

SLOC Spotlight

The Newsletter of the
Schenectady Light Opera Company
Volume 39-7
May 2006

Annual Meeting Set for June 10

The Annual Meeting of SLOC will be held on Saturday, June 10 at 6:00pm at the Opera House. We are trying something a little different this year. First, you'll note that the meeting is on a Saturday- we hope that won't conflict with those folks in rehearsal for summer productions. Second, it's a pot luck- just like the January meeting. Please plan on bringing your favorite dish to pass- appetizer, main course, salad or dessert- maybe with a picnic idea in mind, since it might be warm to fire up the ovens! Call Michelle Sausa-Gatta at 377-1905 to sign up you and your food- so we get an idea of who's coming.

Also, watch your mail for your reminder postcard. Bring it to the meeting to enter our door prize raffle of two seats on an upcoming bus trip. In addition to voting for four open Board seats, you will have the opportunity to hear from the various VPs, treasurers, and committee chairs. All SLOC members should attend this meeting, as many very interesting issues will be discussed - some of which will have dramatic (pun intended) effects on the future of our beloved Company. Even if you are not a member, I would invite you to go to the meeting to hear what we can expect over the coming year. If you cannot attend, please make arrangements to vote via absentee ballot. That procedure can be found on page four. See you on the 10th!



826 State St.
Schenectady, NY 12307
393-5732

Web Site:
www.sloctheater.com



2005-2006 Season
Songs for a New World
October 14-16, 20-23
Nuncrackers
December 2-4, 8-11
Sullivan and Gilbert
March 3-5, 9-12
Nine
May 5-7, 11-14



Bonnie Williams
President

Board of Directors
Peter Codella
Marlene Countermine
Jennifer S. Depew
Jodi Gilman
Richard Lenahan
Michelle Sausa-Gatta
Ross Snyder
Bonnie Williams
Ken Zarnoch



Next Newsletter
Deadline:
August 10

Board Positions for 2006 – 2007 Season

The SLOC nominating committee has presented its list of recommended candidates to fill the four open slots on the Board of Directors. The new Board members will be elected during the Annual Meeting on June 10th. Bios of the candidates can be found starting on page 2.

The following people have completed their terms: Jenny Depew, Jodi Gilman, Richard Lenahan, and Bonnie Williams. Remaining Board members are: Peter Codella, Marlene Countermine, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, Ross Snyder, and Ken Zarnoch.

SLOC Board to Vote in New President

Interested in becoming president...of SLOC? Ever wonder how the president is chosen? The Board of Directors meets within two weeks of the Annual Meeting to vote for a new president from a list of nominees.

Nominees are chosen from the membership. If you are interested in becoming a nominee, contact Melinda Zarnoch, SLOC Secretary (382-8497); speak with a Board member during the Annual Meeting; or agree to be nominated by another member of SLOC. The president is elected to a one-year term.

Spotlight on...

Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 10
6:00 PM
at the Opera House



President's Notes...by Bonnie Williams



🎵 Kudos to *Nine*

As this newsletter deadline approaches, *Nine* is in the middle of its two week run. But I know it received a good notice from the Gazette. And if the opening night audience reaction was any indication, it was in for a great run. Congrats to Thomas Bambury, Dave Dixon, Marlene Counterline, Cathy Mele and the talented cast and crew.

🎵 NYC

In spite of the rain (have we dried out yet?), a great time was had by all on the recent SLOC bus trip to the Big Apple. Broadway offers something for everyone's taste, and from the reports on the bus on the return trip, we saw quite an assortment of shows. Personally, I can highly recommend *The Drowsy Chaperone!*. Thanks to Tom Heckert for again making the arrangements.

🎵 Board Notes

At the April meeting, the Board approved the purchase of new lighting equipment and sound equipment with the funds from the Marion Foster Memorial Fund. With the many donations received in Marion's memory, a generous donation from Allan and subsequent match from GE, the total was nearly \$20,000.

The lighting equipment includes two new spotlights. Marion loved to run the spot at SLOC (and also at Proctor's) so this purchase is indeed in keeping with the family's wishes and is a fitting memorial. The upgraded equipment will be installed over the summer and ready for the 80th season!

🎵 80th Anniversary

The 80th committee is hard at work to prepare several events for next season. Details still have to be firmed up, but right now, three events are in the works. First up, a brunch on September 30. Second, an 80th concert in January. Orlando Pigiavento, Vince Bonafede, and Allan Foster have signed on as Director, Music Director and Producer, respectively. Lastly, SLOC will celebrate the Tony Awards in June 2007 with its own Tony party in June 2007. Details on all these events will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Candidates for the Board of Directors

Donna Z. Baxter

My name is Donna Z. Baxter and I am running for the SLOC Board. I started out in elementary school doing behind the scenes work and continued through high school. When my children started school and performing in class productions, I jumped right back in assisting with costumes, props, painting and building sets, typing scripts and whatever else needed to be done. When my youngest child graduated in 2002 I staged managed SLOC's production *Company* and have been with SLOC ever since. I have been involved with 10 other SLOC productions, 4 other community theater productions and continued as volunteer parent advisor for RMHS theater program. I won a 2005 TANYS Meritorious costume award for Family Player's *The Secret Garden*. I have assumed the role of SLOC's Playbill Editor and next year will be my first time assisting in lighting and co-producing. The hardest thing I have done is writing about myself. I believe myself to be a hard worker and am dedicated to each production that I am involved in. I also believe that I can be an asset as a member of the Board and would love to have a voice in SLOC's future.

Mary Kozlowski

I have been the SLOC treasurer for the past 8 years, 6 of which I served as an elected Board member. During this time I have also worked on numerous productions and served on several committees. Professionally, I am an auditor with NYS, which has given me experience in problem solving and team work. I am proud to be a part of this organization and will continue to work to keep it great.

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SLOC Spotlight

SLOC Spotlight is a newsletter of the Schenectady Light Opera Company, P. O. Box 1006, Schenectady, NY 12301. SLOC is a community volunteer musical and theatre arts incorporated, nonprofit organization. Governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership, SLOC's purpose is to present quality musical theater to the people in and around Schenectady County, NY.

Newsletter Staff: Jill Coloney, Tom Heckert, Greg Rucinski, Pat Endries and George Endries. Subscription Rates: \$5 per year, check payable to SLOC. Send subscription inquiries and address changes to the address listed above.

DEADLINE for submissions to **Vol. 40 Issue No. 1** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is **Thursday, August 10, 2006**. Issue No. 1 will be mailed by August 28.

Please submit articles to Jill Coloney at jac12661@aol.com or 92 Cooks Court, Waterford, NY 12188.

Board Candidates continued

Ferne L Dutkin

I have been happily active in community theater for more than twelve years. During that time I have performed on stage in several musical productions and been a part of a musical cabaret trio. I was a board member of Spotlight Players for seven years, five of which I acted as President of the Board of Directors. I have produced shows throughout the Capital District including *Jane Eyre* (where I also served as Assistant Director) and *Songs for a New World* for SLOC, *Blythe Spirit* for ACT, *Laramie Project* for SCP, *Nunsense* for Ghent Playhouse and *Guys and Dolls* and *Baby* for Spotlight Players. Since the fall of 2004 I have been the SLOC "T-Shirt" Lady and served as Co-VP of Audience Services during SLOC's 2004-2005 season. I have a great deal of experience in most aspects of administration and production and have enjoyed these experiences tremendously. I would very much like to add my knowledge and enthusiasm to the Board and feel that I would be a valuable and judicious addition to the group.

Robert C. Farquharson

I am running for the SLOC Board because Light Opera has provided me many opportunities to develop skills and talents. I appreciate that and would like to see that continue for others. I also believe that while SLOC has developed into providing quality theater and opportunities for local talent, it is on the threshold of stepping it up a notch and becoming something even better. My philosophy is that it's always good to be looking at ways to improve. The most important resource that makes a company highly successful is the dedicated membership. If there is anything we should work on to make strong, it is that. Vision inspires others to do more. So, I feel having a long range plan and communicating a vision is key to the continued success of SLOC. I am just finishing chairing a \$700,000 renovation at our church and think that may provide some added expertise for potential capital projects that I am hoping SLOC undertakes in the next several years, whether we stay where we are or move to a better location and facility.

I have worn many hats at SLOC starting in 1975 with painting sets for *1776*. I have been fortunate to have performed in many shows- being in the chorus in *High Button Shoes*, plus playing my favorite roles of Cornelius in *Hello Dolly* and the Tinman in *The Wizard of Oz*. I have been SLOC's business manager for over 10 years in the 1970's-80's, a Board member and then President. Most of you connect me with having designed several sets for SLOC, starting with *Kiss Me Kate* in 1986 to *Gypsy* and most recently *Sullivan & Gilbert*. I feel all of these experiences will help me to be an effective board member. I hope you vote for me!

Mary-Ann Muth

I currently work as a software engineer at KAPL and was previously a consultant in software development. I first became involved with SLOC in 2001, when I assisted with costumes on *Camelot*. Since then, I have worked on cos-

tumes on numerous shows, and have held the title of costume designer for *Babes in Arms*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Grease* and *Nine*. I have also assisted with properties and set construction and painting on various shows. I served as the playbill editor for two seasons as we transitioned to a new printer, and have been the costume chair for the past two seasons. I will bring energy, determination and the ability to get things accomplished to the Board, and look forward to this opportunity to serve the company. Thank you.

Brett Putnam

Over the past ten years, I have served SLOC as a member of the Board of Directors, Vice-President of Technical Operations, three-time Producer, and SLOC's Business Manager. I currently manage SLOC's financial assets, which have grown from \$211,000 two years ago to over \$281,000 at the present time. I am committed to the long-term financial health of SLOC and to the cultivation of benefactors and business sponsors to this wonderful community organization. My other goals for the coming years are to enhance volunteerism, particularly in the technical departments, to pursue enhancements to our facility for the 21st Century, and to improve SLOC's role as a major cultural center in Schenectady. I would very much like to again serve on the Board of Directors, and I pledge to focus my volunteer theatre efforts exclusively in the service of SLOC.

Note: Due to a commitment I made many months ago (25th Reunion), I regret that I will not be able to attend the SLOC Annual Meeting. I will have copies of the SLOC Business Manager Annual Report available to all at the Annual Meeting, and I invite all to read this report and to contact me if you have questions or suggestions.

Eric Shovah

Professionally, I have worked both on stage and off (as a spotlight operator, crew member, and set builder) with C-R Productions. I have worked with SLOC, the Glove Theatre, Second Star Players, and Family Players, where I was a Board member. For SLOC, I have acted in four shows (including *Nine* as Guido Contini) and helped with set construction on several shows. I also served as a member of the Show Selection Committee for the 80th season, and I have done several outreach programs. At the school level, I currently serve as director for the Voorheesville Dionysians. I have a degree in English with a minor in Theatre from the University at Albany. I would like to serve on the Board because I enjoy all elements and aspects of theatre, and feel I can bring a hard-working and energetic personality, a positive attitude, and a sense of humor to each event and board meeting (which will hopefully make the mid-night board meetings that much more enjoyable).

Hopes and ambitions for the Company:

1. If the future of SLOC is linked to its current building, I hope there can be improvements made (such as air conditioning, bathrooms, improved sound and lighting technology, as well as a higher degree of handicap accessibility and increased safety for everyone coming to SLOC).

(continued on page 4)



P.O. Box 1006
Schenectady, NY 12301-1006

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our 80th Anniversary Season

The Full Monty:
October 13–15 and 19–22
Oliver: December 1–3 and 7–10
Once On This Island:
March 9–11 and 15–18
Hello Dolly: May 4–6 and 10–13

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Schenectady, NY
Permit #120

Absentee Ballots Available

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting on June 10th, you may still vote in the election for the Board of Directors. An absentee ballot may be obtained after May 10th by calling Melinda Zarnoch at 382–8497. All absentee ballots must be received by the Secretary (Melinda) prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.

Season Brochure Mailing

As this issue of *Spotlight* goes to press, the season brochure is at the printers and will be ready for mailing toward the end of June. So, watch your mailboxes next month for the exciting selection of shows coming next season!

If you would like to help with the mailing, you can sign up at the Annual Meeting or call Richard Lenehan (785-4296).

Opera House Locks to be Replaced

The front and side door locks at the Opera House will be replaced in May. If you need a key, contact Ross Snyder, VP Facilities. The same key will operate both the side door and the front door. A five dollar returnable deposit will be required on all Opera House keys.

Costume/Prop Containers Needed

We are in need of clear containers (any size) for props and costume organization. If you would like to donate any, please contact Mary-Ann Muth (at 265-1519) or Donna Baxter (810-4962).

Board Candidates continued

2. I would like to help organize new and more frequent outreach programs to further SLOC's relationship to its neighboring communities.

3. I would like to explore new and improved ways to connect the Board of Directors to the shows at SLOC (going beyond the Board Liaison position) and explore how the Board can help the existing shows more, including ways critique can better service everyone involved.

4. I would like to link outreach programs to more fundraisers to continue to better the technology at SLOC.

Set Needs for *The Full Monty*

We are in need of one small, old sports car (or a junkyard connection) - it can be a wreck as we only need the driver's side to be intact. We also need to borrow scaffolding from mid August through the run of the show (scaffolding connections anyone??).

Please contact the producers if you can help. Ferne Dutkin 477-8330 or Marlene Countermine 869-8412.
