

ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

Board Meeting September 16, 2025

Officers in Attendance:

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

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

Alumni in attendance: Roberta Polovick (1982).

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Michael Anderson, President and expressed his thanks for joining the meeting and for all the time and efforts put forth by this dynamic group.

The agenda was reviewed.

President Anderson reported he has been notified by Marcia Pilkiewicz that she is not interested in holding the position of Membership Chair any further. A request for a volunteer to fill this position was made. There were no interested parties at this time. Director Kathy Noce suggested that we may consider breaking the role of Membership Chair into multiple roles and have it held by more than one person. All are asked to think of possible replacements for this very important role.

The minutes of August 2025 were distributed via email to all officers and directors and posted on the ACAA website (www.alliancecollege.com). A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mary Ann Posanski, seconded by Marcia Pilkiewicz. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL RECAP

Treasurer Louis Sitnik shared the financial report. Cash position as of September 2025 is \$4339.51 in checking; \$9626.86 in savings for a total of \$13, 966.37 Revenue of \$45 in membership dues received; \$0.10 interest on Chase Savings Account; \$113.10 in merchandise profit. For a total revenue with \$158.20. Expenses of \$159.90 Zoom license; Chase fees of \$15, for a total expense of \$174.90.

Prior to today's meeting, Mike asked Louis to review the financial status of the organization to date for discussion purposes. Louis reported that we have spent \$2275.40 this year on non-website related items. For the website we received \$3000 in donations; expenses of \$7156.50 for website.

Our revenues are not covering our expenses. When website costs are included in the consideration we would have less than three years of monies to support the organization.

At the next website meeting the goal to look at priorities for spending. Aundrea reported that major items that are costly are completed. A plan for what other items we know about should be identified and their related costs. A later suggestion was made for website committee to determine how to increase our ability to be seen through social media search engines.

A question was asked about the monies for the store being connected to the supplier and the website. Louis reported he has worked through the logistics of paying for the merchandise through the supplier and monies will come and go without the intermediary of Paypal. There were no other questions.

Randy Polovick (1981), ACAA Director arrived to meeting at 6:47 pm to the meeting.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT/WEBSITE (Committee: Randy Polovick, Kathy Noce, Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer, Mike Anderson)

Aundrea shared a link to member spotlight page on the website. <https://alliancecollege.com/newsletters/> There is a form that can be filled out by alumni for the member spotlight. **Aundrea will determine who is receiving these forms once submitted and report back to the group.**

Kim Dimeck-Dobrzynski is assisting with people that are having issues with accessing or revising entries in the membership directory. Mike suggested alumni be assisted in accessing their directory listing at the Philadelphia meeting; hands on assistance is a key to reaching our members.

Kathy Noce will have students do an audit of the website to search for glitches.

Aundrea asked about a specific item for the Philadelphia meeting. She will work with Mary Ann Posanski for this item.

Mike asked if there is a possibility to have merchandise available for the Philadelphia meeting. We would have to spend money to have merchandise to have items readily available. A suggestion to have on site assistance provided for attendees to make on-line purchase at the time of the weekend event.

LEGACY PRESERVATION/TIME CAPSULE

Lori Neese Kolin and Louis Sitnik have discussed the time capsule since the last meeting in August. The general feeling was a time capsule is not the best way to immortalize Alliance College when we have an amazing tribute to the college at the Cambridge Springs museum. Kathy Noce made a motion to eliminate time capsule project as part of ACAA activities, Mart Ann Posanski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

LEGACY PRESERVATION/TONTINE

There is a 1987 bottle of Port (Warres 1987 Vintage Port) purchased when Alliance College closed intended that it be given to the last alumni standing; purchased by Les Rochacki. We continue to discuss what to do with it. Many suggestions were offered what is the item? Do a value check? Auctioning it off at 2026? What would Les like to have done with it? **Mike will call Les.** This topic will continue

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT/MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT/ACAA DUES 2026

Mike shared his screen showing the current names of members. There are 88 total paid memberships, including 64 two-year memberships paid through 2026, and 24 lifetime memberships. Some of the 64 members have passed and will be unlikely to renew. Despite improvements to the website and strong outreach to members to join, and other efforts we are not finding an increase to paid memberships. Mike raised the idea of increasing dues as we cannot cover our costs at the current rate. Heartfelt discussion on how to manage our expenses going forward versus the declining interest in alumni to join as paid members. It was agreed to raise the issue at the Philadelphia meeting and **Mike will address the issue at the October meeting.** Another suggestion was made to increase awareness for alumni to include the association in their end of life planning.

LEGACY PRESERVATION/FINALIZE DOCUMENT

The Legacy Preservation document will be revised to delete the time capsule and update information on the 1987 Port. Once edited, copies will be made and available for review at the October meeting. **Mike will take the lead on having the document ready for the October meeting.**

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 3-6, 2025

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/ATTENDANCE

Current estimates are 20-26 based on reservations at the hotel. How can we increase awareness and response leading up to the event? The data pull on alumni geographically close to Philadelphia (2600 alumni) shows many alumni without valid emails (2100 alumni). The lack of accuracy to our membership lists continues to be a concern to the ongoing health of the organization. The idea of having our membership list put through a data hygiene system to improve our data on alumni was put forth. Can we have a donation or grant obtained to pay for this service? Can we ask the PNA to help us with this? **This should be raised at the Philadelphia meeting.**

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/FRIDAY NIGHT

Options for a Polish Happy Hour were discussed. It will be a walk-in situation with no paid dinner reservations.

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/SATURDAY MORNING/DRAFT AGENDA

We have a coffee service arranged for the meeting, "half day beverage service". A projector was reserved. We are paying for the room rental where the meeting will be held.

Mike shared the draft agenda for the October meeting.

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/SATURDAY MORNING/HANDOUTS

Financial report will be shared on the screen.

Agenda will be available in paper form and on the screen.

Paper copies of the forms for the membership applications will be on hand.

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/SATURDAY MORNING/ZOOM

Susia will be in attendance by Zoom, minutes will be taken through combined note taking, recording, and summarizing of the proceedings as they occur.

Mike reported he plans to be on site and have the Zoom link active well in advance of the 9:00 start time. This will hopefully give plenty of time for alumni to get access to the meeting.

Name plates (paper) will be provided for attendees so all those in the meeting will be identifiable for the proceedings of the meeting. Marcia will have the active membership lists in the event of any voting as only alumni with an active membership are eligible to vote.

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING

Optional excursion to Czestochowa is planned. There is a 25 person minimum for the luncheon and the tour. The attendance at the Mass at Czestochowa is optional but transportation is a factor. Church options near the hotel have been shared. All board attendees should weigh in on where to eat on Saturday night so a reservation can be made. Aundrea will send an email to all.

PHILADELPHIA MEETING/SUNDAY

The highlight will be the Pulaski parade and Grand Polonaise. We would like to have a banner identifying our group for the parade. If we take the Alliance College banner from the museum, it cannot be returned; it is considered decommissioned. All agreed it should not be removed from the museum. Anna Crone has offered to have the banner made. Aundrea will follow-up with Anna about her offer. Food and music will at the after party.

Director Kathy Noce left the meeting at 8:09 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 BOARD ELECTION PROCESS – Mike asked that we begin to think about how we can better manage the elections for 2026 meeting. We will look at this topic again in our November meeting.

NEXT MEETING

October 4, 2025 9 am in Philadelphia PA and via Zoom

Motion to adjourn by Marcia Pilkiewicz, seconded by Louis Sitnik. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

SS/Susia Styborski, ACAA Secretary