



NAA Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
8:00 – 9:00 AM
Zoom Virtual Meeting

I. Call to Order:

The regular monthly meeting of the UNA National Alumni Association Executive Committee was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, via Zoom. President Tosha-Paige Whitten presided and called the business meeting to order at 8:04 am.

II. Roll Call:

Present Board members: Susan Adams, Bishop Alexander, Derrick Chatman, Lisa Clayton, Savannah Liles, Mary Leigh Gillespie, Justin McGill, Christa Raney, Gale Satchel, Christy Waters, and Tosha-Paige Whitten

Present Non-Board members: Sherry Wilkes

III. Approval of Minutes:

Susan made a motion to approve the 3/10/2020 Executive Board meeting minutes, and Justin seconded the motion. The minutes from the 3/10/2020 Executive Board meeting were unanimously approved as emailed.

IV. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda for the 4/14/2020 Executive Board meeting was not formally approved.

V. Financial Report:

Justin noted that the Association spent \$6,000 on donations and sponsorships in March 2020. The remaining balance is \$47,618.61. Bishop added that the \$10,000 Nation Wide Insurance money remains in the account. See attached report.

VI. Alumni Relations Report:

- a. Campus News – COAS Dean, UCM Director, and ODIE Director** —Bishop announced changes in UNA personnel. First, Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has been confirmed as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. She wants to increase her participation with the Alumni Association. Next, Michelle Eubanks has been confirmed, effective

April 1, as the University Communications and Marketing Director. Last, Joan Williams, Director of the Office of Diversity and Institutional Effectiveness (ODIE), has accepted a job at Salisbury University, so a search for a new ODIE Director will launch soon.

- b. **Spring Commencement Update**—Spring commencements will be held on July 31 and August 1, 2020. The Alumni Association has partnered with Enrollment Management to have a more active role in graduation ceremonies. More details to follow.
- c. **2020 HC Alumni Award Nominations**—The deadline to nominate alumni has been extended to May 31. Please submit nominations.
- d. **Derby Day 2020**—Derby Day is postponed until September 2020. The plan is to hold the event when the official Derby is held.
- e. **Light the Fountain 2020**—The Light the Fountain ceremony is postponed until August 2020.
- f. **Fall 2020 Admission Application Fee Waiver**—Admissions is waiving application fees. Please encourage any seniors you know to apply.
- g. **Spring Grad Expo Recap**—Sherry noted that the attendance was high for the Spring Grad Expo (approximately 200 participants), and it went very well. She thanked Board members who volunteered at the event.

VII. Standing Committee Reports:

- a. **2020 Alumni Summit**—The Alumni Summit is postponed until April 17-18, 2021. Tosha-Paige expressed her disappointment in having to cancel this year's Summit, and she thanked Board members for the hard work they had put into the event.
- b. **2020 Homecoming Alumni Award Selections**—The Alumni Awards selection committees will meet June 8 – June 12, 2020. This year, the nominator will have to obtain permission of the nominee to nominate him or her. Each Executive Board member will chair an Alumni Award committee.
- c. **2020 Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament**—The Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, October 30 at 8:00 am at Cypress Lakes, which offers indoor dining. More volunteers will be needed, and Tosha-Paige encouraged Board members to be available for at least an hour that day.

VIII. Old Business:

- a. Sherry announced that the Muscle Shoals Education Foundation Benefit Dinner has been postponed until September 1, 2020. The Association will donate its tickets to local teachers, and Christy has compiled a list of over 100 local teachers who are UNA alumni.
- b. Tosha-Paige asked if we had secured a new insurance company. See Discussion X.b.
- c. Derrick asked if the Sportsman Club Fundraiser and Banquet had been canceled or postponed. Bishop said he has received no information to date, and most university groups are waiting until May to make decisions about fall events.

d. Handy Night is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21 at 6:00 pm. Eric Kirkman is the headliner.

IX. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

X. Discussion:

a. **Alumni Outreach Ideas – COVID-19**—This week is UNA’s Virtual Spirit Week. Yesterday was “Miss You Monday.” Today is “Team Tuesday—Show Off your Purple and Gold.” The Alumni Office is researching what other universities are doing to stay in touch with their alumni. Bishop thanked Tosha-Paige for reading *Looking for Leo* at the Lion Habitat. He encouraged Board members to find ways to stay connected. Lisa mentioned that the College of Education and Human Sciences has created a page of resources (mostly teaching videos) for students and teachers: <https://www.una.edu/youruna/>. Bishop announced that SOAR will be online this year, and the Alumni Association will have to rethink its role.

Derrick Malone approached Bishop with the idea of establishing an Alumni Book Club. This program would partner with the One Book program on campus, so that the Alumni Book Club, of approximately twenty members, would read *Educated* with the First-year Experience classes this fall. Bishop suggested starting with twenty local alumni. Susan suggested advertising in the UNA Alumni Magazine.

b. **Mercer and Associates Insurance Proposal Presentation**—Dan Olsen from Mercer and Associates Insurance approached Bishop. The Alumni Association has a previous relationship with Mercer and Associates, having applied for a partnership in 2013. Olsen is open to present virtually next week. Kevin Haslam will reach out to State Farm via Steve Pierce.

XI. President’s Report:

- a. Bethany Green and Dr. Andrea Hunt approached Tosha-Paige and Bishop with a partnership opportunity: a Canned Food Drive to support the UNA Food Pantry. This event would be held on Friday, September 11, which is the National Day of Service, from 5:00 – 6:00 pm at the Atrium. After a week-long collection period, an after-party event to count cans will be held at Rogers Hall. Tosha-Paige will meet virtually with Bethany to discuss the event in more detail.
- b. **Next Virtual E-Board Meeting**—Tosha-Paige announced that the next virtual E-Board meeting is Tuesday, May 12, at 8:00 am.

XII. Alumni News and Campus Announcements:

Tosha-Paige and Bishop reported on upcoming events and noted opportunities for Board members to participate:

UNA Virtual Spirit Week 2020 – April 13 – 17

2020 Alumni & Friends E-Newsletter – April 21st – 10:00 AM

UNA Excellence Scholarship Deadline – extended to May 1st | www.una.edu/apply

UNA Athletics Giving Day – May 19

UNA Colleges Giving Day – July 21

Note: For all matters concerning UNA operations regarding COVID-19, visit <https://www.una.edu/coronavirus>

XIII. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Raney, Secretary