



Joe Billquist

Michael Parker

Steel Beam Theatre Board Starts Second Decade with Focus on the Future

Steel Beam Theatre (SBT) will reach a milestone on **September 21, 2011** when it celebrates 10 years as a small business in historic downtown St. Charles, Illinois. SBT was founded in 2001 by Donna Steele, who at that time was a mom of three working as Thompson Middle School's drama teacher. When her oldest child Amy began performing in the area, it rekindled Donna's passion for the theatrical arts and she knew she had to use her training and artistic vision to form her own theater. Ten years later, the business she started continues. "To make it to 10 years is a great achievement for a small business," notes Geneva businessman Bob Teichart, who has been working since 1983 with business owners and sales leaders to help them strategize ways to increase sales growth, develop high-performing teams, think clearly about complex problems, and increase personal productivity.

Mr. Teichart led Steel Beam Theatre's Annual Board Retreat on Saturday, July 9, 2011. "The SBT Board's goal is to help the organization grow by implementing a long-term strategic plan and by reviewing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats," says Teichart.

The Steel Beam Theatre board includes new members Joe Billquist and Michael Parker. Joe Billquist is a long-time St. Charles resident, who was a member of STC's No Center Aisle Theatre Company for 15 years, and who has appeared in numerous shows throughout the area, including twice as Jack O'Neill in SBT productions of *Fairways* and as Greg in SBT's *Sylvia*. Mr. Billquist works as a Lead Deployment Manager at AT&T.

Michael L. Parker is a retired executive of the Liberty Mutual Group, who has worked through the years as a sales professional, sales manager, senior vice president, and executive vice president, general manager of Wausau Insurance Companies (an affiliate of Liberty Mutual). He is founder, manager and contributor of WWW.BLACKSALESJOURNAL.COM, a website dedicated to assisting black sales professionals achieve success.

Other board members include attorneys Mary Hutchings Reed, Bernie Weiler and Diane Kenney Handler. Ms. Hutchings Reed is Of Counsel at Winston & Strawn and is the 2011 winner of the Illinois Women's Bar Association Esther Rothstein Award. She is the author of the book, *Courting Kathleen Hannigan*, and wrote the original musical *Fairways* with Curt Powell. Bernie Weiler is a partner at Mickey, Wilson, Weiler, Renzi & Andersson. He has a degree in theater from Loyola University and has directed several plays, including SBT Children's Theatre's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and SBT Main Stage productions of *It Could Be Any One of Us* and *The Au Pair Man*. Ms. Kenney Handler, a singer and performer, is an associate at the Law Office of Patricia Ward and previously worked as media relations manager for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and director of the University of Iowa's Arts Share program.

Steel Beam Theatre's Board President is Dana Bone Teichart. Ms. Teichart is from Arkansas, but moved to colder climes in 2002 and married Bob Teichart in 2003. She was very involved in theatre in Arkansas for 25 years and found the perfect fit with Steel Beam when she moved to the area. Ms. Teichart has appeared in several SBT productions, including *Fairways* and *Dixie Swim Club*. She has taught high school

business and computer classes and directed high school musicals. Board member Terry Christianson is an area actor and singer who has appeared in several Steel Beam Theatre productions, including *Wild Goat* and *Forbidden Broadway*, and most recently, in ECC's 25th Annual Putnam Valley Spelling Bee. Mr. Christianson works as a manager for JPMorgan Chase.

"This is an exciting time for Steel Beam Theatre as we recognize its achievements, and set new goals," says board vice president Michael Parker. "It will take hard work, but SBT's unsung heroes, our volunteers, remain passionately committed because they love the arts and Steel Beam. It's part of what makes St. Charles a great place to live!"

Steel Beam Theatre, a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization, is looking for board members and volunteers to help with a haunted house fundraiser, accounting, operations, website management, production, marketing, sales, corporate sponsorships, grants, and even poster distribution! Commit short-term or long-term. Build your résumé and meet other members of your community! Email dhandler.esq@gmail.com to volunteer!

Steel Beam Theatre (SBT), 111 W. Main Street, St. Charles, IL, guides audiences and actors in shared experiences that help the participants more fully understand humanity. SBT's mission is to bring high quality theatrical entertainment, training and arts awareness to the Fox Valley community at an affordable price. Since 2001, Steel Beam Theatre productions have attracted thousands to St. Charles, and the Theatre is an anchor that adds diversity and draws visitors to the historic downtown area for any given production. Steel Beam Theatre - **Experience** Life! Visit us on Facebook, at www.SteelBeamTheatre.com, or call 630.587.8521.

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