



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS JUNE 26, 2016 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A nominating committee was formed at the March 2016 General Membership meeting to identify candidates interested in positions on the Board of Directors of Oyster Mill Playhouse. The nominating committee consisted of Chris Holbert, Aliza Bardfield, Megan McClain and Mandi Hurley.

The nominating committee would like to invite all members of Oyster Mill Playhouse to attend the annual election of officers on Sunday, June 26 at 4:00 pm. At this important meeting, we will elect new officers to the following 2-year positions: Vice President, Business Manager and Treasurer. Eight Members-at-Large will also be elected for a 1-year term. Members of the playhouse are permitted to nominate other members "from the floor" at the General Membership Meeting for each of the open positions.

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## CANDIDATE BIOS AND/OR STATEMENTS

The following candidates have expressed interest in running for election (or re-election) to the Oyster Mill Playhouse Board of Directors. All candidates have been vetted by the Nominating Committee.

### Vice President

*Stephen F.J. Martin (Currently serving as Vice President)*

Stephen F. J. Martin was elected to the office of Vice President in 2014 and has served in that capacity for the past 2 years. He has also served on the Fundraising Committee and the OMies Awards Committee. He is 64 years old and retired from service as an attorney with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Through his profession as a lawyer, he is familiar with contracting issues and administrative issues relating to the operation of a nonprofit like Oyster Mill. Stephen has, in the past, also served as Business Manager for the organization and in two separate

terms served as its President. He is well known to the membership and patrons for his participation in many Oyster Mill productions as an actor, director, set designer and set dresser. He has been a member of the organization since 1990 and has contributed significantly to the activities of the theater for the past 26 years.

### **Business Manager**

*Carol McDonough (Currently serving as Business Manager)*

I began helping in theatre during college in the early seventies (yes I am that old) where I served as treasurer to two theater organizations for four years. I served on the Board of LTM for 12 years in many capacities not the least of which was president. Personally, my background is varied. I have managed a private duty home care company, began an AIDS case management program in Monroe County, and upon moving back to the area, worked for the Department of Health. Needing a respite from health care service, I held positions with the world's largest inventory company, as a supervisor for a distribution center, a front end manager of a grocery store, and finally as Textile Specialist for a major retailer

I assumed the position of Business Manager two years ago when approached by the board. I had intended to wait until retirement but jumped in as I often do. Now that I am officially retired, it would be my privilege to dedicate my time with renewed gusto. I would like to expand and improve customer serve by quicker response to inquiries.

### **Treasurer**

As of the date of this publication, no candidate for Treasurer has been identified.

### **Member-At-Large** (8 Positions Available)

*Aliza Bardfield (Currently serving as Member-at-Large)*

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Aliza Bardfield and I am THE candidate of choice to work to ensure Oyster Mill Playhouse is THE premiere West Shore Community theatre in the PA Capital area. Over the course of the past few years, in my current role as a Member at Large, I have been involved with Oyster Mill Playhouse in many capacities. My contributions include (but are not limited to): Management of House Staff volunteers including training and scheduling, Coordinator and facilitator for 2016 Season Preview event, Member and contributor for Play Reading Committee, Member and contributor for Director Selection Committee, Member and contributor for Election Nominating Committee, Organization of OMP play library, Participation with PR Events (West Shore Chamber of Commerce Mixer, New Cumberland Community Days, Boscov's Friends-Helping-Friends, Production Mailings). I also have 20 plus years working in community theatre and have appeared on stage in several productions here at OMP, and other area theatres, and completed courses in Character Development, Scene Study, and Advanced Acting Technique to name a few while also adding to my knowledge and skill set by taking on Producer and Stage Manager responsibilities to ensure I am continuing to learn and grow in my own abilities to allow a higher value overall.

More importantly perhaps is what I plan to contribute moving forward and what abilities and talents I possess that make me the ideal candidate to continue as a board member. I bring with me a strong customer service business background coupled with leadership experience, exemplary communication skills, and a passion for excellence to

bring outstanding productions and a fabulous theatrical experience to everyone walking through our doors; be it the tentative first time theatre goer, the anxious volunteer, or the well-seasoned and knowledgeable stage veteran. All should be welcomed to our home here at OMP and all should be given the chance to contribute and shine, while also being given the opportunity to allow the theatre to shine. For many of our actors, it's their first time either on stage or their first time in a specific genre or type of role. It's our job to ensure the novice, and experienced actor (and volunteer) alike, are given the opportunity to learn and grow in his or her craft and be given the opportunity to understand the production in and of itself. This may sound like some highbrow artistic mumbo jumbo, however, when it comes down to it we are in the business of creating live theatre entertainment. This is who we are. The production – and the quality of that production – is what matters most or everything else is for nothing. In voting for me you can be assured I will continue to bring my ability to walk the tightrope that is the three components of the theatre – the artistic side, the production side, and the business side – to create a “home” here at Oyster Mill Playhouse for all those looking to have the most magical of theatrical experiences in an enriching and welcoming environment while working to make Oyster Mill Playhouse THE premiere West Shore community theatre in the Capital area.



*Michael Beckstein*

I am happy to be considered as a board member for Oyster Mill Playhouse. While I have only participated in a few shows over the past several years, the playhouse has become a constant in my life, and a place of expression for me. My theatrical passion has always been musicals, though I have dabbled in some acting of the non-musical variety. While I can be a rather quiet, grossly unconfident person in my normal everyday life, stepping on that stage and belting out a tune brings out something in me that I strive to find once I leave the boards. I've always been on the stage side of things, but in the past year have sought to venture into other ways that I can serve the theatre and the community. To that end I've spent time working in box office and as a house manager and usher. I've also had the honor to serve on the musical play-read team in choosing the 2017 season. It was exciting to be a part of the planning process and see our choices be discussed and approved.

I would like to serve on the Board of Directors because it will allow me to continue to serve the theatre that I love in new ways and continue to move it forward. While I do not have training or experience in business or administration, I will throw myself into a task at hand and learn what needs to be done to accomplish it. I bring an eagerness to learn the inner workings of the theatre and how to make it accessible to all who seek that escape from everyday reality. In recent years I have been excited to see the playhouse choose shows that appeal to a younger crowd of patrons and auditioners. This is something that I would really like to see continue, and hope that I could be a part of that through service on the board. Drawing in the younger crowds and actors is important for the life and future of the theatre. In the long term I would love to see this theatre become a stronger, more lucrative service to the community. I do believe that it is already on the way to do that with the bold chances the theatre is already taking. I have always admired this theatre for the strength and stability of those behind the scenes, and would love to have the opportunity to be a part of that solid group of committed individuals. Thank you.



*Linda-Louise Bush (Currently serving as Member-at-Large)*

First and foremost, I love Oyster Mill Playhouse; it is my home and the people that are involved with OMP are my family. I am a productive resident of Wormleysburg and support the West Shore community. Secondly, I have

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served in this capacity for nearly one year and I feel like I have gained the knowledge and experience that I need to continue to be a productive member of the Board. I feel that I possess the knowledge, energy and motivation that is required.

I have worked for government and private businesses for over 40 years that require being part of a team to accomplish routine operations and also special projects. I have always worked well in that type of environment and have often been cited as a valued member of the team.

I have been involved with community and professional theater for over 20 years, in different capacities but mostly as a costume designer. I have been involved with the costuming of many shows both as the lone costumer and as part of a team effort. I have been nominated for three OMIE awards in the category of Best Costumes. I am currently working on the “The Burning Man”, and will be doing “An Act of the Imagination” and “The Sound of Music” in the coming months. I have also volunteered as House Manager at OMP for at least 15 years, usually doing two shows a production.

I want to see OMP continue to thrive and to produce excellent productions, just as they always have. I am very excited for the coming season as I think the audiences will love the new shows that were chosen. I look forward to paying off the mortgage and having more financial freedom to make the theater bigger and better.



*Jackie Goodwin*

I want to serve on the board because I love the theater and the arts. I have served on another theater board and discovered that this is a great way to share my talents with the community. Volunteering has also provided the opportunity to meet and interact with others in the community with similar interests. If I am elected, I will bring my knowledge and experience in communications, specifically, public relations, marketing, and advertising to the table. My years in public relations and advertising and my networking skills will allow me to help Oyster Mill find new audience members and share the magic of theatre with the Harrisburg area.

I hold an earned Doctorate from West Virginia University in education administration with a minor in Leadership (Ed.D); a Masters in English (MA); and a Bachelors in English and journalism (BS).

I taught English and journalism on the high school level for 13 years; was an adjunct English instructor at West Virginia University; was employed at the West Virginia Education Association as Director of Communications; was employed at the Pennsylvania State Education Association as Assistant Director of Communications and Strategic Planning; and continue to work as a freelance writer for a variety of publications.

I am also President of Capital Communications, Inc.; and I am the editor of *Capital Watch*, a monthly publication that reports on what’s happening in state government.

Since I moved to the Harrisburg area I have been in numerous theatre productions including those at Oyster Mill, Little Theater Mechanicsburg, Theatre Harrisburg, York Little Theater and Fishing Creek. These productions include: How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying; Almost Maine; Bye, Bye Birdie; The Music Man; Camelot; A Christmas Story; and Shakespeare in Hollywood, to name a few. Previously, I was involved in numerous productions at Parkersburg Theater and Morgantown Dinner Theater in West Virginia. I also have been in three movies, five TV commercials and two operas (Patience and Only a Tenor).

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In addition, I served on the Harrisburg Theater Board of Directors for 6 years and did costuming for Little Theater Mechanicsburg when asked.

My goals for Oyster Mill follow:

- Increase the number of community partnerships and relationships.
- Increase the number of individual donors.
- Increase awareness and access.
- Maintain and grow attendance.
- Increase ticket sales.
- Identify and maintain audience growth segments.
- Develop marketing plans to reach diverse audiences.
- Ensure organizational stability through excellent management practices.
- Practice excellent financial management
- Operate within a balanced budget.
- Support and maintain board effectiveness.
- Maintain and nurture a sufficient pool of volunteers.
- Conduct a feasibility study for additional sources of funding.



*Kathy Luft (Currently serving as Member-at-Large)*

I have long been a person who loves the theater and it is a pleasure to be able to work with a Board so involved in bringing quality theater to the central Pa area. I enjoy giving back to the community and this is a positive way of doing that. I am a retired school administrator with a background in leadership. In my administrative duties, I created budgets and work with children, parents, teachers and administrators to create a safe and effective educational environment.

My background in the theater dates back to my childhood. I began with involvement in school plays, went on to act through high school and college and took a hiatus to raise my daughter. I have come back to the theater the past 6 years, beginning at Theater Harrisburg, then moving on to Little Theater of Mechanicsburg and Oyster Mill Playhouse. I also sing in a choir and enjoy acting in musicals as well.

My short term goals for the playhouse are to help raise funds to pay off the mortgage and fund the water system. Long range, I look forward to continuing to maintain the facility and keep bringing cutting edge theater to the community.



*Megan McClain*

I feel that the timing is right to bring my expertise and skills to the Board of Directors. I look forward to working with my peers to continue to make Oyster Mill a great theater.

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I graduated HACC with an Associate's degree in Theatre/Performing Arts. From there, I became a Manager at the UPS Store and then moved on to becoming the Marketing and Education Coordinator at the Pennsylvania RV & Camping Association. With PRVCA, I'm responsible for marketing America's Largest RV Show on all social and print media, scheduling meetings for our Association's Board of Directors, taking minutes for meetings, and working to help coordinate education for our members, including regional training sessions within the state of Pennsylvania.

I began dancing at the age of 6 and have performed on stages across Pennsylvania since then, having had the pleasure of performing with the Harrisburg Ballet as a student. Aside from school productions, the theater bug didn't really bite me until college and I was mostly unaware of the community theater scene until a fellow HACC-tor invited me to audition for Oyster Mill Playhouse. The fun and friendships I found in that first show, *Murder at the Vicarage*, remain with me to this day. Since then, I've worked both on and off-stage at OMP and have enjoyed every minute of it.

I would really like to help promote Oyster Mill Playhouse on social media and make sure that the theater moves with the current trends in the industry. I think the use of "behind the scenes" videos and live backstage and rehearsal broadcasts could generate interest to a younger demographic. I also think that education is important, for both school age children and adults either starting out in community theater or jumping back in after a hiatus. I would love to see seminars for dance, set construction, audition workshops, makeup and hair tutorials, etc. for the community. I would also like to work to get the costume shop and green room organized and maximize our space to its full potential. Many hands make light work and I think it's important to make volunteering fun. As the only all-volunteer theater in the area, it's important to reach out to those who may not normally get involved. Thank you for your consideration.



*Geoff Ottens*

In writing my biography, I realize that I'm one lucky guy! First and foremost, I am fortunate to be married to OMP veteran, former board member, and OMies™ Award winning actress, Kristen Borgersen Ottens. I have been graced as the father of two young men, Zach and Nathan, who is an OMP alum. We live in bucolic Lancaster County with two adopted ex-racing greyhounds. I am a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and have spent most of my career in either retail or financial sales. We are very active with our church where I serve on the Congregational Council; play in the hand bell choir; sing with the chancel, praise, and festival choirs; program the carillon; create the pre-service announcements video; and coordinate the TrinARTy and Adult Game Night small groups. At my alma mater, I work with the Penn Eta chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity (alumni advisor); the Lancaster County Alumni Association of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity (board member-at-large), the F&M Central PA Regional Alumni Chapter (board member), and Dog Park Mount Joy (volunteer, photographer, and committee member). Of all my volunteer activities, I consider myself most lucky to be involved with the Oyster Mill Playhouse. I have progressed from simply being a patron (and fan of my favorite actress) to constructing, painting, and striking sets; ushering; fabricating props; stage managing; and, finally, to acting. Throughout my evolution, I have been fortunate to witness many board members' ceaseless efforts and well deserved successes. I am a better person for having been involved at OMP; I've laughed until I've cried at the comedies. I've gripped the edge of my seat at the dramas; I've grown as an actor and as a man during the shows I've been involved with. For all that personal growth, training, laughter, and tears, I feel that I owe a personal debt to OMP; one that I can best repay by offering my time, ideas, and talents in a new capacity serving on the OMP Board.

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I have enjoyed theater throughout my life. In 1974, at the age of seven, I first performed during a children's acting workshop at the Harrisburg Community Theater. I performed in musicals and plays in middle and high schools in East Pennsboro. In 2009, I made my adult debut in "If Men Played Cards As Women Do" (George) during OMP Presents An Evening of One Acts. In 2012, I was cast in "1776" (Robert Livingston – NY) at Susquehanna Stage Co; worked as a stage hand for "Play On" at OMP, worked on the set for "Wrong Turn at Lungfish" at OMP; acted, sang, and danced in "Annie" (Fred McCracken, Henry Morganthau, Ensemble) at Susquehanna Stage Co. In 2013, I did set construction and painting for "Exit the Body" at OMP. In 2014, I was a stage hand for "Dixie Swim Club" at OMP. In 2015, I moved up to the challenge of being the Stage Manager for OMP's "Bust Stop". Most recently, I did set construction, painting, and acting (in five different roles) in OMP's "One Man, Two Guvnors" (Cabbie, Old Man, the British Bobby, Barman, & Gareth the Waiter). If I am lucky enough to serve on OMP's Board of Directors, in the short-term, I would like to see Oyster Mill Playhouse continue expanding its presence on social media platforms. Over the last year, the use of social media has resulted stronger casts – drawing actors to audition from as far away as Lebanon, Stewartstown, and Chambersburg. In the long-term, I would like to be a part of the driving force for OMP continue modernizing the venue and improving production values in order to be the preeminent community theater in Central PA.



*Lew Silverman*

Hello. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Lew Silverman and I am very interested in returning as a member of the Board of Directors at Oyster Mill Playhouse, where I served as a Member-At-Large from July, 2014 through June, 2015. I am a graduate of California Institute of the Arts where I received both my BFA and MFA degrees in Theatre.

I have worked in both professional/Equity theatre as well as regional/community theatre venues. I have also worked and taught in educational theatre. For example, I was responsible for creating a program major in Arts Administration at Susquehanna University where I also taught classes in arts administration, theatre management and marketing/public relations. Last Summer, I was a Company Manager at Gretna Theatre. At OMP, I directed the 2015 production of *Bus Stop* and the 2016 production of *All My Sons*.

As a returning member of the Board, I offer experience and skill sets in a number of areas. Included among them are: oral communications skills, creative problem solving abilities, motivation and commitment, willingness to work cooperatively, leadership and management experience, putting the needs of the theatre first. I am prepared to provide assistance in those areas that the Board and its membership see as their greatest needs. From strategic planning to audience development to marketing, to directing/acting/stage management, I am comfortable to contribute whatever I can, as part of a team, to help Oyster Mill Playhouse grow, sustain and move forward in these troubled times for the arts.

I look forward to becoming a part of an organization that recognizes and respects the value of the arts for future generations to come. Thank you.



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*Mike Stubbs*

Oyster Mill Playhouse has been a part of my life for quite a few years. I've served on the board before and I'm ready to do so again. I have a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in education. I served six years in the United States Army and received an honorable discharge. I have been involved in theater since 1969. I have worked in theaters both in the U.S. and Germany. I would bring about 46 years of experience in the theater to the board. OMP is one of the top Community Theaters in Pennsylvania but we need to work on expanding our base. People need to know that the river or any other reason is no obstacle to being a part of the oyster Mill experience.



*Michael Zorger*

I want to serve on the board because I am interested in creating a youth program that allows kids to learn and to act throughout the school year and a camp or two during the summers. I have directed multiple shows for elementary through high school 5 of the shows even garnered Apollo awards for best production. Over my 5 years with the camp hill school district we were awarded 24 Apollos. I am also a private voice teacher and actor. Camp wise I know how to run a camp from beginning to end and am used to dealing with 80plus kids so the smaller number that oyster mill could hold would be totally doable. I would also like to start weekly workshops with the kids to continue their theater education. I believe these are both short and long term goals.

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## **General Membership Meeting June 26, 2016 at 4:00 pm**

In addition to the election, the General Membership Meeting will include a review of the productions selected for the 2017 Season, announcements regarding the selection of a replacement production in light of the revocation by Rogers and Hammerstein of the rights to produce *The Sound of Music* in the OMP 2016 Season, presentation of results from recent projects and discussion of other business. Food and beverages will be provided by the Board of Directors at a reception following the General Membership Meeting.

*Hope to See You There!*



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