

## Class B Trustee Nominee: Robert Obee

I'm honored to have been selected by the CPOA as their nominee for home-owner-elected Trustee this year. For 46 years Chautauqua has enriched my life; I'd be thrilled to 'pay that forward' to future generations of Chautauquans by working to ensure its continued and future success.

If elected I'll approach being a CHQ Trustee with the benefit of all those years gathering family here to immerse in the summer Assembly, and also with 46 years in a successful business career. I'm analytic and I use that orientation to probe and challenge for solid business reasoning behind decisions and initiatives. But I'll insist on doing that in a positive, respectful and optimistic way: seeking to address challenges by fully engaging the talent and passions of all Chautauqua stakeholders.

A few specifics about my Chautauqua background:

- My grandchildren are the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of family assembling on the grounds.
- My wife Janine Fausnaugh Obee & I participate in CHQ programming on-season and off.
- We focus contributions on the Becker Endowed Lecture Fund and CHQ Visual Arts.
- Janine's parents (Hal & Aggie Fausnaugh) co-founded Friends of Theater, endowed a family garden at Bestor Plaza and a Fund that under-writes one mainstage play per year.

Professionally, after receiving Business Administration degrees (Kent, BBA'75, MBA'77 and DBA'80), I spent 30 years in the corporate world, primarily in Akron OH with Roadway Express and Roadway Corp., where I ran Operations Planning & Engineering, I/T and Strategic Planning / M&A in the later phases of my career. After a leading role in a successful \$9B merger effort, I left to start my own 'boutique' consulting business. Businessolutions LLC, "Analytics with Results" focuses on revenue growth and profitability with smaller clients. Winding down now after 15 years, my largest client (R+L Carriers) has grown from a small regional business to nationwide, quadrupling in size and even more in profitability, at over \$2.4B in revenues last year.

I'm a passionate devotee of the Chautauqua Four Pillars as expressed in our on-grounds summer assembly. The breadth and variety of programming, paired with a clear focus on excellence within each, is what has proven so magnetically attractive to thousands of new and old Chautauqua families for 150 years. I believe they'll be just as effective 150 years from now; but we must continue to demonstrate that same focus. That aligns perfectly with "Objective 1" of Chautauqua's "Forward 150" strategic plan.

I've not yet understood solid business reasoning (the 'unique value proposition') for some other goals and initiatives called for in the Forward 150 plan. I will remain positive and respectful but resolute in my approach, insisting on not only 'muscular civil discourse' but 'muscular business discourse' about them. In any case I'll never stop searching for ways to ensure that Chautauqua does indeed move forward successfully for another 150 years and beyond.