



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WICHITA COMMUNITY THEATRE ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP, BOARD MEMBERS**

WICHITA, KS (December 17, 2011) - Seven new at-large board members have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Wichita Community Theatre: Heather Jewell, Mark Schuster, Cindy Pursell, Mitzi Sullivan, Michael Criss, Mary Lou Phipps-Winfrey, and Kevin Sowers. Terms start on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Four resignations are happening this year: Chris Fisher, Rhys Brightwater, Jack Walker, and Phil Speary. Please join us in thanking these people for their selfless contributions to the Wichita Community Theatre Board of Directors over the years.

Executive board members are elected for two year terms. Please thank the following outgoing executive board members for their service: Crystal Meek, president, Jack Walker, secretary, and Phil Speary, vice president.

The 2012-2013 executive board for Wichita Community Theatre is:

### **Ben Blankley, President**

Mr. Blankley brings three years of experience as WCT Volunteer Coordinator to his new position. He started volunteering at Wichita Community Theatre in September of 2007, shortly after moving to Wichita. Mr. Blankley's goal as president is to emphasize the "community" aspect of Wichita Community Theatre through outreach, special events, and partnering with other arts organizations in Wichita. Mr. Blankley works for Spirit AeroSystems.

### **Casey Eubank, Vice President**

Mr. Eubank has been involved with WCT since June of 2010. He joined the Board of Directors shortly after, and has been a key person in taking WCT to the next level of publicity and marketing. He has negotiated ad swaps with nearly every single performing arts organization in the city, and has achieved with a publicity budget of \$0 what most arts organizations pay thousands of dollars for. Mr. Eubank works for Wichita Area Technical College.

### **John Reel, Treasurer**

Mr. Reel continues in his capacity as treasurer, a role he has held for a significant number of years. Highlights of his work are the monthly budget breakdowns prepared for the board, and long-term financial planning. His continued efforts have allowed WCT to be artistically ambitious while maintaining a balanced budget. Mr. Reel works for Spirit AeroSystems.

### **Liz Sabala, Secretary**

Ms. Sabala has been operating as interim secretary for several months. She brings several

years of experience as the Opening Night Party board member to this position. She has also been instrumental in sending thank you cards from the theatre. Ms. Sabala is a full-time student.

### **Jane Tanner, Technical Director**

Ms. Tanner continues in her role as technical director, bringing several decades of volunteer theater experience and costume design to this position. Recently, she has been the primary point-of-contact for the bathroom renovation, and has donated significant amounts of time in this capacity. Ms. Tanner works for Wesley Medical Center.

Non-executive board members who remain on the board are Crystal Meek, Julie Jacobson, Mark Anderson, Glenn Williams, and Jessica Fisher. Robert Ryder will continue to be an ex-officio board member.

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**Wichita Community Theatre is an all volunteer non-profit community theatre organization established by Mary Jane Teall in 1946. We perform 8 shows a year plus various special events. More information about the theatre is at: [www.wichitact.org](http://www.wichitact.org).**

**For more information about this topic or to schedule an interview, please contact Mary Lou Phipps-Winfrey at 316-652-0531 or by e-mail at [publicity@wichitact.org](mailto:publicity@wichitact.org).**