

Candidate Statements
Four County Players Board of Directors
2021 election

Members may vote for not more than six candidates for three expired terms and one unexpired term (two years remain). If reelected, incumbents will serve a three-year term.

Candidates running for reelection:

Michael Kneller

I have been a member of Four County Players since 2011. During that time period, I have played an active role in many productions.

Four County Players holds very special place for me and my family and we will always remember those wonderful productions. Most importantly are the friends we've made over the years. Four County Players understands the importance of not just presenting the best production possible, but also creating an environment that is warm, friendly, and welcoming to its community.

I feel that my experience in the construction industry, specifically the electrical trade, would be asset with future decisions regarding any projects concerning the building. I also have experience working and volunteering for a local nonprofit organization, Covenant Church. My time there was during the 2008 recession and have learned how to stretch the dollar to complete a project at or in most cases, under budget.

Over the past 10 years, I've learned all the little quirks that you would find in an old school house: I've helped run, trace and label electrical circuits, control flooding cellar situations, clear clogged sewer lines in the middle of winter, and install phone circuits. I've always tried to make a point to leave the theatre a little better shape than I've found it in every production I've been a part of.

I am grateful for this opportunity to apply to the Board of Directors. I would serve proudly and passionately. I will bring all my experiences of a business owner, electrician, facilities management, as well as a community member, theatre patron, husband and father to a loving family to strive to make great decisions for our wonderful little theatre.

Lisa Medders

I have called Four County Players my theater home for the past seven years, volunteering onstage and off, and I am excited and thankful to be considered for a seat on the Board of Directors.

Four County has given me not only an outlet for my creative energy but also cherished friendships and countless opportunities to learn and grow. I admire how the leadership has worked tirelessly during the pandemic to maintain connections, create uplifting and meaningful productions, and remain a positive force in the community. I hope to join this dedicated team to aid in these pursuits and give back to the theater that has given me so much.

From my first audition, “Bye Bye Birdie” in 2014, I could tell that the guiding force of this theater is love—love of art, love of service, and love for each other. Each production is crafted with immense effort and attention to detail. Volunteers give freely of their time and talent, offering a warm welcome and sometimes a power tool so you can dive right in. People genuinely care for each other, and it shows. I love this place and all it represents.

My personal experiences with Four County are varied and memorable. I learned intricate harmonies and ‘zombie-like’ dance moves in “Addams Family.” I climbed scaffolding to make bricks look ‘more worn’ on “Avenue Q.” I worked with Four County’s board to update the Code of Conduct, ensuring that each volunteer feels safe and supported. These and other experiences have shown me that I want to play a meaningful role in this community for many years to come.

I can add value to the board with my 20+ years of professional communications and project management expertise, my professional experience supporting inclusion and diversity initiatives, and my personal knowledge gained from previous board leadership and volunteer roles. I want to help Four County craft a long-term communications plan that reaches a more diverse pool of volunteers and audience members. I want to help write/enhance board position descriptions and duties to ensure smooth leadership transitions and theater longevity. And I want to help the theater live up to its goal to be truly inclusive for all.

My volunteer service for the past decade has revolved around supporting children’s developmental and educational pursuits. As a Girl Scout leader, Destination Imagination coordinator, and president of the Parent–Teacher Organizations at Baker-Butler Elementary and Sutherland Middle School, I gained invaluable experience in volunteer recruitment, fundraising, budget development, and community collaboration. Now that my children are older, I want to apply what I’ve learned to help steer Four County Players toward meeting current and future needs. Leading with optimism and enthusiasm and bringing a breadth of professional and personal skills, I will strive to help Four County expand on its efforts to inspire, educate, and reach a more diverse group of volunteers and audience members.

Charif Soubra, incumbent

I am writing to declare my interest in running for re-election as a member of the Four County Players Board of Directors.

Since 2013, as an actor in multiple productions, I have had the pleasure of being a part of the Four County 'family.' Through the direct experience of those shows, as well as enjoying many other shows and activities over the years, it has always been apparent that the teamwork and drive required to ensure the theaters' success stretched far beyond any specific production team. The presence of a strong and supportive Board is displayed in more than just the impressive audience numbers, but also through a healthy volunteer base and the broad support of a community far beyond immediate localities.

I am able to continue to devote time to the local community. And it would be a pleasure to continue to serve Four County.

To the table I bring over twenty-five years of direct sales, marketing, and operations experience. Translating to the world of theater that background will, first and foremost, allow me to be a huge advocate and ambassador for Four County Players. Additionally, I have a track record of assessing, delegating, and packaging complex ideas into easily manageable and actionable plans. Establishing processes for individual and operational success has always been a hallmark of my professional career. These are but a few of the professional assets that I believe I bring to the Board.

The performing arts have been a part and passion of my life for 35 plus years. By having a broad perspective; from acting and performing in various genres of the arts, to working in multiple capacities behind-the-scenes, and by helping promote events, big and small; I am able to draw from my personal experiences to contribute to the well-being of Four County.

I would be happy to discuss in further detail how I hope to continue to contribute. Overall, I know it will be an honor to be continue serving on the Four County Board.

Meghan Wallace

I am honored to be nominated to the Board of Directors for the Four County Players Organization. Over the past three years, I have felt myself growing more and more at home in this little theater surrounded by a wonderful group of inspiring people from all walks of life. As a quiet and introverted person by nature, I have found this to be a place of acceptance and welcome and that is something that I would work tirelessly to see continue if I am elected to the board.

One of the unique things I can bring to the theater is a background in historical research, artifact preservation, and historical displays. I am aware that there is an ongoing project to gather, preserve and share the history of Four County Players as it nears its 50th anniversary. This is a project I would love to be a part of. I can bring my experience and academic training in historic research and preservation to the Board. I have hands-on experience collecting oral histories, researching local history, creating visual exhibits and displays, and archival and object

preservation. Using these skills, I would work to ensure that Four County is able to celebrate their 50th Anniversary to its fullest.

I am also very interested in seeing the continued growth of the youth activities, especially those for teens at Four County. I have watched several youth grow in personal confidence and obtain new leadership skills over the past few years at Four County. I hope to see continued opportunities for teens to take on leadership roles in both TAP and main-stage productions, with a theater mentor to guide them along the way.

I bring a virtual lifetime of theater experience with me to Four County Players. From the time I was a toddler and holding my mother's hand as a wee fairy on stage, to the time I called my parents asking them permission to ride to the high school because I was going to be Gretel in Sound of Music, to the long toiling rehearsals for the emotional productions of Godspell, theater has been a part of my soul. Aside from a time in college where I focused on choral singing and vocal training, theater has always been in my life. For most of my early life I focused my efforts on performing yet have found myself recently drawn to the technical aspects of theater as well. It has reinforced my knowledge that it truly takes a village to ensure that the show goes on. I am excited for this opportunity to play a larger role in that village.

Tres Wells, incumbent

I am a teacher, actor, musician, and father. As a teacher, I have worked for twenty years with students from elementary through high school. I started acting a little over ten years ago when my daughter begged me to perform with her on stage. I found my passion, I have worked in various roles and theaters in the Charlottesville community including acting, singing, producing, and stage managing. I have served as the Director for the Four County summer theater camps. I am the Bistro Committee Chair and oversee the acquisition of items for sale, regularly take inventory, and develop fun items for special events. I bring a can-do spirit to the board and am proud to serve as the Vice President of the Arts.