). After that, I acted in a few shows with a couple of fine companies in the Central Maryland region, before moving to Charlottesville in late 2014.

After arriving in the area, I immediately set to work looking for opportunities for involvement. This didn't take long to bear fruit, as I was cast in the Four County/Hammer Theater collaborative production of *Our Town* (2015), the final show of Season 42 here at FCP; more on-stage opportunities followed, most recently, *A Christmas Story: The Musical* (2017). I've also been able to add some tech help (again, mostly set construction and painting) with other shows, most recently, *Hello, Dolly!* (2019); I've been involved in 10 FCP productions altogether, with an eleventh in progress, as production has recently begun on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In addition, I've helped

with numerous productions in the Bistro alongside my wife, Brittany, participated in the theater's annual cleanup day, and am slated to be on the forthcoming 50th Anniversary Committee. I'm also interested in broadening the types of ways through which I can contribute on the tech side. Overall, it's safe to say that Four County has become my current theatrical home, one whose environment and welcoming aspect I enjoy.

As a member of the Board, I would look to continue my current types of participation while enhancing the scope and breadth of my overall contributions. As we prepare for the company's fiftieth anniversary in 2023, I'm keenly interested in immediately evaluating our historical materials and starting development of a book chronicling FCP's first half-century; such a volume is the aspect of our coming celebrations that will take the longest to complete. I'm also willing to take a leadership role on the associated committee. Programming is also an area in which I would like to contribute, and I have related experience. During my time at Port Tobacco Players, I served on the Play Reading Committee for four years, reading and reviewing submitted suggested scripts for production, and voting on a slate of shows submitted to the Board of Directors for production team solicitation and final selection. I also read plays for Live Arts Charlottesville for two seasons as part of the season development process.

I'm also committed to our founding idea, that creative arts need to be a part of our rural communities. This takes many different forms. It's present in effective financial stewardship; while we can't make our productions free of charge like the radio and television broadcasts I enjoyed growing up, we can maintain the commitment to providing experiences of the maximum quality we can, at the minimum cost we can. Through continued and enhanced educational and outreach offerings and initiatives, we can continue to reach new audiences and create new partnerships in the region, strengthening our standing as a premier artistic center. We also must be mindful and respectful of the community we serve, and remember how far (and then some) that community reaches. Lest we forget, it's in our name. We are Four County Players.

I am excited at the potential opportunity to keep FCP a thriving artistic enterprise as part of its leadership. As ever, I'm prepared to help however I can, and grateful for the help that I have received pursuing my avocation. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Anna Grey Hogan

I am excited to apply for a position on the Four County Board of Directors. I have been involved with Four County Players since I was eleven years old, when I was cast as Huckleberry Finn in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. In the decade that followed, Four County has given me many opportunities. From attending shows as an audience member to painting and building sets, from running a light board to awarding me the Founders' Scholarship. I feel that it would be a big mistake

not to take this opportunity to give back to this community that has taught me and supported me throughout my life.

For the past five years I have been pursuing my Bachelors degree in Theatre and English and my Masters degree in Teaching at Virginia Commonwealth University. Despite living an hour and a half from 4CP during this time, I have been unable to stay away for very long. I always find a reason to return to the theatre. When *The Addams Family Musical* needed a makeup designer, I got out my makeup kit, fake blood packets, and got to work. When a house manager called out during the run of *Hello Dolly!*, I hopped in my car and made the drive. I wanted to make sure the audience would get to see a friendly face as they walked in the door.

Looking back on my experiences with Four County, I believe the biggest asset I can contribute to this community is my time. Yes, I have a theatre degree and a great love of all aspects of theatre, but I am most excited about just spending my weekends and evenings helping out at the theatre. Starting this summer, I will no longer be living so far away. I have accepted a job as an English teacher and drama director at Blue Ridge School, which is a considerably shorter commute to the theatre.

If elected, I would love to incorporate my new skills as an educator into Four County's Summer Camp Program and to expand the educational outreach of the theatre. 4CP has been a great supporter of me as a student, even awarding me a scholarship with funds from the Four County Players Founders' Scholarship. I would love to pay that generosity forward and give new opportunities to young people seeking a theatre "home" just as I once did.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading my letter. I hope to see you at the theatre (or maybe even the Ruins) someday soon.

Hannah Vidaver

Thank you for considering my resume for the open Chair on the Board of Directors at Four County Players.

Growing up I always considered myself a "theater kid". But I was a theater kid without a home. I didn't have a playhouse like Four County that would open its arms and teach me that it's ok that I have a laugh that can cut through the theater on an opening night. That its ok that I might not be the best dancer. Or a play house that taught me that even though I might be in a truly shocking purple and yellow dress against a back drop of pink, that I can still work it and be confident doing so. I

learned all of this as an adult, when I came here and decided that I couldn't think of a better place to spend my time. I couldn't think of a better place to make my home.

I'm constantly amazed at the love and support that this playhouse imbues into each and every show, cast, and crew that comes to that stage. To be a part of making 4CP a home for a new generation of community volunteers is something that I not only would be deeply honored to help with but something I think is so important for the continued success of 4CP itself. I've made so many friends and professional contacts in my time at 4CP and given time I'd love to see that number grow with each new show, drawing in more and more volunteers. The more new people I can share this theater with, means more patronage, more audiences to wow with kick lines, more actors to tell the "back in my day there was no back stage" stories to and more importantly more people who will fall in love with this not-so-small playhouse.

I'm not a stranger volunteering my time for the dramatic arts. My theater background includes time on the stage, being a part of at least one mainstage production at Four County since 2014. However, I also have extensive credits in stage management as well. And a healthy curiosity in the technical aspect of theater, with a few lighting and sound credits to my name. I'm well versed in the workings of the theater both on and off the stage, and I think I would be a great addition to the existing Board of Directions. Bringing a fresh set of eyes and passion for anything and everything that has to do with theater.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.