

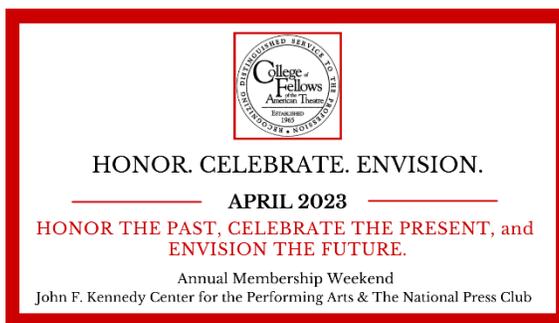


On behalf of Gail Humphries, Dean
January 28, 2022

Dear Fellows,

Greetings and heartfelt warm wishes to all of you! I have challenging and important news to share. After careful discussion with the past two Deans – Dean Karen Berman and Dean Dan Carter – and in-depth dialogue with the Board at our quarterly Zoom Board meeting earlier this month, **we have decided to defer our April 2022 Fellows events planned for Washington, DC until 2023.** Dan and Karen also consulted with the Deans Emeriti for the Fellows, and they agreed. This difficult, but I believe prudent; decision was made with several contributing factors in mind. We considered our responsibility to the members, the current spread of the Omicron COVID virus, the challenges of traveling and hotel stays with the spread of Omicron, and the recent cancellation of all in person KCACTF activities (changed to all virtual gatherings). The uncertainty of the situation for April in so many ways led us to make this hard decision. There are a few salient points for you to be aware of surrounding this decision:

1. **The Board is dedicated to generating initiatives to keep us active and visible during the upcoming year.** Please see the upcoming issue of The Gazette – distributed to you by the first week of March - for my detailed elaboration. We have some exciting initiatives to share.
2. **It will be my responsibility to negotiate the transfer of deposits for all venues for this year to articulate to next year for our April 2023 in-person meeting.**
3. **We will accept nominations for the class of Fellows for 2023 – due by March 1 - and intend to appropriately honor all Fellows from the previous classes at the 2023 meeting who did not have in person investitures (Fellows for 2020, 2021, 2022) along with the 2023 class.**
4. **We will conduct our annual business meeting via Zoom on April 24, 2022, from noon-1:30 pm.** Fellows will be sent access to the Zoom session via email. Board member Henry Bial has agreed to host the meeting via the University of Kansas platform. It will not be an elaborate webinar as we did last year, but the normal business meeting. The Class of 2022 will be mailed their citations and medallions as we did last year, and we intend to honor them appropriately at our April 2023 meeting. If you can not attend the Zoom session, please know that it will be recorded and placed on our website for Fellows' access.
5. **Please join us for the meeting to hear about the new initiatives for the Fellows from our very active Board.** We are determined to continue to raise our visibility and our profile, while continuing to honor the past. In fact, the title and focus of our meeting for April 2023 will be:



6. **An important item that occurred during our Zoom Board meeting was consideration of the recommendation from Deans Emeriti Karen Berman and Dan Carter, that the Board consider staying intact for another year. The Board voted unanimously to move forward with this action.** The by-laws (Article V, Sections 4 and 15) support this action. This would mean that all of us would simply serve one more year to preserve continuity in these unprecedented times. As such then, we will all have the privilege of serving you through the April 2023 meeting.

Please feel free to contact me directly to discuss any of these items – ghumphries@stephens.edu.

With deep appreciation,

Gail