

ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

Annual Membership Meeting November 18, 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; Marcia Pilkiewicz (1975), ACAA Director and Membership Chair; Randy Polovick (1981), ACAA Director; Les Rachocki (1967), Foundation Treasurer; Sally (Domzalski) Day (1985), ACAA Assistant Treasurer and Foundation Secretary; Richard Day (1985), Chair of Alliance College Alumni Association Foundation; Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer (1985), ACAA Director;; Lori Neese Kolin (1987), ACAA Director; Celeste "Mickie" Mickiewicz (1967), ACAA Officer Ex-Officio; Louis Sitnik, (1986), ACAA Director.

Alumni in attendance: Roberta Polovick; Ben Kman; Irene Granza; John Szympruch; Christine Pawlowski; Chris Rapcewicz; David Matejczyk; Felicia Bruce; Kathleen Jo (Polanski) Noce.

Guest: Sam Andrew, Web designer.

The meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 1:00 pm by Michael Anderson, President. President Anderson welcomed all in attendance.

The minutes from the Annual Membership Meeting from October 7, 2022 were approved following a motion by Richard Day and a second by Ed Mohylowski.

President Anderson introduced the Board of Officers and Directors.

ACAA Website Update and Discussion (Randy Polovick and Sam Andrew)

Randy Polovick and Sam Andrew provided an overview of the new official Alliance College Alumni Association website. Alliancecollege.biz

The website alliancecollege.com was maintained by Chet Federowicz, who sadly passed earlier this year. Administrative access to the website was not possible after Mr. Federowicz's death. Alliance College alumni Kathy Jo (Polanski) Noce headed a group from Penn State Behrand that is constructing the new website. Sam Andrew has been working on the website designed and has been retained to maintain the site. Alumni Randy Polovick will be the website administer with administrative access to be always held among two or more Board members.

Mr. Andrew provided a demonstration of the new website and how to navigate through it; including how to register yourself as an alumnus. Questions were asked and answered throughout the demonstration. If you do not have a membership the website will prompt you to complete membership. Similarly, current members will be prompted to renew their membership when the term is coming to an end. The membership information is kept current by users accessing and updating their own information. Again a demonstration was shown how to edit ones profile. Concerns were raised about having the full address shown and this will be reviewed. Randy Polovick volunteered to gather any issues or concerns and work directly with Mr. Andrew for resolution.

A library of tutorials for board members is being developed and there will be access to content on "how to" information.

Membership dues will be able to be paid through the website using Paypal; when a user selects membership level (one year, two year or lifetime) it will lead to a link to pay. In answer to concern about use of credit cards, Sally Domzalski Day reported Paypal does accept credit cards.

The alliancecollege.biz site does have scholarship information and forms currently and alumni are encouraged to share scholarship availability with their friends and family.

Sam has the capability to reproduce content from the alliancecollege.com website to the alliancecollege.biz website and suggestions can be directed to him. He welcomes questions or comments and can be reached via his email samandrew@gmail.com.

Randy Polovick and President Anderson both shared their thanks with Mr. Andrew before ending the website discussion with Mr. Andrew.

ACAA Financial Report and Discussion (Ed Mohylowski)

Ed Mohylowski provided a financial report. The accounts previously held at a bank in Ohio have been moved to Chase Bank which has banking across the country.

Current assets include: Checking account \$9,560.44 and Savings account \$1,511.92 for a total of \$11,072.36. Income for the past year includes: Misc. income \$20 and interest \$0.09 for a total of \$20.09. Expenses for the past year include Website domain/development \$720; web domain purchase \$72.38; printing \$26.75; Insurance \$1,057.00; and Quicken (bookkeeping system) \$563.43, for a total expense of \$2,439.56. Insurance will need to be renewed in July as it is an annual expense.

ACAA Membership Report and Discussion (Marcia Pilkiewicz)

Marcia Pilkiewicz reported we currently have 39 paid memberships. Twenty memberships are paid through 2024 and five paid through 2026. We have 14 lifetime members. Membership needs to be encouraged. Marcia reported that Ed Mohylowski has suggested informal regional get togethers, cocktail parties or luncheons to generate networking among alumni and raise interest in joining as a paid member. An additional suggestion was to encourage membership through Facebook contacts. The new website could help spread information about membership.

Sally Domzalski Day reported she has membership information through October 2022 and has shared that with Marcia in the event of questions of an alumni's status.

Ed Mohylowski asked what is the membership year. Celeste Mickiewicz reported that it was considered October 1 to September 30. President Anderson suggested that the question be discussed further and clarification provided going forward. Ed also suggested a "membership appeal" via email, acknowledging paper mail is cost prohibitive. President Anderson reminded the group that we have an extensive email distribution list and he agreed to work with Marcia on a membership appeal.

Celeste Mickiewicz suggested anyone attending the annual meeting should be a paid member to have voting privileges. Suggestion will be discussed further in upcoming Board of Officers Meetings.

Anyone with updated information or questions or comments is encouraged to contact Marcia directly via email mapilk@yahoo.com.

2024 ACAA Reunion (James Koscielniak)

Vice President James Koscielniak August 22-25, 2024 at Sheraton at Bayfront, Erie PA. The package for August 23-25, 2024 is a locked rate at the hotel of \$189 a night (plus tax) and includes complimentary parking and free wi-fi. Ten rooms are reserved for Thursday August 22, 2024; and autotext50 rooms are reserved for Friday August 23, 2024 and 50 Rooms are reserved for Saturday August 24, 2024. Group room rates are available three days pre and post the reunion for those people that want to extend their stay in the area. The reservation cut-off date for the hotel is August 9, 2024. An alumni mixer is planned for Friday night from 6-10 pm at either the Harlequin Ballroom or the Anchor Plaza with a dinner banquet on Saturday night at the Bayfront Convention Center West Ballroom. Chairpersons are needed for the following areas: Marketing/Publicity; Registration Desk (Julie Anderson and Marcia Pilkiewicz); Gift Bags; Memorabilia Room (David Matejczyk); Silent Auction; Awards; 50/50 Raffle/Challenges; Entertainment for Friday and Saturday; and Church/Mass. Lori Kolin volunteered to be a local contact for anything needed hands-on. John Szympruch and Kathy Jo Noce also volunteered to assist as they live local as well. Felicia Bruce reported she has historical pictures from Alliance College and asked if they would be useful, David Matejczyk reported Absolutely! Vice President Koscielniak reported two additional notes: a deposit of ¼ payment is due in February 2024; and he will get a hotel link set up.

ACAA Foundation Update and Discussion; Trip to Poland Review (Richard Day and Sally Domzalski Day)

Richard and Sally Day provided an overview of the trip; with 21 participants ranging in age from 20 to 70+ and some having been to Poland 20 times in the past and others there for the first time. Photos from the trip were shared with all. Many thanks are due to Basia (Gdula) Adams for spearheading the trip; and to Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer for the logo created through her business "Marquee Creatives".

Excess revenue was realized from the trip and the funds will go to the Foundation.

A reminder was given that applications for the ACAA Foundation Scholarship are being accepted through the end of December 2023 and will be awarded for the spring 2024 semester; and relatives and friends of alumni are encouraged to apply. The award is \$2500.

Polish Pines (Mike Anderson for Helen Tueffel)

Helen Tueffel is leading this project for ACAA with assistance by David Matejczyk. The Polish Pines project is on-going. This involves seedlings taken from the Polish Pines from the Alliance College campus being grown into saplings and planted by alumni. The prison horticulture program is going to be incorporating this project into their work. A presentation on this at the 2024 Reunion was requested.

Marcia Pilkiewicz asked about those that signed up for saplings at the 2022 reunion but have not received them. Those people should follow up directly with Helen Tueffel.

New Business

Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer reported sportswear available through Spirit and Prep Sportswear. Items could be offered as part of the reunion package.

President Anderson reminds everyone that elections for officers and board positions will be held at the August 2024 Reunion and anyone that is interested or wants more information should contact an officer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.