

YUMA COMMUNITY THEATER  
AUGUST 14, 2021  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING UNAPPROVED MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** @ 12:33 pm
- II. **HONOR ANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS** – Michael Finch
  - A. Board members in attendance: Mike Finch (President), Ralph Gray (Vice President), Susan Lauer (Treasurer), Eva Cervantes (Secretary), Mark Henrikson, Mary Ellen Finch, Kevin Irr, Patti Perry (virtually), Sam Cervantes
  - B. Recognize guests/lifetime members in attendance: John Paul Plante, Fred Brown, Louise Guy, Ralph Gray, Mark Henrikson
- III. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING** (Approved in regular board meeting in August 8, 2020) – Eva Cervantes
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Susan Lauer
  - A. YCT presented one remarkable livestreamed production this past year, - "Songs For A New World" despite the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Operating costs for YCT continue to run approximately \$2,000 per month, including mortgage payments. As of 06/30/2021, YCT's net worth was \$265,401 as opposed to last year's figure of \$274,052. This means that we lost \$8651 net worth this past year. YCT needs to continue to explore creative revenue streams and think outside of the box to continue to bring quality theatrical performances to the Yuma community.
  - B. YCT received a \$6,000 grant for the Arizona Community Foundation. These funds were used to purchase equipment to record our production of "Songs For A New World" for live-streaming to our audience. More on that later in the meeting.
  - C. YCT continued to make payments on our property on 16th Street. Currently YCT owes \$53,716 on the building and the loan balloon date is 01/2024. The current cash value for our building is \$270,292,
  - D. As always, detailed reports are available if anyone is interested. Just let me know.
- V. **PRESIDENTS REPORT** – Michael Finch
  - A. **Bldg. Committee-Kevin Irr**
    1. We had to clean the warehouse part of the building as well as the front office. We will continue to do some additional work to keep going with inventory with our electronics, costumes, set pieces, etc.
    2. We will also continue with weed abatement to keep control. We are working with Sage & Sand for the front area for them to use the front parking area.
    3. A special thank you to Mark and Mary Henrikson for their weeks long work on the 12' high weeds on the property.

4. Mike and Mary Ellen worked on the front office area: painting, pulling the old carpet, retiling the bathroom. Pictures of lifetime members will be put up on the wall.
5. Sage & Sand is working on the weeds and may ask for help with the back lot area.
6. We plan to put up a ramp and/or handrail at the stair area in front of the building.
7. Costumes: Fred asked about the costumes being held by Barbara Johnson. We informed that we took care of that this year.

**B. Fundraising-Mary Ellen Finch**

1. Last year was very challenging, so the only show we had this last year was Songs for a New World.
2. We are currently in negotiations with the city for a venue for the rental for their Black Box.
3. MTI (Music Theater International) have offered a brand new musical revue.
4. Taste of Broadway IV for early 2022.
5. We are looking at doing something in the spring. Keep an eye out for that.

**C. COVID-19 – Michael Finch**

1. Numbers are coming back up, and we have a plan in progress.

**D. YCT Historians – Fred & Sandy Brown**

1. We are pretty well caught up with recent productions.
2. We have a list of all shows by date, alphabetical,
3. request any documentation by way of paper (or disk or thumb drive) for any and all past events within YCT back to 1980. We are the keepers of the history, so get it to us somehow. Feel free to ask us or Louise Guy, as well as a number of other members here, if you have any questions about past shows.
4. There are files for every show we have put on in the office. It would behoove the directors/producers of new shows to review those records.

**VI. 2020 - 2021 SEASON SHOWS:**

**A. Songs For A New World – Eva Cervantes & Michael Finch**

1. Eva and Mike shared what a great experience this was considering it was the first time we have ever done a livestream. This is definitely something we would be interested in trying again, now that we have this experience under our belts. The show made \$6.77 in profit, and that isn't bad considering it was our first time attempting a livestream, and it was the only show this past season.
2. Discussion ensued and members shared experiences.

**VII. 2021 – 2022 SEASON SHOWS:**

- A. No proposals at this time. However, some YCTers are working on a fundraising and a show!
- B. Lisa Rowe in NYC sent us some information for a show she wrote (Psych) for free. She will give us 100% royalties that come with that show. Mike is looking at this script for possible proposal.

**VIII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Ralph Gray**

A. Nominations from committee

1. Ralph, Mike, and Mary Ellen have their chairs open for nominations.

- a) Ralph has chosen to rerun for his seat, but Mike and Mary Ellen are choosing to step down and allow others to run for their seats.
- b) Chris Fowler is running for a seat. She was a member of Coronado Playhouse as part of their board. She comes with a lot of experience to share as part of the community theater setting both on the board and as part of productions.
- c) Mary Ellen made a motion by acclamation. Seconded by Susan. Members accepted. One open seat TBD for first meeting with new board members.

B. Open Nominations from floor

1. none

**IX. ELECTIONS**

A. Membership Discussion during new board elections

B. Election Results/Dismiss new board members to elect officers

1. New board: Kevin Irr (president), Ralph Gray (Vice President), Susan Lauer (Treasurer), Eva Cervantes (Secretary), Patti Perry, Mark Henrikson, Sam Cervantes, Chris Fowler

2. Patti moved to accept the executive board members as stated above. Eva seconded. Motion accepted.

**X. Direction To The Board From The Membership – NEW YCT President (Kevin Irr)**

A. This is an honor to be the president for this coming year. I will do my best to help YCT be successful.

B. The City of Yuma Tribute of the Muses is Friday, October 8, 2021. Nominations for individuals is Friday, August 27, 2021.

**XI. Good of the Order**

A. Susan Lauer: I love being ; Ralph Gray: thank you for allowing me to be a part of this organization, it's a huge part of my heart; Eva Cervantes: I am proud to be a part of this board, and I'm excited to face the challenges head-on and conquer the obstacles; Mike Finch: we'll see you around; Mary Ellen Finch: I'm looking forward to the fundraisers this year; Mark Henrikson: looking forward to the next year, they're not exaggerating about the weeds in the back property, Mary did the lion's share of the work, looking forward to another year with YCT; Sam Cervantes: I'm looking to the challenges and overcoming them and excited to see where this year; Patti Perry: it's been an honor to be serving as part of this organization, she would like to see a place to renew online membership and completion of the membership form without; Chris Fowler: I'm excited to be on the board; Michael Fowler: I'm looking to being involved and seeing where we go; Claudia Bellisle: my husband is for hire to help with those weeds, I believe in theater being a component in the community and I'm willing to help in any way I can; John Paul Plante: I want to thank Mike and Mary Ellen for their help serving our organization; Fred

Brown: I would love to have list of experienced directors/producers/set design/musical directors/assistant directors/costumers and construction persons of our organization, the website needs to be fixed to see the poem and “about us” essay; Sand Brown: I need a list of new board members; Louise Guy: I love to be a part of this community theater; Justin Davis: I’m excited for the new season coming up; Terri Grant: I’m excited that Yuma Community Theater is still thriving during a pandemic, theater is creative and we need to keep finding ways to bringing us up to the new keeping with old traditions, I’m encouraged to see this new; Kevin Irr: this is a new leadership role for me, and I welcome the challenge to spearhead new ways to keep YCT to generate new pathways to include youth.

**Next regular board meeting will be September 13th, 2021 at Yuma Community Theater Building, 2874 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St. @ 7:00 P.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT @ 2:00 p.m.**