

TRAVELING KNIGHTS OF OLD BRIDGE



Marching Knights

BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

April 12, 2023

Meeting held at GNC Band Room

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting started at 7:37pm

Approval of last meetings minutes

Motioned: Lisa Brennan

Seconded: Lisa Boelhower

Minutes Approved

Director's Report – Nancy Arabia

♦ Recruitment and information meeting April 27th at 7PM GNC. Melissa will discuss the full HS program, try to bring new students into the program, and roll out the new marching band season. New students can try out the marching band before committing completely.

Hawaii rehearsals will be added to the calendar by April 27. \$1200 should be paid toward the trip already. If there is an issue with payment, reach out to Melissa and she will help. It isn't too late to add parents to the trip.

♦ We still need donations for the Pasta Send Off Dinner and Dayton Trip.

♦ Dorney Park Trip for Music in the Parks is May 13th. The remaining balance due for tickets is \$65 due at the end of the month, unless students sold popcorn. Melissa will reach out through teams and let the students know how much is owed after popcorn totals.

♦ Band and Percussion Spring Concert is May 23rd, Orchestra May 24th

Question: Do we know the report time for graduation day? Not confirmed, probably 6:30-7AM

Treasurer's Report–Rosie DeSimon

♦ It was a quiet month with no money coming in

One tech cashed the check for marching band and licenses were filed for pocketbook bingo.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Motioned:Cahren Morris

Seconded: Lori Laflower

Minutes Approved

Membership–Sharon DeGregory

No change. Membership forms for the 2023-24 season will be available at the May meeting so they can be turned in at the June meeting.

Committee Reports

♦ Pocketbook Bingo De Mayo

Flyers were printed and available at the meeting to be handed out to local businesses, posted on social media, etc. Lisa Brennan suggested reaching out to Township to post on TV station.

Cafeteria capacity is 200 and we have 98 seats reserved so far. We are still accepting donations and the Amazon wishlist is available on the band app.

Julie Choi is assembling the majority of the baskets. We are selling tricky tray ticket bundles with a \$50 value for \$40 on the night of the event along with extra bingo boards. A discussion followed about whether or not tickets could be sold ahead of time and if it was legal. Understanding is that tickets cannot be sold and distributed before the event. They can be included in admission and reserved but not sold until the event. Mystery envelopes of tricky tray tickets will also be sold at the event for \$15. There will be a bake table that night and we need volunteers. A sign up sheet for bakers will be posted after Dayton.

- ♦ Laurita Winery

We have two different weekends booked to pour wine at Laurita Winery Wine Tasting on June 24-25 and September 17. 4-6 Volunteers per 2 hour shift. June 24th is 11AM - 7PM and 10AM-7PM. Hourly rate is \$14.13 per person per hour or tips, whichever amounts to more. There is no drinking before a shift and volunteers must wear closed-toe shoes. A volunteer sign-up will be posted for the events.

- ♦ Wine and Dine

We are looking to the fall for a Wine and Dine event. Previous events have been held at the Civic Center and St. Lawrence Church. It will depend on pricing. Rosie has an appointment with the Buyrite on 34 in Aberdeen as possible vendor. If not, there are several other options.

- ♦ Golf Outing is on hold because the new township course isn't complete and probably won't be done in time to start planning an event.

New Business

- ♦ Pasta Send Off is April 18th. We have the cafeteria from 4-10pm. The Guard will perform at 7 and percussion right after so dinner will be served around 7:30. Price is \$10/person, children under 5 free. We still need a lot of pasta donations as well as servers, set up and clean up. The pasta sign up on the percussion parents page but will be added to the marching band page as well.

- ♦ Student Videos

At the last meeting, Melissa suggested that the students record videos of themselves discussing their band experiences. The videos can then be sent out as part of a pledge campaign for Hawaii. We are trying to do this without an outside company so we keep 100% of the profits. Maybe we can get AV students to work on this and record the videos in the band room. We can include the TKOB QR code for donations.

- ♦ 2023-24 Eboard Nominations—Jenna Franzese

Nominations are complete. Tracey Paul-President, Cahren Morris-Vice President, Lisa Boelhower-Secretary, Carolyn Holguin-Treasurer. Swearing in will be at the next meeting.

- ♦ Scholarships

Eight senior members are eligible for scholarships, a \$4000 payout. No date set for scholarship night but Chris Duffet believes it will be the beginning of June so checks need to be available at the end of May.

- ♦ Hawaii Press Releases

If anyone is interested in writing press releases about Hawaii, please let the e-board know. We want to reach out to all of the media outlets, including print, TV, and radio, as well as social media.

- ♦ Memorial Day Parade and Marching Band practices begin May 1st. It will be Monday and Wednesday in June.

- ♦ Donation list for Dayton is posted on the band app. Perishable items are needed and have to be delivered after the pasta dinner to be loaded on the truck. Timing and geographical location prevent shopping for perishables once we arrive in Dayton, it has to be available ahead of time. If you haven't already done so, sign up on the app before it is taken down and items are purchased.

- ♦ Michele Deserto asked about the Metallica competition that she posted on the band app and if it was feasible. Discussion followed about the amount of time students and staff would need to commit to in order to make it possible. Additional practice days would have to be added to the calendar and the staff would have to create a whole new show with Metallica songs. It does not seem feasible at this time but it will be a discussion with Melissa.

- ♦ Question: Has a new band director been announced or chosen? No. Discussion followed about how it is a stipend position and doesn't end until June. Opening probably hasn't been posted yet. Chris Duffet explained that Indoor and Marching Band are two separate positions, both stipend, and not connected but Melissa is stepping down from both. Chris will be stepping into lead role for indoor percussion but marching band hasn't been decided. Marching Band position is like a coach because it is considered a sport but indoor is considered a club so the transition is easier.

Discussion followed on how to get indoor percussion recognized as a sport. We may have more leverage now that they were moved up to World Class. Chris Duffet will start the discussion with administration, reaching out to BOE, Superintendent, etc. Parent and student involvement may help, with both documenting individual experiences and how the program has changed lives. The students have been discussing it on their own and are

fired up. They deserve to be recognized as a sport with their dedication and hours of practice. Being recognized as a sport can increase funding.

♦ Rosie DeSimon began a conversation about senior scholarships, explaining that she received a lot of negative feedback from parents and students who were not eligible and didn't understand that the fundraising commitment was a requirement. She suggested that the board make the requirements clearer for parents so they are not disappointed. Tracey Paul explained that requirements are spelled out at the beginning of the season and a list of fundraisers given that will count toward the commitment.

Discussion followed about making sure parents keep band app notifications on after the season ends so they don't miss out on any important information, especially about fundraising commitment opportunities. Rosie suggested having parents sign and acknowledge that if they don't fulfill the commitment their child is not eligible for a scholarship. The suggestion was made to change the wording from fundraising commitment to work bond but this is not an option. Sam Arabia addressed the problem that in 2 years, the dozen people who do everything for the band will be gone when students graduate, and who will step up to fill those duties? We need more parent involvement but how do we go about it? Do we raise the fundraising commitment amount so parents are more motivated to put in the hours instead of letting TKOB just cash the check? How do we get parents to help and still generate needed funds?

Fawn Nocera spoke about how overwhelming it can be for new parents familiarizing themselves with band and TKOB, etc. She suggested some kind of welcome wagon or committee. Maybe at the first TKOB meeting we could have a "time and talent" sign up where new parents can say I am good at this and I am good at that. "So the same people aren't doing it all and getting burnt the *@#% out." Maybe someone can reach out with a phone call to new parents to welcome them.

Discussion followed about how need for involvement and money are two different issues but still connected. Can hours spent making props or using other talents be used toward commitment? How do we keep track of that administratively? How do we keep track of the hours and the money? Sam explained that the reason the fundraising commitment was put in place is because we were planning and hosting events and no one was coming. We needed to get involved selling tickets to the events and putting in hours to help. This enables us to have more successful events and parents got involved while fulfilling fundraising commitment.

We need to tap into the talents of the parents but it is always the same faces at the monthly meetings.

Adjournment

Motion: Sam Arabia

Seconded: Sharon DeGregory

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM

Next Meeting May 10th 7:30 at GNC Band Room