



## FOUR COUNTY PLAYERS

5256 Governor Barbour Street, Barboursville, Virginia, 22923

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Four County Players  
Annual Meeting – June 20, 2022  
6:30 p.m., at the theater

### **Minutes**

1. Call to Order: 6:35 pm
2. Members in attendance:
  - a. Gene Christy
  - b. Rebecca Christy
  - c. Christian Eberle
  - d. Brittany Eversberg
  - e. Robert Eversberg
  - f. Linda Hogan
  - g. Marc Hogan
  - h. Meg Hoover
  - i. David Hutchins
  - j. Katie Hutchins
  - k. Michael Kneller
  - l. Kirk Martini
  - m. David Merriman
  - n. Ethan Phelps
  - o. Jennifer Phelps
  - p. Dan Stern
  - q. Carl Schwaner
  - r. Chad Sokolowski
  - s. Charif Soubra
  - t. Devynn Thomas
  - u. Hannah Vidaver
  - v. Edward Warwick-White
  - w. David Zuby
  - x. Linda Zuby
3. State of the theater report: Charif Soubra, President

- a. Charif introduced himself to the attendees and welcomed everyone to the first in person meeting in two years. We are back. The 49<sup>th</sup> season was fortunate to have on-site shows. The theater adapted to the changes with balanced seating to accommodate our patrons in a safe way due to the ongoing pandemic. Seating provided space between patron groups and thankfully did not stop the quality of the shows. The Programming Committee deserves much credit for their adaptability to provide a terrific season. 4CP was ready to adapt to any situation including re-opening the bistro to our patrons. The first show back came a year ago with “Beginning to See the Light”. The weather created a situation requiring a reschedule and the show went well. The first in-theater performance was by the Terri Allard Group and was well received. The first in-theater play was a comedy – *All in the Timing* which was followed by *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Both shows were on the mainstage. Throughout, ongoing changes were monitored due to the pandemic. The priority was to keep our patrons safe. We continue to monitor the pandemic situation and will change as needed. The holiday show was *It’s A Wonderful Life: Radio Play* which brought a lot of nostalgia. February brought *Winter Break* that highlighted the wonderful teen talent in our theater community. We want to continue to foster this resource. Our final show of the season was *It Shoulda Been You*. It was a musical and close to sold out in our limited seating environment. Over 4,000 tickets were sold with revenue of about \$61,000. The Programming Committee was tasked with planning Season 50. We are kicking it off with *As You Like It* at the Barboursville Ruins. The season will bring *The Glass Menagerie* to the cellar. The first show in the cellar space in two years. *Elf: the Musical*, *Spring Break*, *Wait Until Dark*, and *Cinderella* will round out the season. There is a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event being planned. There have been fundraising activities. The theater received a generous, private donation and some grant requests are in the works. There was a good clean-up workday in August. The Equity and Diversity effort began with the Board receiving some training and work continues with this effort. Work is ongoing to firm up and reinvigorate our SOPs. There have been some transitions and we cannot simply rely on institutional knowledge. We want to maintain this knowledge in a resource database.
  
- b. The current membership is 218. This is a good number and an opportunity to find new ways of engaging with the community, volunteers, etc. to build the membership. We are the little theater that could. We want to expand the volunteer base and the membership base. There are other things we can do to make this space a larger footprint in the community. Volunteer appreciation, sponsor appreciation, and other activities. We cannot survive on membership alone. We have been lucky with grants and generous donations. We want to

involve everyone even more with their input, ideas, and talents. What does it take to be here another 50 years? Everyone involved cares and loves this theater. We want to expand this each year.

4. Treasurer's report: Hannah Vidaver, Treasurer

- a. The last fiscal year ran from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. As Treasurer, Hannah requested all the productions to be cognizant of the fact that we did not have a lot of money for the year's productions. One of the ways to support this effort was an outreach for sponsors. There were some new sponsors for *It Shoulda Been You*. We received \$57,000 in donations in the past year. That money kept the theater going – lights on, costumes, props, light changes, musicians. Our membership found a way to step up and provide again and again throughout the year amid pandemic constraints. In 2020 we had 2 Paycheck Protection Program loans at about \$5,600 each. Both were forgiven and turned into Grants with no required repayment. We did obtain a Small Business Administration loan for \$25,000 with 30 years to repay. That loan was instrumental in getting us to a place to strategize for the 50<sup>th</sup> Season including Shakespeare at the Ruins. Shakespeare is a very expensive “front loaded” undertaking. With all the loans, donations, and grants, the Programming Committee was able to pay for the royalties for a good season. Donations have also allowed us to do some much needed upgrades/updates to the cellar. There will be a presentation to the Board for planned improvements. With the increase in donations, we were able to explore opportunities in the form of educational offerings. We have a wonderful education committee to plan workshops and offer classes. An audition prep workshop has already been held. Hannah offered to meet with anyone who might have questions or can provide a copy of the report. A question was raised regarding the backstage build loan and Hannah reported it has been paid off in full. The current loan is at a low, fixed rate of approximately 2.2% and is not based on the prime rate. Any member can email the theater to request a copy of the report.

5. Theater business

- a. By laws proposed changes – The ballot has two proposed changes to the by-laws. One is to add a youth membership category to allow their further participation in the theater. It helps provide some ownership of their experience at Four County. The second is to add an option to allow absentee voting vs voting by proxy. We have members who live around the country. We want to allow more members to be able to vote. A question was raised about the difference between proxy voting and absentee voting. Linda Hogan wanted to discuss the addition of absentee voting. Linda provided some background

and cited a past situation where there was “coup” in order to get specific people on the board and “run” the theater. Discussion followed. One result of the pandemic, we wanted to provide an easier method for our members to participate in the process. There will be controls in place for voting absentee. A question was raised to first put the structure in place before bringing it to a vote. This would mean another year to bring it to the membership for vote. The thought process was to vote now and that would be the impetus to develop a secure structure to vote. Any way we can remove the barriers to have a “voice” in the theater is positive. If a decision or vote is tabled or it is rejected, no action can occur until it is in the by-laws. By accepting it now, it puts trust in the Board to move forward to implement a good, secure structure/mechanism for voting. One suggestion was to have future voting via telepresence. The technology exists to make voting secure. Additional discussion followed.

- b. Introduction and brief statements from members standing for election – Each candidate provided a brief statement as to their rationale for serving on the board. Christian, Katie, Devynn, Hannah, and Edward.
- c. Board of directors election – All members are voted back on the board. The by-laws changes were accepted. See tally sheet for official results.

- 6. Open Forum
- 7. Comments from 4CP Members
- 8. Announcements – We always need volunteers.
- 9. Adjournment – 8:02