**Dues:** I joined in 1998 with annual dues being $5.00 per year. It is still $5.00!

VP Don researched other chartered clubs in SCW: Woodshop $50.00; Metal $35.00; ARC $35.00; Clay Club $30.00; Zymurgy $25.00; Softball $25.00; Pickleball $25.00; Rip N Sew $25.00; Computer West $22.00; Photography $20.00; Stain Glass $20.00; Spanish Club $15.00. Dance Sensations $8.00 but they also pay their instructors and buy their own costumes; Rock & Roll Club $10.00 plus they pay $6.00 per dance.

The cost of doing business has escalated significantly. The average license for a play in 2020 was $1190.00. Now it’s about $2600.00. The average expense to put on a play was $8,347.00. This is based on data from 14 plays. This does not include musicals that traditionally are much more expensive to produce.
Our Social Security payments have a cost-of-living increase factored in annually. We have not adjusted our dues in 25 years.

We continue to replace, repair, and install new improvements in our theater. Our share of the screen was over $2,100.00; the RTS system that is wireless and allows the stage managers to communicate with the booth cost over $2,700.00; the rear projector that you will see in Bus Stop and is technology widely used in the theater business cost $3,700.00+.

300 members X $5.00 = $1,500.00 in annual revenue. This hardly builds a set in today’s economy. We need to increase our revenue and part of that growth will be dues increase to $25.00 per year starting January 1, 2024. Yes, we may lose some members, but we are also looking at finding patrons of the Theatre and recognizing their contributions.

You may or may not agree with the amount, but your Board is thinking about the long-term growth and sustainability of the Theatre. We have a showcase theatre here in SCW. Compare our venue of a 300-seat professional theater with our neighbors in The Grand and Sun City and the professional theaters such as Stage Left and Ghost light Theatre. Without growth, we will eventually die as a theatre. With growth we can bring more and greater productions to our customers.

**Club Parties:** Tickets will go on sale at our November General Meeting. The price per ticket will be announced as soon as we have it. We have been charging $10.00 per ticket for our members. I belong to many chartered clubs here in SCW. To attend the RV Club Holiday party will be $35.00. The Computer West Party is $25.00. Zymurgy will be announcing their price at the November meeting, but it **was** $25.00. When the Theatre West Treasurer’s Report was presented at our September 19th meeting, it included a line item of club parties as $10,992.74. This was the cost of our December 2022 and our April 25, 2023, parties. Although these figures were high, if we were a social club, it was manageable. We have been a 501 (C) (3) since February of 2022. Our charter is now that Theatre West is formed exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes of the Internal Revenue Codes.

We now propose to continue to have club parties BUT done differently. If we turn them into Fund Raising Galas, we can provide activities such as a Silent Auction, entertainment by our members showcasing their talents, and refreshments. We’re looking forward to have you, our members, donate your crafts for the auction. Your purchases support the talents of others.

Our plan for the spring event is to have TONY’s Theatre West style theme where we honor our stars in many different categories. Our goal is supporting the theatre and its productions. HELP us HELP the Theatre!