



CALLBOARD

November 2025

CTAM Board welcomes two new members!

The CTAM Board of Directors is undergoing their annual change of membership to keep things fresh and challenging. Three members have served their time (That sounds ominous!) and are leaving the Board: **Ruthann Liagre** from Owosso Players, **Suzan Nemeth** from WE Players in East Tawas, and **Heather Grimes** from Players de Noc in Escanaba. Heartfelt thanks to all three for the many ideas and unlimited hours they have dedicated to CTAM.

The Board, then, is pleased to welcome two new members, joining us for their first three-year term of office, as follows:

Karla Morner Fishburn is thrilled to join the CTAM Board of Directors. She is from Traverse City, Michigan where she has been active with The Old Town Playhouse for the past 12 years. You can usually find her backstage or in the Light and Sound booth calling shows, though she has been directing or associate directing shows a lot recently. Her next project is directing *Misery* at OTP in February.



Karla has been involved in theatre in some capacity since Junior High school and moved to Chicago for a year to stage manage professionally in 2001. She successfully found jobs at the former Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, as well as the New Tuners Group for new musicals before moving to Traverse City.

By day, she is a registered nurse at Munson Medical Center and is delighted to serve as a Utilization Review nurse, so she talks to health insurance companies more frequently than anyone should ever have to. In her personal life, she is the proud mom of a 21-year old daughter and 16-year old son. They make her world go around.

Scott Bradford has been involved with Community Theater groups in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois for more than 40 years. He currently serves as the President of the Board of the Twin City Players in St Joseph, where he also enjoys being a Director and Technical Director for the group. Scott also shares his time with St Joseph High School, where he directs the All-School Play and is the longtime Lighting Designer for the school musical. He can also be found on the FIRST Robotics fields in Southwest Michigan as an MC and Game Announcer. In his free time, he owns the Bradford Insurance Agency / AAA with his lovely wife, Maureen, who he met when he directed her at TCP.



You will notice, however, that these two additions leave the Board one member shy of a full load! They are missing you! If you are interested in joining the Board or know someone in your group who might be interested, please let us know by [filling out our Help Center form](#).

Is it your turn to serve?

HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1951!



Community Theatre
Association of Michigan

2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kirk Wahamaki k4sail@gmail.com
Muskegon Civic Theatre

Laura Zervic lzervic@kazoocivic.com
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

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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. Correspondence to the **Callboard** should be sent to maryloubritton@gmail.com. *Updated e-mail and postal addresses are maintained by the Administrator and should be sent to CTAMthrives@gmail.com.*

Two ongoing CTAM programs to benefit your membership

As a benefit of your CTAM membership, everyone has access to two ongoing programs to give your members additional benefits of membership. First, we help you provide meaningful workshops to help your members become better and more informed in the theatre arts, and we can provide adjudicators to help you make your productions more interesting and well attended.

To a limited degree, CTAM can provide some financial support for your group to make these programs possible.

On the Road to You Workshops

We can help you line up community theatre experts to assist with the rough spots. In whatever area you think is important to your members, reach out through our Administrator Mary Jo Denolf at ctamthrives@gmail.com. She will facilitate getting the best of the best in to work with your people. Lights, sound, intimacy, vocal projection, auditions, strategic planning, succession planning, fundraising, make-up, stage managing, etc.

Performance Adjudications

As a benefit of your CTAM annual affiliate dues, each member group gets one free adjudication per membership year. After that, your group pays a modest fee for additional adjudications.

Adjudication is two-fold: to accurately reflect to the performing company what has been successfully achieved, and to outline reasonable steps that might be taken to enhance interpretation of the story. As a director you will learn how to interpret your productions differently and, as an audience member, you will watch productions with a different understanding.

Adjudicators are an independent second pair of eyes, looking at your production and seeing things you may not have noticed. Adjudications are not 're-directing' or a pass/fail situation, but rather a starting point for improvement in future shows.

If you want to make arrangements for an adjudication this season, contact Adjudication Chair Betsy Willis at ryonwillis915@gmail.com.



First and foremost, let me welcome **Karla Fishburn** of Old Town Playhouse and **Scott Bradford** of Twin City Players to the CTAM Board (See more about them on the front page of this newsletter.)

We also bid farewell to **Suzan Nemeth** who stepped in to cover the rest of a term and was an integral part of planning our Fall Conference this year. Thank you, Suzan, for your contributions and we are very excited to work with Karla and Scott for the next three years.

We will also miss **RuthAnn Liagre** and **Heather Grimes** who have completed their service on the Board and are on to bigger and better things! I will miss you both and your willingness to serve.

I'd also like to thank **Gary Walker** whose three-year term has ended but has agreed to stay on to fill a one-year vacancy we have to help transition the Treasurer role to **Laura Zervic**.

We are always looking for potential Board and committee members, so if this level of involvement interests you or someone you know, please let us know by [filling out our Help Center form](#).



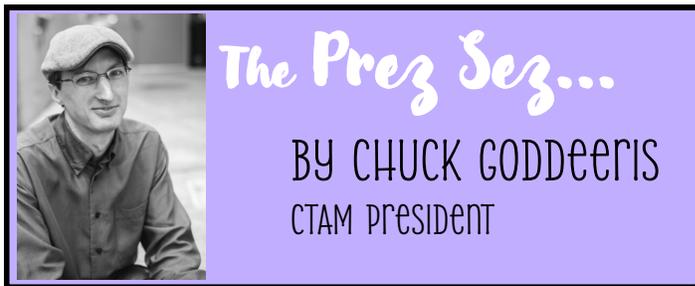
Our board members and committee members help stay in contact with our affiliate organizations and assist us in compiling a network of instructors to lead our On The Road Workshops. We hold monthly Board meetings over Zoom and this only requires a few hours of your time each month.

Speaking of education, we are very excited to offer a Webinar this month about The Volunteer Factor, led by the magnificent Emily Anderson. This webinar is free (donations always welcome) and will be held on Tuesday, November 18, at 7pm. [To learn more and sign up please click here!](#)

Lastly, as we wait to see how the MACC grants shape up for this upcoming year. I want to make a small correction to what we posted in last month's Callboard: On The Road (OTR) Workshops will continue to be offered; however, CTAM may not be covering the full \$200 stipend for the instructors, but we will be working with the host organizations to subsidize as much of the cost as we can, which should include some form of mileage reimbursement similar to what we've covered previously.

Regardless, whether its an OTR Workshop or an Adjudication, we WANT to work with your group to ensure that your organization can continue to put on the best productions possible and thrive. So please connect with us by whatever means possible so we can start that dialog and bring you the tools/education you desire.

Remember, we are here to help community theatre thrive in Michigan!



CTAM Webinar
Tuesday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m.
The Volunteer Factor
How to find 'em, how to train 'em and how to keep 'em coming back for more!
Featuring well known theatre expert and friend of CTAM, **Emily Anderson**.
Free!
Register at the link directly above this notice



Playwright's Corner

Using the Notice of Copyright on your work

Some playwrights are confused by the need for a copyright notice on their new works. Better safe than sorry, I always say! It never hurts to add a copyright notice on your new play, just to serve notice to everyone that your

original work is protected by U.S. copyright laws.

The use of a copyright notice is no longer *required* under U.S. law, although it is often beneficial. Because prior law did contain such a requirement, however, the use of notice is still relevant.

The U.S. Copyright Office says that the “use of the notice may be important because it informs the public that the work is protected by copyright, identifies the copyright owner, and shows the year of first publication. Furthermore, in the event that a work is infringed, if a proper notice of copyright appears on the published copy or copies to which a defendant in a copyright infringement suit had access, then no weight shall be given to such a defendant’s interposition of a defense based on innocent infringement in mitigation of actual or statutory damages. ‘Innocent infringement’ occurs when the infringer did not realize that the work was protected.”

The use of the copyright notice is the responsibility of the copyright owner (you!) and does not require advance permission from or registration with the Copyright Office.

The notice should contain the following three elements:

- ✓ The symbol © (the letter C in a circle), or the word “Copyright,” or the abbreviation “Copr.”;
- ✓ The year of first publication of the work; and
- ✓ The name of the owner of copyright of the work, or an abbreviation by which the name can be recognized, or a generally known alternative designation of the owner.

Example: © 2025 George Spelvin

So, make it a rule in your writing to always include a copyright notice on your works, just in case. It doesn’t cost anything and – should you find it necessary to pursue legal action against someone who has stolen your work -- your having included prior notice of copyright protection will serve you well.

After you’ve written your 10-minute or full-length play, consider submitting it to the CTAM 2026 contest. The deadline for submitting is next Memorial Day, 2026. Full-length plays must be a normal evening’s entertainment of 90+ minutes; the short play should not be longer than 10 minutes. Whereas the full-length play can involve any number of characters, settings, scenes and costumes, the shorter play should be a single location (no scene changes or passage of time), contemporary language and minimal set dressing, props and costumes.

The theme for the 10-minute plays this year is WINNING AND LOSING. All plays must address the joy and/or heartbreak of winning and losing ... or both! Please address your questions to Chair Mary Lou Britton at playwriting@CTAM.online.

Answers to Quiz on Page 6. No cheating!

1. Boxing 2. Niagara Falls as the rock wears away. 3. Asparagus and rhubarb (plus some others mentioned by purists!) 4. Strawberry 5. The bottle is tied in the tree over a blossom and the fruit grows inside the bottle. 6. Dwell, dwell, dwarf. 7.

Period, comma, colon, semicolon, quotation marks, ampersand, parenthesis, exclamation mark, ellipsis, question mark, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, brackets. 8. Around Minneapolis. The team was originally the Detroit Gems (1946), then the Minneapolis Lakers (1947), now the Los Angeles Lakers. 9. A hit, hit by pitch, error, fielder's choice, dropped third strike, or catcher's interference. 10. Lettuce. 11. Saddle shoes, sandal, shoe, skate, ski, slip-on, slipper, sneaker, sock, spectators, spikes, stiletto, stocking, swim fins, sling-backs, plus others you can probably come up with!



Remember your winter safety warnings!

Each year, many volunteers end up with bumps, bruises, or worse — and most of it could be avoided with just a little extra care and awareness. As we head into the winter season and all those busy show weekends, let's take a moment to put safety first.

Here is a checklist to help keep everyone (your members and patrons) safe and sound:



- ✓ **Watch for hazards.** Double-check that platforms are sturdy, props are secure, and everything that can be lit *is* well-lit. Add glow tape where needed, and make sure all equipment is working properly.
- ✓ **Tidy up!** Keep backstage areas clear and organized. Put away tools, props, or costumes that aren't in use.
- ✓ **Mind those cords and cables.** Coil or tape down anything that could trip someone in the dark.
- ✓ **Keep exits clear.** Everyone should know where to go and what to do in an emergency — including the location of fire extinguishers. A quick pre-show safety chat can go a long way!
- ✓ **Check your building systems** in plenty of time to assure that your heating and ventilation systems are working well and worry-free. An ounce of prevention, as they say!
- ✓ **Hire a snow removal service** in advance to take care of your sidewalks, parking lot and curbside drop-off area. If this is out of your financial ability, be sure there is a committee of volunteers who will undertake that project as soon as it's light in the morning!
- ✓ **Take care of yourself.** Stay hydrated, get rest when you can, and speak up if you're feeling too ill to safely help out. Be alert for others (and yourself!) who are showing familiar signs of Covid-19. It's still around and more likely to strike during the winter. If they're sick, tell your volunteers to stay home -- someone will take over for them and the show will go on.
- ✓ **Front of House matters, too.** Make sure ushers and lobby volunteers are familiar with emergency procedures — they're part of the safety team too!
- ✓ **Mind your patrons.** Be sure that your building's entrances and exits are clear of snow, ice and slush. Have shovels or brooms and salt handy by the exits for people to address the issues when they notice it.
- ✓ **Confirm your bad weather cancellation policy** in advance so everyone will know and understand how to get the word out to actors, crew and patrons.

Let's look out for one another — because a safe crew is a happy crew, and happy people put on the best shows!



**This November issue of CTAM
Callboard
is presented by**



A Michigan-based ticketing service.

A Thanksgiving Day Quiz For People Who Know Everything ...or THINK they do!



1. There's one "sport" in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. What is it?

2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward? _____

3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?

4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside? _____

5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?

6. Only three common words in standard English begin with the letters "dw." Name them.

7. There are fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar. How many can you name?

8. Where are the lakes that are referred to in the: "Los Angeles Lakers?" _____

9. There are seven ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Taking a base on balls (a walk) is one way. Name the other six.

10. It's the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh. What is it?

11. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet that begin with the letter "S."

Thanksgiving Theatre in Michigan

Twin City Players	<i>Ken Ludwig's Baskerville</i>	October 17 - November 2, 2025
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Deer Camp - The Musical</i>	October 23 - November 1, 2025
Old Town Playhouse	<i>The Rocky Horror Show (main stage)</i>	October 24 - November 1, 2025
Owosso Community Players	<i>Wait Until Dark</i>	October 24 - November 2, 2025
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre	<i>Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors</i>	October 24 - November 2, 2025
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Disney's Frozen Jr.</i>	October 24 - November 2, 2025
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Cry of the Banshee</i>	October 31 & November 1, 2025
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Silent Sky</i>	October 31 - November 9, 2025
Ionia Community Theatre	<i>The Mousetrap</i>	November 2025
Livonia Community Players	<i>All In The Timing</i>	November 2025
Bay City Players	<i>Ten November</i>	November 1 & 2, 2025
Stagecrafters	<i>Frozen</i>	November 1 - 23, 2025
Midland Center for the Arts	<i>Sense & Sensibility</i>	November 7--16, 2025
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>The Colored Museum</i>	November 7 - 16, 2025
Avon Players Theatre	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	November 7 - 22, 2025
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Picasso at the Lapine Agile</i>	November 7 - 22, 2025
Village Players of Birmingham	<i>Lost in Yonkers</i>	November 7 - 23, 2025
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>She Loves Me</i>	November 7 - 25, 2025
Northern Lites Readers Theatre	<i>Tina Latigo Rides to the Rescue (radio)</i>	November 8 & 9, 2025
Players de Noc	<i>Ten November</i>	November 10 ,2025
Bay City Players	<i>A Jukebox for the Algonquin</i>	November 12 - 16, 2025
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Beetlejuice Jr *</i>	November 14-16, 2025
Old Town Playhouse	<i>The Minutes **</i>	November 14 - 22, 2025
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>Wizard of Oz</i>	November 14 - 23, 2025
Enter Stage Right	<i>Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer</i>	November 14 - December 21, 2025
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Bright Star</i>	November 21 - December 7, 2025
WE Players	<i>Chicago - teens</i>	November 21 - December 7, 2025
Vanishing Elephant Players	<i>All is Calm</i>	November 28 - 30, 2025
Pit and Balcony	<i>A Wicked Christmas Carol</i>	November 28 - December 7, 2025
Holland Community Theatre	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	November 28 - December 13, 2025
Audio Air Force	<i>Holiday Show</i>	December TBA
The Sauk	<i>The Lion, The Witch, & The Wardrobe</i>	December 4 - 14, 2025
Southgate Community Players	<i>Once Upon A Mattress</i>	December 4 - 7, 2025
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>	December 5 - 7, 2025
Owosso Community Players	<i>Holiday at Lebowsky</i>	December 5 - 13, 2025
Players de Noc	<i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>	December 5 - 13, 2025
Players de Noc	<i>The Great Christmas Cookie Bake Off</i>	December 5 - 13, 2025

* Indicates youth production. ** Second stage production

✓ If your information is incorrect or missing and you are an affiliate group of CTAM, please send the correct information to CTAMthrives@gmail.com to be included in the next issue.

