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2023-2024
SEASON
OUR 67TH YEAR

SHADOWLANDS

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2023
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The Western Reserve Playhouse Presents

SHADOWLANDS

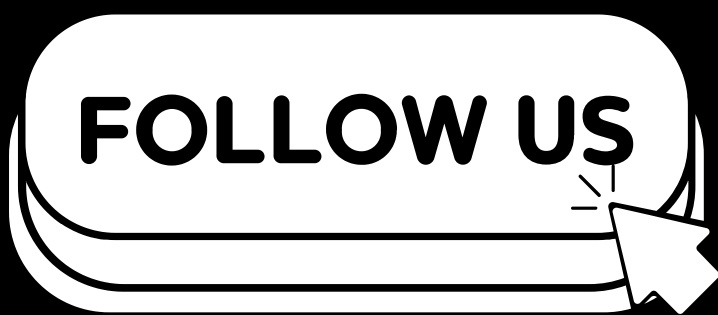
SHADOWLANDS

BY: WILLIAM NICHOLSON

DIRECTED BY KEITH STEVENS

STAGE MANAGED BY TIFFANY BIRD

JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 10, 2024



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Directors Note

Welcome to our production of "Shadowlands" by William Nicholson.

Set in Oxford, England in the 1950s, this play explores the unlikely love story between C.S. Lewis, the renowned writer and theologian, and Joy Davidman, a brash and outspoken American poet. Their relationship is both a celebration of the joy and wonder of human connection and a poignant reminder of the pain and suffering that inevitably comes with it.

Nicholson's script deftly balances moments of humor with moments of heartbreak and asks important questions about faith, doubt, and the meaning of life. As we watch Lewis and Davidman navigate their way through the complexities of their relationship, we are reminded of the power of love to transform our lives in unexpected and profound ways.

We are thrilled to bring this production to life and to share it with you. We hope that you will be moved and inspired by the story of "Shadowlands", and that it will leave a lasting impression on your heart and mind. Thank you for joining us, and enjoy the show.

Sincerely, Keith Stevens

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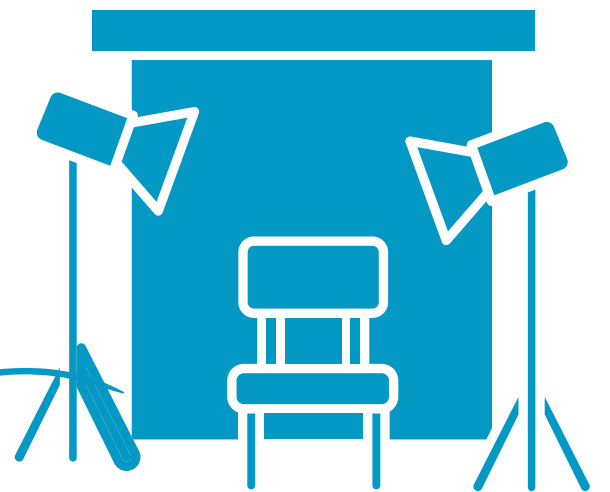
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Welcome to Western Reserve Playhouse

We began our existence in 1956 as Bath Community Players in the Old Town Hall in Bath. In 1966, the present barn was purchased, and thus began the transition from a small dedicated group of players to a widespread three-county organization. In 2006, WRP and Phoenix Stage Productions (formerly Goodyear Community Theatre and Church Street Players) merged. Situated at the Bath-Richfield township lines, the theatre has attracted members from all of the surrounding communities.

WRP, or what we like to fondly call "The Barn", is grateful for the support of our faithful members, season subscribers, patrons, sponsors, advertisers, and casts and crews, many of whom volunteer their talents to our productions. We are always in need of volunteers. If you are comfortable with a hammer, you can build a set. If you like to draw or paint, you can help decorate a set. If you are good with a needle and thread, you can help costume a show. Like things technical? Run our light and sound board. Learn backstage skills and become a stage manager. Are you a people person? Then ushering and box office are perfect for you.

Western Reserve Playhouse is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

WESTERN RESERVE PLAYHOUSE

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The 2022 -2024 Season

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The 2022 -2024 Season

WRP Donor List

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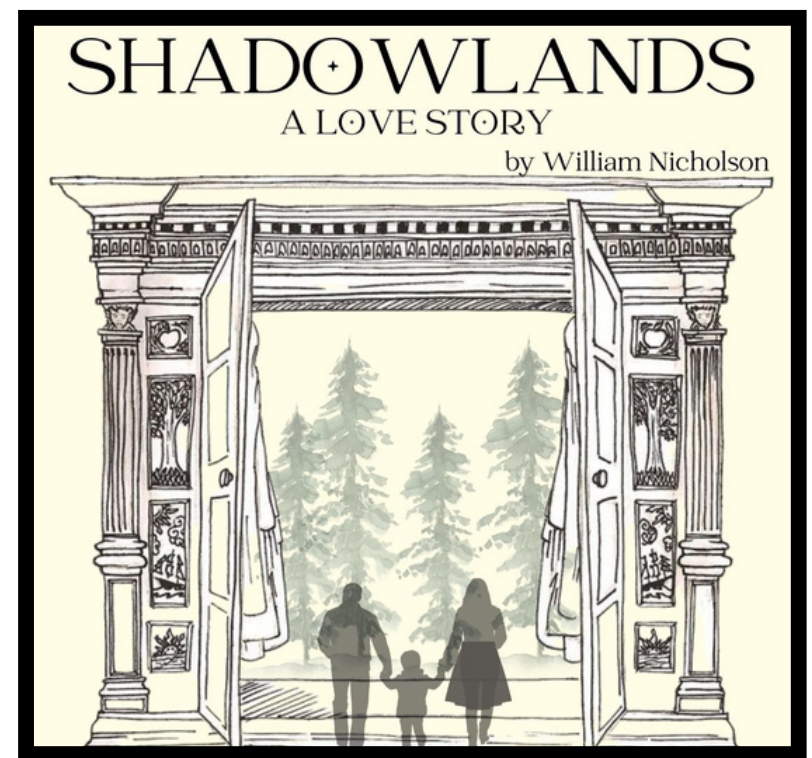
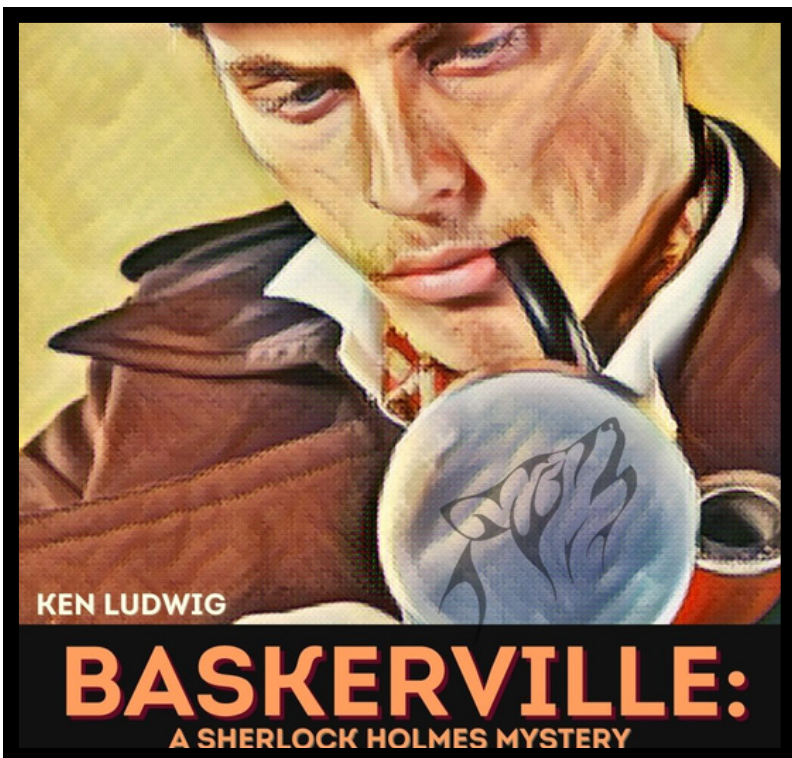
Robert Albrecht

The performances at the Western Reserve Playhouse would not be possible without the generous support of our benefactors who are listed above. We would like to thank all who have supported our shows, classes, and programs over the years. The income from ticket sales covers only a portion of the costs of the season. It is the generosity of our donors that lights our stage and fills The Barn with music, drama, and the emotions that art can bring.

**We salute you for making tonight's
performance possible.**

We also want to thank everyone who donated to ANY Facebook NonProfit donation event or GivingNow Event. If you would like to have your name on this list, please reach out to
Braelin at BRAELIN@thewrp.org

THE 2023-2024 SEASON



Shadowlands

Cast

Jim Fippin C.S. Lewis

Shani Ferry Joy Gresham

George Roth Major Warnie Lewis

Tim Champion Christopher Riley

Dennis Runkle Reverend Harry Harrington

Ben Arrington Alan Gregg, Doctor

Brady Katcher Douglas Gresham

Eric Hutchins Dr. Maurice Oakley, Priest,
Waiter, Registrar's Clerk

Emily Donaldson Registrar, Nurse



Shadowlands Production Team

Directed by: Keith Stevens

Stage Manager: Tiffany Bird

Assistant Stage Manager: Kelli Perk

Costume Designer: Luke Scattergood

Light Designer/Assistant Director:

Daniel Hunsicker

Set: Walter Kaminski

thank you

*Lauren Kolezar, Sullivan Ratcliffe,
Rebecca Mosley, Kyle Huff, Ensemble
Theater, Keenan Carosielli, Madeline
Saraniti, Brecksville Theater*

Cast Bios



Jim Fippin (C.S. “Jack” Lewis) has appeared on stage at Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Weathervane, Coach House, Porthouse, Magical Theatre Company and The Players Guild. His resume includes roles in Love’s Labour’s Lost, Hay Fever, The Importance of Being Earnest, Miss Holmes, Saint Joan, And Then There Were None, Hamlet, 1776, Shakespeare in Love, Treasure Island, The Three Musketeers, The Wild Goose, Kimberly Akimbo, The Mousetrap, Four Dogs and a Bone, Bus Stop, Uncle Vanya, August: Osage County, The Rainmaker, Custer, The Real Thing, The Odd Couple, The Lion in Winter, Jesus Christ Superstar, Noises Off, Twelfth Night, Another Antigone, Romeo and Juliet and King Lear. At Western Reserve, Jim has appeared in Cyrano de Bergerac, The Weir, Blithe Spirit, and Tartuffe and directed Baskerville. He holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Otterbein, where he met his wife, Elaine, and where their daughter Emelie graduated (magna cum laude) with the class of 2020.

Cast Bios



Shani Ferry is a Northeast Ohio-based actor. She has appeared in numerous productions at local theaters, including the Player's Guild, Seat of the Pants, Western Reserve Playhouse, Shakespeare at the Castle, and Actors' Summit. Some of her favorite roles include Mrs. Kendal in *The Elephant Man*, Vivian Bearing in *Wit*, and Sally Talley in *Talley's Folly*. When not on stage, Shani plays the roles of mother, wife, and early intervention speech-language pathologist. Shani is a member of The Greenhouse, a collaborative group of artists.

Cast Bios



George Roth ("Warnie" Lewis) - is grateful to be making his debut at the Western Reserve Playhouse. Favorite experiences in George's nearly forty-year professional acting career include being one of the hoodlums confronted by Michael Keaton in the first scene of *Batman* (1989), appearing in the Royal National Theatre's production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* in London's West End, and playing Otto to his daughter Olivia's Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank* at the TrueNorth Theater in Sheffield, OH. George is a two-time Jeopardy champ and a thirty-eight year cancer survivor. Thank you to Keith, the cast, designers and crew for telling this beautiful story. Love to my wife and daughter, Elizabeth and Olivia, who are my everything.

Cast Bios



Timothy Champion (Christopher Riley): A veteran of more than 200 Northeast Ohio stage productions, this is Tim's first appearance on the WRP stage. He last played John Watson to Dennis Runkle's Sherlock Holmes in the 2021 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre production of "Holmes & Watson". Tim received a 2017 Audrey Award for his portrayal of Ben Hecht in CVLT's "Moonlight & Magnolias". A co-founder of The Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Tim portrayed Thomas McKean in their 2019 production of "1776". Other notable area performances include Eddie Ross in "Conversations With My Father", Baptista in "Taming of the Shrew", Tito Merelli in "Lend Me A Tenor", Frank Gianelli in "Over The River & Through The Woods", Leonato in "Much Ado About Nothing", Sterling in "Jeffrey", Thomas More in "A Man For All Seasons", Henry IV in "Henry IV Part One", Sidney Black in "Light Up The Sky", Richard Greatham in "Hay Fever", George Bradman in "Blythe Spirit", Anthony Kirby in "You Can't Take It With You", Man 2 in "Oh, Coward!", and James Cagney, Harry Warner, and Groucho Marx in "Shakespeare in Hollywood". By day, Tim practices Estate Planning, Property & Probate Law, and Eldercare Law in Akron.

Cast Bios



Dennis is relieved to be back on stage at WRP after taking time off to have full knee replacements! He last appeared as Sir Danvers Carew in *Jekyll & Hyde*. Past shows on other NE Ohio stages include *Something Rotten* (Brother Jeremiah), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Atticus), *Sweeney Todd* (Judge Turpin), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Big Daddy), and *South Pacific* (Emile). Dennis sends immense thanks to Keith for including him in this soulful story, and to Kathleen, for whom he appears in an open-ended run as loving husband and assistant pug wrangler. Enjoy the show!

Cast Bios



Brady Katcher (Douglas) is excited to return to the Western Reserve Playhouse as part of this wonderful Shadowlands cast. His recent performances at WRP included playing a citizen of the Jungle of Nool in *Seussical* and Lafayette in *The Aristocats*. His personal interests are centered around creativity and include: balloon modeling, designing inventions, making carnival games out of boxes, and all things Disney.

Cast Bios



Eric Hutchins has played in memorable roles previously with the Rialto Theatre productions to include: *The Odd Couple* as Murray the Cop, *Arsenic & Old Lace* as Mortimer Brewster & *The Sunshine Boys* as The Announcer. He has been active in Wolf Creek Players for the past eight seasons with comedy and murder mysteries and has developed some successful characters. Eric lives in Norton and is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator & VP of Marketing for Certus Healthcare Management.

Cast Bios



Emily Donaldson is excited to return to the WRP stage for *Shadowlands*, after completing her role as Mayor Matilda in *All Shook Up* at French Creek Theater. Other favorite roles include Jeannie in *Hair!*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Alice in *Squabbles*, Mayella Ewell in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and most recently Effie Krayneck in *The Spitfire Grill* here at WRP.

Thank you to her friends and family for continuing to support her and cheer her on, to Paul for helping to raise 2 fabulous kids, and always to my Norman and my Maya.
Suns, Moons, and Stars.

Cast Bios



Ben Arrington happily returns for his eighth performance on the WRP mainstage. Some previous WRP credits include ‘I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change’ (Man #2), ‘Dogfight’ (Fector), and ‘Assassins’ (Ensemble). Other favorite credits include ‘Spelling Bee’ (Leaf) at Avenue Arts, ‘Million Dollar Quartet’ (Johnny Cash) at Players Guild Theatre, ‘Once’ (Eamon) at KSU Stark, and ‘The Hunchback of Notre Dame’ (Jehan/Gargoyle) at Weathervane Playhouse. Ben’s favorite C.S. Lewis book is ‘The Great Divorce’.

Staff Bios



August Scarpelli (Artistic Director) is a graduate of Hiram College ('16 B.A. Theatre Arts, magna cum laude) and has been working in and around Northeast Ohio theatre since 2012. He has been a Carpenter, House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator, and Assistant Operations Manager at Cain Park in Cleveland Heights; Technical Director/Set Designer, Artistic Associate, and Actor at Ensemble Theatre; Set Designer and Actor at Convergence Continuum; Production/Stage Manager for the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival; Technical Director/Set Designer and Adjunct Professor of Theatre History at Hiram College; co-founder of the Shahrazad Theatre Company based in Cleveland Heights; and has been seen at Western Reserve Playhouse in their production of *Lost in Yonkers* as Uncle Louie, and as the director of *Tartuffe*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Seagull*, *The Witch of Edmonton*, and *Fragments of Farce*. August is honored to be able to communicate his experience and passion for this, most human of arts, to the next generation of storytellers and the WRP community.

Staff Bios



Braelin Andrzejewski (Marketing/Content Coordinator) is a multipassionate, neurodivergent artist, educator, podcaster, and social justice advocate. She has many years of entrepreneurial experience, with focuses on content marketing, video production, graphic design, and the creation of educational materials for institutions such as Affinity Realty Group, Foundations for Glory, Under the Hood Sex Education, and Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio. She's thrilled to be utilizing her skills at Western Reserve Playhouse as the new part-time Content Coordinator. Be on the lookout for more video, photo, and digital content from WRP, as we strive to expand our reach and promote life long learning (and unlearning) to theatre patrons in all walks of life.

Staff Bios



Rebecca Riffle (Box Office) comes from a long line of musicians and was drawn to the theater as her performance outlet. However, after performing in one play she learned an important lesson and now lives by the motto – “If the lines aren’t leading into a song, I’m not interested.” Born and raised in Parma, she has actively performed in theaters in the Cleveland area since 2008. She served as an aircraft technician in the United States Marine Corps after high school, and earned a Master’s of Human Factors Psychology from Wright State University. She is mommy to her zoo of fur babies and can often be found on the couch under fluffy purr machines and a snoring pup-peroni watching too much TV. She is currently a Labeling Specialist in Medtronic’s cardiovascular division with an extensive skill set that includes editing, proofreading, project coordination/management, technical writing, quality and regulatory, clinical research, and process improvement. Rebecca is thrilled to join the incredible staff of Western Reserve Playhouse as your Box Office Manager. See you soon!

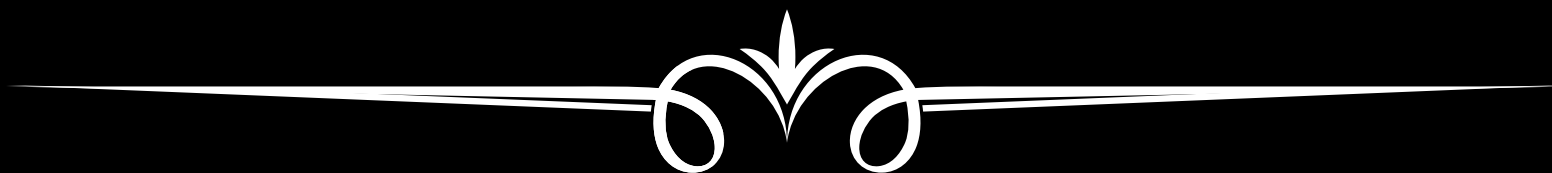
A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white sign. The person is wearing a white dress shirt and a dark blue tie with white polka dots. The sign has the text "BECOME A SPONSOR" written on it. "BECOME A" is in black, and "SPONSOR" is in blue. A white hand cursor icon with black outlines is pointing at the word "SPONSOR", with several short black lines radiating from the tip of the index finger to indicate a click or selection.

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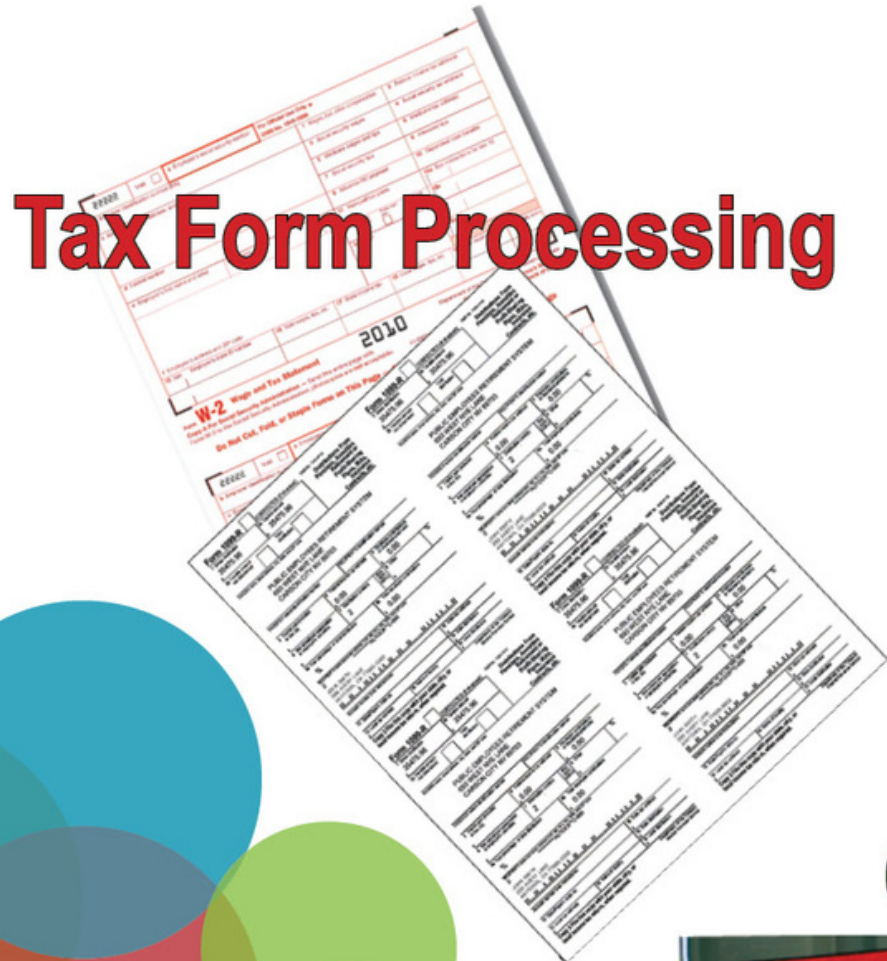
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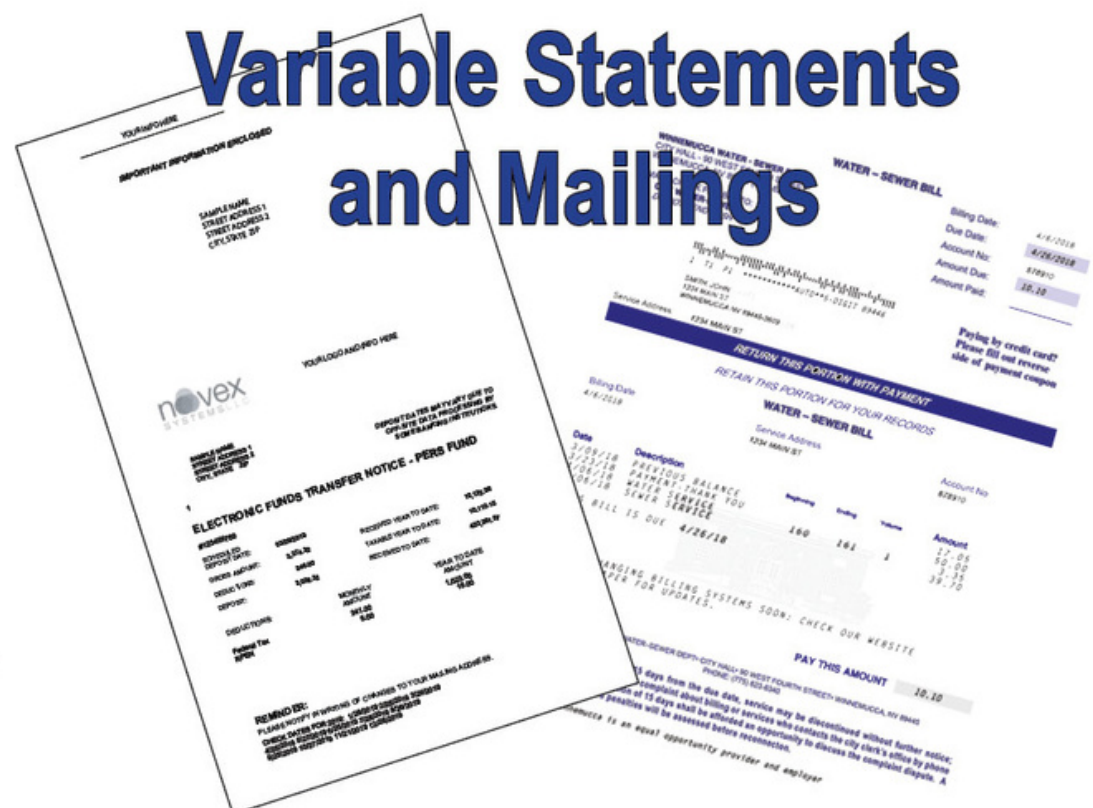
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Polly Wheeler
Vice President

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