

CALLBOARD

Big announcements from the Fall Conference

Several significant announcements came out of the 2017 Fall Conference and are listed here so everyone is aware!

- **A new logo** for the organization. In addition to being used in this first issue of the Callboard since the change (see above!), the Board also revealed the beginning of new merchandise with the logo by all wearing the new t-shirts and polo shirts. The merchandise will soon be available on the website.
- **Fall Conferences**, since the beginning of time, have always been the last full weekend of September, come hell or high water -- regardless of the fact that it conflicted with the opening show of many of our members! Well, imagine this: The date of the 2018 Fall Conference has been moved two weeks later (October 12-14) so more people can attend and take advantage of the workshops and networking.
- **Also about the Fall Conference**, the location is being moved to the Grand Blanc/Flint area, hoping to be more central and attracting more people from the metropolitan areas. It will be at the Holiday Inn-Gateway Center at the junction of I-75 and US-23.
- **Future Spring Conferences** will be 'regional'

gatherings around the state: Eastern lower, western lower and Upper Peninsula. Different weekends, but the same workshops, same workshop leaders, and the same great opportunities for people to attend and learn from the workshops. Dates and locations for 2018 will be announced. These regional spring gatherings (probably Saturday-only) will be in off-AACTfest years (or even -numbered years.)

- **Hosting opportunities** abound! If your group is able to host a regional meeting, please contact Vice President Suzan Dunham. Note that hotel rooms most likely will not be needed for these smaller meetings!



2017 Fall Conference chair Suzan Dunham and her sister, Anne Williams, bask in the glow of a job well done! Congratulations!

2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Christy Frick**
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Proud Member of



Callboard

Editor.....Mary Lou Britton

This is the official newsletter of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan, issued monthly to all group affiliates and individual members with e-mail addresses on record. Distribution is by e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the association website. Back issues are available on the association website at www.community-theatremichigan.org. Correspondence to the **Callboard** should be sent to the Editor at mellbee@earthlink.net.

- Productions and dates should be sent to the Editor.
- Short informational articles are accepted and will be used on a space-available basis.
- Show photos should be carefully selected and sent to the Editor, along with identifying caption and permission from photographer for us to publish.

Updated e-mail and postal addresses are maintained by the Executive Secretary Nancy Peska and should be sent to her at peska@cmsinter.net.

New affiliate group starts up and joins CTAM right away!

We're proud to introduce everyone to our newest affiliate: The Downeaster Theatre, the latest addition to the Lansing community theatre scene. They are run by a small staff, and serve both the youth and adult communities. According to Founder and Executive Artistic Director Kathryn Willis, "We are starting small with a 150-seat proscenium space that is exclusively our own, and hoping to grow in the next few years to accommodate a 500-seat proscenium, a 250-seat thrust, and a 50-seat blackbox. And in the distant future, hopefully expanding into multiple cities to create an exchange program for youth." Kathryn is a former member of the CTAM Board of Directors.

Their first season is quite ambitious and includes *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Princess and the Goblin*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Nutcracker*, *Betrayal*, *Rabbit Hole* and *Ring Around Rosalie*.

For more information, please refer to their website (thedowneastertheatre.com) or contact Kathryn at willsara@mail.gvsu.edu.



Left, some of the cast from *The Laramie Project*, performing in October. Right is Kathryn Willis.

CTAM Calendar of Events

| | |
|---|--|
| June 27-July 1, 2018 New York City | CTAM trip to Broadway |
| July 13-15, 2018 Higgins Lake | Master Classes at MacMullen Center |
| October 12-14, 2018 Flint/Grand Blanc area | 2018 Fall Conference Holiday Inn-Gateway Ctr. |
| June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA | AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater |



The prez Sez... by Christy Frick

I would like to thank Suzan Dunham, Anne Williams, Tina and Alan Dalton and everyone else that helped in planning and executing this year's Fall Conference. It was another success between the keynote speaker, Jim Carver, the exciting and innovative workshops, the readers' theater presentations and the networking! We did indeed Rock Around the Clock!

I would like to introduce the new Board of CTAM serving with me: Suzan Dunham, Vice President; Jamie Peterson, Treasurer; and Shryl Cone, Secretary. The members-at-large are Chuck Goddeeris, Patrick Hubbard, Betsy Willis, Michael Wisniewski and Ben Zylman. (See page 5 for more information.)

I plan on continuing with the hard work that outgoing president Betsy Willis had been working on these past couple of years in moving CTAM forward. Betsy's leadership has brought many changes to our organization and helped us finalize the direction we are heading. Many other changes and improvements are in the chute and will be coming soon. Thank you very much, Betsy; you're a hard act to follow!



We are working on assigning the committees for this upcoming year, so if you are interested in being on one of the CTAM committees, please contact me at cfrick9898@charter.net and we can find a fit for you.

I am looking forward to a great year and thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. It's a great honor!

Christy Frick



Broadway... Here we come!

CTAM is offering another group trip to visit Broadway for next June 27 (Wednesday), returning on Sunday, July 1. (Five days, four nights.) That leaves you more time to plan for the trip and to save up the money! The trip includes the following:

- Economy air fare from Detroit or Grand Rapids.
- Transfers to and from hotel to airport,
- Guided sightseeing tour of NYC, with refreshments,
- Four nights at the Millennium Hotel,
- Two Broadway shows, plus time to see others that you may want to see on your own nickel,
- Backstage tour at Radio City Music Hall,
- All local taxes and fees.

Cost: Per person in shared double room: \$1,999; per person in single room, \$2,599.

The planners strongly suggest that you also get trip insurance, starting at \$118.

Morrie Enders, familiar to many, will be our guide. Arrangements are made through Executive Travel, out of Lincoln, NE. Deadline for full payment is March 27, 2018. A deposit of \$500 is due when you make your reservation at <http://executive-travel.com/ctam-playhouse-2018>.

For questions and a brochure with more information, you can call them at 402/435-8888 or email them directly: GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR VOLUNTEERS

By Mary Jo Denolf



How do you “process” your volunteers?

I have been asked many times throughout my years at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre how we process our volunteers. “Do you run a background check on all your volunteers?” My definitive answer is “not always!” We have more than 800 volunteers a year with 200+ new each year. It would take more manpower than we have available to process everyone, so we have gone a different direction.

At Grand Rapids Civic, every new volunteer fills out a Volunteer Application. It’s a simple application, asking for name, address, phone, email. Then, the next section asks about their theatre interests, time commitment, etc. A third section (optional) is good information to have for grant writing: Birth date, ethnicity, and employment.

Then toward the bottom of the application, we ask several difficult questions, simply and straightforward – which you may provide to your attorney for approval before publication:

★ **Health Conditions:** If you have any special needs we should be aware of, please let us know and we will try to accommodate your special needs to the extent we reasonably can. All such information will be kept confidential.

- If so, please check here and list on the reverse side of this page.

★ **Photo/Audio Release:** By signing below, you grant permission to (xx theatre) to use your image and/or voice for all advertising/marketing/historical purposes without limitation and without the payment of any remuneration or consideration whatsoever. (The release is mandatory for all volunteers who appear in our productions; for all other volunteers and students, it is voluntary.)

★ **Criminal Record:** (xx theatre) wants to provide a safe environment for all our volunteers. To help us do so, we require the following information:

1. Have you ever been convicted of a crime that has not been officially expunged from your record, other than minor traffic violations, either as a juvenile or an adult?
 Yes or No If yes, please provide the nature of the offense, the date and court of conviction, and any other information which you believe we should know.
2. Are there any felony charges presently pending against you?
 Yes or No If so, in what court are they pending?
3. Are you listed on the Michigan State Police Registry of Sex Offenders? Yes or No

At the end of the form are statements specific to your group to which the applicant agrees by signing the form:

- I agree to conform to all (xx theatre) policies applicable to volunteers, the (xx theatre) Code of Conduct, and to comply with all (xx theatre) safety practices.
- I agree to be responsible for the cost of any emergency medical care provided to me, should (xx theatre) staff in their judgment call 911 on my behalf in the event of an emergency.
- I hereby certify that all of the information provided above is correct and complete, and I recognize (xx theatre) will rely on that information.

And then space is provided for the applicant to sign and date the form.

So, based on their answers to the ‘criminal record’ questions above, I make a decision on whether or not to run a background check. You will probably find that just knowing you will be checking on them will deter applicants with questionable backgrounds from wanting to become involved.

Background checks are free for any non-profit through Michigan State Police at IChat. You just need to register and then you can do free checks. They are simple checks but give you enough background to know whether you should accept this prospective volunteer into your ranks. We run all of our teaching staff through this process because they are working with our children, as well as new volunteers

(continued top of next page!)

who would most likely be exposed to the monetary assets of the group. That IChat link is: <https://apps.michigan.gov/ichat/home.aspx>.

Of course, a lawyer needs to review any form you put together, but if you have any specific questions for me, feel free to contact me at mjdenolf@grct.org and I'll see if I can help.

(Ed. Note: Our volunteers are our most precious asset, so we need to take good care of them. This is another in our occasional series of volunteer-management articles by Mary Jo. If you have specific questions, please contact the editor and we'll ask Mary Jo very nicely to address the issue!)



The Fenton Village Players had a good time with Thoroughly Modern Millie earlier this year.

Meet your three new CTAM Board members

The three gentlemen profiled below have been elected to new three-year terms of office on the Board of Directors. Welcome, one and all!

Jamie Peterson – has been part of Players de Noc since he was 15 years old and since has acted, directed, produced, set design, construction, lighting, sound, props, costumes. Running crews....to mopping the stage. Jamie has served on the Board for Players de Noc and held positions of Treasurer, Publicity, and President. While serving on their board, Jamie believes that every action the group takes should be in fulfilling their mission statement, and achieve those goals. Jamie state he is interested in joining the CTAM board, and is confident that he will have something to offer the board. Jamie is also very active in his community and has served as a volunteer firefighter for 20+ years as well as the Coast Guard Auxiliary, boy scouts and various community sports coaching and after school programs. During the day he is a Claims Specialist for the Social Security Administration.



Patrick Hubbard – has been a member of the Clio Cast and Crew for over 20 years. Lighting and Sound are his passion and is always looking for unique ways to make the shows more visually exciting and expand his knowledge on the subject. Patrick joined the board of Clio Cast and



Crew in 2005 and worked his way through positions to President in 2010. He took a break from the board but found himself missing being part of this and was elected again as President from 2013-2017. Patrick would like to join CTAM board to increase participation at events as well as have local theatre groups gain knowledge of what CTAM can do for them.

Michael Wisniewski – has been involved in community theatre for many years, primarily with Bay City Players where he has been involved in almost every aspect of the theatre. He has directed and acted in many productions. Michael has served on the board of directors for two separate



four year terms and served as President of the Board. At Bay City Players he was responsible for starting our summer musicals that are meant to be edgy and choosing productions that the group would not necessarily be able to do in their normal season. Currently he is the Chair of the Play Reading and Set Decoration committees. He states: I have the

utmost respect for what CTAM does for community theatre in our state and I believe I can be an asset to this organization.

Arnett, McKenna Awards presented at September Conference

After the CTAM Saturday night banquet we were pleased to present a Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Award and the Robert A. McKenna Award. The presentations were made by Terry Jolink, CTAM Awards Chair.

A Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Award was presented to **Jean Nicholas** from Cadillac Footliters. The award was accepted by a fellow member, as Jean was unable to attend for health reasons. Jean has been a valuable part of Cadillac Footliters for the past 28 years. Jean is a costumer extraordinaire! Creative and inventive, she devises costumes without patterns and reuses material to save money – from 40 discarded prom dresses transformed into ball gowns to 20 Oompa Loompa pants re-purposed into Milky White’s cow costume for *Into the Woods* (\$4 vs. \$400 rental fee). Jean has directed and costumed 18 plays and assisted on 20 more, usually working with large groups of squirming children. In addition to her backstage work, Jean has served on the Cadillac Board, usually as secretary or treasurer, since 1989 and has managed to serve on every committee at one time or another. She is also their Historian, keeping all of their memories and recalling the who, what, when, where and why of their organization.

The winner of this year’s Robert A. McKenna Award, the highest award presented by CTAM, was **Larry Rink** of Rosedale Community Players. Larry has been with RCP since 1993 and has served at every level. He has directed several shows, acted in countless others and has helped behind the scenes in every technical capacity from lights to sound to set building. He has also served as



Rosedale’s President for multiple stints and mentored countless other members to serve on their board and behind the scenes.

Larry also served on the CTAM board from 2000-2004; he has since chaired other CTAM committees, including the Scholarship Committee for several years, concluding his service in 2010. He has recruited others to join CTAM, both affiliates and individuals to serve on the Board, and regularly attends the statewide festivals and conferences. He has also participated in multiple AACTFest submissions, including being a cast member

in RCP’s 2007 State-winning production of *No Exit*.

Also on Saturday night we recognized the following theatres for their longevity in providing live theatre to their Michigan communities:

- Ionia Civic Theatre for 25 years
- Hartland Players, 50 years
- Pinckney Players for 50 years
- Manistee Civic for 75 years
- Bay City Players for 100 years!

Congratulations to all of our award winners!



Top photo is Larry Rink, accepting the Robert A. McKenna Award for a lifetime body of theatre work in Michigan.

Middle photo is Laura Porter from Cadillac, accepting the Arnett Volunteer Service Award on behalf of Jean Nicholas who was not able to attend.

Lower photo is Joanne Berry, accepting the award for Bay City Players, celebrating their first 100 years of providing great theatre for their community. All awards were presented by Awards Chair Terry Jolink.

Who's Doing What This Fall!

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Center Stage Theatre, Midland | <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> | Sep 22-Oct 5, 2017 |
| Gratiot County Players | <i>Escanaba in da Moonlight</i> | Sep 22-Oct 1, 2017 |
| Kalamazoo Civic Theatre | <i>Young Frankenstein</i> | Sep 22-Oct 8, 2017 |
| Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing | <i>Master Harold and the Boys**</i> | Sept 28-Oct 8, 2017 |
| Bay City Players | <i>Nice Work If You Can Get It</i> | Sept 29-Oct 8, 2017 |
| Flint Community Players | <i>In the Next Room (Staged reading)**</i> | Oct 2, 2017 |
| Clarkston Village Players | <i>Here on the Flight Path</i> | Oct 5-15, 2017 |
| Holland Civic Theatre | <i>Deathtrap</i> | Oct 5-21, 2017 |
| Downeaster Theatre, Lansing | <i>The Laramie Project</i> | Oct 6-10, 2017 |
| Kalamazoo Civic Theatre | <i>Radiation: A Month of Sun-Days**</i> | Oct 6-15, 2017 |
| Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw | <i>Anything Goes</i> | Oct 6-15, 2017 |
| Players de Noc, Escanaba | <i>Wall</i> | Oct 6-14, 2017 |
| Alpena Civic Theatre | <i>The Big House at Holy Hollow</i> | Oct 9-29, 2017 |
| Little Traverse Civic Theatre, Petoskey | <i>The Lady's not for Burning</i> | Oct 12-21, 2017 |
| The Sauk, Jonesville | <i>The Sunshine Boys</i> | Oct 12-22, 2017 |
| Kalamazoo Civic Theatre | <i>Sounds of the Sixties</i> | Oct 13-15, 2017 |
| Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City | <i>An Adult Evening with Shel Silverstein</i> | Oct 13-28, 2017 |
| Stagecrafters, Royal Oak | <i>Detroit '67**</i> | Oct 13-22, 2017 |
| Fenton Village Players | <i>Diaries of Adam and Eve**</i> | Oct 14-16, 2017 |
| Hartland Players | <i>The Game's Afoot</i> | Oct 14-21, 2017 |
| Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing | <i>The Home Team</i> | Oct 19-29, 2017 |
| Grand Rapids Civic Theatre | <i>Seussical the Musical, Jr.*</i> | Oct 20-29, 2017 |
| Kalamazoo Civic Theatre | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream*</i> | Oct 20-28, 2017 |
| Kalamazoo Civic Theatre | <i>Macbeth</i> | Oct 21-Nov 5, 2017 |
| Northland Players, Cheboygan | <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i> | Oct 26-29, 2017 |
| Rogers City Community Theatre | <i>Don't Hug Me County Fair</i> | Oct 27-Nov 5, 2017 |
| Rosedale Community Players | <i>It Came from Mars</i> | Oct 27-Nov 11, 2017 |
| Village Players, Birmingham | <i>Leading Ladies</i> | Oct 27-Nov 12, 2017 |
| Flint Community Players | <i>On Golden Pond</i> | Nov 2-12, 2017 |
| Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids | <i>Book of Job</i> | Nov 2-18, 2017 |
| Stagecrafters, Royal Oak | <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> | Nov 3-18, 2017 |
| Downeaster Theatre, Lansing | <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*</i> | Nov 10-19, 2017 |
| Players Guild of Dearborn | <i>Promises, Promises</i> | Nov 10-Dec 3, 2017 |
| Pontiac Theatre IV | <i>Pippin</i> | Nov 10-18, 2017 |
| Clarkston Village Players | <i>Morning's at Seven</i> | Nov 17-Dec 2, 2017 |
| Grand Rapids Civic Theatre | <i>Annie</i> | Nov 17-Dec 17, 2017 |
| Grosse Pointe Theatre | <i>A Christmas Carol*</i> | Nov 17-19, 2017 |
| Kalamazoo Civic Theatre | <i>Disney's The Little Mermaid</i> | Nov 17-Dec 3, 2017 |
| Muskegon Civic Theatre | <i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i> | Nov 17-Dec 3, 2017 |
| Avon Players, Rochester | <i>A Christmas Story</i> | Nov 24-Dec 9, 2017 |

* indicates youth productions; ** indicates second stage productions, if submitted.

Please be sure to fill out your Dues Renewal Form completely, as that is the source for this information on shows! If your information is incorrect or missing, please send the correct information to The Editor to be corrected or included in the next issue. A more complete list is available on the CTAM website.





Fluppets galore that Bonnie Grooters and her class made on Saturday as part of the Youth Theatre programming.



Keynoter Jim Carver and his wife, surrounded by his CTAM fans after his Friday night presentation!



There's a second leg for Tina Dalton, hidden under her skirt...without a boot!



Playwriting winner Erin Osgood for her play, Family Pains.



The 2016-17 Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting and election of officers.





We were delighted to see Mary Olendorf briefly on Saturday, below.



Faces in the crowd at the Fall Conference

