



**Board of Directors Quarterly Fall Meeting
Zoom Video Conference
Thursday | August 27, 2020 | 5:00 PM**

I. Call to Order & Invocation:

The Board of Directors Quarterly Fall meeting of the UNA National Alumni Association was held on Thursday, August 27, 2020, via Zoom video conference. President Tosha-Paige Whitten presided and called the business meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

A. Roll Call and Quorum Report:

- i. Present Executive Board members:** Susan Adams, Bishop Alexander, Derrick Chatman, Lisa Clayton, Mary Leigh Gillespie, Savannah Liles, Justin McGill, Christa Raney, and Tosha-Paige Whitten
- ii. Present Board of Directors members:** Gloria Aday, Jeremy Baham, Gaye Choat, Ryan Clayton, Mike Curtis, John Haeger, Allison Hall, Melanie Harris, Latasha Howell, Will Hodges, Cody Holder, Eric Kirkman, Anna Milwee, and Chris Whitten
- iii. Present Club Presidents:** Chris Burrell, Jeanne Wells Cook, Hannah Hopkins, and Carnette Johnson

B. Approval of Minutes—July 14, 2020:

- i.** Gaye made a motion to approve the 7/14/2020 E-board minutes as emailed, and John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

II. University/Advancement Update:

Mr. Kevin Haslam, Vice-President for Advancement and Executive Director for UNA Foundation, thanked Tosha-Paige and Bishop for asking him to speak about philanthropy. He provided an overview of giving options for the Alumni Association, noting the importance of donors and their passions, their interests, and the differences they want to make. Communication is key with donors so that they understand how their monies will be spent (and it must be spent that way). It is also important to report back to them the impact their money had.

Mr. Haslam differentiated among three funds that exist for the Alumni Association: Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund, Alumni Association Current-use Scholarship Fund, and Alumni Association Greatest-needs Fund.

First, an endowed scholarship needs a corpus of \$10,000 to establish the fund, and that money remains in perpetuity. Scholarships, which are used directly for students' education, are awarded based on the

interest earned on the corpus. These scholarships are divided equally among all the colleges at UNA and decided by the Financial Aid Office.

Second, Alumni Association Current-use Fund is spent as they monies are given, and this fund must be replenished each year. Current-use scholarships are used directly for students' education and are decided by the Financial Aid Office.

Third, the Alumni Association Greatest-needs Fund offers great opportunity and impact for the Alumni Association. These funds are spent on the greatest needs and emerging priorities at UNA as decided by the Alumni Association Board (your fellow alumni). Mr. Haslam suggested that the AA could begin soliciting monies for this fund at the beginning of the fiscal year. In June, the AA would reach out to Provost Alexander for the list of greatest needs, and the AA Board would decide to gift the money to these greatest needs. The AA would then inform the donors of the distribution of their gifts. This fund deepens the relationship the AA has with the Provost, the President, and the deans. In addition, these gifts will create more exposure for the Alumni Association for the colleges. This fund also impacts more students. For example, the scholarship fund may impact six or eight students. If, on the other hand, the greatest-use fund is given to the Success Center and Collier Library, then more students will be impacted and the difference is transformational.

Board members asked Kevin questions about the minimum endowment amount (\$10,000) and the timeframe to raise the funds (five years with flexibility from the Office of Advancement).

Mr. Haslam will present his fundraising presentation again on September 3, 2020. He offered his individual services to each Board member.

III. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Finance and Fundraising Committee—Justin presented the financial report.

- i. Alumni Association Account Balance**—In July 2020, the account earned \$24.80 in interest income and spent \$500 in donations for Gold Level Donation Leo's care and a floral arrangement for Una's passing, which was displayed at the Lion Habitat. The Association received a thank-you card from Dena Kitts. The final ending balance for July is \$47,321.49.
- ii. Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Balance**—as of May 2020, the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship balance is \$25,469.38.
- iii. Alumni Association Current-Use Scholarship**—Justin did not provide this information.
- iv. Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament**—Since Homecoming has been postponed until Spring 2021, the tournament will also be postponed. Restrictions due to the pandemic would have cut the proceeds in half. Bishop add that VP Haslam has pledged his support to the tournament.

B. Nominations Committee—Savannah presented the report from the Nominations Committee. She described the newly implemented process for soliciting nominations and for making selections.

- i. New Board Directors (*Vote Required*)**—Savannah presented the slate of Executive Board members and the slate of eight new Board of Directors (see attached documents). Savannah made a motion to accept the two slates as presented to serve for the 2020-2021 year and for

2020-2023, a three-year term, for Board of Directors. Justin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- ii. **Announce New Directors**—See attached documents.
- iii. **Recognize Retiring Directors**—Savannah recognized and thanked the following retiring directors for their years of service: Gloria Aday, Stephanie Coleman, Will Hodges (moving to the Executive Board), Evan Oglesby, and Samuel Thigpen. Derrick Chapman will be rolling off the Executive Board as Past President.
- iv. **AA Constitution ByLaws Revision (*Vote Required*)**—Savannah presented the revised AA Constitution ByLaws. Discussion ensued as board members debated several points, including term limits. It was decided that Savannah would make additional revisions and email a revised document to the Board for e-business.

C. Alumni Club Reports—

- i. Hannah Hopkins reported on the Huntsville Alumni Club’s virtual trivia event, which was well received. The Huntsville Alumni Club plans on hosting more virtual events. The Club also sold t-shirts for a club fundraiser.
- ii. Jeanne Wells Cook, Central Mississippi Alumni Club President, reported that her club met in February to watch women’s first basketball game. In July, they hosted a Zoom gathering that was successful.
- iii. Carnette Johnson, Atlanta Club President, reported that it has been difficult to host events in the current climate. She had hoped to support Ty Dennis’s Clippers and Cops organization, but he moved out of the area before an event could be planned.
- iv. Chris Burrell, Birmingham Club President, did not present a report.

IV. Old Business:

Tosha-Paige discussed UNA’s return to campus, which has been very successful thus far. She discussed Homecoming’s shift to the spring semester. No firm dates have been established. The Board will still have a formal event to celebrate retiring Board members and to welcome incoming Board members. This event may still take place at the Alumni Awards Banquet in 2021, even though the transition will take place on November 1, 2020.

The football team will play one home game on Saturday, October 17, against Jacksonville State University. Three other game will be played on the road.

V. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

VI. Discussion:

- A. **Alumni Insurance Program**—Tosha-Paige and Bishop reminded the Board of the need to find a new insurance provider.

- i. **Ad-Hoc Committee Proposal**—Bishop recommended that an ad-hoc committee be formed to review the three presentations. He suggested that Mike Curtis chair the ad-hoc committee.

Tosha-Paige reviewed our former relationship with Nationwide Insurance. Nationwide awarded the Association \$10,000 each year as long as alumni purchased their insurance. That contract has expired. The Board was in favor of an ad-hoc committee.

VII. AA President’s Report:

Tosha-Paige introduced a new fundraiser idea for the Alumni Board to consider: selling an alumni t-shirt, designed by a local alumna graphic designer. She will meet with Foundation members to work out the details.

Tosha-Paige thanked board members for attending the meeting and for giving their gift of time, talent, and energy to the University. Knowing that alumni are there for the students is a big deal during this time of uncertainty.

VIII. Alumni Director’s Report:

Bishop also thanked Board members for their time, talent, and service. He added that the Association has made a huge impact this year. For example, he noted that Tosha-Paige was asked by an influential campus committee to represent the voice of the alumni. Even though many events were cancelled due to COVID, the grounds that have been laid for scholarships will last a lifetime. It is bittersweet without alumni on campus, but we can still make a difference, and the University has alumni at the center of its thoughts. He ended by offering his gratitude once to the Board.

IX. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Raney, Secretary