

ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Reunion Planning Meeting

Courtyard Marriott Erie Bayfront, Erie, PA
Saturday, October 7, 2017 – 3:30 PM EST

President Michael 'Mike' Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM EST.

PRESENT:

Board members present (Terms expire 2018):

President	Mike Anderson
Vice President	James 'Jim' Koscielniak
Secretary	Mary Carr
Treasurer	Leslie 'Les' Rachocki
Officer Ex-Officio	Celeste 'Mickie' Mickiewicz

Directors present:

Basia Adams	(Term expires 2020)
Anna Berry	(Term expires 2018)
Richard Day	(Term expires 2020)
Aundrea Heschmeyer	(Term expires 2022)

Absent:

Randy Polovik	(Term expires 2022)
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2018 Reunion

Mike Anderson/Jim Koscielniak

Mike thanked everyone for attending and said he was looking forward to a successful 2018 reunion. He noted that due to the unfortunate fire at the Riverside Hotel, Cambridge Springs was unfeasible as a location so the main purpose of the meeting was to select a location. Mike noted Jim, chairman of the 2018 reunion, had arrived in Erie early to scout facilities in the area and would present his findings and recommendations to the group. Mike turned the meeting over to Jim.

Jim reported he scouted four facilities; 1) Peek 'n Peak, Clymer, NY, 2) the Ambassador Center, 3) the Avalon Hotel and 4) Bayfront/Sheraton & Courtyard by Marriott; all in Erie, PA. Jim stated when meeting with the sales representatives at each location he focused on a facility capable of hosting 80 – 120 attendees with 50-75 available hotel rooms, modern amenities and banquet facilities. He also checked if any colleges in the area would be having homecoming the traditional Columbus Day holiday reunion weekend that might impact availability at the targeted locations and received a negative response.

He reviewed the pros and cons of each location; 1) Peek 'n Peak has a resort, European feel with local points of interest and on-site golf course. However the facility has no elevators, needs a bit of updating and their Fall Festival is scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd weekends of October and is well attended by locals, 2) the Ambassador has two hotels on site and is a banquet/meeting center however; proximity to the I-90 generates a lot of noise and is far from any real points of interest, 3) the Avalon Hotel is scheduled to start a complete renovation (much needed) next year and will not be finished by the time of the reunion, 4) the Bayfront/Sheraton & Courtyard are sister properties. Both are modern, within walking distance of each other and the Bayfront Convention Center is part of the overall facility. However, only the Sheraton or Convention Center can accommodate an indoor dinner/dance. The Courtyard has an outdoor plaza covered with a large tent structure; if needed heat can be provided. Unfortunately, the site has noise restrictions. Sales representatives at each location indicated they could accommodate our requirements.

Furthermore, Jim opined on the attractiveness of the Erie locale with its proximity to Cleveland, Buffalo and Pittsburgh and the modernity of the Bayfront and Courtyard; especially that both properties have elevators. He noted, in the past, the average room rate at the Riverside was \$125 plus tax (\$142 - \$145). Each location offered comparable or competitive rates and he provided a price point of \$20-\$30 per plate for the Saturday dinner. All locations indicated that was within their respective pricing.

Jim said the theme will be a Polish wedding reception/modified Wigilia. There will be a polka band and since there is a large Polish presence in the Erie area, he would like to have a local Kujawaiki type troupe perform.

Jim asked for discussion. Chet Fedorowicz offered no discussion was needed as he felt Jim had done his homework and the suitable location was obvious. Others agreed. Mary made a motion to vote; Pat Jarzac seconded. The vote was unanimous to have the 2018 reunion at the Bayfront/Courtyard. Then there was discussion about which events to hold at which property. Mary motioned that rather than the meeting attendees micro-manage which events to have at which location, Jim be empowered to negotiate the best deals he could with each location on behalf of the ACAA; Regina Jaworski and Mickie concurrently seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Basia asked about considering holding the reunion September 28-29, 2018 since October weather in Erie can be unpredictable. David 'Mouse' Matejczyk offered many alumni are accustomed to the reunion occurring the traditional Columbus Day weekend. Aundrea motioned to have the 2018 reunion Columbus Day weekend, October 5 – 7; Basia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim proposed we have a goal of 150 attendees to enhance price negotiation.

Chet Fedorowicz recommended we ensure invitations are sent to former professors Robert Ilsevich, Tim Wise and Pete Matthews. Mouse suggested we also invite Professor Wroblewski and Gary Derr. Jim said an effort will be made to get past scholarship winners to attend. Jim said we'll use the web-site and meeting attendance list for outreach and volunteer solicitation.

Mike thanked Jim for his expert and thorough preparation and he thanked everyone for attending and making the meeting extremely positive. He noted 'the planning has just begun!' He looks forward to reconnecting at the 2018 reunion!

Next Meeting

The next meeting will occur in conjunction with the Board of Directors conference call.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Droleski and seconded by Milt Bruce; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary F. Carr
Secretary