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Hello, Friends of the Opera House!

It's been a minute since we've shared updates from FOTOH. I've had some medical setbacks and was unable to write the newsletter sooner. Such as it is, I am excited to tell you what has been happening and what is coming up in our future this year.

First, the website is up and running. To check it out visit [www.friendsofthewoodstockoperahouse.com](http://www.friendsofthewoodstockoperahouse.com). There you can find up to date information about upcoming events and fundraisers as well as projects and programs that the Friends help fund throughout the year at the Opera House. We are also ramping up our social media presence. Please like and follow our Facebook page for important updates.

Second, at January's annual meeting, the directors up for re-election were voted in unanimously by the general membership. 2 new directors were also elected at the meeting. At the end of last year, the board voted to revise the bylaws to make the Opera House staff positions ex-officio (non-voting) members. Doing this meant that we needed to fill the voting seat that had previously been filled by the Development Manager, so the board officially welcomed our newest board member at the February meeting. This brings our board of directors to 15.

I agreed to remain as President for another year as long as the board could stand me. My wife, Linda stepped down as Secretary to become Assistant Secretary, President's Assistant & Facebook Reporter. Don Hay is Vice President and Dave Radford remains in the role of Treasurer. Bev Stewart graciously volunteered to be the Secretary in addition to her role on the Membership Committee, alongside Diane Burrs and Cathleen Huffman. Peggy Hart co-chairs the Special Projects Committee with Robert McCormack. She will also represent FOTOH on the Opera House Advisory Board. Sandy Wilkin will serve on the Events & Fundraising Committee with Mary Brown.

The Board of Directors has also adopted a new mission statement: “to enhance the Woodstock Opera House experience for both patrons & performers while adding to the cultural enrichment of the community through programming for all ages.”

This mission statement gives us the ability to sponsor more programs at the Opera House for underserved audiences. Our Special Projects Committee is hard at work coming up with ideas for later this year, so be on the lookout for more details soon.

We are working hard to make a bigger impact for the community at the Woodstock Opera House. We are planning on sponsoring the Woodstock Children's Summer Theatre production of The SpongeBob Musical – Youth Edition and “Theatre 121” summer workshop. Additionally, we are looking into some programs in partnership with SOARatDORR, including a group outing for Theatre 121’s production of White Christmas in December and quarterly entertainment nights at Stage Left Café.

In the continual evolution of FOTOH, we are always welcoming new ideas & volunteers for our events. We hope you will join us for one or more of our upcoming events:.

- June 25: “Amazing Race” with “The Friends of the Old Court House” and the “Friends of the Library.”
- July 5: “Ice Cream Social” at the Wednesday Evening Woodstock Band Concert on the Square

As many of you know, we have hosted an annual fundraiser in conjunction with The Lighting of the Square for many year. This year, the staff at the Opera House have asked us to make some changes to the event – namely date and/or location. I am asking the general membership to go to FOTOH's Facebook page and tell us what you would like us to do.

Finally, I want to remind all of you about some of the benefits of FOTOH membership. All members get early access to ticket presales for upcoming events at the Opera House. You should be receiving emails with the presale codes on Fridays. This presale is open only to FOTOH members and gives you a chance to get the best seats before the events go on sale to the public!

Thanks as always for your support and patronage! We hope to see you at the Opera House soon.

John Puzzo, President