

Messages from outgoing Chapter President, Randy Seely

Hello York County Penn Staters,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter. This month is my last month serving as President of the York County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association and while I look forward to handing over the responsibilities of the presidency, I have to say that I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead this organization. When I took over as President two years ago, I told you that I wanted to see growth in three areas: scholarship support, community service, and opportunities for involvement. Overall, I think we have done a great job in all of these areas, and would like to take a minute to showcase these successes.

First of all, I talked about increasing our chapter's scholarship support. We currently award two scholarships and one academic award each year. In the past couple of years, we have started fundraising to support another endowed scholarship. Although we have been successful in our fundraising efforts thus far, we still have a long way to go before this becomes a reality. It is my hope that the chapter continues to support this effort, so that in the future we will be able to help additional students to be successful at our alma mater. It may be that the Penn State Alumni Association gives local chapters other opportunities to support scholarship activities, and I believe we as a chapter should be open to those conversations as well.



Secondly, as a chapter our community service work has increased substantially. This is in no small part due to the work of Lori Houser, our chapter community service chairperson. Just this year, we helped collect glasses for the needy, gathered coffee supplies for veterans, supported the Lion Pantry food bank, and most notably were able to support the York County Food Bank (see accompanying article). Additionally, we gathered gift cards that were used to help the local Penn State students here at the York campus if they needed extra support. The community service work of this chapter has been outstanding, and I believe it is our greatest strength.

Thirdly, it was my hope to increase opportunities for involvement with the chapter. We have hosted Steve Jones twice at our annual banquet, and had to move the Christmas party because of an increase in participation every year. Our football watch parties have been continually growing, and our football pre-season kickoff party has been particularly well attended. We have re-instituted a freshman send-off picnic, and last year had nearly 80 people attend. Our chapter has now participated in the Penn State Homecoming parade for the past two years as well. Our monthly happy hours have had as many people as 42 show up just to get together and socialize with one another. There is no doubt that our chapter is active and involved, and even though the pandemic has limited our ability to meet face-to-face, our virtual happy hours continue to be a success.

Successful leaders are usually successful because they have good people around them, and there is no doubt that we have an outstanding chapter board. The members of the board have really stepped up and taken charge. As mentioned, Lori has really taken over the community service piece. Krista Deemer has continued to do an excellent job as treasurer. Eric Kensinger has been fantastic as a leader in coordinating many of our social events, especially those with Primanti Brothers. We have welcomed a few new members to the board over the last couple of years, and they have had an immediate impact as well. All of the board members have stepped in to assist when needed, and we never have a shortage of volunteers to help with our events.

When a person steps into a position of leadership, it should always be their goal to leave the organization in better shape than when they started. In addition to the gains mentioned above, we have been recognized this year by the Penn State Alumni Association as an award-winning chapter for our fundraising, and have restored our chapter to Elm Level status. It is my hope that this chapter will continue to build on the progress we have made. Please join me in supporting Lori and the rest of the board as we move forward together.

For the Glory, Randy

Chapter COVID-19 Response

These past five months have been unprecedented in our lifetimes. Schools, restaurants, and many businesses have been closed for extended periods of time. Travel restrictions were put in place. Words and phrases that we have never used, such as “social distancing,” have become a part of our everyday language. And now, as we start to open the economy back up, masks are required to be worn in most businesses.

The York County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association has struggled with many of these requirements, essentially shutting down all events since our last happy hour on March 11. It has always been an important part of our mission to connect alumni to the University and to each other. However, as the pandemic worsened, the Alumni Association required its chapters and affiliate groups to suspend all in-person events through the end of June. Now, guidance has been received which would allow chapters and affiliate groups to once again offer opportunities for gatherings, but on a restricted basis. The alternative is to follow the leadership of the Alumni Association, and continue the practice of not hosting any in-person events through December.



Some of our regular events will not be taking place this year. There will not be a student send-off picnic, as there has been for the last several years. Additionally, the annual meeting/banquet will not be held. These events have traditionally been held in August, and to meet the requirements of the Alumni Association, it is not possible for these events to take place as they have in the past. It is our hope that we will be able to plan both of these events next year. However, other events that our members look forward to, such as monthly happy hours and possibly our football viewing parties, may be possible if we are able to do so within the established guidelines. These guidelines are attached to this newsletter, and mirror the guidelines that have been put in place by the University, the state of Pennsylvania, and the CDC.

Please follow our social media or email to stay informed as to our future schedule of events. We will endeavor to inform our membership moving forward as to when we will be able to get together as a group. However, I would advise you to remain cautious and vigilant. If you are immuno-compromised or in the at-risk population for COVID-19, please act responsibly. Additionally, if cases begin to increase in York County or Pennsylvania in general, further restrictions could be put in place that will limit our opportunities. Remember, if you want football, wear your mask.

Be well, and be safe.

Randy Seely '91
President
York County Chapter, Penn State Alumni Association

Greetings, from incoming Chapter President, Lori Houser

Welcome to the new PSAA – York County Chapter!

I say “new” as we are in unprecedented times and learning to navigate our way through them. The world according to COVID-19 has changed our communication methods, activities, personal interaction, sports world, you name it and it has touched it. What it hasn’t touched is our Penn State spirit and our commitment to our alumni, students, and friends of Penn State.

As the incoming Chapter President, I assure you your Board of Director’s is exploring new ways to engage you, our members, and our campus students. As Randy Seeley, Chapter President, has already advised, we will be curbing in person events until at least Jan. 1 per guidance from PSAA. This means we need your ideas on what events you would like to have in lieu of our Freshman Sendoff, Annual Meeting, Football Kickoff, Game Watches, and Holiday Gathering – YES, we will miss these! Perhaps through your work or personal engagements, you have participated in fun activities we can explore with our Chapter members? We want all ideas on the table!



As we move forward, our Happy Hours will continue in their present form with Iona Conlon, at the York campus, doing a great job in leading these. We can’t say enough “Thank You’s” for all the hard work she does on our behalf. Your Chapter continues to have at least two members volunteering at the York County Food Bank on Tuesdays to distribute food to those who are food insecure. We will continue this Community Service as long as the Food Bank needs us and we have volunteers to assist. Look for the T-Shirt contest in this newsletter. As some of us travel to away games, we have found other chapters have their own unique T Shirt design. We want to have ours too! We are looking for your creativity as you contemplate all the great things York County has to offer.

We will continue to help our York Campus students by collecting gift cards, please see the details elsewhere in this newsletter. As you know, we have asked for your assistance twice during the school year through our Kickoff and Holiday Gathering events. We are also working on ways to collect donations for our Military Appreciation Campaign in November. Also, our Scores for Scholars Campaign during Game Watches enabled us to grow our scholarship fund. We need additional avenues to continue our growth in this endeavor. Please watch for more information through email as the details are worked out.

So, who is this incoming president you may ask? I have been a long time Penn State fan, not only of sports but all things Penn State. On the sporting side, my Uncle Chet took me to my first game during the 1972 season. What an awesome experience (and different-looking Beaver Stadium). When it was time for college applications, I only completed one and you guessed it! I attended school 1979 through 1982 and completed my degree in 2004 at the York campus. Yes, I did it on the 25-year plan. I have attended Chapter events since 2016 and became a Board member 2018. Two of my three children are also Penn State grads.

I am looking forward to meeting you and asking for your assistance in helping us navigate the next several years.

We Are...
Lori Houser '04
lhouser22@aol.com
443-540-4707



FIRST-EVER YORK COUNTY CHAPTER T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Winner receives \$250



The PSAA-York County Chapter announces a T-Shirt design contest! The contest is open to all York campus students, faculty, alumni, and PSSA York County chapter members.

The design is for the back of the t-shirt. The front will have the PSAA-York County Chapter insignia on the left-hand pocket area.

Minnesota has its 10,000 Lakes, Ft. Lauderdale has its parrot, and Iowa has 'corn fed' lions. What does York have that should be showcased by our Chapter –

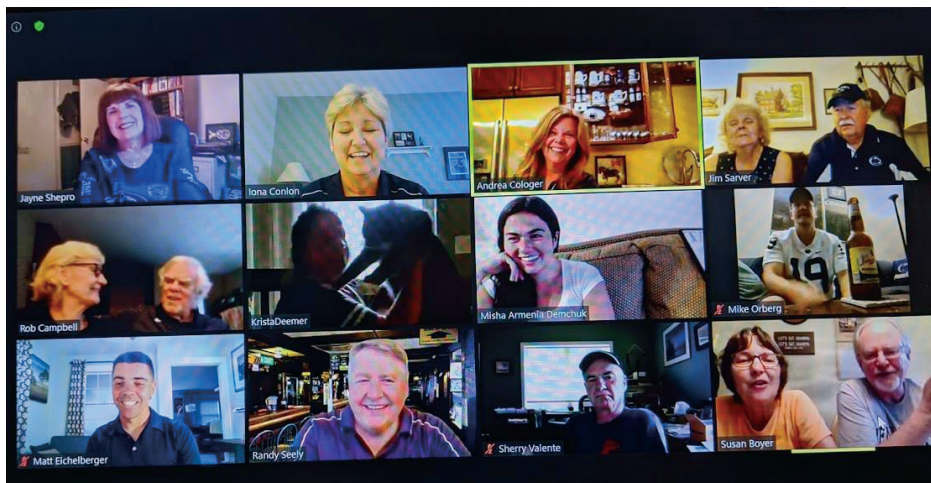
motorcycles, snacks, witches, first capital of the United States, etc.?

The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2020 at 5 pm.

Your submission should include the graphic in jpg form, your name, email address and phone number. The designs will be voted on by the York County Chapter Board of Directors at our October 2020 meeting. The winner will be notified via the contact information provided.



MONTHLY HAPPY HOURS GO VIRTUAL!



The COVID-19 pandemic has altered many of the things we used to take for granted. It has been a standard on the calendar that our chapter will gather at some local establishment on the second Wednesday of the month to enjoy each other's company, and spread some Penn State cheer. However, this spring, we were forced to change our normal operating procedures, and if we wanted to continue to try and meet our mission

of connecting alumni with one another, we needed to have a different strategy. Enter the Virtual Zoom Happy Hours! As a chapter, we have successfully met the last three months virtually to celebrate all things Penn State. At each happy hour, there has been a theme, and a trivia game. In May, we celebrated local establishments with local beers or wines, and enjoyed a Penn State trivia game. Paul Clifford, the CEO of the Penn State Alumni Association was able to join us as well. In June, we had show and tell, with everyone showing their favorite piece of Penn State memorabilia, and another Penn State trivia game - although this one was much more difficult. July's meeting was about your favorite Penn State story, and this was followed by a beer and wine trivia game. The good news is that you can continue to keep that second Wednesday on the calendar. We may not be able to gather in one location, but we can still keep connected. Stay tuned for August's event!

AWARD-WINNING YORK COUNTY CHAPTER



Each year, affiliate groups are invited by the PSAA to submit nominations for Volunteer Awards. There were over 100 nominations received across 15 award categories, with only one affiliate group receiving an award per category.

We have always known that the York County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association is a great chapter, working hard to meet its mission of connecting members with one another, and supporting the University's mission as well. The York Chapter desires to be advocates and a support system for our local students. We strive to give them additional support and assistance as needed whenever possible through scholarships, guidance and other financial support as available.

This year, we have been recognized by the Penn State Alumni Association, and will be receiving the Alumni Association award for the Fundraising category. The project for which we received this award was our "Alumni Lions Helping Student Lions", a program which directly supports the students of the York campus. At two events over the past year, our membership was asked to bring gift cards for local grocery stores or gas stations to our events. Gift cards were requested because the York campus does not have a food bank facility, but occasionally the students on our campus have a demonstrated need for groceries, gas, and even diapers for their family.



The Chapter was able to give the Office of Student Affairs over \$2000 dollars' worth of gift cards that they could distribute to students as the need arose. It is our Chapter's hope that this project could be emulated by other chapters who have a close proximity to one of the Commonwealth campuses.

Unfortunately, over the past few months as the pandemic has impacted everyone, the Office of Student Affairs has used nearly all the gift cards we were able to supply them. At this time we do not know if we will be able to have our large events, so if you are able we would ask that you contribute \$10 or \$20 gift card(s) (Giant, Weis, Sheetz, Rutter's, etc.) to the chapter, so that we can continue to support the students. Gift cards can be sent to the attention of:

Penn State York
Attn: Scott Simonds
Director of Student Affairs
1031 Edgecomb Ave.
York, PA 17403

After all, WE ARE...





PennState
Alumni Association
 York County Chapter

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(July 1 Through June 30 Fiscal Year)

You do not need to be a PSU alumnus to be a member.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Degree(s): _____

Class Year(s): _____

Campus (es): _____

Are you a member of Penn State Alumni Association (University Park)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, ☐ Annual Member ☐ Life Member

Would you like to contribute to our scholarships for York county PSU students?

Donation to Scholarship \$ _____

Annual Membership Types

- ☐ **Individual** Membership \$10.00
- ☐ **Joint** Membership (spouse/partner) \$15.00
- ☐ **Family** Membership (up to 2 adults and children under 18, living at same address) \$20.00

Joint/Other Member(s) Name(s): _____

Submittal Process

Complete and send with membership dues, check or money order payable to:

PSAA—York County Chapter Attn: Treasurer
 P.O. Box 3893, York, PA 17402

You may also join online, using PayPal, at
<https://PennStateAlumni-YorkCounty.org>

Please note, members of the Penn State Alumni Association - York County Chapter do not need to be a member of the main Penn State Alumni Association. Likewise, being a member the Penn State Alumni Association - York County Chapter does not automatically include membership in the Penn State Alumni Association.

CHEER ON THE NITTANY LIONS!



GAME WATCH details are on hold.
Refer to our website for updates!



Annual Chapter Challenge Supporting Those in Need

Once again this year, the York County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association challenged the Lancaster County Chapter in our annual War of the Roses. The chapters met for a Happy Hour at McCleary's Irish Pub in Marietta, PA, on Wednesday, March 11.

Little did we know at the time that this would be our last social event for quite some time. Both chapters were represented, and we once again were able to fill Dick Booth's vehicle with needed supplies for the Lion Pantry. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lion Pantry was not accepting food or supply donations, but the items collected at McCleary's were still put to good use. This year's donation stayed local, being donated to the Little Food Pantry of Red Lion, where they were able to assist local families as they struggled to make ends meet.

As has been the case in every chapter challenge held thus far, neither chapter could declare a winner. However, everyone who attended felt the satisfaction of helping a needy cause. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue this tradition next year.

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE June 27, 2020

Report by Krista Deemer '01, Treasurer

This year's Alumni Leadership Conference was originally scheduled to be the weekend of June 27th in State College, PA. However, due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Alumni Association had to regroup and figure out a way to have the conference under this new set of circumstances. Thanks to the modern technology, a plan for a one day-long virtual conference via Zoom was coordinated! All session recordings are available on the Penn State Alumni Association website under Groups>Chapter Resources> Volunteer Toolkit.

The day began at 10 am for many, with a session specifically targeted for Campus and College Societies and APGs. Although it was not designed for Chapters, there was a lot of useful information provided including the differences between chapters, societies, AIG, APG, etc. A discussion followed on the topics of mentoring, networking and recruiting members by building connections, highlighting successes, creating a need and telling a story.

The first official part of the day started with Keynote Speaker, Jim Stengel '83g, BUS. Jim discussed what he has learned from COVID-19 lockdown. His biggest take-aways have been that people have spent more time thinking about behavioral changes and how it is more important than ever to do nice things for others and the significance of displaying empathy. Key points included the following: What can we do to be more useful in service, More focus on people and acceptance, More commitment to community and society, and having a higher purpose.

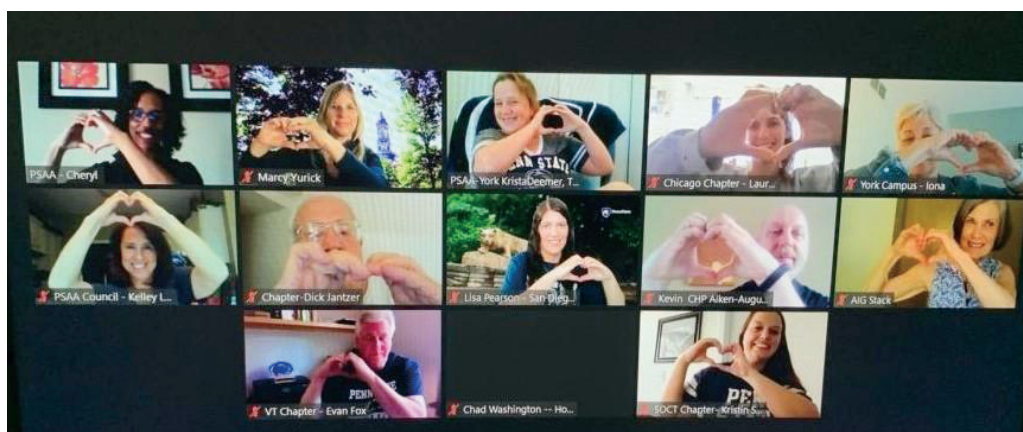
Next was a session led by Paul Clifford, 20g, EDU, PSAA CEO. His topic was "Our New Normal: The Penn State Alumni Association in a Post COVID-19 World", How has social distancing impacted the overall goals of the Alumni Association? How do we take what we have learned and use it to shape where we go next? Paul covered many interesting topics on how the Association will handle these changing times, specifically through embracing and enhancing the digital experience and providing additional ways to support affiliate groups. Out of this crisis, a new resource has been developed called "Lifting Up Lions". This resource is also available on the PSAA Website and is full of many valuable resources for all Alumni.

In the afternoon attendees could choose two of the following breakout sessions: Alumni Association Resources, Planning Events to attract Members, How to Develop a Communication Plan to optimize Engagement, Fundraising and Stewardship, Partnerships that Work-Planning Joint Activities, and Business-taxes, Insurance, Risk Management. As Treasurer, I attended the Business session on Taxes and insurance, and Alumni Association Resources. In both sessions I gained more knowledge that will aid me in my duties. Again, all session recordings are available on the website.

Throughout all of the sessions and mini sessions there was an overall theme, in light of the turbulent times we are living in, for the inclusion of everyone in everything we do and how we can make sure that ALL students, alumni, staff and friends can feel welcomed and important in our community, as one.

The day ended with multiple virtual happy hours to choose from, because when you cannot be in a ROOM full of Penn Staters, the next best thing is a ZOOM full of Penn Staters!

For the Glory!



VOLUNTEERING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Report by Lori Houser '04, President Elect and Volunteer Coordinator



WE ARE... A Giving Chapter

As you know, we have partnered with the York County Food Bank Emergency Hub to provide packing and distribution volunteer services. What you may not know is we are now at 19 straight weeks of assisting (every week since March 17) during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have provided assistance for both the packing and distribution services with over 166 volunteers and 638 hours donated. WE ARE very proud of our volunteers and the giving nature of our Chapter members.

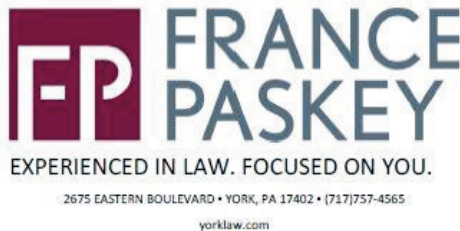
We have opportunities to join us through September, as the Food Bank anticipates the need through the fall. We know some folks are now or will be shortly going back to work. We appreciate the support you have provided and hopefully you may continue in some capacity. As a reminder, the hours for packaging is 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the distribution hours have now moved to 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please look for emails with announcements for the Food Bank as we anticipate additional changes with folks going back to work. Feel free to reach out with any questions to lhouser22@aol.com.

We look forward to having you join us soon!

Thanks to our SPONSORS

The Penn State Alumni Association – York County Chapter embraces the memberships of alumni and friends of Penn State. We are now expanding our membership options to include businesses. The proceeds of the business membership will go directly toward funding the Chapter Scholarships, given annually to deserving Penn State students. We encourage you to consider a business membership. Your advertisement opportunities in our electronic and printed newsletters will reach over 5000 area alumni and friends. The newsletters are sent on multiple occasions from January to December, including our annual summer mailing. The York County Chapter is offering two options for business membership that will be effective from July 1 to June 30.

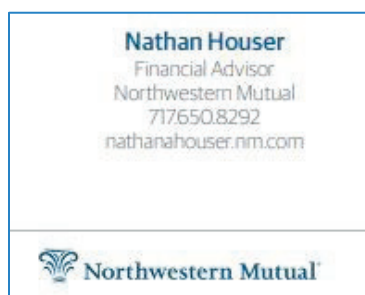
For more benefits and information, check out the membership page of our website.



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Hosting an In-Person Event

Event Size and Attendees

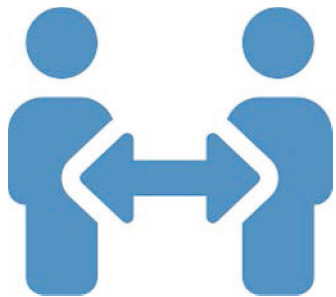
Events and meetings should follow Penn State's practices and guidance unless there is more restrictive guidance given at the state or local level. Maximum attendance guidelines must reflect the ability to maintain social distancing between parties.

- In-person events/meetings cannot exceed 250 individuals while maintaining 6 feet of social distancing
 - For example, you need approximately 3,500 sqft of space to host 25 people (CDC guidelines equate to 113 square feet, per-person)
- All attendees must wear face masks/coverings
- Registration/Check-in is required (capture phone and email)
- Communicate standards with potential attendees in advance of the event (face masks, attendance cap, etc.)

Venue Logistics

The hosting location must commit to meeting the outlined size and social distancing requirements.

- Venue employees must practice accepted safety guidance, including face masks/coverings
- Follow social distancing standards (maintain 6')
- Venue to ensure hand sanitizer and sinks with soap are readily accessible
- No buffets, passed foods, potlucks, etc.
- Display [CDC signage](#) at check-in and throughout venue



6 feet



Masks Required



Wash Hands



No Self-serve



Check-in Required



250 or Less

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Lori Houser

President Elect

TBD

Past President

Randy Seely

Secretary

Eric Kensinger

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Krista Deemer

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Richard Booth

Glenn Detter

Ann Elliott

John Greene

Greg Gromicko

Judy Higgins

Anthony Lau

Sherry Sarver

Jayne Shepro

CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

DID YOU KNOW... that our Chapter supports two scholarships and an award, given out to York county students who attend Penn State?

Help us grow our scholarships (Penn State Club of York County Scholarship and Penn State Alumni Association Trustee Scholarship for Penn State York) by donating each year when you renew your membership.

Over \$8,600 was given out last year!

The Chapter award is presented annually to any Penn State York student who possesses outstanding qualities of scholarship, leadership, and service to the campus. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and participate actively in the Blue & White Society and/or Lion Ambassadors.

This year, Gabrielle (Gabby) Wolgamuth, right, received the Chapter's annual award.

"I am extremely grateful and humbled to have been chosen for the Chapter's award.

It will help me in achieving my goal of getting a degree in civil engineering from Penn State University."



CONTACT US!

***Penn State Alumni Association -
York County Chapter***

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Web: PennStateAlumni-YorkCounty.org



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