



## 2025 LTA Board of Governors Election Candidates' Vision and Biographical Information

### PRESIDENT

#### Eleanore Tapscott

It has been a privilege to serve on the LTA Board as Governor, Seasonal Planning, particularly as we celebrate LTA's 90th anniversary. I want to serve as LTA president



because I think my appreciation of LTA's past coupled with the ability to be forward-thinking is needed to ensure LTA's continued growth. I believe I am qualified for this position because:

I am a member of good standing with a track record of good performances as an actor and good productions as a director and producer.

I have collaborated with other governors and committees to:

- Introduce a staged reading series to acquaint LTA audiences with new plays and to provide new directors with production opportunities.
- Implemented other alternative programming for theatre — such as cabarets.

During my tenure as governor of seasonal planning, LTA experienced an increase in the participation of underrepresented communities onstage and backstage and continued to receive community recognition for the quality of our productions – recently garnering 46 WATCH nominations across all categories.

As LTA looks to the future, I believe I have the interpersonal skills, effective management ability coupled with an extensive knowledge of theatre that will maintain LTA's high-quality standards and mission while providing a pathway to growth.

Eons ago, when I was in middle school and in my English class, we studied Romeo and Juliet by acting out the parts. I was, as they say, bitten by the bug, and have been a proud theatre nerd ever since. My passion for theatre led me to pursue a BA in Theatre from the University of California, Berkeley.

(Eleanore Tapscott cont'd)

After college, I moved to NYC to continue my acting studies in a two-year conservatory program at the National Shakespeare Conservatory. After completing that program, I was fortunate to work as a professional actor, touring across the country with a classical theatre company for several seasons, playing a variety of Shakespearean roles. When not touring, I worked at various off-off-Broadway theatres, including a long stint at the Westside Repertory Theatre as a company member, board member, and finally as Producing Artistic Director, where I was responsible for producing a six-play subscription season. From 2021 to 2024, I served as the executive director for the Actors' Center.

This theatrical background, along with my experience in nonprofit program management (aka the various 401K survival jobs), was useful in my two terms on the LTA board as Governor, Seasonal Planning and will be beneficial as President.

In my nonprofit program management work, I learned to not only effectively manage committees but also work across multiple departments to ensure projects and programs are launched on schedule. As theatre artists, we sometimes base decision-making on feeling or instinct. The manager in me believes in data-informed decisions. These are challenging times facing the arts — but I believe adhering to our vision, learning about and involving our communities, and having actionable plans will help to ensure the next 90 years for LTA.

---

## **GOVERNOR FOR BOX OFFICE**

No candidates

---

## **GOVERNOR FOR FRONT OF HOUSE**

### **Shannon Doyle**



I believe the best goal is to instill the greatest sense of professionalism and ownership that we can in our Front of House volunteers accomplished by a regular training program for our FOH volunteers and by fostering an expectation of our volunteers for high standards for appearance and demeanor as they meet their front-line responsibilities for the care of and care for LTA's patrons. To this end I will continue development of a training and orientation manual and training programs for our house managers and ushers and recruiting additional house managers in

(Shannon Doyle cont'd)

particular. A goal for myself is to learn more about our hospitality functions such as opening night and other social functions. I have attended some of these functions but have not as yet had responsibility for them. And my ultimate goal of course is to make the experience for our patrons and actors the best that we can at LTA. Our patrons and our actors are of course why we are all here.

During my working life my spouse and I were season ticket holders at LTA for a number of years. I first experienced behind-the-scenes theatre work through my daughter, Deanna who was active in the theatre program at Bishop Ireton where she was on the painting and set building crew and also did lights, sound and stage management. At Ireton I first met some of LTA's notable people, our current President, Frank Shutts and esteemed costumer's Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley.

After retirement and after a long period (years) of care giving for my spouse who had early on-set dementia, a bit more than three seasons ago I returned to LTA with a goal of working behind-the-scenes first experienced through my daughter at Ireton. I began ushering at LTA and as luck would have it while ushering one evening I ran into Kathy Murphy an old sailing friend and her friend Luana Bossolo. Through them I had my first of many experiences with set painting. It escapes me what that first production was but what I do know is that there seemed to be a siren's song coming from stage left and it wasn't long before as Shah Choudhury put it "You are breaking the union rules!" as I drifted back and forth between shops, painting on stage right and building on stage left, often during the same production. I believe I am one of a very few who go from shop-to-shop begging, "Please sir, I want some more!"

Since that first experience with painting, I have worked on numerous sets both building and painting including in no particular order, two or three Christmas Carols, Freaky Friday, Nacirema Society, Mary Stewart, Something Rotten, Two on the Aisle Three in a Van, Much Ado About Nothing, Matilda, Murder on the Orient Express and Jekyll & Hyde. For those last two, Kathy Murphy and I were co-lead painters, and we had the great honor of accepting the WATCH awards on behalf of all who painted with us on those sets.

When tech week is over and the curtain opens, I turn to Front of House where I have been ushering for more than three seasons and house managing for more than two seasons for two to three performances of every production that has been on stage at LTA.

---

## GOVERNOR FOR MEMBERSHIP

### Kadira Coley

#### Vision

I have served as the Governor of Membership for the past two years. During that time, we have maintained a steady number of active members. We have also held events to celebrate both the theater and its members.



My goals for the upcoming term would remain similar to my previous terms. I want to continue to organize events that celebrate our active-member volunteers and the fun culture we hope to cultivate at LTA. I would also be focused on maintaining and growing the theater's active membership.

Thank you for your consideration. I truly love the Little Theater of Alexandria, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Governors and to continue to help shape this theater into the best little theater it can be.

#### Bio

My name is Kadira Coley, and I would like to serve as the Governor of Membership on The Little Theatre of Alexandria's Board of Governors. I have served in this role since August 2023 and would enjoy the opportunity to serve another two-year term.

I have been involved with LTA in numerous ways for over a decade or more. My first opportunity to work with LTA was as a stage manager for one of the one-act festivals back around 2010. Since that time, I have continued to be involved in numerous ways including acting on stage, in both musicals and dramas, designing hair and make-up, producing, assistant directing and most recently completing the Education Department's directors' class and directing a short play featured in this spring's adult showcase. I consider it an honor to be a member of LTA and look forward to the opportunity to grow and to thrive alongside this theater.

In addition to my theater experience, I have a vast amount of expertise serving on the board of directors for organizations including serving as a Vice President on the National Council of my fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi, and various roles on the board of directors for my choir, the Alexandria Singers. Thus, I am familiar with being an active and contributing member of boards and councils and am familiar with what it takes to be a successful leader in this type of role. By day I work for the City of Alexandria as an Assistant Director of the Finance Department and oversee the City's pension and payroll functions.

---

## GOVERNOR FOR SEASONAL PLANNING

(2 candidates)

### Jennifer L. Thomas



My vision for LTA's seasonal planning is rooted in balance, intentionality, and community connection. I believe a strong season blends artistic excellence, diverse perspectives, and audience engagement, while also being logistically sustainable for our volunteers and production teams. I will focus on curating seasons that offer opportunities for both seasoned and emerging artists, and that reflect the vibrancy of our community on stage. I'm committed to building a collaborative, transparent selection process with input from directors, designers, and performers alike. A major focus will be leading committees in a way that supports succession planning and the development of future LTA leaders, ensuring the long-term health and vitality of our organization. I also believe in fostering inclusive casting practices and educational programming to further deepen our impact. Above all, I want LTA to be a space where people are challenged, moved, entertained—and proud to return season after season.

I am a passionate theatre artist and strategic leader with over two decades of experience in directing, producing, and creative development. Known for my collaborative spirit and commitment to community, I have worked with theaters across Virginia and the D.C. area, including The Little Theatre of Alexandria and Peninsula Community Theatre. I bring deep expertise in production logistics, casting, and storytelling that resonates. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, I am dedicated to creating work that reflects the heart of community work - that challenges, entertains, and keeps people coming back for more.

#### Little Theatre of Alexandria Involvement:

- Active member since June 2023 (*meets the 2-year active member requirement*)
- Performer in *Annie*
- Co-Producer, *Memphis* (2024) and Producer, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Spring 2026)
- Director Selection Committee Member, 2024–2025 Season, Selection Co-Chair of Director Selection Committee, 2025–2026 & 2026–2027 seasons.

#### Education & Training:

- Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from DeSales University with a focus on stage management, acting, directing and technical theatre.
- Senior thesis on directing.

(Jennifer Thomas cont'd)

**Skills & Strengths:**

- Strong experience in casting, seasonal curation, and script evaluation
- Deep understanding of technical design, logistics, and artistic planning
- Background in both professional and community theatre environments
- Commitment to collaborative leadership and inclusive storytelling
- Excellent communication, organizational, and project management skills
- Passionate advocate for mentorship and strategic season development

**Other Theatre & Leadership Involvement:**

- Founder & Chair, Cabaret Committee, Peninsula Community Theatre (Newport News, VA)
- Former Board Member, Peninsula Community Theatre
- Teaching Artist, The Little Theatre of Norfolk
- Adjudicator, Virginia Theatre Association Conferences (2016 & 2017)

**Directing Highlights:**

- *The Laramie Project* – Director, Peninsula Community Theatre
- *Spark* – Creative Director, Busch Gardens Williamsburg
- *Cupid's Cabaret*, *Starflight Orchestra*, *Santa's Fireside Feast* – Director & Script Writer

## **Alan Wray**

My vision is to continue finding productions to challenge and promote entertainment to the Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) audience and strive for recognition beyond that audience.



I plan to continue the initiatives that have been providing an increased awareness of LTA; provide an opportunity for new directors to every extent possible and still recognize the directors that have been past contributors.

I have been a member of LTA for 19 years and contributed to LTA productions for 20 years, having produced numerous plays during that period. I served as Co-Chair of the Sound Department and two terms as the Governor for Production. I also finished the last six months as Governor for Front of House.

---

## GOVERNOR FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### Jeff Nesmeyer



Thank you for considering me for the Governorship for Technical Support.

I got started when a friend asked if I would like to come up to LTA and help work on the set for Love, Sex, and the IRS (the 2005-2006 season) that he was directing, I was hooked from then on. I have worked at LTA building sets for the past 20 years now. I am the grateful recipient of 1 WATCH Award, and 5 LTA Awards. I have attended theatrical productions at Mary Washington University, Kennedy Center, and in London's West

End and other community theatre in the DMV.

The past governor started to improve the theatrical experience at LTA. My goal is to continue working in that direction.

Goals for the Technical Support Division:

- To create a reference guide for producers, directors, set designers, and builders with inventories for items like doors, windows, and other special equipment that the theater has for use at the theater.
- To continue to update the tools and equipment for the builders, painters, riggers, lighting and sound crews as well as special effects. This will be accomplished with the help of input from the department chairs of the technical support division.
- Ensure that once the stage is given over for the run of the show that the great actors and stage personnel feel confident that what has been built for them to perform on is safe.
- To give audiences a theatrical experience that is immersive so when they see a great production, they will feel like they are a part of the action.

Thank you again for considering me for the position of Governor for Technical Support.