

Middleton Alumni Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2021

**Present:** Phan Boston, Patricia Cooper, Yvonne Douglas, Ronita Durant, Vivian Kitchen, Apolonia Mendoza, Luvator Nelson, Calvin Simmons, Albert Smith, Debra Smith, Vicki Sabree

**Called to order:** 11:06 a.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Ronita Durant

**Minutes of March 6<sup>th</sup>** were, motioned to accept, seconded, and approved.

**Financial Report:** presented by Pat Cooper. Albert motioned to accept the financial report as presented; Vicki Sabree seconded; motion approved

**Pat Cooper's Proposal:** made a motion that all Alumni funds, henceforth, be housed in the Alumni checking account; only the Eddie "Zip" Smith Fund, and any other designated scholarship donations, are to be housed in the Alumni savings account; each year, funds for general scholarship awards will be transferred to the savings account for disbursement to awardees; Calvin seconded; motion approved.

**Membership:** Calvin reported that there are 76 paid members; also, Calvin announced that Artie Fryer is now a lifetime member.

**Vicki Sabree:** having elected to make installment payments to attain lifetime membership, questioned as to whether she would receive card, pin, and certificate before or after installment payments are completed. Luvator responded that it would be after installment is completed.

**Vivian kitchen:** commented that she could now inform her classmates that they can still sign-up for lifetime membership; she was of the thought that there was a December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Calvin:** if Vicki has paid a portion of payment...does she get any of it back? The answer is no.

**SGA Heritage breakfast.** Alumni expressed their appreciation for the SGA Heritage Breakfast for Black History month. Members expressed excitement about the Jeopardy board game;

**By-laws review:** Albert stated that the Executive board is reviewing and updating the by-laws and will present the updated version to the body at the Annual Meeting in September, 2021;

**Status of monthly payment to CMS contract.** Changing payment from monthly to annually saves 20% off the \$600.00 total bill; savings amount to \$120.00.

**Scholarship Committee** - Apolonia reported that the Committee is recommending that the maximum number of scholarships awards be set at five for the 2021 academic year; amount of each scholarship is \$1,000; April 21, 2021 is the deadline for submitting applications. Ceremony will be virtual again this year.

Phan made a motion to accept; Vicki seconded; motion approved.

**Albert made comment of clarification** - the five scholarships are meant to be paid specifically from the general checking account fund. Other designated scholarships, such as Eddie 'Zip', or any class specific scholarship award is separate and distinct from the mentioned five scholarships just approved.

**Vivian comment** - a certain number of scholarships will come from our budget, but other scholarships can come out of separate scholarship funds.

**Phan comment** - any external scholarships could give money - no alumni money for extra scholarships.

**Calvin comment** - these designated scholarships will have something to do with the alumni association, but not using alumni funds.

**Phan** - suggested that she be given a list of past memberships so that she could reach out to members who have not renewed their current membership.

**Albert** - stated we are *all* working to generate new members. He stressed the importance when given the opportunity, we direct inactive alumni to the website to join or renew their membership.

**Calvin comment** - base membership has increased over the last few years; averaging 40 and now at 76; so those who signed up may have kept paying.

**Calvin** - old business - had meeting at Middleton- get Jeannette Williams retained as our repository. She would be responsible for maintaining all old records--hold all records. She would get paid for this.

**Luvator** - asked for wording about paying Jeannette Williams. Calvin made motion to make Jeannette Williams the repository for the alumni records.

**Albert** - the idea is for records transferability. The specific and more critical need is to have a repository for alumni records so that accessing the records would not be a challenge. Albert reminded that Alumni Assn. already has an assigned office space at Middleton, and that would be the more practical place to house Alumni records; unless it's unavoidable. Alumni Records should not be housed in any member's personal space, or their home.

**Calvin** - table motion for this meeting.

**Vivian** - what would that person's responsibility be to retain those records?

**Calvin** - Luvator got dropped on the zoom line- and requested Albert to continue the meeting.

**Calvin** - Howard Harris's original proposal was voted down. Howard Harris will put another proposal in writing.

**Vicki** - does not agree - no such thing as easy money.

**Ronita** - stated, if someone donates money to alumni it should be free and clear.

**Albert** - does not agree with investment proposal. Feel strongly that Alumni should not enter into any financial investment venture and ultimately putting alumni dues money at risk.

Investing is just not within the scope of Middleton Alumni purposes and objectives.

**Phan** - questioned financial return on money. Is Howard willing to enter into an endowment?  
**Calvin** - will ask him. There is no risk-as long as Howard Harris is not controlling the money -  
Calvin stated it is a good investment.

*The group went into an informal voting process with no specific conclusion:*

Albert voted	“NO”
Debra voted	“NO”
Patricia voted	“NO”
Ronita voted	“NO”
Apolonia voted	“NO” (changed vote to abstain)
Phan voted	“YES”
Calvin voted	“YES”
Vicki voted to	“ABSTAIN”
Vivian voted to	“ABSTAIN”

**Calvin** - elicited names for which he had proxies.

**Albert** - indicated each individual “must be present to vote”.

Motion was tabled until next meeting.

**Vicki** - will send Albert pictures of the ball to be put on the website.

**Closing prayer** - Ronita Durant

**Meeting adjourned** at 12:13 p.m.