



The Brandywiners, Ltd.

Annual Board Meeting

October 21, 2015

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803

The Annual Business Meeting of The Brandywiners, Ltd. was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. We had 52 members in attendance.

The Executive Board was introduced:

- Kate Wright - President
- Lee Nichols – First Vice President
- Cindy Schneeman – Second Vice Pres.
- Susan Kay Beesley – Treasurer
- Nancy Hoagland – Secretary
- Aaron Kirschner – Librarian
- Drew Biehl – Director
- Ray Dunton - Director

Membership Updates

Kate Wright announced the names of participants invited to become new Members. Those present were asked to come forward and be recognized.

Marissa Broujos
Susan Brown
Sarah Connolly
Beverly Denison
Leeia Ferguson
Julia Frank
Heather Nourie
Gay Lynn Price
William (Bill) Price
Sarah Wojcik
Steve Zimmerman

Kate Wright announced new Life Members, and thanked them for their continuing commitment. New Life Members were each presented a plaque commemorating the event.

Marilyn Haas
Beverly Parnell

Kate Wright read the names of Members who died during the past year. After information about each person's involvement with The Brandywiners was presented, there was a moment of silence.

Life Members

Cynthia Ann Byham
Rita Mulrooney
John Pretka
Joanne Robinson

Members

Francis Guy Moses

Participants

Jeralyn Alexander
Shirley Roberts Bohn
Marcia Stirling Quillen
Robert Ackart
Louise Belden
Ida Bennett
Polly Bray
Mary Ann Dowd
Hilda Grant
Beatrice Mathewson
Barbara Pyle
Harold Shaffer
Laura Thompson

The Membership stood and sang *The Brandywiners Song*, led by Katie Soukup.

Elections for 2016

Kate Wright spoke on participation and announced the offices to be filled for 2016, plus committee chair and management positions and the need for volunteers.

First Vice Pres.	Lee Nichols has completed one term and will be running as the incumbent. One candidate is needed.
Secretary	Nancy Hoagland has completed one term and has elected not to run; two candidates are needed.
Librarian	Aaron Kirschner has completed one term and will be running as the incumbent. One candidate is needed.
Director	Ray Dunton has completed one term and has elected not to run; two candidates are needed.

Kate Wright reviewed the election process and schedule.

- A Nominating Committee of three members shall be elected by the members attending the Business Meeting. Nominations of at least six persons are required. Persons nominated must be Life Members, or have been an Active Member for the previous three years.
- Members attending the business meeting cast their ballots for Nominating Committee members by secret ballot. Tellers for the Nominating Committee are Gil Berman and Jenn Forster.
- The President will appoint one Member of the Nominating Committee as chair of the Committee.
- The Nominating Committee will begin the search for candidates on Thursday, October 22, 2015.
- The Nominating Committee will submit a proposed slate of candidates in writing to President Kate Wright by Friday, November 6, 2015.
- The Executive Board will review the proposed slate for approval on Monday, November 9, 2015.
- Approved nominees will provide a photograph and brief statement of candidacy to Secretary Nancy Hoagland by Tuesday, November 10, 2015. Photographs and statements can be sent by email to JNHoag@aol.com
- Ballots will be mailed to the Membership by Friday, November 20, 2015.
- Members cast their votes by mailing their completed ballot to the Election Tellers. Ballots must be postmarked no later than Friday, December 4, 2015. Election Tellers are Bob Iezzi and Kate Stark.
- The Election Tellers will provide the results of the election to the President verbally with confirmation in writing by Wednesday, December 9, 2015. Results will be posted on the website by Friday, December 11, 2015.

Kate Wright opened the floor for nominations to the Nominating Committee. The nominees must be Life Members or have been active members for the previous three years. The following Members were nominated.

Adam Young

Katie Soukup

Diane Meyermann

Katie Soukup was named Chair.

Kate Wright called for a motion to close the nominations

- Ken Jones moved to accept, seconded by Major Travers and carried.

Old Business

Kate Wright gave Production Report on behalf of Cindy Schneeman, Production Manager.

There is a need for more people on the stage crew.

Elaine O'Connell, Business Manager.

There was nothing to report.

Kate Wright, on behalf of Susan Kay Beesley, Treasurer.

- 2015 production was profitable with a \$42,000 profit.
 - Fewer child tickets were purchased, but more Longwood members attended. Also, ticketing fees had been increased.
 - All chairs kept their spending below the budget.
 - Needed to hire a production manager due to no one volunteered from our organization.
 - We had a capital loss due to the investment values.
- Special Gifts committee has the opportunity to give out \$15,000 this year.
- Replacing prior losses and returning some of our profit to reserves, with a view to concerns for our upcoming show.

Kate Wright discussed the following:

- Longwood ticketing process is now scheduled to be up and running in 2017. Longwood will be using Showare as their ticketing system, so there should not be transition problems since we also use that system.
- Refurbishing at Longwood will be minor and not affecting us this year.

New Business

Kate Wright discussed the following:

- Budget Meeting to be scheduled - suggestion box presented for ideas to be submitted.
- Need for volunteers to fill the Personnel positions for the 2016 production, especially a Production Manager. The goal is to have all positions filled within a month.
- Grant Volunteers has been diminishing. Members were urged to check with their employers to see if they have matching contributions opportunities.
- Fund raising suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Kate spoke on the upcoming show - *SHREK*

- Brandywiners have a history of performing shows shortly after opening on Broadway.
- We are embracing what is current and trying to reach a wider audience and bring in a new generation of theatergoers to our shows.

Kate announced the Artistic Staff for *SHREK*

- Dewey Oriente – Director
- Clint Williams – Music Director
- Shauna Goodman – Choreographer
- Tony Oriente – Assistant Stage Director
- Rob Diton – Assistant Music Director

Kate discussed the following upcoming events:

- Friends & Family concert - December 8th @ 7:30
- Informal Carol Sing - December 7th

Kick-off and auditions for *SHREK* to be determined. Rehearsal start times will remain at 7:00pm and having it end at 10:00pm, along with keeping the curtain time at 8:00pm.

Show dates have been changed to July 21-23 and July 28-30 to accommodate the return of *Nightscape* at Longwood Gardens.

New locations are actively being researched to build our sets for *SHREK* since neither Opera Delaware nor the location we used last year are available.

Patron receipts will be sent out shortly.

Kate Wright opened the floor for remarks from the Members.

- Ken Jones - Thanked the Board for making decisions "outside of the box" for the good of the organization.
- Ruth Van Blerkom - asked about the criteria used for awarding Special Gift donations. Lynn Mahaffy (chair) gave explanation of research that went into decisions made on who received the award.

Drew Biehl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Major Travers, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Nancy Hoagland, Secretary