



Special Edition Prompter

Rome Community Theater

8911 Turin Road Rome, NY

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April 2023

2023 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

According to the RCT By-Laws, the membership must be notified of the annual election of Officers and Trustees at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 16 at 7:30 PM; all members are eligible to vote and new members may join at the meeting as well. The Nomination Committee (Janet Hanna, Nancy Novak, John Parker, Elizabeth Saunders and Barb Seaton) has submitted the following slate of people who have indicated their plans to run for either an Officer position or a 3-year term as a Trustee. In addition to those endorsed by the committee, nominations from the floor are always an option.

Please take a moment to get to know the people who are interested in the governance of YOUR community theater.

President—Stephen Hampe: In my past two years as a board officer (Secretary then 1st VP) I have gained exposure and perspective regarding the operations and challenges facing the organization. It is my intention to continue and amplify my predecessor's devotion to expanding RCT's reach as a welcoming and vibrant contributor to Rome's arts community, providing an outlet to a diverse community of creatives and an engaging source of entertainment, presenting a robust mix of classic and contemporary productions, including regular programming designed to bring a younger volunteer pool to our community. In support of that mission, I seek to continue the modernization of our administrative infrastructure in service of preserving the history of the organization, management of its day-to-day functioning, and outreach to the local community.

1st Vice President—Kirstin Walker: I want to be 1st VP because I am really invested in maintaining continuity on the board. I have served on the board for many years, and I am familiar with most aspects of running the theater.

2nd Vice President—Ella Alsheimer: As the current 2nd VP, I enjoy scheduling and preparing the social activities for the membership (Trip to Turkey, Holiday Party, etc.) and I wish to continue on the board to better understand the workings of the theater in order to better serve our patrons.

3rd Vice President/Plant Manager—John Frank: As a relatively new position on the board, it is very important to have someone well versed in not just the day to day running of the theater, but to be able to troubleshoot any issues and immediately take action when needed. I am currently the deputy facility manager and am volunteering to fill in for current facility manager while he deals with a medical issue.

Secretary—Jen Martin: I would be honored to be elected to serve another year as RCT Secretary of the Board. This past year we have implemented a new digital record keeping system that I very much enjoy managing and building out. My goals will be to continue to preserve our board minutes and financials with clear organization and continue to use technology to help streamline communication and store data for easy analysis and reference. Thank you for your consideration.

Financial Secretary—Maria Rich: For 23 out of the last 27 years, I have served as the RCT treasurer. I have decided it's time to share the joy and let another person take over. If I were to be selected for the office of financial secretary, I would be available to help the new treasurer if requested.

Treasurer—Pat Stone: As a bookkeeper and Certified Quickbooks On-Line Advisor for my clients, I update their transactions daily, reconcile monthly bank accounts, file tax forms, manage payroll, produce financial reports, etc. I really enjoy working with RCT on productions, and I have been made to feel like a part of the team since I joined the board. It's a joy to have my skills as a theater professional valued and appreciated by the folks at RCT. To give back, I can offer my skills as a bookkeeper and financial professional to help keep the company on track and financially healthy. It would be my pleasure to do so.

In addition to the seven Officers, three Trustees will be chosen from the following (one more on the back page!):

Michele Buday: I have always enjoyed theatre and have enjoyed being a part of 3 productions just this past year at RCT. I very much want to learn more how community theater functions. I want to ensure that this community theater is able to provide good quality productions and continue to offer anyone interested in participating in any aspect of theater a place for creative outlet.

Cassandra Dolan: I would like to be a part of the team that helps this wonderful theater come together. I started my musical theater career at RCT at the age of five, and have been a participant in shows and helping within the theater for the past 18 years and I am proud to say I've learned almost everything I know from this theater and the wonderful people within it. I have been cast in many performances, assistant coached the RCT Talent Team alongside Dave Bush, done makeup and costume design, learned how to hang lights and work the sound board, stage manage, and choreographed a number of dances, as well as the entirety of "Annie Get Your Gun" from this past fall. I hope to bring a new perspective to the theater along with ideas to attract more people from my generation and the next, and help in the ways I'm able to. I'd love the chance to take this home away from home to the next level and inspire those around us with our common love of theater.

Justin Jones: As a passionate member of the local community scene, I am dedicated to seeing theaters grow. I'd love to be part of the RCT board as it has a huge potential for growth considering the space and resources available. I would love to see a combination of both the new and old ways of theater combine to create well rounded seasons that will pull a variety of audiences.

Shane Archer Reed: I'm interested in being a trustee because I've been fortunate enough to see quite a few shows (and even be a part of two of them) and have enjoyed seeing some steady growth at RCT. I want to see that growth take a much bigger incline and see this theater put on even bigger shows to a much wider audience. I feel like we need to reach out to a younger demographic—specifically the age 18 to 35 group. CNY has a much larger talent pool than we can imagine; if we were to draw that talent in with some different shows, we would not only get more interest in auditions we would get more people to invest in memberships and come see these shows that are hard-hitting and have important stories to tell. The main reason I got involved with theater was to have an outlet to perform and tell these stories that touched my heart and touch other theater goers in theater performers' hearts. I think RCT has the potential to do great things and if I'm lucky enough to be on the board, I'm hoping we can find a way to make that happen.



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Elizabeth Saunders: I was active in RCT for 9 of the previous 11 years that my family resided in Rome, NY. I held several positions on various committees, served on the board and did both on stage and back stage work on RCT productions throughout the years. As a homeschooling family, my 3 young boys were active and enjoying their time learning and interacting with the local community theater world as well. We left New York for over 12 years. Although there were some very vibrant community theaters that I dabbled in as a volunteer, none fit me like a glove in the way that RCT did and still does. I remained an avid supporter from afar and have retained some wonderful friendships from my previous work at RCT. My family has recently returned to the Rome area, having purchased a homestead to be our forever home and a source of hospitality for the community. RCT holds a special place in my heart, and I welcome the opportunity to be a part of its future success. Thank you for your consideration of my appointment as a Trustee for RCT.

Past President—Barb Seaton: It has been my pleasure to preside over a very dedicated team of people who give up so much time and talent to support Rome Community Theater and continually strive for excellence in all aspects. I look forward to the exciting future the new members of the board will bring about as they work together to blend the past, the present and what will be the next chapter of YOUR Community Theater

Current RCT Board

President: Barb Seaton
1st Vice President: Steve Hampe
2nd Vice President: Ella Alsheimer
3rd Vice President/Plant Manager: John Doiron*
Secretary: Jen Martin
Financial Secretary: Pat Stone
Treasurer: Maria Rich

Trustees:
Catherine Dolan
Arnold Galin
Denise Morganti*
Nancy Novak
John Parker
Suzanne Rodio*
Jeanette Schwertfeger
Mike Sharp
Kirstin Walker

*Expiring terms, with gratitude for their many combined years of dedication and guidance—THANK YOU!