

Community Players of Salisbury Monthly Board Meeting

February 4, 2026

Call to Order by Darrell Mullins at 7:00 pm

Board Members Present: Darrell Mullins, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, David Allen, Lynne Bratten, Kim Cuesta, Pete Cuesta, Ken Johnson, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelbie Thompson

Board Members Absent: Kyle Hayes, Matt Bogdan

Members Present: Tony Broadbent, Bobbie Calloway, Kel Nagel, Susan Robinson

Guests Present: Miranda

Approval of January 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes The Minutes were e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting. **Motion to approve as submitted by Rusty, seconded by Charlie S-T. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Treasurer's Report Brief report given by Charlie L. Thank you to Robinsons for annual endowment.

President's Report Misery is phenomenal. Only 1 ticket left for next weekend. Condolences to Ken J who recently lost his mother. Matt B had hip replacement surgery today.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen Did well, the biggest headache, selling \$47 using credit card machine, sending customers to the bar to pay. Pete will look into getting another reader. Can print report by category to help Charlie L.

***Costumes – Lynne Bratten** Accepted one donation of brand-new contemporary wedding dress, most of ours are more 50s to 70s styles.

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson Same issue as with costumes ... Things just appear. We do not need anymore Grandmother clocks. We will take stuff, just let Ken/Lynne/Sharon/Rusty know and ask if we want it. Can we have a designated place for donations? Can we have a form on the new website? Signage in common drop-off areas? Article in the newsletter?

If you know what happened to the old desktop printer that was in what is now the History room, please let Rusty know.

Pete and Kim Cuesta want to donate an open trailer. Motion that we accept by Rusty, seconded by Ken. All yes. Motion Passed.

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. 50/50 raffle was held at Misery performances on January 30 to Feb. 1. 50/50 raffle will be held this coming weekend.
2. A Spring Craft and Vendor Fair will be held on March 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Players. For an application or more information contact Wendy Stever at 443-365-1225 or wendysteve@gmail.com.

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. Suzy Moore, a panelist from the Maryland State Arts Council, attended this past Sunday's performance of Misery as part of the requirements for FY27 Grants for Operations application process. The Artistic Activity Visit is not scored. It is intended to show evidence of programming that is open to the public and aligns with the written application and the organization's mission/vision/goals.

Artistic quality or excellence is not evaluated during the Artistic Activity Visit. The role of the Panelist is to experience the assigned organization's programming similar to the experience as a member of the general public. Below is what the panelist will be reporting on:

-Based on the experience during the Artistic Activity Visit, the assigned panelist will be reporting on the following 'yes' or 'no' questions:

Does the organization offer (and did you attend) artistic programming?

Was the activity you experienced open to the public?

Did the Artistic Activity you attended align with the organization's mission statement?

Was there evidence of accessibility efforts at your Artistic Activity? Examples might include, but are not limited to, large print programs, braille signage, bathrooms/other facilities or spaces outfitted for wheelchairs, ASL interpretation, sensory-friendly events, printed materials in multiple languages, etc. (If efforts are not evident, please ask a staff member for examples that you may not be aware of).

-The panelist will also be asked to provide brief response to the following questions:

Briefly describe the Artistic Activity you attended (Include factual details such as what the activity was, when it occurred, where it occurred, approximately how many others attended, etc. Do not include an artistic assessment or critique of the activity).

Share a brief summary of any additional details regarding your experience with the organization. This may include details about interactions with staff/volunteers, community engagement or educational events that you may have participated in related to the programming (such as artist talks/networking events/lectures or panel discussions/etc), evidence of evaluation efforts (such as post-event surveys or other feedback efforts, etc.), or any other observations concerning the organization.(Do not include an artistic assessment or critique of the activity).

Based on your experience and the above responses, can you confirm eligibility of the organization in connection to the GFO application?

Optional - based on your experience, is there anything else you feel the staff at MSAC should know, or any concerns or challenges that arose.

2. An application for the FY26 Community Needs Letter of Inquiry was submitted to and has been received by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. The letter of inquiry asked for \$6000 to help fund the orchestra for the June performance of 1776. We received \$6300 last year for the door to the green room.
3. An application has been submitted to The Coastal Association of Realtors (CAR) for a grant of \$1000 to help fund the Children's Theater Workshop in July. We have received grants supporting the Children's Theater in previous years.
4. An application will be made for a mini grant of \$5000 from Beach to Bay Heritage Area (BBHA) on May 5. Previous grants were awarded to Players from BBHA for Paths to Freedom (\$2500) and WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore (\$5000). If anyone has an idea for a show that would fit the criteria for this grant, let Matt Bogdan know by May 1. The criteria can be found at the BBHA website. Matt's idea is to develop a show around Eastern Shore folklore.
5. An exploration of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Community Investment Tax Credit Awards is being made. Thanks to Lynne Bratten for letting Matt know about this potential source of funds.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies No Report

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford No Report

House - Betsy Metzger A *Misery* crew member fell off the stage during a rehearsal. Incident report was filed. Needs to be printed out and filed. Everything worked the way it should have with the new system.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff No Report

Marketing No Report

We still need a new Chairman and committee members

Membership - Melissa Dasher

- 191 Total Membership
 - 175 Voting Members
 - 104 Patrons
 - 36 Family
 - 35 Individual
 - 16 Student Members

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff No report

Patrons - Kel Nagel Will need to revise the dollar amounts and wording on next seasons' form. Would like more people involved. Brenda will become Chairman next season.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel Now in Fundraising mode. Nothing new is happening until the funds are raised.

Production – Kyle Hayes A reminder that the pitch meeting is Thursday 2/12 at 6pm. Each show will be allocated 5 minutes to be pitched. This will be followed by questions from the production committee and will conclude with questions from the board. A note about the Snoopy submission: if you haven't read this one yet it might be wise to prioritize because the perusal is only available for so long. Matt can confirm the exact date.

Program / Program Advertising - Tom Robinson No Report

Publicity – Pete Cuesta No Report

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten Waiting for scholarship applications. Spread the word among former cast members that are now seniors.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford Box office is going very well. Do not share that shows are sold out. Changes are sometimes made. Advise people to check the website. Also, as stated on website, if seats are not filled at curtain, may be re-sold to waitlist.

Social Media – Cass Dasher & Mary Cathell No Report

Old Business

- **Code of Conduct-Sharon Benchoff**

Meeting has been scheduled

- **Website Update-Darrell Mullins**

Feedback was sent to Will T.

- **Production Committee Guidelines-Melissa Dasher**

Motion to vote on the proposed revisions, point-by-point, made by Melissa, seconded by Kim. All yes. Motion Passed.

Proposed changes to wording involving “Special Products” were not approved. All other proposed changes were approved.

- **Capital Campaign-Kel Nagel**

Going slower than hoped. \$45,288 current in CFES. Met with Community Relations guy at Pohanka. Matt sent out a sample letter that can be given to potential donors.

New Business

- **Constitution Revision Committee- Rusty Mumford**

Have met. Meeting again. Would like to propose some changes to bring in line with what we are currently doing. Will also go through the bylaws and the committee structure. Looking for a copy of guidelines we used to have. Planning to create a new member welcome packet. Damien made a Donation Thermometer which is displayed in the lobby.

- Wicomico County Schools approved our **rental of Wi-Hi for 1776**, approved dates for are June 12,13,14. This is a week earlier than requested. Auditions are scheduled for April 4,5,6.

Adjournment

Motion by Tom to adjourn, seconded by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting: March 4 at 6:00 pm