

## **Vice-President/President**

### Ace Overton

My name is Ace Overton and I am asking for your vote for President of the Board of Governors. When I first came to Community Players Theatre, it was to see my karaoke friends on stage performing, something I hadn't done since high school. For a few years, I enjoyed watching Spelling Bee, Aida, Rent, etc. Then I decided to audition, after years of being encouraged. In my first audition, Avenue Q, I wasn't cast. And it was the right decision, I wasn't ready. I rehearsed, I practiced, and I began to learn to love the theatre again. Over the years, I've come to understand more and more about the theatre world, specifically CPT. I joined the board as the Social Media Chairperson and the social media pages grew every single month I was elected. We expanded how we engage with social media, began to have sponsored posts on social media, and increased auditions with the Interview with a Director series. My dream is to bring the feeling of family to everyone that walks into CPT. That everyone from every walk of life can find joy in the theatre. I wish to see CPT as a pinnacle of theatre in central Illinois, not only growing and expanding our historic building, theatre, staff, & volunteers but to showcase theatre and collaborating with our other local theatres. I want to see CPT become the safest space for theatre to be performed, and to set the standard for others to follow. I've shown my ability to lead, to have respectful but difficult conversations involving people, and how to critically think about situations and handle them with grace and understanding. A leader should be a service to those that elect him, and I plan to continue the good practices that CPT has already done.

### Chris Terven

As some of you may know, I've been preparing to leave the Board in preparation to try to participate more in the actual production side of Community Players (design/build, choreograph, audition, etc.) To that end, I've been training my brilliant replacement Britni Williams and she's more than prepared to take over the last half of my term as Treasurer.

Of course, with any planning, you never know what the future is going to bring and my circumstances have changed drastically in the last 8-10 months. Due to circumstances beyond my control, my "physical" participation on stage and off has become severely limited to nearly impossible. However, I can't even imagine not being able to contribute in some significant way to such an important organization in our community and my life personally.

That being said, I would like to offer up my name for the open position of Vice President. As the four year commitment is not one requiring any real "physical" endeavors (heavy lifting or complicated dance steps), but does require an absolute commitment to doing what's best for the organization, ensuring it's a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone who crosses our threshold, understanding how to keep the organization functioning, and the ability (with the Board) to look for ways to improve CPT – I'm sure that I'm still more than capable of taking on that challenge and would be honored to do so. Thank you for your consideration – Gratefully yours – Chris Terven

## **Secretary**

### Erica O'Neill

I'm Erica O'Neill and I am interested in running for the Secretary position of the CPT board of governors. I have a degree in Theatre Management and Directing from ISU, and I have been involved with Community Players since 2015 in various capacities. From performing to producing I enjoy all the aspects of putting on great productions for our community. In my day job of working for State Farm, I have worked in several business offices consulting on process improvement projects, how to establish and maintain business continuity during times of transition, and communication strategies tying that work together. I think that my experience, professional reputation and passion for Community Players would be an excellent fit for the Secretary position. I have met with the current Secretary to better understand the role and, if elected, I would love to focus my attention on improving our documentation in things like the production guidelines and the processes surrounding it (communication & escalation). I thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to the possibility of making an impact on the next 100 years of Community Players Theatre.

### Latrisha Green

Hello! I am Latrisha Green and I am running for the position of secretary of the CPT board. My history with CPT started in 2014 when I was incredibly lucky to be a part of the cast of Rent. Since then, I have been on stage for 5 more shows, participated in street team and set building, helped with the children's cast of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat and I have been a member of the play reading committee. As it pertains to the record keeping aspect of the secretary position, I have worked in managing patient records for medical offices for 17 years. The first 4 years were spent taking messages and scheduling appointments for five doctor's office and the last 13 years I have worked as a certified medical assistant updating permanent medical records and assisting on writing provider office notes. I also take pride in making our patients feel comfortable and being an advocate for their needs.

I feel I would be a great asset to this board. I can bring a new perspective on how to approach parts of our community that may not have the knowledge of what CPT is about. Fortunately, I have a daughter that is involved with theater as well, which has allowed me to talk to a younger group of people about our theater. Being a part of the CPT for the last 9 years has helped me learn how to create a welcoming environment for new people coming into the theater. I appreciate you taking the time to consider me for this position.

### John Hurney

Upon arriving in Bloomington, I was welcomed into this organization, and many have become like a family to me. I want to actively give back to the people that first welcomed me. I have been involved in theater since I was 14 years old and it is my passion. I have many skills and areas of expertise that can be of benefit to CPT. First, I have a B.A. in Theatre and have a certain level of training in acting, producing, set construction/design and directing. I have also acted in and directed many productions during my life. As to the position of being a secretary, my career as an attorney has made me a very organized and detail-oriented person. I have been told by the current secretary that the position works with outside counsel and manages the

insurance claims, which is what I do for a living. In my profession, I am considered an excellent business writer. I believe I can add a new perspective to the Board as a newcomer. As counsel for several Fortune 500 companies, I am known for getting people to not only think outside the box, but to think of the ramifications of all decisions and believe I would give good advice and counsel to the other board members and the organization, as a whole. I am an excellent communicator and a consensus builder. I also have served as a mediator and am on the faculty of Pepperdine's School of Law's Dispute Resolution program and am skilled in resolving stakeholder disputes and promoting consensus. I believe my passion for theater and my experience as an attorney would make me an excellent secretary, as well as a valuable member of the Board.

### Jess Sheetz

I am honored to be considered to serve Community Players Theatre on the Board of Governors as Secretary! I have truly enjoyed joining the CPT family since I auditioned for Elf The Musical on a whim in September 2021 and had the pleasure of music directing Holiday on Robinhood Lane in December 2022, and I would love to lend my skills to the Board of Governors.

The responsibilities of Secretary fit my skillset very well - I am highly organized, have a strong attention to detail, maintain timely deadlines, and manage calendars in my professional and personal life. I currently serve on the board of the Rho Sigma Alpha House Board in Bloomington as an Alumnae Director and in this position I update our bylaws, corporation procedures manual, website, and calendar. I also serve as the Upsilon A Province Officer of Sigma Alpha Iota, where I write and submit reports from official visits on the five collegiate chapters and two alumnae chapters in the area. I have extensive experience in creating meeting agendas and taking meeting minutes from my previous job as an Administrative Specialist in the Hart Career Center at Illinois Wesleyan University. In my current job as an Operations Coordinator for Guardian Travel Group, I keep a tight schedule in meeting deadlines with trips and communicating with clients. I feel each of these skills are applicable to the role of Secretary on the Board of Governors per the position responsibilities listed in the CPT Bylaws. I look forward to the possibility of collaborating with others on the Executive Committee and using my talents to serve the theatre.

### **Box Office**

#### Tom Smith

I would like to express my interest in the Box Office Position on the Community Players' Board of Governors. I have been involved with Players off and on since my first production, *A Few Good Men* in 2002. Recently I finished my 30th production as Stage Manager for *Steel Magnolias* in 2022. In between I have acted, directed, worked behind the scenes and have also served on the Board of Governors in several positions including Box Office Chair, Play Reading Chair and Theater Tech Chair.

One of the major themes I have supported in whatever role I have had at Players has been to make more opportunities for families and our more "mature" participants. I also support and have utilized mentorships in anyway possible in these productions.

I have numerous year experience in hospitality, accounting, the arts, customer relations and retail management. My most recent position was Assistant Box Office Manager at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts. I look forward to working with the current Board, if elected, to continue building a future for Players and the Arts throughout the area. The Arts are a vital part of what makes this community a great place to live and Players throughout its long history has been a vital part of that.

### Susan Eyres

I have been a long time fan of Community Players, and have attended shows for many years. I started as a volunteer in the box office in November of 2021 for the production of Elf. My time as a volunteer has given me an insight on what the work entails and the skills required to be successful. I would like to be the box office chair because I have enjoyed working the box office and being part of the CPT family. I love being involved with theater, but my talents lend themselves more towards office work and coordination than towards the stage. I have held club and district officer positions within Toastmasters International, and am also an active Girl Scout volunteer. I would love to help CPT continue to thrive.

### **Marketing**

#### A.J. Ainslie

Through my involvement with the CPT over the last year, I have been welcomed into this organization with open arms and it has taken residence in a very special place in my heart. I want to continue to give back to this wonderful community and strive to empower others through the power of theatre. I feel ready and eager to take on a leadership role, however, I know that this is no small task.

It is my intention, if elected as Chair, to rejuvenate and revivify the current marketing strategy; as well as to foster new marketing and publicity opportunities for the CPT with a strong focus on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion. I view this position as an opportunity to help build an influential community through art and entertainment.

My strategy will involve strengthening the creative assets we have (such as our website and social media channels) by creating a Style Guide to promote consistency, reaching out to potential new audiences and members in underrepresented groups within the community, exploring opportunities to further engage current members, and building long-lasting rapport with pillars in the Bloomington-Normal community by collaborating with local businesses and area organizations to share about the CPT and how it benefits all of us as a community.

I believe I have the skills and experience necessary to undertake this task. Over the past 6 years, I have worked in positions responsible for managing large, diverse, creative communities, and in marketing positions responsible for the curation of large-scale marketing campaigns.

Thank you for considering my nomination and I look forward to continuing to be involved in this great organization!

## **Lights, Sound**

### Dan Virtue

I have been involved with Community Players since 1993, in many different positions. I have performed in, or been a production staff member of over 100 shows. I have also been a member of the Board of Governors several times as the Light/Sound chair, a position which I currently hold. Among my volunteer activities, I installed and configured the latest Stage Lighting System console, and LED lighting instruments which we now enjoy. And I have also been a member of the auditorium Renovation project committee - both before and after the Covid-19 hiatus.

My goals this term are:

- to encourage and oversee the education and development of new Lighting and Sound Designers.
- And to ensure the successful completion of the Auditorium, Light and Sound Booth Renovations.

## **Costumes**

### Ken Sprouls

In the time since I was elected I believe I have been able to do all aspects of the position. I have proved that when needed I can step up and guarantee that costumes are ready even when the designated costumer fails to do their job. Since being in this position all the shows up to now have come in under budget for costumes.

## **Fundraising**

### Matt Drat

Matt Drat would like to thank the Community Players Theater Board of Directors for placing his name on the ballot for the position of Fundraising Chair. Matt has been part of the non-profit sector for 40 years and a fundraising professional for the past 30 years. He has also worked with local, regional, and national organizations successfully leading philanthropy and community engagement efforts. He has also been part of the CPT family since 2000 participating in numerous productions on stage and in various staff positions. Serving as a committee chair at this time would be Matt's second time on the Board having previously worked on coordinating efforts in the Box Office. Matt's experience as a philanthropy professional has taught him that success in fundraising is based on developing trusting relationships. And that with non-profit organizations, stewardship of the time, talent, and treasures of volunteers is most important. Successful fundraising is based on creating opportunities for collaboration and communicating clear expectations. The culture of philanthropy at its core is based on ensuring that our interactions are filled with understanding, kindness, and helpful action. He is excited at the chance to share his experience with CPT and work with the Board and volunteers to help create predictable and sustainable sources of revenue via philanthropy.

