



# Curtain Calls

August/September 2025

## ANNUAL MEETING COMING UP!

*Save the Date - August 8th*

By *Judy Quarters*

We have an open invitation to our Appreciation and Annual Meeting on August 8th at the theater. I am asking every former director, producers, and members to please encourage and invite people who have helped them with a show in the past, so we can show everyone our appreciation.

We are doing things a little differently this year. We will have a social hour in Hudgins Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 at the theater, finger foods and punch provided. Everyone will learn a little about the future of TBP. We are trying to encourage more people to consider becoming members. We'll have some door prize drawings and the business meeting will be held in the theater after for current members.

Please help to keep our community theater going! Bring a friend!

### TBP'S UPCOMING SEASON!

**Fall 2025: *Marvelous Wonderettes: Dream On***

Written and created by Roger Bean; Directed by *Dennis Szatkowski*

**Spring 2026: *Moonglow***

Written by *Kim Carney*; Directed by *Brenda Chadwick*

**Summer 2026: *Decades of Delight - A Variety Show***

Directed by *Tracee Lentz*, Produced by *Jolene Grusecki*

**Fall 2026: *My Summer at Camp-O-Che-Mo***

Written by *Carol Kushion* and *Richard Hingst*

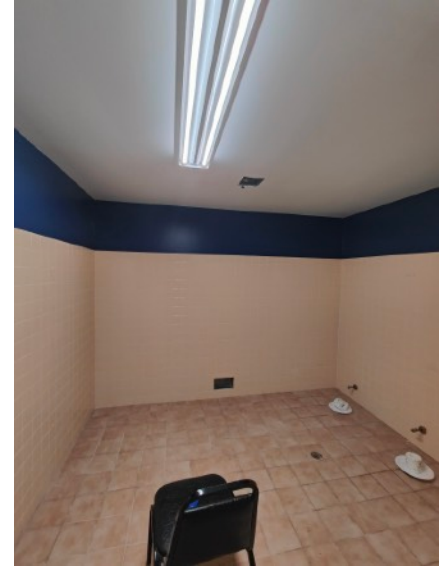
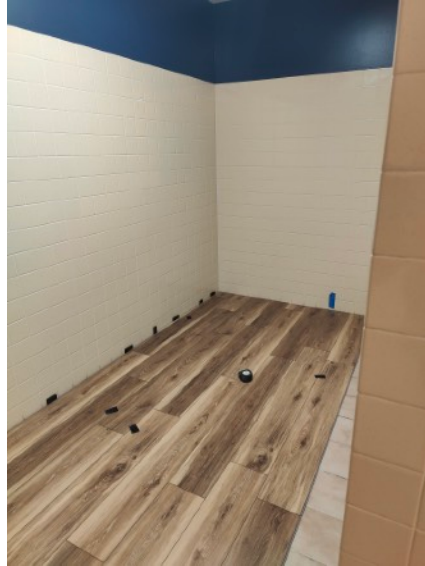
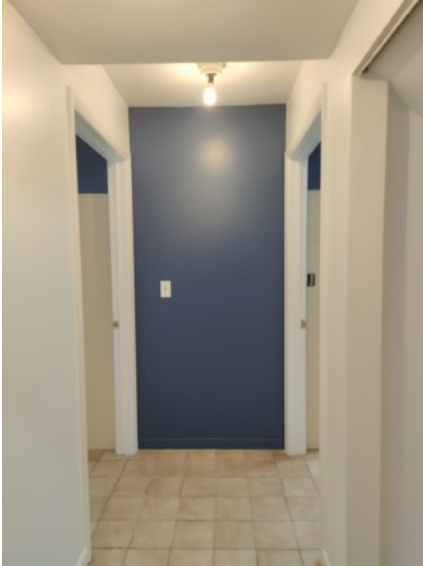
Directed by *Barb Hunter* and produced by *Judy Quarters*

# Bathroom Renovation In Progress

By *Tracee Lentz*

As if you needed another reason to attend our fabulous Annual Meeting ( Aug 8th) you definitely do not want to miss this one! The bathroom renovations are well underway with all demo done, painting finished, and flooring is currently being installed. We will have new toilets, vanities, sinks/counters, hand dryers with UV light, partitions and mirrors.

If anyone would like to volunteer on this project please contact Tracee. Here are a few sneak preview pictures. Remember, we are inviting the entire community to the annual meeting social hour this year so bring a friend or two. Tawas Bay Players is a vibrant, thriving, and growing organization. We are proud of what we have built here and want to share it with the entire community. We may even gain a few new members.



# President's Corner

## July 2025

By *Ed Krebs*

Whew! What a year for this organization! We had some excellent shows, competed in the state level AACTFest, and hosted two amazing shows by the WE Players. I hope you will attend the August 8th Annual Meeting, where we will do a year-in-review among other things. Of course we also had some struggles. The summer show “I Take This Man” was not cast and had to be canceled. Quotes for replacing the roof came in at double the earlier budgetary estimates. The annual furnace inspections last fall showed we need to get serious about replacing the main furnace.

Meanwhile, the board has been working all year on planning for the future and setting a path toward continued success. We brainstormed all the wants and needs that could go into a 5 year plan. We focused on prioritizing 3 things because we all know you can't do everything at once. We developed a Capital Improvement Plan for ourselves and the City. (If you didn't know, the City owns the building and leases it to us for a nominal fee in exchange for Tawas Bay Players being responsible for managing the building, including maintenance and repairs.) We brought in a very knowledgeable workshop leader (thanks to CTAM who funded the speaker fees) and worked with her to understand and develop a plan toward developing sponsorships (which is something different than advertisers). And after the roofing quotes came in, we've been working to design and implement a Capital Campaign. More about that at the Annual Meeting.

Forward planning pays off. When the summer show had to be canceled, we pivoted into a “summer of renovation.” Because we have a prioritized list of projects (both maintenance and improvements) and were beginning the exploratory phase of the Capital Campaign, an anonymous donor provided \$10,000 to renovate the bathrooms! It is almost unbelievable in how generous people can be – and this donor wants to challenge you to a match (no, not tennis!). To continue to seed the early phase of our Capital Campaign, our donor asks that the membership find it in their hearts and wallets to raise the next \$10,000? While not everyone can write a big check, it may be within your ability to make a monthly pledge over the next 2 years. Can you help with \$10 a month? How about \$20?

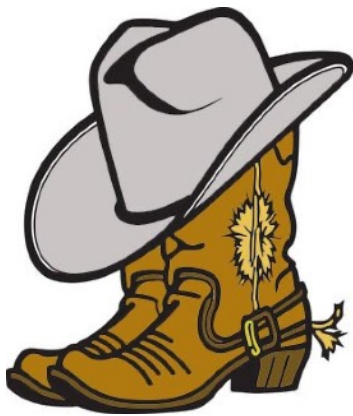
There are several more projects already either underway or in the late planning stages. Some of these will benefit from volunteers helping with a variety of tasks. For example, **Tracee Lentz**, project lead on the bathroom renovation, organized some wonderful helpers who were willing to get dirty during demolition, get on their knees to lay new flooring, and complete this big project with lightning speed. Thank you Tracee for all the design, planning, procurement and leadership on this amazing project! And thanks to everyone who has helped on this and other tasks. The list is simply too long for a newsletter article, but we will recognize all of them at the Annual Meeting.

Speaking of amazing volunteers, I can't begin to thank **Keith Frank** for over 25 years of leadership as president of our board. The list of accomplishments on his watch can't fit into this article, but for those fairly new to the group, he was involved from the beginning – from finding a way to get into this building to writing grants and raising funds to transform it from an old church to a cornerstone theater.

I am also grateful to **Michal Jacot** who has been putting together this newsletter for a number of years. Being able to stay informed is crucial to us all, and his artistic flair along with a great deal of diligence has been top notch. Michal is passing the baton, and we could use a few good volunteers to make sure this valuable resource continues to shine a positive light on everything we do. Thank you Michal.

Please attend the Annual Meeting on August 8. Your vote for new board members is important!





## MURDER IN THE WILD WEST!

By *Michal Jacot*

The Players are doing another murder mystery fundraiser at the Buckhorn Inn in Tawas! Last year's show went so well that Buckhorn owner Mary wanted another one. This original show, written by **Michal Jacot**, is presented at the Buckhorn for the very first time on two consecutive Saturdays in the fall (September 20th and 27th).

The Wild West-themed show is titled "Trouble in Long Branch in the Short Branch Saloon" and is populated with your usual cowboy hooligans - the grumpy barkeep, the madam of the "upstairs girls", the grizzled old prospector, the greedy land baron ... well, you get the idea. After a great dinner by Mary, the audience gets to find out the details of which oil test rotten varmints done the dirty deed!

And just to keep things interesting, Michal has written two alternate endings to the show. That way, someone can attend the show on the first Saturday and come back the second Saturday to catch a whole new culprit! The audience participates in the fun, not only by asking questions of the suspects but coming to the show dressed in their best cowboy/cowgirl garb!

Tickets are \$30 and available on our website. Get on your favorite horse and giddy-yup over to **[www.tawasbayplayers.ludus.com](http://www.tawasbayplayers.ludus.com)** to pick them up!

## Jim DiLoreto

Our condolences to the friends and family of **Jim DiLoreto**, who passed away in June. Jim was an extremely talented musician who lent his talents on the stand-up bass to many of our musical productions. In addition to his TBP contributions, he was active in Sound Waves, Huron Shores Jazz, Shoreline Players, and Fusion Trio. He loved to spread his love of music around! Jim will be missed, but we are grateful for sharing his talent with us while he was here.

## Track Volunteer Hours

By *Tracee Lentz*

As many of you know, we have started keeping track of the number of hours that all of our wonderful members spend volunteering their time to the Playhouse.

Why is this important? We had a very informative workshop with a woman that does fundraising for the Nature Trails in multiple states including Michigan. She told us that we need to be tracking our volunteer hours for possible "in kind" donations and many grants require this type of information. Every hour is worth \$35.00!

It doesn't have to be time that you are actually at the theater working, even the time that you spend baking cookies, shopping for ingredients, sewing, etc. are important and they count!

If you do go to the Playhouse, there is a clipboard on the countertop just inside the kitchen door where you can write down your name, date, time in, time out and total number of hours. If you are working at home, you can email Tracee Lentz ([tdlantz1@gmail.com](mailto:tdlantz1@gmail.com)) with that information and I'll put it on our master list. Thank you in advance for all you do!

# TBP SINGERS 4TH OF JULY FLOAT

Once again, the **TBP Singers** wowed the crowd with their singing at the Fourth of July Parade! Thousands of people (really, this must have been a record year for tourists because the streets were jammed) watched the parade, and the Singers had people singing, dancing and applauding! Great job to our talented group of singers!





THANK YOU to all of the TBP personnel who contributed to CURTAIN CALLS over the last year! I sincerely appreciate your efforts!

**Tara Western** kept us informed on theatre happenings in our region! **Ed Krebs'** President's Corner and various articles kept us in the loop! And various contributions from **Tina Dalton, Jolene Grusecki, Nadeen and Bob O'Meara, Janie Mundy, and Cheryl Provost** kept us informed on behind-the-scenes action!

A special shout-out to **Pat Casey**. When I finished setting up the newsletter, I'd send her the PDF. Pat proofed every issue and always caught my typos. Then she'd send the corrected version out to all of you. One of those jobs that nobody knew about but was needed and appreciated.

Great job to all of you!

## COMMUNITY THEATER BINGO

How many squares can YOU claim on this bingo card? Tell me your number at the Annual Meeting August 8th! See you there!

PAINTED AN OUTDOOR SCENE ON A BACKDROP	WORE FAKE HAIR ON STAGE	MADE OR ATE FAKE STAGE FOOD	SAID ANOTHER ACTOR'S LINES DURING A PERFORMANCE	FOUND COSTUMES AT THRIFT SHOPS
SAVED SET WALLS OR PIECES TO USE FOR NEXT PLAY	KISSING SCENE WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOUR SPOUSE	WORKED ON SHOW WITH 10 OR LESS PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE	WARDROBE MALFUNCTION WHILE ON STAGE	WROTE SOMETHING ON A BACKSTAGE FLAT
ACTED IN TWO PLAYS BACK-TO-BACK	WORKED IN TECH BOOTH (LIGHTING OR SOUND)	FREE	PLAYED A CHARACTER WITH A FOREIGN ACCENT	AD LIBBED AN EXIT OFF STAGE FOR AN EMERGENCY
QUOTED LINES FROM A PLAY YOU WERE IN SIX MONTHS OR MORE AFTER THE SHOW CLOSED	PERFORMED SHAKESPEARE	DIRECTED A SHOW	ACTED ON STAGE WITH AN ANIMAL	SAW A SHOW YOU'VE BEEN IN, PERFORMED BY ANOTHER GROUP
PRODUCED A SHOW	APPLIED STAGE MAKEUP ON SOMEONE ELSE	SUNG A SOLO IN A MUSICAL	DRESSED AS SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX FOR A PLAY	PLAYED MULTIPLE ROLES IN ONE PLAY