



**Bill Neches, President**

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## Spring 2015 CPOA President's Report

### *Amphitheater Project*

There has been considerable discussion about this project, both pro and con, over many months. As your CPOA President, I attend the Chautauqua Board of Trustees meetings as an observer. The Amphitheater project has been discussed in extraordinary detail at day-long sessions at the November, February and May meetings of the Chautauqua Board of Trustees. I continue to be extraordinarily impressed by the thoughtfulness, time, effort and due diligence that the Amphitheater Study Group, Institution staff, Board of Trustees and a group of highly respected architects and consultants have put into this project.

A very detailed presentation of the amphitheater documents and a summary of the discussions that have taken place at the Board of Trustees meetings are found on the Chautauqua Institution website. I believe that you will find viewing this presentation to be informative:

Go to the Chautauqua Institution home page at [www.ciweb.org](http://www.ciweb.org)

At the middle of the home page you will see:

**Letters on the Amphitheater project** ← (this is the link described below)



Click on the link “Letters on the Amphitheater Project” to see a series of 8 pages that provide information regarding the Amphitheater Project. At the bottom of each page will be a box labeled “Next>” that will take you to the next page:

- 1) National Park Service Recommendations
- 2) Amphitheater Project Overview
- 3) Study Group Report
- 4) Amphitheater History
- 5) Amphitheater Study Group
- 6) Community Outreach
- 7) FAQ on Amp Project (Frequently asked questions)
- 8) Major Gifts

At the end of the presentation to the Board on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, John Shedd conducted tours of the Amphitheater for the Board members, Institution staff and observers. The groups viewed the exterior of the Amp from a number of different perspectives, which also included an inspection of the column in the Northwest corner that failed during the winter and has been rebuilt. We were able to tour the various backstage facilities and also visited the attic of the Amp to view the supporting structures of the roof, as well as the work areas of the Amp support staff. The condition of these areas is quite appalling. After viewing these areas, I have no doubt about the need for serious and significant amphitheater renovation/reconstruction (or whatever terminology one wishes to use for this proposed project).

The Institution staff are planning to hold public tours of the amphitheater and discussions of the project during each of the first six weeks of the season. The final details with dates and times of these sessions will be announced in the Chautauquan Daily.

**Week 0 (the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup>) CPOA sponsored amphitheater information sessions.** This summer, there will be three weekly Amphitheater sessions hosted by the institution throughout the season. The Institution has agreed to hold two of these sessions for members of the CPOA during week 0, sort of like a dry run with our members.

**Session 1** – On Monday, 6/22, there will be tours of the Amp, including the back-of-house, at 8 AM and 9 AM. I strongly believe that it is important for as many property owners as possible to be able to see for themselves the backstage and rehearsal/storage areas of the amphitheater. There may be one or two groups each hour depending upon the number of people who show up. There will be a maximum of 50 people in each group. There is no sign-up required, the groups will be formed on a first come basis. I will communicate any additional information in a subsequent e-mail and I also will post the information on the Grapevine a number of times before week 0.

**Session 2** - The Institution will hold an amphitheater dialog for the CPOA and property owners at large on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM in the Hall of Christ/basement (handicap accessible on the parking lot side of the building). In this session, we will break into small groups, develop any questions/concerns we have regarding the Amp project and have these questions answered by a panel of Institution executives. This will be an opportunity for people to express their concerns, or raise questions regarding the amphitheater project, in particular how the project may impact property owners. This session is designed to gather community input, answer what can be addressed by the panel and follow-up on any open issues. It is not designed to be a discussion regarding the pros and cons of the amphitheater project itself. There will be many opportunities for that discussion during the season.

## **2015 CPOA Summer schedule:**

**Week 0 – Wednesday, June 24, 2015 - *The seventh annual pre-season pot-luck dinner sponsored by the CPOA will be at 6 p.m., at Hurlbut Church. Debra Sunya Moore, the Associate Director of Programming (and Vice President and Director of Arts Programming starting October 1, 2015) will be our guest speaker. There will be a fee of \$2 per person collected at the door to cover the costs of the dinner which include a donation to Hurlbut Church. If you have not yet mailed your \$15 dues, memberships will be available there as well. Please bring a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Table ware and beverages will be provided. Further announcements will be posted on the Grapevine and in the follow-up e-mail***

**Week 4 – Wednesday, July 22, 2015 - Area Picnics**

**Saturday, July 18, 2015 - CPOA meeting followed by the Chautauqua Board of Trustees meeting**

**Saturday, August 8, 2015 - CPOA Business meeting followed by the Chautauqua Board of Trustees meeting**

**Time Warner Chautauqua Program:** This program continues to be available for Chautauqua Property Owners. While there are no special rates as there were prior to 2013, the Chautauqua program allows for an off season suspension of up to 9 months (only a 6 month off season rate is available to other Time Warner customers). In addition, Chautauqua customers are able to maintain their Internet service at their usual rate, or at the lowest rate, during the off season while being able to suspend their TV services. The details are available on the CPOA website: [www.cpoa.ws](http://www.cpoa.ws). I recently have updated the document on the website. The specifics of the program are available to the Time Warner customer service personnel in a document called “CHQ” which they can find on their help key.

### **CPOA Officers and Board of Directors:**

***President*** – Bill Neches

***Vice President*** – Barbara Brady

***Secretary*** – Debra Dinnocenzo

***Treasurer*** – Chip Gamble

### ***Area Representatives:***

Area 1 - Sandy Miller

Area 2 - Dianne Hess

Area 3 - Leslie Renjilian

Area 4 - Helen Habenicht

Area 5 - John Dilley

Area 6 - Suzanne Shull

Area 7 - Fred Rice

Area 8 - Phil Carl

Area 9 (co-rep) - Mary Boyle & Laura Saulson

Area 10 - Carrie Zachry

Member at Large - Susan Cartney

### ***Class B Chautauqua Trustees:***

Jennifer DeLancey

Greg Miller

Bob Jeffrey

Hugh Butler

### ***Affiliates:***

Laura Damon (North Lake Informed Citizens)

Robert Kimble (POWR)

The CPOA is a member- and volunteer-supported non-profit which raises funds through dues and donations to pursue our mission of quality improvement. In addition to joining by mailing a membership application card, you may now join the CPOA, or make a donation, with a credit or debit card using our secure online payment system. Please visit our website at [www.cpoa.ws](http://www.cpoa.ws) and either download the CPOA dues index card, or click on the “Join Us” link on the homepage and then click on the “Pay Membership Dues” button.

Please feel free to contact us by email at [cpoarepresentative@gmail.com](mailto:cpoarepresentative@gmail.com)

Providing your email address will give us one more pathway to keep in touch and keep you informed as the season and the year progresses.

CPOA is always looking for volunteers who want to help make our community a little bit better.

**Sincerely, Bill Neches – CPOA President**