

Sun Lakes Community Theater
Virtual Zoom Board of Directors Meeting
Date: July 8, 2025

Participating Board Members: Kate King-Turner, Nancy Patterson, John Zoeller, MJ Clement, Brian Haynie, Anna McCauley

Absent Board Members: Barry Berger

Other Participating SLCT Members: Cindi Decker and Mike Carter

Call to order: Who: Kate King-Turner Time: 10:02 am

Quorum (6): Yes

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Following the description of a minor change to the circulated Draft version a motion to accept the prior month's meeting minutes was made, approved and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The May report showed a significant income item of \$8,750 from the sale of the risers. MJ was thanked for her efforts on the sale. In addition the report has been adjusted to show the Restricted Funds correctly.

The June report has our total cash + CD holdings valued at \$43,015.08.

Both reports were approved and accepted.

Brainstorming Session Review: The results of yesterday's Brainstorming session are attached. Many of the items were discussed, some at great length. The full conversation is available as a recording from the Secretary. The following is an attempt to capture the more significant discussion, decisions and action items.

We need to deal with members concerns about our gifts to the Chandler schools. After a review of the existing financial policy. We agreed to poll the members for their opinions on keeping or changing the policy. Kate has the action to prepare an email to distribute to the members. Barry will be asked to provide member's email addresses to Brian, who will then distribute the polling email.

Some members would like to resurrect the Cool Down. Acton was assigned to Phyllis and Sally.

The suggestion to discount membership for people who sign up at the Community Open Houses was accepted, but with an increase of the discount to \$5/25%.

Uncertainty was expressed about the value of examining County Recorder records of housing sales as a way to identify new residents of Sun Lakes for recruiting purposes, Anna said she will proceed despite the uncertainty.

We want to begin recognizing individuals who have made a noteworthy contribution to the Theatre, e.g. volunteer of the month. Recognition would be an article in Splash or The Asides or by announcement at a membership meeting. Any member could recommend people. The Board would make the decision.

Open House/Fall Recruitment/New Member Reception Suggestions: We believe this is a good way to introduce new members. Kate agreed to do it this year.

Sound Procedural Update: MJ is developing a sound procedure for the Children's Theatre

Dave Patterson and others are developing the idea of possible getting students and/or interns from the local schools and colleges. Dave has agreed to return and do the sound for fall and spring stage shows and the variety show. He will not do sound in the summer or for the Children's Theatre.

Spring Show A No-Go: There will be no 2026 spring show. No director wants to compete with the Variety Show. A suggestion was made to move the Variety Show. Sally will be asked about doing this.

UPDATE: Moving the Variety Show to the summer is not feasible due to the need for experienced sound persons.

Nancy will look into having a murder mystery company perform, using some of our members, if possible, for the summer time slot, with fewer than 5 performances.

Technology Reports: Nothing to report.

Other Business There was none.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:33 am

*The August Board meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 10 am.

John Zoeller
SLCT Secretary

Attachment: Results of the July7, 2025, Brainstorming Session

Results of the July 7, 2025 Brainstorming Session

Challenges:

Recruiting Members/Building awareness of SLCT & our productions
Tech personnel shortage/lack of volunteers from membership
Too few male actors/memory challenges for actors
Shortage of Directors/No plays set for 2026
Too many things to do in March – impacts spring show

Opportunities to Address Challenges:

Recruitment/Awareness

- Prior to Opening Night of Fall Show: E-blast to patrons offering a “behind the scenes” session to the first 20 respondents. Have a Q&A with actors.
- Put a “Help Wanted” type flyer in the SPLASH with phone number
- Make corner signs
- Obtain new homeowner lists by getting info from County Recorder’s Office – then do a mailing to them – include a limited-time offer of 10% off membership
- Offer 10% off membership at Open Houses
- Have a member recruitment contest among our existing membership & award money for the most new members (or for every new member)
- Have a “Guest Night” SLCT meeting. Have a director at each table, do a short skit (involves them) also, assign each guest a “buddy” to follow-up and so they feel included
- Have an interest-focused mini-seminar at the meeting to help people learn what’s involved in volunteering for jobs. Be sure to announce it in advance so they are aware of it.
- Have food at the meetings
- Honor members at the meetings (not just long-time members, either) Volunteer of the month, most active new member, etc.
- Concentrate marketing on members and the question “Why Am I a Member?”
- Have member interviews in the SPLASH again.

- Use Next Door to raise awareness of the value of membership & SLCT in general
- Never refer to SLCT as “club”, call it “theatre group” in all marketing

Tech shortage/lack of volunteers

- Stage and House managers should write thank you notes to all volunteers
- Offer Internships - Contact Career & Technical Education regarding their programs for music and audio production. Possibly offer scholarship or at least stipends to high school/college students.
- Give tech team people more recognition & listen to them more
- Offer acting roles and backstage roles to high schoolers and college students

Too few male actors/memory challenges for actors

- Consider the use of a teleprompter
- Do One-Acts that have multiple roles, thus less lines

(Note: recruitment of men and younger people has been the biggest challenge at Open Houses)

Shortage of Directors/No plays for set 2026

- Consider doing only 2 full plays a year
- Move Variety Show away from Spring Show dates
- Do Variety Show and maybe a one-act in place of one of the show (use less stage time, cheaper, better timing)
- Do a Night of Scenes – famous dialogs
- Have an Open Mic night
- Hire a Murder Mystery company to perform
- Train directors from existing membership
- Place an ad in the SPLASH for a director

Too Many Things Going on in March

- Move Variety Show
- Don't have a spring show

Miscellaneous Comments/Questions

- Bring back the Cool Down event in August – just secure a place and a no-host bar. Invite all the members
- Why are we giving money to the high schools' theatre programs and a scholarship? Keep that money for our use. Can we poll the membership to determine whether we should continue

this practice?

- Try to have all auditioners together for any play auditions

Participants said they felt the meeting was a good use of their time and would meet again if needed.

Bring back workshops and classes

Be more transparent with membership regarding budget and financials.