

MIDDLETON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

December 4, 2021

Alumni minutes December 5, 2021

Present: Phan Boston, Patricia Cooper, Yvonne Douglas, Rev. Earl Mason Sr., Apolonia Mendoza, Vicki Sabree, Calvin Simmons, Woodrow Simmons, Albert Smith, Debra Smith

Albert Smith called the meeting to order @ 11:02 AM

Opening **Prayer** by Chaplain, Woodrow Simmons

Patricia Cooper made a motion, and Woody Simmons seconded to approve and accept the **Meeting Minutes** of November 6th as distributed.

Financial Report given by Patricia—for September, October, and November—and there was a ‘share screen display’ for all to follow along.

Phan Boston asked if the money raised at the golf tournament was specifically for scholarships; Albert answered *yes*—and specifically, all funds deposited into the Savings Account are designated for scholarships.

Phan also asked regarding the need to establish a Budget--Albert responded that that topic will be address later during the year. Phan made a motion, and Yvonne seconded to approve and accept the Financial Report as presented. (see attached)

Membership Report in an effort to establish a *central point of control* for Memberships and eliminate the need to have Calvin and Ronita share the responsibility, Albert suggested that Ronita Durant be assigned that responsibility. Calvin and Patricia both agreed—(Ronita was not in attendance)

Golf Tournament--Albert thanked Calvin for his efforts to cover some of the highlights of the golf tournament event held on October 9, 2021:

Number of players: 108

Lunch was provided by Big John’s Alabama Café for an audience of 150, both golfers and non-golfers.

Sponsorships: Caspers Company; Ave Maria Dentistry; and Riley Contractors.

Yvonne, Ronita, and Debra performed the runaround shopping for breakfast: it was a grab & go for golfers consisting of coffee, water, juices, Danish, and muffins. (The Caspers Company had originally planned to sponsor the breakfast but opted to donate a \$1500. Birdie Sponsorship instead)

These **Sponsorships** Companies are displayed on our web site, along with several candid pictures of individuals working the event.

The Florida Sentinel carried a lead picture of the event; it carried internal pictures and an in-depth article that introduced **MIDDLETON ALUMNI PLAYS GOLF**.

There were all levels of support: several alumni showed their support by purchasing the \$100.

Tee Markers—that segment generated \$3300.
Out of pocket cash donations exceeded \$2000.

Overall, the event exceeded \$10,000, toward scholarships, which, based on previous guidelines, could award about 10 first year scholarship— (three of which will be named for Eddie ‘Zip’ Smith); Patricia, Calvin and Albert met at Middleton days after the tournament to work to reconcile the results of the tournament: at that point, the event had generated \$20,450 in cash receipts, and paid out approximately \$8,500 in expenses.

There are still some silent auction items available that we hope will generate additional revenue.

Honorable Mentions: OAI Imaging- provided all the signage (no charge); CEO, Mike Garcia, owner was special friend of Eddie ‘Zip’ Smith.

Big John’s Alabama Cafe- provided lunch for 150 people at a cost of \$250. --ribs were not included—so, we purchased two boxes of ribs to add to the lunch at a cost of \$200. They did a great job.

A shout-out to Benita Maynor who joined the team and worked tirelessly to garner support: Tee Markers; \$500 lunch sponsorship, and several players.

Men of Vision: Shout-out to Coach John Courtney and Assistant Principal, Henry Scurry for their efforts to get student volunteers to act as **GREETERS** for golfers as they arrived in the early morning hours. The young men showed up at 6:30am to greet golfers, take golf bags from the cars and place them on the golf carts--Stanley Smith supervised them. They did a great job. Their group photo is displayed on the home page of the website. We made sure to alert them to beware of the MHS Alumni Scholarship posting this Spring.

Volunteers: Jo Abbot, Velma Ball, Yvonne Douglas: (recruited golfers/Tee Markers signage), Ronita Durant, Norah Hastings, Denese M. James, Benita Maynor, Calvin Simmons, Chekeil Simmons, Woodrow Simmons, Reggie Smith, Debra Smith, Klisa Smith, and Stanley Smith;

Albert expressed excitement for the support the event received from the surrounding counties: Citrus County, Hernando County, Polk County, Collier County, and, of course, Hillsborough County.

In the days following the event, Albert and Debra have been sending out acknowledgements and thank you notes to participants of record.

Next year golf tournament schedule: October 22, 2022

Phan asked if there was a golf team at Middleton

Albert responded that their website reflects that they do – our brochure pictured the 2020 golf team. Phan mentioned that her nephew wants golf lessons- Albert referred her to the FIRST TEE Learning Center located at Rogers Park.

As an aside, Albert referenced that he reached out to Coach Courtney- to share with students, not only to play golf, but to have a means for learning the business- he mentioned Lee Elder, a prominent PGA Professional and his golf scholarships endowment recently established at Augusta University.

Brick Project...Calvin or Woody. Principal was supposed to get back with them about the brick project, but it was stalled because of Covid. Albert wants to get the brick project back on the front burner. Tabled discussion-Albert will reach out to Principal--Woody said the principal mentioned that he needed to meet with the people downtown to get the project started again. Calvin asked Al to touch base with him. Albert asked for them to send him something in writing about where project left off.

Scholarship appointments. Albert asked Apollonia, and she agreed, to continue to Chair the Scholarship Committee. In addition to the Chair, committee members are Calvin, Pat, Phan and Rev. Mason.

A top priority for the committee is to update scholarship requirements.

Patricia mentioned Kimberly Johnson as possible member on committee—no need—Committee has the required five members.

Earl Mason expressed his desire to serve on the committee (out of concern about what he heard at the Teach-in)

Al mentioned meeting with guidance counselors.

He also mentioned changing scholarship to include trade schools as a necessary alternative to attending a traditional college.

Phan mentioned counselors are over worked. Thus, we must ask counselors what Alumni can do to help.

Apolonia agreed counselors are overwhelmed.

Pat said Kimberly Johnson can be a contact person.

Pat suggested making the scholarships more attractive by increasing amount. Albert suggested amount remains the same for now.

Apolonia mentioned Ms. Tazwell said students said amount was too small.

Woody said students should apply to alumni criteria.

Apolonia said body needs to approve what committee presents

Al said refer to committee to do its work

Moved committee up on the agenda from New Business to Old Business

Great American Teach-in

As alumni representatives, Albert, Denese, Fred, and Calvin spoke with students for the purpose of getting them to think about their future path after high school.

Calvin felt that, in our student audience, there were few who were interested, with the majority just putting in their time to be there.

Courtesy committee

Yvonne said we have no one

Phan mentioned that no one has been doing that function but, felt there does need a designated person.

Vicki - wanted to get something for Luvator. to recognize her tenure as Alumni President. Albert suggested that Vicki put forth such a recommendation; and as such, asked her to take on the responsibility of Courtesy Committee Chair.

Family Blessings

Phan said Miss Tazwell was contact.

Did that last year - gave \$100 to 10 families. Howard gave \$1000 also

Albert asked who did it last year.

Phan volunteered to contact counselors to do blessings again.

Albert suggested that this Central Alumni body needs to be present and show support at celebrations for all class events.

Albert asked how long to **Zoom**???

Need bigger room to space out.

Will continue to Zoom for now...

Phan mentioned there is another alumni association.

Woody...it has been around a long time younger folk.

Albert mentioned that we need to find out more about that site

Woody recalled a discussion about ten years ago that other alumni group wanted to integrate with us...we declined. Carol Dixon, c/o '64, may have been President at that time.

Albert discovered it recently on Middleton's website.

Phan - might be better to merge

Al - mentioned merging and getting younger folks in the ranks.

Albert—let's all wish Ronita a Happy Birthday—December 4th.

And too, wish Albert a Happy Birthday—December 6th.

Albert mentioned his health-related episode that happened during Thanksgiving holidays—hospitalized for two days; doing better now!

Vicki offered recommendations to control blood pressure

Woody gave closing prayer

Adjourned meeting at 12:37pm