

ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

Quarterly Meeting January 14, 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; Lori Neese Kolin (1987), ACAA Director, Richard Day (1985), Chair of Alliance College Alumni Association Foundation.

Alumni in attendance: Roberta Polovick, Helen Tueffel, Joan Tabor

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Michael Anderson, President. President Anderson welcomed everyone and shared the agenda for the meeting.

The minutes of December 17, 2024 were distributed via email to all officers and directors and posted on the ACAA website (alliancecollege.com). A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mary Ann Posanski, seconded by Kathy Noce. Motion carried.

It was noted that the annual minutes of 2022, 2023 and 2024 were forwarded to Aundre'a Cika Heschmeyer and Kathy (Polanski) Noce for uploading to the website.

FINANCIAL RECAP

Louis Sitnik reported checking balance of \$16,386.02 and savings \$1,512.05. We received \$802.60 in sales from merchandise. There is an outstanding bill from Marquee Creatives to be addressed. The Board would like to recognize Mary Ann Posanski for her generous donation of seed money to the merchandise project.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

Marcia Pilkievicz reported one additional membership for one year was received. There are 25 memberships that expire in 2024. Marcia will reach out to each of them to ask to renew a 2 year membership at \$45, which would be valid through 2026. Membership dues are expected to raise in 2026.

OFF YEAR REUNION IN 2025 (2025 reunion team. Aundre'a, Randy, Marcia, Kathy)

A possible reunion in Philadelphia in October of 2025 was discussed. This would be the annual meeting as well. A Polish fest is being held in the city and tying the reunion to the Polish fest would increase interest as well as open opportunities to pair ACAA events with already scheduled events. A Pulaski Day parade is scheduled as part of the events. Benefits of this location was discussed. Lori Kolin made a motion to pursue the 2025 ACAA reunion and annual meeting in Philadelphia the weekend of the October 2025 Pulaski Day Parade. Marcia Pilkievicz seconded. Motion carried. The 2025 reunion team will work on additional details before next meeting.

2026 REUNION (Roberta chairperson)

The 2026 ACAA Reunion is being scheduled at the Sheraton Bayfront on October 23-25, 2026. Roberta and Aundre'a have been working with the team at the Erie Bayfront to secure a contract for the event. Currently they are working with Lou to come up with numbers for pricing based on the contract. Roberta was successful in negotiating the minimum sales point from \$15,000 to \$12,500 to now at \$10,000. Thanks to Roberta for this. Capacity for event spaces is about 250. Rooms will be guaranteed at \$179. All agreed to move forward with the contract. Mike has reached out to TKE alum to have fuller participation at the ACCA sponsored events. Susia has agreed to chair the raffles for this weekend. Amy O'Connell is our contact at the Erie Bayfront.

WEBSITE (Committee: Randy Polovick, Kathy Noce, Aundre'a Cika Heschmeyer, Mike Anderson)

Randy Polovick reported the website committee met and has begun work on detailing the wire frame for the website going forward. Mike has reached out to Chet's family once more in attempt to obtain additional information that was on the original ACAA website. Mouse has a majority of the artifacts from Alliance. Plans will be developed to begin scanning items. Due date of January 10, 2025 was agreed upon for the next update. All are encouraged to keep pushing direction to the website. Lori Kolin reported a concern about a recent post on Facebook involving a former student of Alliance. Questionable posts can be reviewed by administrators. The post in question was removed. Lori will follow up with Mouse to share specifics to the concern.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Marcia Pilkiewicz reported she continues working on improving and updating the distribution list used from the alumni directory. The email bounce back list was divided up among membership committee and they are working on obtaining current information on alumni. We are ending up with no contact information for some alumni. Marcia reports a correlation between increase contact from alumni and publication of the newsletter.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT/NEWSLETTER

Aundre'a Cika Heschmeyer shared a survey for access and use of most recent newsletter. We show a 61.4% open rate which is phenomenal in social media numbers. Further engagement is shown by clicks on links in the newsletter. We have 750 followers on Facebook we need to keep these followers pursuing more information about ACAA. The January profile will be Basia Gdula Adams. Lou will send question prompts to Basia for her information. Suggestions for reaching more alumni from the tool and die programs and other lesser represented programs from Alliance. Kathy Noce will reach out to her brother who was in the tool and die program to see if he has contacts we can use.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT/BUSINESS CARDS, RACK CARD, INFO SHEET

Aundre'a will send items to the group for self printing. We will have 25-50 printed out for the Cambridge Springs Museum. Aundre'a will share rates for publication of ACAA items in various media.

QUARTERLY ON-LINE ACAA MEETINGS (Scheduled for 2025: January 14, April 8, July 8, October 14)

Mike shared draft agenda items. President Report, Financial Report, Membership Report, Website Update, Reunion Information, Amendment of Bylaws. A trial meeting before the January 4 meeting was suggested. Mike will schedule.

LEGACY PRESERVATION

Tabled until February 2025 meeting to allow all to review and notate the shared draft.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Richard Day prepared and sent an update regarding the foundation as he was unable to attend this meeting. They are still working through the 501.c.3 status. There is no indication when it might be resolved. They have received one scholarship application thus far.

NEW BUSINESS

A bill from Marquee Creatives in the amount of \$1037.25 was received. The items were for services for merchandise set up on the website and the design and set up of the logos used on the merchandise. This was initially thought to be a cost that the supplier would take on and count against any sales. However, due to the small home-based business style of the supplier they could not manage the set up and website development aspects and Marquee stepped in and helped complete this especially as we were in a rush to get the system set up to take advantage of holiday sales. Kathy Noce made a motion to approve digital expenditures for merchandise and website store and selling at a cost of \$1037.25. Lori Kolin seconded. Motion carried with Aundre'a Cika Heschmeyer abstaining due to conflict of interest as President of Marquee Creatives.

NEXT MEETINGS

January 14, 2025 at 6:30 pm CS time

February 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm CS time.

Motion to adjourn by Lori Kolin, second by Kathy Noce. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.