

2018 Gratiot County Players Board of Directors Candidates

We are fortunate to have several qualified candidates running for the Board of Directors. At the annual meeting (or via absentee ballot mailed to the theater), each candidate will be introduced and can share the following messages and then you will be instructed to vote for no more than four candidates for the four available positions on the board. The 2018-2019 Board of Directors will be introduced at the end of the annual meeting. The candidates have introduced themselves below:

Lynzee Harrison:

I have been involved in quite a few productions with GCP on and off since I was 14 years old. These have included both on stage roles and behind the scenes work such as costume changing, stage managing, and set design. Over the past few seasons I have ushered for almost every show and have done the photography for many of them. This season I officially took on the job of photographing all of GCP's shows and taking head shots for our programs. I would love to be on the board to help us find a common goal to work toward so that we always have a mission while putting on a production. I believe that while we already put on some amazing shows, there is always room for us to improve and I would love to be a part of the group responsible for that. In addition, I'd like to build us a completely new website that would look fantastic and be very user friendly to get our information out into the community. I enjoy volunteering with this incredible group of people and have no intentions of stopping so it would be great to be a member of the board!

Jane Keon:

I'm pleased to be running in this election with so many qualified people! I first became involved in Gratiot County Players in 1979, and I have enjoyed onstage and backstage participation ever since. Like most theater members, I've served in many capacities from concessions to the light booth, and I also served as president of the Players in the 1980s and early 90s. During my last term of presidency, I negotiated to buy us the Strand theater, found a bank that would give us a loan, and signed the papers. I was honored to receive the LeBlanc Award in 2008. Outside of the players, I'm active in environmental cleanups and helped to found both the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force and the Healthy Pine River group. Both my long association with the theater, and my outside experience will enable me to make good decisions on the Board of Directors.

Kent Kirby:

I work as a Japanese to English translator at American Mitsuba, an automotive parts company. My hobbies include singing barbershop, casual grilling/cooking, casual tennis, and of course doing local theater with the Gratiot County Players.

I would like to further work with and get to know other members of the Gratiot County Players, and find ways to show my support for the theater both on and offstage.

Mike Klahre:

Member of the GCP since 2015

Actor in several productions

Highlights - *Anne Of Green Gables, Ebenezer, Beauty and The Beast, The Diary of Anne Frank*

Worked in the concession stand and as an usher
Member of the GCP by-laws revision committee
Previously worked in several high school, college, and community theater productions
(over 40 years)

Highlights - Theater minor - University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (PA)

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Acting - Virginia Commonwealth University

Member of Lionheart Productions - community theater in Grant, MI - 2005-2014

Goals:

- 1.) To learn more about the history, practices, policies, and current aspirations of the GCP
- 2.) To create or help push practices and policies that will help make high quality productions for the GCP and make quality experiences for ALL volunteers.
- 3.) To find ways to connect further with other community groups (schools, churches, Alma College, businesses).

Thank you for considering me for the Board.

Kallei Mapes-Hahn:

Kallei is honored to be running for the Board of Directors for a second term and to have so many qualified candidates to share this honor with. Kallei has served on the Board of Directors for GCP for the past three years and served as president for the 2017-2018 Season. Kallei is a part of the publicity committee, working to produce the monthly newsletter as well as assisting with Social Media relations for the Players and previously served as Concessions Chair. Kallei is also involved in the production side of GCP, choreographing for productions as well as serving as stage manager. As the theater is a source of comfort, enjoyment, and welcoming excitement for Kallei, she looks forward to the opportunity to continue to work with the Players to continue to bring a quality theater experience to all those involved, from patron to producer and everything in-between! Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Messing:

I joined the GCP in 1985. Since then, I have been involved in some 40 productions in one way or another, on and off stage. I have served on the Board, and am a past president. (I received the LeBlanc Award in 2002.) I've done other volunteer work (like serving on the Pine River Arts Council), although I'm past the days of great physical labor (like laying tar on the theatre roof). I am retiring after 36 years of teaching music at Alma College where I served as chair of the faculty for some 15 years, which placed me on the president's Policy and Planning Council. As such, I will bring a great deal of institutional and administrative experience to the GCP Board particularly as regards long-range planning for our theatre's future, which is one of my goals as a board member. Even more so, I want to give back to an organization that has meant so much to me these past 30-plus years.

Travis Mitchell:

My name is Travis Mitchell and I have been a proud volunteer with the Gratiot County Players since I premiered at the Strand Theatre as Henry in *Phantom of the Campfire* in July 2003. As a teenager, I was fortunate to benefit from Nancy Peska and Dan Alonzi's director, mentor and friendships. As an adult, I have continued to flourish under Nancy, Dan and Laurie Harrison's warm and vivid spotlights. I am someone who consistently pushes

himself to improve, learn and do more. I would be privileged to be a part of the talent that epitomizes the GCP, and it would be an added bonus to be able to contribute to their positive growth. The Strand Theatre and Gratiot County Players have been a prideful part of my life for longer than they have not, and I am confident that I am for the better because of them.

Thank you for your consideration

Mark Wilson:

Mark is currently the Treasurer for the Gratiot County Players and has been involved many years as both a board member and on stage. Mark is pleased to be considered for another term on the board.