

ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

Open Meeting October 4, 2025

Officers in Attendance in Philadelphia:

Michael Anderson (1978), ACAA President; Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer (1985), ACAA Vice President; Louis Sitnik, (1986), ACAA Treasurer; Marcia Pilkievicz (1975), ACAA Director and Membership Chair; Lori Neese Koin (1987), ACAA Director.

Officers in Attendance via ZOOM: Susia (Burgess) Styborski (1983), ACAA Secretary; Kathy (Polanski) Noce (1982), ACAA Director; Randy Polovick (1981), ACAA Director; Richard Day (1985), Chair of Alliance College Alumni Association Foundation.

Officers excused: Mary Ann Posanski (1976), ACAA Director and Merchandise Chair.

Alumni in attendance in Philadelphia: Kristina Kwacz (1983), Mickie Mickiewicz (1967); Jinny Borek (1967), Robert Sutherly (1975); Mike Pentland; Tess Kurkowski; Cathy Purzycki (1977); Al Purzycki (1977); Carol Schonewolf (1983), Alliance College Foundation Secretary; Ed Mohylowski (1976); Sandra Gawchik (1960); Susan Bogdan Switlik (1969); Cathy Katrenich; Joseph Utchel (1978).

Alumni in attendance via ZOOM: Roberta Polovick (1982); Mary Modzelewski Paladino Rodgers (1972-1975), James Koscielniak (1981), Ted Wojcik, Christine Pawlowski (alumni and faculty); Sally Day, Janice Kornacki Elwood.

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am by Michael Anderson, President. President Anderson welcomed everyone to the annual association meeting. He thanked everyone for coming from all over the country, including Minnesota, Florida, Ohio and knows that each one of us whether attending in person or by ZOOM are all bound together by a passion for our school and a dedication to continue its legacy. Today we want to focus on where the association is today and where we are going.

The agenda for today's meeting was shared on the screen.

Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the in-person events in Philadelphia. Copies of the weekend events were also available in print at the meeting site. Mike Anderson added that we are meeting in Philadelphia in response to feedback from the 2024 reunion asking for ACAA activities in locations other than Erie, PA.

The minutes of July 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 Director Lori Kolin, seconded by Mickie Mickiewicz. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL RECAP

Treasurer Louis Sitnik welcomed everyone in attendance and then shared the Treasurer's report on screen and reviewed each item. Cash position as of September 27, 2025 is \$3825.76 in checking; \$9,626.86 in savings for a total of \$13,452.62. Annual revenue of \$4,618.40 in membership fees (7 lifetime memberships); \$3,000.00 in donation toward ACAA website from two anonymous donors and from the Alumni Foundation; \$1,789.90 Merchandise Sales; \$1.05 interest on Chase Savings Account. For a total revenue with \$9,409.35. Expenses of \$11,418.34 residual expenses from 2024 reunion; \$9,633.00 Marquee Creatives (marketing activities including website redesign); \$1,057.00 Insurance; \$294.00 Constant Contact; \$249 WP Business Directory; \$159.90 Zoom Subscription; \$111.30 Gravity Forms; \$82.56 Merchandise/swag related; \$79.88 Paypal fees; \$75.00 Chase bank fees; \$14.65 Postage. For a total expense of \$23,174.63. A question was asked from the audience about the revenue from the merchandise sales being profit or total

amount received. The revenue of \$1,789.90 in merchandise sales was profit from sales. A question was asked if the association develops an annual budget and there is not an annual budget developed specifically but we recognize our expenses outside of the website expenses are about \$2000 per year and our revenue is not able to support those expenses year after year without an increase in revenue. Our biggest opportunity for revenue is through paid memberships. Jim Koscielniak asked what monies or profit was realized from the 2024 reunion. Lou Sitnik did not have the info with him but will respond back to Jim directly. Mike Anderson reported the goal of the reunion is to break even, it is not a profit center for the association. There were no other questions.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT/MEMBERSHIP (Marcia Pilkiewicz Membership Committee chairperson)

Mike Anderson reported Director Marcia Pilkiewicz is not interested in continuing as the membership chairperson and volunteers are being sought for that role. There were some offers of help with the membership committee which are welcomed but the association needs a person able to take on the role of chairperson. Please contact a Board Member if there is an interest in learning more about this opportunity.

Marcia Pilkiewicz then shared a comparison for ACAA memberships in 2024 vs as of September 2025. There was a net loss of 2 members from 2024 to 2025. We currently have 89 total paid memberships, including 64 two year memberships paid through 2026, and 25 lifetime memberships. Director Pilkiewicz thanked those that have paid for their memberships and added that alumni should be aware that membership dues provides for: content and maintenance of website (www.alliancecollege.com); delivery of alumni engagement content through social media platforms; cover costs associated with Alliance College memorabilia; reunion venue deposits; and other miscellaneous expenses as noted in Treasurer report. Memberships can be paid via the website or directly to Marcia at her mailing address, **Marcia Pilkiewicz, 1252 Woodcrest Circle, Bloomfield Township, MI 48304.**

Mike Anderson asked the audience for feedback from those that are not current members. Concerns were shared including people are not sure what the value of a membership is, and that the email system is not great and many alumni do not get the information. For those not getting the newsletter they should go through the website and sign up or contact the association through "Contact us". We use Constant Contact for the newsletter and it helps us know what emails are delivered as well as other information. One alumnus (Mary Rodgers) reported she is not listed as a lifetime member and Marcia and Louis will work to resolve that issue.

Mike Pentland reported he finds the same issue of not having current contact information for the TKE communications he maintains.

Alumni in attendance today were encouraged to join as a paid member and most reported their intention to do so by the end of the weekend.

Kristina Kwacz asked about a function on the website that reminds people to renew as she herself is happy to renew but had just missed that it had lapsed. A "tickler" system for membership reminders was discussed. The website committee has talked about adding that function as further work on the site continues. Most people are reminded to renew their memberships at the reunion and if one does not attend the reunion that opportunity to connect is lost.

Joseph Utchel asked about having more than 1 email listed for an alumni and Director Kathy Noce noted while we have that capability for two emails per directory listing, we pay for each email that we send mail to so sending multiple emails to the same alumni is not cost effective.

A suggestion was made by a ZOOM attendee that we do direct outreach to those key alumni for fraternities and sororities asking them to contact the brothers and sisters of their organizations and connect them to the alumni association. Christine Pawlowski volunteered to represent Kujawiaki and Delta Zeta.

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

Director Randy Polovick reported the website committee continues to meet and are working with Marquee Creatives that created the new website for further improvements.

Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer provided a demonstration of the website. All in attendance were encouraged to check out and share the website. Content of all kinds is needed to add to the website. Anyone can submit items for consideration for the website by sending information to info@alliancecollege.com Mike Pentland provided a thumbdrive with pictures from the TKE organization for use on the website. Thank you Mike!!!

Randy Polovick noted that questions or comments can be left through the "Contacts" tab on the website. We ask that alumni remember we are all serving ACAA as volunteers and we do our best. We hope to have response time for requests for help or information to 24 hours.

President Mike Anderson reminded all that donor sponsorships for the upgrade of the website continue to be accepted, with four levels designated as follows: Platinum at \$1000, Gold at \$500, Silver at \$250, and Bronze at \$100. Checks should be made payable to **Alliance College Alumni Association** and mailed to Louis Sitnik at **16939 Horn Point Dr., Gaithersburg MD 20878**.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT/NEWSLETTER

Director Kathy Polanski Noce shared an update on the newsletter. We will publish a newsletter about once every two months. All alumni and friends of Alliance are encouraged to submit content for the newsletter. Alumni are also encouraged to share a small part of their life and be featured in the Alumni Spotlight. A link to a questionnaire for the Alumni Spotlight is on the website and in each newsletter.

If not receiving the newsletter please send a note to info@alliancecollege.com

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT/WEARABLES

Mike Anderson reported for Mary Ann Posanski who was unable to join us today. The items available for purchase are on the website and we hope that there will continue to be excitement surrounding the many new items available. We have connected with Printful and their products have been met with great excitement. It is noted that we have no inventory costs as items are produced when purchased and we no longer have Paypal fees as we did with our previous merchandise vendor. A suggestion was made to have more items available in TALL and XL, 2XL and 3XL.

2026 REUNION

The 2026 ACAA Reunion is secured for the Sheraton Bayfront on October 23-25, 2026. All activities will be based out of the Sheraton Bayfront property. Draft menus are available on the website and feedback is appreciated. A sign up for Committees is on the website and alumni are asked to consider taking a role in making this event happen. Thanks to Jim K, Helen, Susia, Marcia, Robert, Julie Andeson and Mary Ann P for stepping up to help. We will begin meeting via ZOOM after this weekend to begin planning in earnest. We are working to maintain costs of the reunion at or near 2024 pricing. There was concern about the late date of the reunion (end of Oct) and that was the only October weekend available. October was the vote from feedback for the best time to have the reunion.

A suggestion was made to cancel 2026 and begin planning a 2027 reunion in Poland. The Foundation had sponsored a trip to Poland recently that was open to alumni and others and while very full of adventure and great fun for those that participated there was low turn out from alumni.

Al Purzycki (1977) reported interest in better reporting of who would be attending the reunion. Discussion was to include that information on the website for 2026.

LEGACY PRESERVATION PROJECT

President Anderson reviewed the document and thanked Director Lori Neese Kolin and Director Kathy Noce for their leadership on this project. Following and overview of the document, consensus from the group was that a decision on this today was not possible as it warrants more study and discussion that is not possible today. The Legacy Preservation document is available for review on the website.

Mike further reported a 1987 bottle of Port was purchased when Alliance College closed with the intention it is to be given to the last standing alumni of Alliance College. Recent discussions about the viability of that request led to a conversation with Les Rochacki, who had purchased the Port. Mr. Rochacki agrees that the bottle be shared by attendees of the last reunion of the group. The bottle is currently housed at the Cambridge Springs Museum and History Center. Our Board Member Lori Kolin Neese serves on the Board at the Museum and keeps us abreast of the activities there.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Richard Day introduced himself as the President of the Alliance College Foundation, a 501c3 organization, separate from the alumni association. The foundation has a separate board of trustees that manage the organization. He reminded the group that the foundation was established for charitable and educational purposes, its primary function is to provide scholarships in the name of Alliance College.

The organization has \$95K in its investment account and \$8K in a business checking account. The foundation made a \$1K investment in the AC website this year.

This year the foundation awarded three scholarships to descendants of alumni. The quality of the applicants was excellent. Two of the three have been paid, the last will be paid out by the end of the year based on the recipient's request.

The foundation is a 501c3 in the state of Ohio. Due to a simple error, the foundation lost its federal 501c3 status. A new application has been filed and received by the IRS but has not been assigned to an agent yet. The IRS is quoting 190 day processing times but this may be further delayed with the government shutdown.

In an effort to improve, each year the trustees tweak the scholarship process and timing. The deadline for applications is December 31st and can be filed on the AC website. Richard encouraged to spread the word about the scholarship and share it with any current students who meet the criteria.

NEW BUSINESS/MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are currently \$45 for 2 years or \$500 for a lifetime membership. In addition to needing more alumni to become paid members of the association, raising more revenue through dues is required to maintain the association moving forward into the future. Most people in attendance expressed willingness to pay a higher rate for dues. A few felt that it would not be affordable for those on limited retirement incomes. Suggestions were given from the group. Suggestions include: increase to \$50 a year; increase to \$100 a year; have a tiered level of membership such as one level at \$50 and another level at \$100, perhaps with varying levels of benefit based on tier; increase the cost each year over a

period of time graduating to \$100 a year; ask lifetime members to consider an additional donation to support the association; increase the cost of a lifetime membership; ask the PNA to donate to the association.

Mickie Mickiewicz made a motion to raise dues to \$50 a year or \$95 for two years and raise lifetime due to \$750 and review the increases at the 2026 reunion. Motion was seconded by Sandra Gawchik. Discussion ensued. Due to time limitations and desire for more discussion, the motion was tabled with the notation that a final decision is needed by April 2026.

Members of the audience offered heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the officers and board members for their continued hard work and efforts on behalf of the ACAA.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

Information and Zoom link will be available on the website.

Motion to adjourn by Marcia Pilkiewicz, seconded by Mickie Mickiewicz. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

Respectfully Submitted

SS

Susia Styborski, ACAA Secretary