

THE PROMPTER

The Voice of Loveland Stage Company

August 2020



ELECTION ISSUE

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From the Desk of the President

It is time for elections!

No...not “that election.” I mean it is time to elect new LSC board members.

The current members of the LSC Board (and other LSC members) have spent many hours and a lot of effort to come up with an election process that takes into account the limitations placed on all of us due to the Corona virus. Carissa Sloan gives an excellent explanation of the election process for this year starting on page 3. If you wish to vote, please follow the procedures she describes. As is noted in her explanation, it is imperative that all adult members who wish to vote **must** have paid their LSC dues **by September 15, 2020**, the annual meeting. The voting starts on **September 16th** and will extend for one week until **midnight on September 22nd**. The results of the election will be posted in “The Prompter” and on the LSC website some days after that date.

Starting on page 5 you will find a slate of candidates for the Board, along with their biographies and pictures. There are five positions open on the Board and you can vote for only five candidates.

In considering your vote, please bear in mind that the LSC Board is made up of all volunteers. Therefore, those elected must be willing to put in much time and effort into the ongoing LSC activities and Board decisions. Please choose candidates that you feel would fulfill these requirements.

In other news, LSC is continuing to produce radio shows. The first radio show was *The Importance of Being Earnest*. It has been very well received. You can find this show on the LSC website. LSC Radio’s next production is Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Look for this show on our website sometime in September or October.

Enjoy these online shows and please consider making a donation to LSC. As we anticipate we will not be able to put on an actual show until next spring, we are counting on donations to help maintain LSC through this difficult time.

But, take heart! We anticipate that LSC will continue to thrive and get through the pandemic. We look forward to putting on high-quality performances for our grateful Loveland audiences once again!

Take care and stay healthy,
Dave Marcus—President LSC



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LSC Annual Meeting and Board Elections

This year has been a very different year for all of us, and that includes LSC. As many of you know, due to COVID-19, we have had to cut our season short, and due to state-wide restrictions, postpone our annual meeting, which is held in May. Our new date for the annual meeting will be Tuesday, September 15th at 7 pm. You may join us at the theater, but masks will be required and we ask that everyone social distance for safety. This year, members can also attend the annual meeting from the comfort of their homes. An invitation to join virtually will be emailed to members.

Additionally, how we hold elections will change this year. Typically, we hold in-person elections at the annual meeting. We realize that part of our membership would be more comfortable at this time attending virtually. To that end, the LSC Board of Directors has made the decision to hold elections online, using a program called Election Buddy. Election Buddy allows LSC to send out an email to each member, which will contain an individual link to the ballot. This allows LSC to reach out to each and every member, asking for their votes. The election via Election Buddy, uses a unique access key for each member, which allows voting to remain anonymous.

Here is some key information as it pertains to voting this year electronically.

- Voting will start at 6 am on Wednesday, September 16th and ends at midnight on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. This gives members **one** week to vote.
- The email address of each member, provided to LSC on the membership forms for this year (2020-2021), will be the email addresses ballots are sent to. Each member will receive an email from "Loveland Stage Company invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com"
Each member may only vote 1 time, using their individual link in the email from LSC care of election buddy.
- There are 5 openings on the board this year. You will be asked to vote for only 5 names from the ballot.
- The ballot will contain pictures and biographies of those candidates wishing to run. *Please note that any candidate running from the floor may not have a picture and/or bio on the ballot due to the tight turnaround from the annual meeting to voting opening the next morning.
- Only members who have paid their dues by September 15th (the annual meeting) will be allowed to vote in the elections.
- For any member that has paid by September 15th, but is not computer savvy, come on down to LS on Thursday, September 17th from 6-8 pm. Volunteers will be on hand to assist you with online voting. (Masks and social distancing will be required.)



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To become a member of Loveland Stage Company before the annual meeting, please visit LSC's website: lovelandstagecompany.org/get-involved/membership/

On the membership page, you can pay your dues online, and fill out the membership form electronically. For those members who are not computer savvy, there will be LSC volunteers with laptops at the theater the evening of the annual meeting (September 15th) to assist you in filling out the online membership form, as well as to take your dues. If you have any questions about becoming a member or renewing your LSC membership, please contact Paul Derham at 513-702-0567 or pderham@lovelandstagecompany.org.

Candidate Pictures and Biographies: As is our tradition, candidates from the nominating committee will be included in the Election edition of *The Prompter*, as well as posted on our website for members' review. At the annual meeting, nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Following the end of election voting, the LSC board will announce the LSC Board for the 2020-2021 year. Election results will be posted on the LSC website and will also appear in *The Prompter*.

We encourage each and every member to cast their vote for the next LSC Board. There is sure to be a flurry of activity once pandemic restrictions lift and LSC needs a strong board willing to go the extra mile, so we can continue to be a valued part of the Loveland community. We cannot wait until the day we all can enjoy live theatre again.

Thank you,
Carissa Sloan





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Candidates and their biographies



Deirdre Dyson: I have worked with/for LSC as a founding member since its formation in 1979. My most significant, long-term contribution to LSC was to Chair the “Rebuild and Play On” campaign after fire burned the theater in 2008. The campaign raised \$350,000, and we re-built and re-opened, 1 year later, with the award winning show *Miss Saigon*, which I also directed and designed.

I have undertaken every aspect of theatre production over the years, usually as a designer, of numerous award winning shows. I was honored as the first woman awarded the coveted Mario Pitocco Award for outstanding technical development in Greater Cincinnati Community Theatre. My favorite task is to direct a show as it involves total understanding and decision making on every level. I love to see a cast and crew grow in confidence and expertise during a production.

I am a seasoned Board/Committee member for many groups besides LSC including ACT Cincinnati; 4 term President and resurrector of the Loveland Arts Council; founder/organizer of the Loveland Art Show, Paint the Town, and Music in the Park; Beautification Committee; and the Women’s Art Club of Cincinnati. I also own and operate my own business, Art House II Studio and Gallery in Loveland, where my two life passions: Painting and Theatre feed off each other.

As an artist and teacher by profession, I will bring vision, tempered by practicality, to the LSC Board in this time of confusion and uncertain future.



Becky Jones: I am a 30 year Loveland resident, and an active member in the community. I have a degree in music education from NKU and attended Boston University for a Masters in Music Ed degree. I am currently the assistant band director at Loveland High School. I also have a private studio where I teach flute, clarinet, and saxophone lessons at my home and Moeller High School. I have been playing in pit orchestras for community theater for several years and I love it! I also am the music director at Christ Presbyterian Church in Milford, and I am the head of the worship committee there. I have extensive experience working on committees

including Clermont County Junior Fair Board, Wildwood Church Camp, Camp Graham 4H camp, and NKU music alumni.

I feel my experience in conducting, performing, producing concerts, and working with others would benefit the Loveland Stage Company board by providing the organization with a perspective from the point of view of an experienced, well-connected musician.



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Glenna Knapp: I have been with the LSC since the mid-1980's. I have previously served on the board for 2 terms. I am actively involved with the group with technical aspects of the theater: backstage, set build, lighting, sound, directing, production, props, etc. The world as we know it is ever changing and so does the theater, if we plan to keep it. We are lucky to have a place to call our own, but there are many expenses to maintain a business. I would like to run again for the board and help provide my endless ideas to maintain a community theater in Loveland.



Theresa Kovacs: My involvement with LSC began as a helper mom for the summer children's workshops with the first one in 2004. It grew to handling ticket sales for 8 years, chairing the scholarship committee for the last 5 years, and co-producing the 2019 production of *Mamma Mia!*

I am retired after 27 years with The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, but stay busy volunteering with the book sales at the Friends of the Public Library Warehouse. For the last 4 years, I have been the drama producer at

Loveland High School and am currently on the board of the Cincinnati chapter of The Cappies, an international organization that celebrates high school theater.

My background has given me a strong grounding in public service, which I see as wanting to assure a quality experience for the audiences at LSC and the great people who volunteer to participate in the productions. I have lots of theater connections around town, which helps keep me current on the productions, problems, and trends happening now.

I have a special affinity for young people and theater, both providing them opportunities to participate in live theater and to learning to be appreciative audience members.

My husband and I have been regular attendees at LSC shows for over 15 years, and volunteers for that long, too. Now I feel I have the time and passion to give a bit more to the organization. I hope you will consider giving me a chance to do that by electing me to the Board.



Joshua Marcus: Being involved in *The Drowsy Chaperone*; *Cole, An Entertainment*; and Margie's dance class has been an amazing experience. LSC even provided my 10-year-old daughter, Hanna, her first big stage opportunity. Hanna's energy and enthusiasm at the theater has been heart-warming to see. Through all of this, many members of The Loveland Stage Company have started to feel like family.

It is that feeling of family and enthusiasm for LSC that has led me to want to contribute to the theater's well-being by becoming a Board member.

At my core, I am a problem solver, and I believe as part of the Board, my skills will help resolve Board issues and concerns, especially during these trying times. Thank you for your consideration.



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John Masterson: My first experience with community theater occurred in 1969, when I was serving in Turkey with the United States Air Force, playing Schroeder in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Later, in 1974, I was the production manager for my command's entry in the US Air Forcer Talent Show, presented at Lackland AFB, Texas. I started in this area in 1996, when I appeared in Lebanon Theatre Company's production of *Oliver!*. Since then, I have worked with a number of theaters in this area. I started with Loveland as an actor in 2013, when I appeared in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *I Remember Mama*, though I operated a spotlight for

our production of *The Fantasticks*. Since then, I have done a number of shows with the group, the most recent being *Cole*, and I have enjoyed every one of them.

I believe that we should give back to our theater groups in some way. I served on the board of the Mason Community Players for four years and was its ACT/OCTA representative for eight. I have been a Regional Representative to OCTA since 2005 and was a member at large of that board in 2014-2015.

I want to offer my services to the Loveland Stage Company as a member of its board. I have received a lot from this group and want to give something back to it.



Charlie Rader has been a member of LSC since 2015 when he joined the cast of *Fiddler* as the Russian soloist. He has won orchids for performing in *Don't Drink The Water* and producing last summer's *Bugsy Malone Jr.* He and his wife, Pia, have been onstage together since 1993, married since 1995 and produced 3 performing kids: Alex, David, and Annika. In addition to performing, Charlie's backstage work at LSC includes producing, projection design, lighting design and execution, videography, and prop design.

He was invited by the ACT-Cincinnati Judging committee to present this past winter on the new category of projection design. By day, Charlie is a veteran consumer researcher for P&G specializing in digital and mobile research methods. He has completed his first term on the board and has served on the Play Reading and Capital Improvement Committees and is the current Co-Secretary. His board projects include technical upgrades to the video displays in the lobby and green room; creation of conductor cams for *Memphis*, *Bugsy*, and *Gypsy*; and sound design by obtaining a donation of a Mac laptop to upgrade sound effects to QLab. Additionally, he recently enabled the ability of the board to meet remotely during our Covid "Intermission." He would like to continue to serve on the board to improve the digital marketing to our audiences and growing the engagement of our membership and patrons.



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My name is **John Sloan** and I am running for the Board of Loveland Stage Company. I studied Music and Theatre in college and have a Bachelor of Arts in both. For around the past 20 years, I have been involved in both professional and amateur theatre companies around the Cincinnati area with approximately 50 different productions to my credit.

Though mostly a performer, my involvement ranges from not only performing, but also directing and various behind-the-scenes work. I first came to Loveland Stage Company in 2011 when they needed a replacement actor for *Guys and Dolls*. I have since been involved in 22 productions for LSC, including taking the Director's Chair twice.

My experiences as a director have taught me a lot about working in a position of leadership, as well as collaborating with others, something that I'm sure could translate well to being a Board Member. Never having served on a Board before, I am always open to new challenges and I am confident that as a Board Member, I could continue learning about leadership roles as well as how to collaborate with other Board members. It is my hope that my personal experience and knowledge of theatre would serve as an asset to the Board to make Loveland Stage Company a place where people want to come to participate in live theatre whether as a performer, behind the scenes, or even as a member of the audience.



Gregory Carl Smith: Being a member of the board is not something to take lightly. The responsibility of steering a large, vibrant group, along with our building is work, work I want to be involved in and am qualified to do.

I am a veteran of 91 productions all around the Cincinnati area, and since becoming a member of LSC in 2010, I have been involved in 33 of our shows, both on stage and off. I have had experience in every aspect of a production, except hair and makeup, over the years, winning Orchid Awards for Lighting Design, Set Design, Producing, Lighting Execution, Program Design, and Original Program Art. I have been editor of *The Prompter* since October of 2016, and a past board member of Cincinnati Playwrights Initiative, so I know what it takes to serve on a board. Additionally, as a successful (retired) small business owner, I know my way around a profit and loss statement. I am very detail oriented and loose ends are my enemy.

LSC is my home theater; the theater where I first learned the joys of community theatre and what is at the heart of it all: community. Over the years, I have worked very closely with our board in various capacities and I will be an asset serving on the board, being *your* voice for our LSC community.



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David Vest: David started volunteering at LSC in the summer of 2018, working on the set of *The Little Mermaid*. David was asked to help with future productions, leading to his working on the set of *Memphis* and being part of the team that came up with many creative ideas and stage innovations. David gained most of his experience by being a DIY homeowner and is happy to use his talents at LSC.

David is a two-time Orchid Award winner for Excellence in Set Construction for his work on *The Drowsy Chaperone* and for the set of *Mamma Mia!*. David also is an Orchid Award winner for stage management in the LSC production of *The Hitchhiker* and *Sorry, Wrong Number*. David was also pleased to once again take the lead as master carpenter for *Cole*, as well as *Gypsy*, and hoped everyone enjoyed the shows.

David was also voted by the LSC board in 2020 to receive the Rising Star Award and is honored to have been selected. David would like to thank all the volunteers of LSC and looks forward to working with them in the future. As a member of the board, David believes with his experience in participating in the behind the scenes at LSC, he has the knowledge to help provide leadership to move LSC forward. As a member of the capital improvements committee, David has an excellent understanding of the most important items as pertaining to LSC, with such things as sound and lighting.

Important Reminders

- *Annual Meeting is Tuesday, September 15th at 7pm.
- *Must be a paid member to vote.
- *Five Board positions open.
- *Voting runs from September 16th at 6am to September 22nd at midnight.
- *Voting will be online through Election Buddy.
- *Help with online voting is available at LSC on September 17th from 6-8pm.