

ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

Board of Officers Meeting February 8, 2023

Officers in Attendance:

Michael Anderson (1978), ACAA President; James Koscielniak (1981), ACAA Vice President; Ed Mohylowski (1976), ACAA Treasurer; Susia (Burgess) Styborski (1983), ACAA Secretary; Sally (Domzalski) Day (1985), ACAA Assistant Treasurer and Foundation Secretary; Randy Polovick (1981), ACAA Director; Lori Neese Kolin (1987), ACAA Director; Marcia Pilkiewicz (1975), ACAA Director; Louis Sitnik, (1986), ACAA Director; Richard Day (1985), Chair of Alliance College Alumni Association Foundation (Foundation); Les Rachocki (1967), Foundation Treasurer; Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer (1985), ACAA Director, Basia (Gdula) Adams (1984), Foundation Vice President.

Alumni in Attendance: Roberta (May) Polovick (1981)

Absent: Celeste "Mickie" Mickiewicz (1967), ACAA Officer Ex-Officio

The meeting was called to order by Michael Anderson, President. President Anderson welcomed all in attendance.

Secretary Report

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting was made by Ed Mohylowski and seconded by Marcia Pilkiewicz. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Ed Mohylowski, Treasurer, reported the bank account for ACAA has been transferred to Chase. Sally Day will need to go to a local Chase bank in her area and add her name to the account. Ed Mohylowski has provided Sally Day with the required numbers to do so.

Ed reported that an issue with a check made to Chet Fedorowicz reportedly bounced. Ed contacted Chase today and was informed our account is in good standing and Chet should re-deposit the check.

Ed further reported that he has begun looking into obtaining insurance on behalf of the organization and individually as Board members. An organization budget will likely be required for insurance purposes. Other than routine expenses such as website maintenance and post office box, the organization does not incur any expenses. A budget that is reunion specific is developed at the time of each reunion planning. **Costs associated with the reunion are covered by attendees.** Further information will be presented at a future meeting as more details are available.

Les Rachocki asked what the purpose of the insurance would be and while more information is pending, the general purpose is to protect the organization and board members individually in the event of legal action.

Jim Koscielniak asked what the balance in the savings account is and Ed reported \$2000 and the remainder is in the checking account. Jim suggested we may want to discuss putting some of the monies into a CD for better interest. Sally Day reminded the group that the balances are higher than usual given the recent reunion and expenses for the website upgrade need to be considered. Ed reported that the amount required for free checking is \$2000 in linked accounts. It was previously reported as needing to be \$7000.

Sally Day reported the mailbox cost of \$250 per year needs to be paid.

Website Enhancements

Mike Anderson reported that Chet Federowicz has asked to step down as the webmaster as he is wanting to reduce his workload. Chet will continue at this time but will end his contract if another webmaster is found.

Updated information on upgrading the website was provided by Randy Polovick and Sally Day. They have developed a draft RFP (Request for Proposals) and will share with the group via email. Information has been shared with known alumni that may have an interest. Anyone having contacts that may be interested in the RFP should introduce the contacts to Sally and Randy electronically. Sally noted that the website costs are \$500/year maintenance plus \$120 quarterly payments to the webmaster, for a total of \$980 annual cost.

Ed Mohylowski reported the Kosciuszko Foundation has recently debuted a new and improved website and he will reach out to them for their contact for the website upgrade.

Jagiellonian University Joint Venture

Jim provided a summary of his discussion with Regina Jaworski and her conversations with Jagiellonian University. Jim reported Jagiellonian University is extremely excited to partner with ACAA. They do not want to do it with Kosciuszko Foundation or PNA. Jim reported more information is to come.

Ed asked what the cost would be and Jim responded that would need to be figured out. Jim invited anyone with questions to email him. Ed reminded the group he is currently in Krakow and questioned if it would be worthwhile to visit Jagiellonian University on behalf of ACAA, consensus was it would be beneficial. Jim reported he would send an "email thread" to Ed related to Jagiellonian University.

Richard Day asked what additional benefits would we achieve with this venture when the ACAA and AC Foundation already support the idea of legacy through the current scholarship program. Ed asked if the intent was to replace the "year abroad" program that Alliance College supported. Marcia stated that lots more information and details are needed, suggesting that we need to know of any interested students as just one detail. Mike agreed there are more questions than answers at this time and research into what is currently happening with the Jagiellonian University and Kosciuszko Foundation aspect needs investigation. Mike further questioned if we have monies available long term to maintain a new venture. Ed asked if this was going to be a scholarship through ACAA or AC Foundation. Randy added to the discussion that it is likely we are all in agreement with the desire for maintain our Alliance College legacy but we have to have information with great depth of detail for us to move forward. All indicated agreement to this idea.

Grand Tour of Poland Trip – Summer 2023

Basia Adams joined the meeting to provide information and answer questions about the upcoming trip to Poland. The trip is being provided by PAT Tours and information is being shared on the ACAA website with a link to the trip included, and on the group Facebook page. Aundrea is working on the flyer for better graphics and information. The trip will be 12 days, July 31-August 12. The cost of the trip includes \$250 for miscellaneous items such as a group t-shirt, treats, vodka; miscellaneous funds not used will be considered a donation to ACAA. No one from Board or tour chairpersons are receiving free or reduced pricing for the Tour. A question about insurance for the trip was asked and Basia reported it has been discussed and she has been advised that it is a recommended idea. This ties into the discussion earlier that Ed is researching for ACAA. Rich and Basia were thanked for all their efforts to make this trip a reality and the commitment needed to make this happen.

ACAA Summer Meeting

Mike asked for ideas about the summer in person meeting. Ed reported he will be in Poland. Marcia recommended after Labor Day, perhaps mid Sept. Ideas for Chicago, Cleveland, and Erie were discussed but no decision made yet on dates or location.

2024 Reunion

Jim reported he is looking at Erie on the Bay and Peak and Peak in Clymer NY. He will do a 1 page outline of his work and share with this group. Questions were asked about using the feedback from the 2022 reunion survey. Many spoke in favor of needing to prioritize the feedback from the reunion survey and make decision on location and dates based on the feedback. Ed reported John Bellamy has expressed interest in helping the reunion committee. Also, Roberta and Marcia previously volunteered to be part of the 2024 Reunion Committee.

New Business

Mike reported that Mickie has reported to him that she does not want to continue as Membership Chair any longer. Question was asked if we need a person identified specifically as membership chair. Agreed to review bylaws prior to next meeting for information. Aundrea asked if the information on the membership database has been received as yet. Susia reported she has not received it.

Aundrea reported that the Facebook page is losing members daily. Contact with our alumni is vital to the continuation of ACAA and the Foundation. Membership engagement is vital.

Jim stated the (RFP) website re-vamp should be put out on social media and that a self-edit function is needed.

Next meeting

Next meeting is March 8 at 6:00 pm/Cambridge Springs time. Susia will send ZOOM invite.

Motion to close the meeting by Ed Mohylowski and seconded by Marcia Pilkiewicz. All in favor.