

Community Players of Salisbury Monthly Board Meeting

March 4, 2026

Call to Order by Board President Darrell Mullins at 7:00 pm

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

Board Members Absent: Kyle Hayes, Charlie Linton, , Shelbie Thompson

Members Present: Kate Adkins, Sharon Benchoff, Bonnie Bosies, Tony Broadbent, Cass Dasher, Kel Nagel, Susan Robinson,

Guests Present: Anita Winkler

Approval of February 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes The minutes were e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting. **Motion to approve as submitted by Rusty, seconded by Ken. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Treasurer's Report Brief report given by Tom R. Everything is on track. \$805 bar income during *Misery*.

President's Report Darrell reports that it looks like *Old Hams* has a great cast. All are invited to pitch in on Saturdays.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen No Report

Costumes – Lynne Bratten *(Needs to be approved by the Board as a formal committee)
Have received a few donations, storing in my closet for now.

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson Getting a handle on the warehouse. Creating “Golden Rules” for back there.

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1.The 50/50 raffle and beer/wine sales held at the *Misery* performances in February raised approximately \$1000. The raffle and beer/wine sales will be held at *Old Hams* performances in April.

2. Our second annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair will be held Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Community Players’ Theater. Admission is free. Come and support the vendors and crafters and take part in the chance and silent auctions. If you would like to be a vendor or crafter at this event, contact Wendy Stever at wendystever@gmail.com. We have thirty-eight vendors so far. Kel knows someone who wants to donate a quilt to be sold at the Fair. Someone has created a fake version of our poster and created an event. If you

Community Players of Salisbury Special Board Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Call to Order By President Darrell Mullins at 6:05 pm.

Board Members Present: Darrell Mullins, Kyle Hayes, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, David Allen, Lynne Bratten, Betsy Metzger, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelbie Thompson

Board Members Absent: Charlie Linton, Matt Bogdan, Kim Cuesta, Pete Cuesta, Ken Johnson, Tom Robinson

Guests Present: Veronique Diriker

Identify where we are and where we need to go

Typical to get 20% from corporate donors, majority from individuals.

Look at Affinity-friends and professional contacts. People who you know.

Can get list of patron donors over the years from old programs. Sharon may have a list of donors through Shore Gives More. Look at programs from recent other local productions for advertisers and supporters. (Rock and Roll Revival, Salisbury School, Ballet)

Look into pledges, an amount divided over some many years. Must have a databank to send reminders at yearly anniversary. Stretch gifts.

Create a video showing our current spaces and why we need to remodel. Called a Case Statement. What we want, why we want it and how we excel at it. Story telling is great, but we also need to show numbers. Document with pictures and numbers or a video. Veronique will share a template. They are investing their brand in you, what are they going to get from it?

Capital Campaign will not end when the matching grant is reached.

Where are we with Pohanka (Veronique states maybe \$10-15,000 is realistic.)

Levels and naming opportunities

Decide on the length of time that the names will last. Have a de-naming policy.

Bricks on a wall, donor trees, recognitions, not a stage or a room. A lot of work and expense involved. Keep it simple.

Highlight donors on website, social media, newsletter.

To name a stage might mean it listed that way in advertising, not necessarily a big sign above the stage.

Does Henson Foundation expect anything? (Naming)

Committee needs people of affluence and influence.

Patron donors are a level of membership. Those donations currently go towards operating expenses. Should they go to the Capital Campaign instead?

Do we do an annual appeal?

Business After Hours might be a good place for networking.

Next Steps

Add people to committee. Send an e-mail blast.

Use template to create a Case Statement document.

Lynne will make a list of advertisers from other local group programs.

Shelbie will send pictures of naming room plaques from Community Foundation.

Adjournment

Motion by Lynne to adjourn, seconded by Betsy. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

see these fake events, report it and let Cass Dasher know. If someone shows up saying they paid for a spot but are not on our list, ask for proof of payment, even if it is to the fake organizer. With proof we will provide them with a spot.

3. An electronic vote was held, and approval was given to hold the Community Players' Friendly Feud Fundraiser to be held April 23-26 at Community Players' Theater. Sixteen teams will compete for the grand prize of \$500, with a second-place prize of \$250. Each team will consist of five members (friends, family, coworkers), answering survey questions with the aim of scoring more points than the other team. The first set of eight teams will battle it out on Thursday, April 23, from 7 to 10 p.m., and the second set of eight teams will battle it out on Friday, April 24, from 7 to 10 p.m. Winners advance to play on Saturday, April 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday winners advance to the semifinals and finals, to be held on Sunday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost of registration is \$100 per team. If you do not want to enter a team but would like to watch the teams battle it out, admission is \$10 at the door. Matt Bogdan is the coordinator of this fundraiser which will not interfere with 1776. Sharon Benchoff, director of 1776, has given her approval. 1 team registered so far.

4. The Wicomico Historical Society has asked Players to host a program that celebrates America's 250th birthday with a mixture of famous speeches, videos, stories, skits, and music. It will be in two acts (approximately 90 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission). Matt Bogdan will develop and coordinate the program, with help from the fundraising committee and anyone else who would like to help. Auditions will be held for anyone who is interested in performing. The program will be held on June 26 and June 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m. at Community Players' Theater. Admission will be free; donations will be accepted. The Wicomico Historical Society will make a generous donation of \$1000 to the Players for hosting the event and will cover costs of publicity up to \$500. No royalties are required since all works to be presented will be in the public domain. The stage will include a screen, as well as podiums on either side of the screen. The theater will be decorated with patriotic pieces, which we already have. The program will not interfere in any way with the production of 1776 or the children's theater workshop. The board needs to vote on whether or not to hold this fundraiser. (See new business)

5. A Musical Revue will be held in August under the coordination of Rusty Mumford. Exact dates will be announced soon. The board has already approved this fundraiser.

6. A stage adaptation of The Great Gatsby, under the direction of Matt Bogdan, will be held in September. Tentative dates are September 11-13. The board has already approved this fundraiser.

7. A tentative fundraiser in October is a program based on Eastern Shore folklore. Matt Bogdan is exploring a grant from Beach to Bay Heritage Area to support this program.

Grants - Matt Bogdan 1. Efforts are being made to raise funds for the \$150,000 Challenge Grant from the Richard A. Henson Foundation so that Players can complete renovations on the Community Players' Theater. Renovations include installing handicapped bathrooms, dressing rooms, and costume storage. Some of the efforts to raise these funds include

promotion of the campaign in the Misery program. Kel Nagel, Capital Campaign Chairperson, spoke to various Misery audience members about the campaign and handed out brochures about the campaign. A donation button toward the campaign is now on our website. Letters requesting donations to the campaign have been distributed. An appeal to the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce (of which we are a member) to help with the campaign is underway.

2. The Maryland State Arts Council denied our request for \$224,000 to fund the renovations to our theater.

3. The Maryland State Arts Council sent a Grants for Organization panelist to observe our performance of Misery. The panelist also toured the building and spoke to several members of our organization. This observation was part of the grants' process for the 2027 GFO grant. No report from the Maryland State Arts Council has been received regarding the panelist's observation.

4. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore denied our request for \$6000 to fund the orchestra for 1776.

5. A request for \$2400 has been made to The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to help pay for the stipends for camp counselors for summer Children's Theater Workshops.

6. An application for a grant of \$5000 will be submitted to Beach to Bay Heritage Area in May to support a program about Eastern Shore folklore.

7. \$1000 grant received from Coastal Association of Realtors Association.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies No Report

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford Still hospitable

House - Betsy Metzger Soon looking for ushers for *Old Hams*. \$180 made on jewelry sale. Please announce this fundraiser at shows.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff Nothing new to Report

Marketing – (chairman needed) No Report

Membership - Melissa Dasher Nothing new to report

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff Nothing to report

Patrons - Kel Nagel Continue to obtain one or two new patrons a month. Need to revise language in regard to patrons levels/ # tickets per level on membership form. See Kel if want to help with Patrons.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel Nothing new to Report

Production – Kyle Hayes The production committee has concluded their work and presents their suggested 2026-2027 slate at this meeting. A very special thanks to all of the committee volunteers who made for a smooth and fun experience.

Program / Program Advertising - Tom Robinson Old Hams program will be together in about two weeks.

Publicity – Pete Cuesta 3 Billboards are in the works, and twenty yard signs are underway for "Old Hams". Are yard signs a good value? Need a reproduceable format for every show; a project for when we get a full marketing committee. Kel is working on print media.

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten Reaching out. No applications have been submitted as of yet.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford 1776 platform updated for the new weekend and contact made with all prior ticket holders.

Social Media – Cass Dasher & Mary Cathell Mary is working on the “Meet the cast posts” . Cass reminds the is a new Gmail account for all social media socialmedia.sbyplayers@gmail.com .

Old Business

- **Code of Conduct: Sharon Benchoff**

There are six members on the committee. Meeting again March 17th. Will submit to Board for approval.

- **Committee Structure-Rusty Mumford**

Have meet to begin the process. Also working on Standard Operating Procedures. If you have items to be included, send them to Rusty. Also working on a Welcome Packet for new members with all relevant documents.

- **Website: Darrell Mulins**

Non-profit platform on Microsoft, working on that with David Allen.

Feedback was sent to Will. Goal to launch new website by start of next season. Darell will check on renewal date and amount.

- **Capital Campaign: Kel Nagel**

Funds held at The Community Foundation equal \$56,600. \$46,000 towards Capital Campaign. Not able to use prior expenses from our Operating Account toward the Capital Campaign. Future monies need to come from donations and grants from corporations, foundations, and individual donors. Kel will be giving a tour to a representative from

Pohanka. Future fundraiser money will go into the building fund, not the Community Foundation. Thought needs to be given to offering naming rights for large donations. More people are needed to join with Kel and this committee to think about these types of things.

- **Production Committee Changes: Melissa Dasher**

A new document was created with all the approved changes and sent to all who received the digital minutes last month.

- **Old Hams: Rusty Mumford**

Rehearsals are going very well. Mixture of veteran actors and new folks. Sickness and snow have set us back a little bit. Now have a props person, still need a sound person.

- **Summer Camp: Cass Dasher**

-Cass has been talking to staff from last year. Like the 2 weeks structure. **July 6-10,11** for teens, **July 13-17** or August 3-7 for children. Music Revue will need seats set back up 2 weeks before for rehearsals. (show August 14-16) So August 3-7 is not a good option.

-Katie L will be the director one of the weeks, Cass will do the other. Would like to have Susan Upton as musical director for both weeks. Planning committee will be meeting in the next few weeks. Sending out Save The Date very soon. Looking for guest speakers. \$4300 last year. Would like \$5000 this year for staff stipends.

New Business

- **America's 250th Birthday Fundraiser: Matt Bogdan**

Sent first 30 minutes of script to Board. **Motion for celebration of America 250th Birthday supported by Wicomico County Historical Society, June 26-28 by Matt, seconded by Kenny. All responded yea. Motion passed.**

- **New Handrails: David Allen**

Installed. Still need to cut notches in the half steps. They look great and are very sturdy.

- **Optimist Club Event: Lynne Bratten**

The Better Living Expo has tables for non-profits, mixed in with the vendors. Historically a well-attended event with 2,500 + people. Next year will be held February 27-28. They may also be willing to donate money towards T-shirts for summer camps. **Motion to have a table at the Better Living Expo next year by Lynne, seconded by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion passed.** Lynne will coordinate.

- **New Business**

Habitat for Humanity – need paparazzi actors this weekend. See Cass if interested.

Hard to hear in here Tony Broadbent– suggest pew mics for hard of hearing. Tony will research pricing.

Harriet’s House – Rusty – want to do a dinner theater, in Cambridge. Are we interested to helping in October? No. Rusty will politely decline.

Rockawalkin Church Rusty– they would like to donate several have large oak chairs. Do we want them? Ken J will contact them for a picture.

ASCAP License – Rusty will pay license bill of approximately \$23

- **Production Committee Recommendation for 2026/2027 Season: Melissa Dasher**

The Memo presented to the Board is attached. Recommended that all rights are procured before we advertise the season.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Next Meeting: April 1 at 6:00 pm.