

South Okanagan Amateur Players

Annual General Meeting Minutes

7 pm, June 19, 2014

Quail's Nest Art Centre, Oliver, BC

Agenda:

1. Call to Order: President Patrick Turner called the meeting to order, and thanked those in attendance, at 7:00 pm.
2. Introductions: the following voting members were introduced: Chelsea Cameron Horner, Elaine Ecker, Diane Gludovatz, Jen Jensen, Penelope Johnson, Nathan Linders, Brian and Jennifer Mapplebeck, Bernice Myllyniemi, Linda Nunweiler, Christine Rothwell, Michael and Vera Ryan, Patrick Turner, Robin Stille. The following new members were also introduced: Joan Cameron, Peter Gajda, Viv Hirst, Linda Lobb.
3. Adoption of Agenda: Moved Robin Stille CARRIED
4. Adoption of 2013 AGM Minutes as read: Moved Jen Jensen CARRIED
5. Business arising from the minutes:

Name Change: At this time we will remain South Okanagan Amateur Players but add the domain name soplayers.ca

Signage at OSS Theatre: signs at the school are in place. An Osoyoos trustee said they are working on one for the highway.

6. President's Report: (see attached)
7. Treasurer's Report: (see attached) Moved acceptance of report: Diane Gludovatz CARRIED.
Treasurer provided the following:
 - membership has increased.
 - noted that more money was made when we ran three weekends in three different venues.
 - we will be looking at higher costs for Venables.

8. Annual Reports 2013-2014

Oliver Arts Council Report - Jennifer Mapplebeck and Penelope Johnson

Capital improvements to date: security features - lighting, floor drains sealed. Still to do: exterior by doors of Big Blue to get second coat of paint, north side beautification.

Upcoming events:

Music in the Park with market at the bandshell.

Michael Burgess, Bandshell talk to Bernice for more information

Fall Arts Show and Sale - visual arts Oct. 5/6 Saturday free, Sunday "Festival of the Grape"

Osoyoos Arts Council Report:

Patrick Turner sent SOAP pictures for a collage

Their AGM was June 18, 2014

They have spent money on the stage at Sonora Centre

Oliver Community Theatre Society (see attached report)

9. Old Business

The website is up and running. Huge thank you to Tom Szalay for his ongoing efforts!

10. New Business:

Name change: New board to pursue a possible change and consequences.

2014 - 15 Season: *Nunset Boulevard* directed by Ray Turner

Cast: Diane Gludovatz
Terri Thompson (sp.)
Penelope Johnson
Chelsea Cameron-Horner
Amy Grice

Looking for ideas for spring production. We should know by October in order to secure venues.

11. Other: Bob McAtamney from Cawston Players addressed members. He was hoping to share resources and workshops and avoid performance night overlap.

11. Election of Officers:

President: Patrick Turner
Vice-president: Nathan Linders
Secretary: Christine Rothwell
Treasurer: Jen Jensen

The above by acclamation.

Directors: Diane Gludovatz
Penelope Johnson
Robin Stille
Lifetime Member Jennifer Mapplebeck

Motion: To destroy the ballots. Christine Rothwell CARRIED

Adjournment: President, Patrick Turner thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and called for adjournment. Moved Linda Nunweiler CARRIED at 8:17

President's Report - 2014

Okay folks, it's time for the announcements. Management requests that as courtesy to your fellow SOAP members, you pay attention.

As your president I am pleased to present a review of what the South Okanagan Amateur Players has been up to over the past 12 months.

The past year has been a year of transition and change for our organization. The long awaited opening of the Frank Venables Theatre was welcomed in February although we weren't able to get on stage until late May. But with the brand new state of the art theatre, comes new policies and fee structures which we have to take into consideration when planning our future productions. More on that a bit later.

We staged two successful productions over the past year. Jen Jensen came forward to direct *Twisted Tales*, which consisted of a brilliantly performed monologue and two short comedies written by Bruce Kane and featuring private investigator Justin Tyme. Jen brought together a cast of seasoned actors and SOAP newcomers for this production and by all accounts they all had a great time. Jen was assisted by producers Jennifer Mapplebeck and myself as well as our always reliable production team who diligently worked behind the scenes in support of the actors performing on stage. This play was staged in the Osoyoos Secondary School Theatre and the Oliver Seniors Centre. We are grateful of being given the opportunity to use the seniors centre several times during the construction of the new theatre, and we are hoping we won't have to use that venue again.

Once we knew when the Venables Theatre would be ready for a performance, we went to work finding a director and a play to present as our debut production. The end result was Tom Szalay coming forward to try his hand at directing Ken Ludwig's hilarious farce *Lend Me A Tenor*. Jen Jensen came on board as assistant director, stage manager and passion coach, while Jennifer and I shared the producer's duties. And once again a very dedicated team came together to look after all of the behind-the-scenes details such a production requires. The cast, which once again featured some newcomers as well as veterans, had a great time putting everything together and the reviews are still coming in. The performance even brought this comment to our blog ... *Congratulations to Tom Szalay and the cast and crew of Lend Me A Tenor. I'm thrilled to hear that the production was such a resounding success. I wish I could have seen it--the photos are fantastic. Thanks so much for producing the play. Here's to the next 40 years and many more of wonderful work by The South Okanagan Players! Best regards, Ken Ludwig, the playwright of Lend Me A Tenor.*

I am happy to report both plays were financial successes and were enjoyed by our patrons.

Just over a week after the final curtain came down on Lend Me A Tenor we were auditioning for our fall production of Dan Goggin's musical Nunset Boulevard. Long-time SOAP member Ray Turner has come forward to direct this play while Oliver music teacher Lisa Ante has come on board as the musical director. The cast is in place and the first read through takes place next week although the play doesn't hit local stages until the last two weeks of November. Jennifer is already looking for volunteers to assist with the production.

And it is not too early to be thinking of what we want to stage next spring. We are finding that in order to book the two local theatres on consecutive weeks, we must have plans in place many months in advance.

While it would be nice to stage plays more frequently, our current volunteer base is too limited for us to be involved in more than one production at a time.

Also debuting this past year was our website, www.soplayers.ca. Tom put in a great amount of work developing the site with input from Penelope and the board and he continues to keep it updated. In the future we will use the site to promote future productions, including short video clips of rehearsals, and provide an archive of past productions. Speaking of archives, thanks to Penelope for maintaining an archive of our past performances, including newspaper clippings, programs, scripts and copies of the DVDs.

The year has also been a busy one dealing with the unglamorous housekeeping matters that organizations such as ours need to address. As mentioned earlier, the new theatre in Oliver has new policies we have to follow, including the requirement for us to have third party liability insurance in place. That resulted in a review of our insurance needs. It was decided to drop our property insurance coverage which we were paying over \$500 a year for (with a \$500 deductible) and instead take out third party general liability as well as liability coverage for our directors and officers. Through our membership in the Oliver Community Arts Council we were able to get coverage for both policies for less than \$800 per year, compared to quotes received of over \$2,000 annually.

The cost of using the Venables Theatre has increased from what we have paid in the past and there is a policy requiring that only approved light and sound technicians be involved in all productions. Fortunately we were able to get two of our members trained and we hope to arrange for the appropriate training for more of our members in the fall.

We reviewed the bursaries we offer to graduating students from both local high schools and decided to increase the amount of each from \$500 to \$750 and revised our criteria in awarding those bursaries. Those awards are scheduled to be presented at graduation ceremonies in both schools a week from today.

A review of our past few productions has shown that we need to look at the way we market ourselves in the future to get more people into the theatres for our shows. We are averaging between 350 and 500 people for each run, including people from Penticton, Summerland, the Similkameen and across the border. But out of the total population of Osoyoos and Oliver, we are not getting a large percentage of residents into the seats, despite a great job by our publicity person. I am always surprised when I hear from local residents that they have never heard anything about our upcoming productions and know next to nothing about our organization.

We will also have to review what we are calling ourselves. In any production we are referred to as the South Okanagan Amateur Players, SOAP Players, South Okanagan Actors and Players, South Okanagan Players, SO Players and others. There needs to be some uniformity in the name we are using and it may have an impact on the legal name of our society.

As a result of an initiative started by us last year, School District No. 53 has erected a theatre sign next to the entrance to the Osoyoos Secondary School Theatre. I am told the board is still pursuing some type of signage along Highway 97 to direct out-of-town patrons to the theatre.

We are grateful to the Oliver Community Arts Council for providing us with this space for our rehearsals and storage, and allowing us to save so much money on our insurance premiums. We will be asking permission in the near future to look at the wiring above our rehearsal space in the hopes we might be able to install a number of overhead radiant heaters for the comfort of our casts and crew.

As you can tell, it has been another busy year for our organization and, thanks to many it has been a successful year. I want to thank everyone for their varied contributions to SOAP . . . our hard working board members, our talented actors and actresses, directors, producers and the many who assist in our productions by doing costumes, make-up, props, set construction and moving, publicity and front of house. Our thanks also to the media for helping to promote our shows and, of course, to our many patrons who anxiously await each and every one of our plays. I thank all of you for your help in making our organization a success and hope we can rely on your support in the coming year. And if anyone has a desire to head up a great organization, that opportunity can be afforded to you.

SOUTH OKANAGAN AMATEUR PLAYERS SOCIETY

PROFIT AND LOSS

JUNE 2013 THROUGH MAY 2014

INCOME

Membership dues	\$120.00
Interest	\$5.94
Ticket and concession sales	\$14,848.00
Advertising	\$400.00
Total Income	\$15,373.94

EXPENSES

Production Costs	\$8324.46
Administration Costs	
Memberships	\$50.00
AGM Filing	\$25.00
Post office box rental	\$159.67
Copies	\$224.00
Bursaries and donations	\$250.00
Scripts for reading	\$164.65
FOTR fee	\$50.00
Makeup	\$263.77
Website	\$224.71
Building and Equipment Costs	
Flats	\$579.58
Rent	\$1200.00
Insurance	\$725.00
Total Expenses	\$12,240.84
Net Income	\$3133.10

South Okanagan Amateur Players Society

Balance Sheet

As of May 31, 2014

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing – Interior Savings CU \$11,121.23

Member rewards – Interior Savings CU \$43.28

Shares – Interior Savings CU \$8.31

Term 1 Deposit – Interior Savings CU \$2500.00

Term 2 Deposit – Interior Savings CU \$2500.00

Total Current Assets \$16,172.82

Fixed Assets

Costumes \$2000.00

Light and Sound Equipment \$5650.00

Props, Sets, Flats \$4400.00

Total Fixed Assets \$12050.00

TOTAL ASSETS \$28,222.82

SOUTH OKANAGAN AMATEUR PLAYERS

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Oliver Community Theatre Society Report

After four meetings, on May 13, 2014 a slate of officers were elected to the above society.

President: Wendy Newman

Vice President: Carol Sheridan

Secretary: Jack Frank

Treasurer: Midge Wyse

The two other representatives at this time are Bob Park (Concert Society) and Christine Rothwell (SOAP).

To date:

A draft operating proposal for the Frank Venables Theatre has been created.

A Basis of Operation document including rental rates and charges has been created.

A tentative budget has been created for both 2014 and 2015.

The RDOS will be the lease holder and oversee the budget.

An interim employee has been hired by the School District. At this time her role is to do inventory.

Concerns:

Because of changes to the budget control, there has been a setback as proceeding with hiring a temporary theatre manager. (A permanent theatre manager will be sought after the referendum passes).

With so much equipment arriving at once there is a dire need for an inventory.

If the referendum fails to pass the Venables reverts to being the property of the School District.

Need: A campaign.

Someone to become the "voice" of the Society.

Public Events.

Newspaper articles.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Rothwell