

ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

Board of Officers Meeting March 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); Celeste "Mickie" Mickiewicz (1967), ACAA Officer Ex-Officio.

Alumni in Attendance: Roberta (May) Polovick (1981); Basia (Gdula) Adams (1984), Foundation Vice President; Les Rachocki (1967), Foundation Treasurer.

Absent: Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer (1985), ACAA Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Michael Anderson, President. President Anderson welcomed all in attendance.

Secretary Report

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting was made by Louis Sitnik and seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Ed Mohylowski, Treasurer, reported the bank account for ACAA should be fine. He has only written 1 check. He will return to the USA later this month and will be able to give a better picture at our next meeting.

Sally Day reported that the Quickbooks program we use has a check register and that will ease the process of keeping information up-to-date. Ed reported he will do that once he returns.

Website Enhancements

Randy Polovick reported he has received a response for a website proposal from Aundrea' and is waiting for one from Kathy Polanski. It is believed the bid from Kathy Polanski will involve students working on the project.

Sally Day suggested the Board consider the Website Manager have a formal role on the ACAA Board of Directors. The website manager can report out to the general membership as well as the Board and be a key player in the process of registering alumni for the reunion. It would be helpful for give and take on the needs of ACAA; however it is noted that this may not be possible so the Website Manager could be invited to calls/meetings and report out, and address appropriate agenda items and then sign off. This is the similar approach we use for Membership, Reunion, and Poland Trip updates.

Mike mentioned notation from Chet about needing to utilize or be compatible with the Wordpress Platform. Sally and Randy indicated this was generally accepted format but will be sure that is noted by any interested candidates. Sally and Randy will work on developing a job description for the Website Manager position.

Mike reminded the group that Mickie Mickiewicz had sent an email about the requirements for the Website Manager role and Sally agreed to reach out to her to determine if there is additional input needed.

Jim Koscielniak asked if we should consider blending the Website Manager role with the Membership Chair. It was agreed that would not be in our best interest as the two roles are separate and one person doing both roles would be unmanageable.

It was also noted that Chet Federowicz has indicated he will work with us for 6 months to help guide us through the website transition. Chet also informed us he will no longer monitor obituaries of deceased alumni. It will be our responsibility to inform Chet of any deceased alumni going forward.

Jagiellonian University Joint Venture

Ed Mohylowski met with a representative at Jagiellonian University recently while in Krakow and sent a summary of his meeting via email to the Board of Directors prior to this meeting. Ed reviewed his recent meeting discussions at Jagiellonian University at today's meeting.

Ed also added that he and Larry Kozlowski have discussed the importance of having a permanent Alliance College display at Jagiellonian University. There was agreement that this would be a good idea and will re-visit it at a later date.

Jim Koscielniak reported that we are at our starting point that each side has interest in pursuing this project. He added that he is pledging \$20,000 over the next 3-4 years to make this happen. He will personally vouch for generous donations from his brother and other family and friends. His idea would limit the scholarship to American students only with Jagiellonian University receiving and vetting the applications to limit the top 2-3 candidates and the Board or other ACAA committee would select winner. Ed reported that in his discussions at the recent meeting at Jagiellonian University, he was told that they (the University) have many scholarships available already and they can administer them, saving individual organizations the need to oversee their scholarships.

Sally Day reminded all of the ACAA Foundation Scholarship given and feels it would compete with the foundation scholarship for funding and could cause confusion. Many voiced agreements with this thought and led to further discussion on the current scholarship and what it involves, who is eligible, and what is amount given. There was agreement that more communication, and information sharing at the reunion is needed. Marcia Pilkievicz suggested it be presented as part of a program at the reunion dinner. Lori Kolin suggested it prominently displayed on the new website.

Mike added his concern that the scholarship would not be sustainable without consistent cash flow into the fund. This is already a concern for the current Foundation Scholarship. Sally reported the current scholarship is funded through the next 30 years with current funds.

Susia was unable to speak but suggested via chat that the purpose of both scholarships seems to be to promote the legacy of Alliance College and therefore would ask any potential benefactors of a possible new scholarship put their monies into the current scholarship fund held through the Foundation and perhaps we could give out more than 1 scholarship each time and/or extend the expected pay out life of the scholarship and secondly, if someone applies that is going to Jagiellonian University they get preference, similar to the preference given to a relative or friend of an Alliance College alumni.

A suggestion was made to have the Jagiellonian University scholarship be funded independently through Jim and his family. Jim reports it must go through ACAA and he will put together a draft proposal. Further discussion was deferred pending receipt of draft.

A brief discussion was held about the handling of the Foundation Scholarship (and any future scholarships) once there are no involved surviving alumni. A plan to have it maintained by an organization that manages trusts and scholarships will be developed before that occurs.

2024 Reunion

Jim has not prepared a 1 page outline as previously discussed but shared a verbal update. He has looked at Peak and Peak (Clymer NY) and they have no elevators and 30 rooms at ground level. Helen and Jim received a proposal from Bayfront Erie. Through email exchanges a possibility of using Mohawk Mountain was suggested. Questions were asked about using the feedback from the 2022 reunion survey. Many again spoke in favor of needing to prioritize the feedback from the reunion survey and make decision on location and dates based on the feedback. Mickie reported low response for that survey and suggested a new survey be sent to all 500 email addresses in the database. All agreed to this and Mickie said she would send out by Sunday March 12. Les asked what a realistic deadline is for selecting a location and Jim suggested April 1st but probably April 15th but no later.

ACAA Membership Chair

Mike raised need to identify a new Membership Chair. Marchia Pilkievicz asked what the parameters for the position were. Ideas put forth included: active on social media, keeping database up-to-date, and knowledge of EXCEL. Marcia agreed to take this on and all were in favor.

People Finder

Susia prepared and sent a summary of People Finder activities via email. As she was unable to speak the topic was tabled until a future date.

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 logo was shown and all agreed it was perfect. 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. Thus far there is interest for more information by 18 people, deposits paid by 7 people. The trip needs 30-32 people at current pricing. A mailing will be done in 2 weeks to publicize the trip. Notices to Pol Am Journal will also be sent for publication. Basia reported Aundrea' has suggested to them to do a Facebook travel night to raise interest and awareness. This is being considered. Some members suggested concerns about the war in the Ukraine are holding people back from committing

but the safety of travel to and around Poland is secure. Life in Poland is normal, according to Ed who was just in Poland for several weeks. Sharing a list of people going was suggested and while it is a good idea some may not want it well known that their homes will be empty while they are in Poland for 2 weeks. The privacy of the AC Facebook page was not certain and Basia and Sally will follow up with Aundrea'.

Next meeting

Next meeting will be decided. Susia will send ZOOM invite once decided.

Motion to close the meeting by Mickie Mickiewicz and seconded by Lou Sitnik. All in favor.