

# ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

## Quarterly Meeting April 15, 2025

### Officers in Attendance:

Michael Anderson (1978), ACAA President; Aundre'a Cika-Heschmeyer (1985), ACAA Vice President; Louis Sitnik, (1986), ACAA Treasurer; Susia (Burgess) Styborski (1983), ACAA Secretary; Marcia Pilkievicz (1975), ACAA Director and Membership Chair; Randy Polovick (1981), ACAA Director; Kathy (Polanski) Noce (1982), Director; Mary Ann Posanski (1976), Director.

**Officers excused:** Lori Neese Koin (1987), ACAA Director; Richard Day (1985), Chair of Alliance College Alumni Association Foundation.

**Alumni in attendance:** Roberta Polovick, Basia Gdula Adams, Kristina Kwacz, Carol McNerney Schonewolf, Mary Modzelewski Paladino Rodgers, James Koscielniak, Ben Kman, Eva Skibicki (1971) left meeting at 7:28pm), Marti

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by Michael Anderson, President. President Anderson welcomed everyone to the second quarterly open meeting and invited all in attendance to spread the word and invite their friends and classmates to the next open meeting scheduled for July 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm Cambridge Springs time. President Anderson shared the goals the Board of Officers have been working on since their election at the August 2024 annual meeting. They include: increase alumni engagement, increase ACAA membership, and preserve the legacy of Alliance College.

Introductions of the officers and directors were given; and the agenda for tonight's meeting was shared.

The minutes of January 14, 2025 were distributed via email to all officers and directors and posted on the ACAA website ([www.alliancecollege.com](http://www.alliancecollege.com)). A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Director Kathy Noce, seconded by Director Mary Ann Posanski. Motion carried.

### FINANCIAL RECAP

Treasurer Louis Sitnik welcomed everyone in attendance and then shared the Treasurer's report on screen and reviewed each item. Cash position as of April 13, 2025 is \$635.50 in checking; \$18,012.41 in savings for a total of \$18,647.91. Revenue of \$2000 in anonymous donations; \$1120 dues received; \$168 Refund from Constant Contact; \$94.69 Merchandise profits; \$0.35 Interest for total revenue \$3383.04. Expenses of \$1642.75 Marquee Creatives (marketing activities including website redesign) \$462 Constant Contact Subscription; \$82.56 Ashley Carlson (merchandise sales); \$30 Chase service fees; and \$2.93 Paypal fees for a total expense of \$2220.25. To keep ACAA fiscally secure, Louis recommended: encourage alumni to make donations to the website upgrade and maintenance fund; and ask alumni to consider becoming a paid member of ACAA. There were no questions from the group.

### MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT (Marcia Pilkievicz Membership Committee chairperson)

Director Marcia Pilkievicz reported 83 total paid memberships, including 58 two year memberships paid through 2026, and 25 lifetime memberships. Director Pilkievicz added that alumni should be aware that membership dues provides for: content and maintenance of website ([www.alliancecollege.com](http://www.alliancecollege.com)); delivery of alumni engagement content through social media platforms; cover costs associated with Alliance College memorabilia; reunion venue deposits; and other miscellaneous expenses as noted in Treasurer report. Memberships can be paid to Marcia via the website or to her mailing address, **Marcia Pilkievicz, 1252 Woodcrest Circle, Bloomfield Township, MI 48304**. Marcia entertained

questions and comments related to membership. Two suggestions were offered for membership including offering and incentive for paid members not available to non-paying members; and need to automate our communications as alumni offered that they were not notified of lapsed membership.

#### **WEBSITE (Committee: Randy Polovick, Kathy Noce, Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer, Mike Anderson)**

Director Randy Polovick reported the website committee continues to meet and are working with Marquee Creatives to create a new website. They are currently adding information about the Foundation and information from past social media posts. The under-construction website was displayed and a quick tutorial on navigating the website was done. We anticipate a summer re-launch.

Vice President Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer shared information about the alumni directory and reported that each alumnus will have ability to customize their own information based on their privacy comfort. We continue to be challenged by inaccurate alumni information and we continue to work on this. All in attendance were encouraged to check out and share the website.

Ben Kman suggested we look at “Wayback” to retrieve information lost to previous website. Director Kathy reported she will investigate this.

President Mike Anderson reminded all that donor sponsorships for the upgrade of the website continue to be accepted, with four levels designated as follows: Platinum at \$1000, Gold at \$500, Silver at \$250, and Bronze at \$100. Checks should be made payable to **Alliance College Alumni Association** and mailed to Louis Sitnik at **16939 Horn Point Dr., Gaithersburg MD 20878**.

President Anderson thanked everyone involved for all their many hours of work on the improvements to date and knows that they have a huge workload ahead of them yet.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Director Kathy Polanski Noce reported she has taken on responsibility of coordinating the newsletter. We do not have accurate emails for many alumni. We have a Google drive set up and pictures can be uploaded to a folder in the Google drive. We will publish a newsletter about once every two months.

Eva Skibicki reported she has 2 boxes of historical information that she would like to donate. She is willing to ship them to anyone interested in reviewing the information. Director Marcia Pilkievicz volunteered to connect with Eva and make necessary arrangements.

Basia Adams reported she was featured in a previous newsletter and was pleased that alumni reached out to her based on her feature. This is a great way to connect to alumni and increase engagement.

If not receiving the newsletter please send a note to [info@alliancecollege.com](mailto:info@alliancecollege.com)

## **ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 3-6, 2025**

ACAA will gather in Philadelphia PA for the weekend with the Annual ACAAA meeting to be held on October 4, 2025. The Hampton Inn Philadelphia Center City-Convention Center will be the hub of activities. Anyone planning to attend should consider making their reservations quickly as ACAAA has a pre-determined number of rooms available. Events being planned include a Polish Happy Hour on Friday (October 3<sup>rd</sup>), Board meeting and Continental Breakfast on Saturday, participation in the Pulaski Day parade with Grand Polenez after the parade and afterparty at The Associated Polish Home on Sunday.

## **2026 REUNION (Roberta Polovick chairperson)**

The 2026 ACAAA Reunion is secured for the Sheraton Bayfront on October 23-25, 2026. All activities will be based out of the Sheraton Bayfront property. We have a quoted cost of \$179 for room rates which is the same as 2024 rates we were given. Anyone wishing to help with the committee is welcomed. Suggestion to reach out to alumni that were in the Tool & Die program, as well as a possible focus on classmates that went on to careers as medical professionals, lawyers, and engineers.

## **LEGACY PRESERVATION**

An exit strategy is a proactive document that high functioning businesses and organizations develop and maintain. The Board has prepared a draft Legacy Preservation document. The primary objectives of the Legacy Preservation Project are: Preserving the Legacy: To ensure the history, spirit, and contributions of Alliance College be honored for future generations; Asset Distribution: To responsibly manage and distribute remaining funds, memberships dues, or assets of the association with the intent of preserving our legacy; Continued Support for Alumni: To provide alumni with resources for ongoing networking, support, even after the dissolution or transition of the association; and Final Reporting and Transparency: To maintain transparency throughout the process so that members and stakeholders are well informed. President Anderson thanked Director Lori Neese Kolin for her leadership on this project.

## **FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Foundation Vice President Basia Gdula Adams reported for the Foundation in the absence of Foundation President Richard Day. Vice President Adams reported a summary of the Foundations recent work.

The Foundation awarded three scholarships recently and the awards are in the process of reaching the successful candidates. The scholarship winners include: Magdalena Bialk, a student at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She is the daughter of Kathy Yankevich Bialk '83 and niece of Leo Yankevich '84; Andrew Machesky, who attends Appalachian State University and is the grandson of Les Rachocki '68; and Emma Klialion, a student at the University of Tennessee and the granddaughter of Paul '67 and Barbara '69 Gliwa. The deadline for the next scholarship applications is December 31, 2025.

The Foundation is pleased to report their current Officers and Trustees are: Richard Day, President; Basia Gdula Adams, Vice President; Les Rachacki, Celeste Mickiewicz, Rick Zieremba, Virginia Borak, Ben Kman, and Carol Schonewolf.

As previously reported, the Foundation's 501.c.3 not for profit status (NFP) was interrupted through a series of internal issues. The Foundation reapplied in November 2024 and are awaiting further information from the IRS. They have 15 months to regain status and are closely monitoring the situation. Currently the Foundation members are having a difficult time accessing a person within the IRS system. The Foundation is pursuing legal representation to mitigate their issues with reinstating their NFP status. The mission and objectives of the Foundation are untouched by the loss of the 501.c.3 status.

Additional questions and suggestions were entertained.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Kristina Kwacz thanked the officers and directors for their hard work. She shared an upcoming presentation she is involved with and will provide information to include on ACAA social media.

Vice President Aundrea Heschmeyer Cika suggested presentations on facebook live, such as Larry Kozlowski doing Pisanki.

James Koscielniak asked how voting will be handled at the next reunion and President Anderson responded we are aware we can do better and we will be making better use of our technology resources. James further suggested that paid members could vote in absentia through website.

## **NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING**

July 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm Cambridge Springs time.

Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Louis Sitnik, second by Director Marcia Pilkiewicz. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

SS

Susia Styborski, ACAA Secretary