

Volunteer Coordinator Report

This has been a good year for Shuswap Theatre in terms of involving new people. Our membership has increased from 115 to 157. Seventeen people completed the online *Areas of Interest Questionnaire* last fiscal year and several of those have become involved. There are currently 115 people in our database. Some of those names may be obsolete but we currently have no easy way of identifying people who have moved away or lost interest.

One change I have instituted this year is the practice of phoning each person who completes the questionnaire. In the past I always responded with an email explaining how the database is used and how they might get involved. I have found that a personal phone call works much better, generates more enthusiasm on the part of the volunteer and gives me richer information about their gifts and interests. It makes it less intimidating to show up for something. I do find it difficult to consistently follow this practice along with my many other duties.

Volunteer Telephone Person Needed

I would be delighted if someone would volunteer to help me with this task. The job description is very simple:

1. Receive from me an email containing the questionnaire responses.
2. Make the call and take detailed notes about what you learn.
3. Send those notes back to me for entry into the database.
4. Let the person know what is currently going on that might interest them.
5. If appropriate help the volunteer to make a personal connection with other theatre members who are needing someone with those interests and talents.

As noted above, there were only seventeen people who completed the questionnaire this past year so the job is not onerous for someone who is friendly and comfortable on the phone.

I am firmly convinced that the volunteer coordination/outreach function is a crucial part in the continuous renewal of a theatre company. As Audrey 2 (*Little Shop of Horrors*) would say, "We need fresh blood!"

Submitted by Kim MacMillan
Volunteer Coordinator