

Behind The Scenes

by Mari Radtke

We all know that whatever we do, something is happening behind the scenes, unseen. The planning, the effort, the execution all takes place without fanfare, and often without thanks. It's time to give a big thank you and a little fanfare to just a handful of people who bring at least two live play productions each year to the Primghar stage via Primghar Community Playhouse.

Currently just seven individuals do that work from choosing a performance, to recruiting performers, fundraising, props, set readiness, sound, lights, rehearsals and so much more.



Linda Towe – Linda began her volunteerism the year following her daughter's first performance. She took a board seat in January 2015. During her ten years with Primghar Community Playhouse, she has filled many seats and undertaken many tasks to provide an entertaining performance. Currently, Linda is serving as the



Board President.

Betty Uittenboogaard – Betty is a stalwart contributor of Primghar Community Playhouse. Betty has been with the organization since its beginning, 1980. Betty has been on and off the board, but always been a backbone figure on the board. Betty remembers the first

production and the years where the board pulled off 3 productions in a single year. Betty currently fills the Treasurer position.



Liz Austin – Liz is in her first year as a PCP Board member. She has always been a (big) helper with the productions. She is currently providing graphic arts and promotional work for each performance. Watch for some fun visits to the communities from characters in the upcoming production. Liz fills a Member-At-Large position.



Christa Mazur – Christa, a long-time supporter of Primghar Community Playhouse brings vision, imagination, artistic skill and energy to a Member-At-Large position of the Board of Directors. She is currently serving her first year.



Elizabeth Baker – Elizabeth is also in her first year as a Primghar Community Playhouse Member-At-Large. Elizabeth is a long time supporter of the program and is very active in assisting with the many behind-the-scenes tasks necessary to pull off a



Nadine Meyer – Nadine lives in Archer with her husband Steven and their kids. She joined in 2019 and fills a Member-At-Large position with the Board of Directors.



Steven Meyer – Steven lives in Archer with his family. His children are active in PCP and he has generously taken up the cause to assist with the endless needs to bring these productions to the Primghar stage. Steven currently is fulfilling the duties of Secretary of the Board. He joined in 2019.

Primghar Community Playhouse (PCP) was organized in 1980. It's first production, "The Blithe Spirit" was performed at the then high school. Every production until the Primghar Community Building was completed was held at the high school. "Beverly Hillbillies" was the first production held at the Primghar Community

Building.

The stage and flooring is a success story of repurposing materials. It's floor is from another building that once stood in Primghar. (But no one can remember which one!) Before long, PCP began a children's production each year in addition to 1 adult play in the spring. Through the years, they have hosted a variety of fundraisers to keep the production coming, variety shows and musicals, just for the sake of it. It wasn't really that long ago they undertook 2 adult plays and one summer children's play. That was an incredible feat to bring all that to the stage in a single year.

Primghar Community Playhouse is starting its 45th year of bringing live family entertainment to the Primghar stage. "We want to keep it going for the community; to involve children and get them interested," said Board President Linda Towe. "We don't want to shut it down."

Board members and child performers said participating helps with many skills. Performers gain skill memorizing and being on stage. Ali Kruse said while waiting for rehearsal to begin, "Speaking in front of a big crowd." This is her 4th year performing.

"Dorothy Meets Alice" or "Wizard of Wonderland" will be on stage at the Primghar Community Building Friday and Saturday November 15 and 16. Watch the Bell-Times-Courier for more details.