



PennState Alumni Association

York County Chapter

Tales of the Lion
2021 Summer Newsletter

A Message from Chapter President, Lori Houser '04

From the 'den' of the President...

WOW! The last twelve months have been interesting to say the least! Dare we mention anymore the word 'pandemic'? As we 'wind down' with vaccinations continuing to mitigate the impact, we have the attack of the cicadas!

We are VERY appreciative of you hanging with us as we used different formats for activities. I know we are all looking forward to getting back to in-person events. Speaking of, look for information on our July Happy Hour event. There are whispers in the air this will be in person at The Paddock. Won't it be wonderful to have GAME WATCHES in person again? Eric and Ann are working hard to collect door prizes. Also, be on the look out for our Penn State Family Event at the Revolution in August. We are excited to have an event where all Penn State alumni, family, and friends can enjoy an evening of baseball together. Our annual meeting will coincide with our football Kick Off event. More information on these events can be found throughout this newsletter.

As we look to what the future holds, we would like to step back and reflect on what we have been able to accomplish over the last ten months. As President, I am VERY proud of our Chapter. We have a lot of 'giving' folks, which since March 17, 2020, continue to provide volunteer services to the York County Food Bank on a weekly basis. We have continued our Happy Hour and Holiday events through the Zoom meeting format with trivia contests and gift cards for the winners. We hosted Jay Paterno in March for a Scholarship Fundraising event as he told us tales of old and reflected on his new book. Our 'Guess Who' contest has enabled our members to get to know their Board and we engaged the Penn State community in our T-Shirt design contest. Our Chapter reached out to the Lancaster Chapter to continue our Chapter Challenge. It took on a new format this year and successfully raised over \$4,000 to be contributed to the Lion Pantry at University Park which is serving food-insecure students. For our local York Campus, we raised over \$1,000 in gift cards to be distributed through the Student Affairs office to local food-insecure students.



We do have two special announcements. The first is our Board member, Dick Booth, is being recognized for his selfless commitment to the Penn State community. He is being awarded the Philip Philip Mitchell Alumni Service Award. The second is the Outstanding Service Project Award for our Chapter. We are being recognized for our volunteer service commitment to the York County Food Bank.

Our York Nittany Lions prevailed! Your Board and I look forward to 'seeing' you in person very soon! Please reach out to us with any questions, suggestions, etc. you may have. We are only as good as our members and from above, we have a very active membership who has not let the unusual stop them.

We Are...Proud of ALL you do!

Lori A. Houser '04

KickOff

the 2021 Penn State Nittany Lions Football season with local alumni and fans - at Primanti Brothers on Queen Street in York!

Sunday, August 29 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Start the afternoon off with a variety of tailgate-style appetizers, compliments of the York County Chapter ...in the spirit of the season, having fun and hanging around to talk about the upcoming football season.

(THIS EVENT WILL ALSO INCLUDE OUR ANNUAL MEETING)

In order to plan ahead, we are requiring your **reservation before August 27**, which can be mailed or e-mailed (see below).



AGAIN, THIS YEAR: For every \$10 gift card donation you bring with you to the KickOff, you will receive a chance to win a special prize! The preferred gift cards are Sheetz, Rutters, Giant and Weis as students can use them for food, supplies, diapers, gasoline, or whatever they may need.

Supporting our local students, who are trying to better their lives, and that of their families, is part of who **WE ARE!**

KICK OFF EVENT on August 29 - RESERVATION FORM

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Preferred Phone _____

E-mail _____

List other attendees: _____

Send reservation information by August 27:

Mail - Penn State Alumni Association—York County Chapter

P.O. Box 3893 York, PA 17402

Or send an e-Mail to: YorkCounty@psu.edu



Chapter Activities - Past, Present and Future

by Ann Elliott '93, Chapter Secretary

As Alumni we remember the excitement and hesitation we felt at graduation. Excited about the new adventure ahead; hesitation wondering if it will go as planned. As we return to the life in the COVID Era, we feel like new grads. Excited about the future. A future that includes time spent with friends and family, in-person Happy Hours and watching Penn State Football with 107,000 friends. Hesitation about what the future holds.

Past Activities...

With COVID restrictions of no in-person events, our alumni chapter proved that we care about our community. A core group of masked and gloved volunteers could be seen outside, every Tuesday, distributing food at the York Emergency Food Bank. They volunteered hundreds and hundreds of hours beginning in the spring of 2020. They were there through the heat of the summer and the cold winter months, remembering what they learned at Penn State. **Give back** to your community and **We Are** part of something bigger than ourselves.

We connected while social distancing with virtual Happy Hours. We held monthly contests, providing you with anonymous fun facts about your Board members and you guessing who it was. We held two coffee collection drives to provide our service people support while partnering with both the Red Lion VFW and For the Love of a Veteran. Jay Paterno was our Keynote speaker for a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund which raised \$250. Our Care Cards collection continued, with you graciously donating grocery and gas gift cards (over \$1000), to help PSU York students in need. We even continued the friendly annual War of the Roses Challenge with the Lancaster Alumni Chapter. This year instead of collecting food for the Lion Pantry we tracked monetary donation for the month. I am proud to say, our total delivered to the Lion Pantry was \$4,040.73.

Presently Planned...

As I said, the future holds new adventures. With the University set to release new guidelines for safely sponsoring events, here are our plans. In person Happy Hours to begin again, initially selecting venues that have outdoor seating. On July 14, we will gather at The Paddock on Market. We are celebrating our students and our Penn State Pride with a Penn State Day at the Revs on August 12. Follow the link in the newsletter to get your ticket.

Expect to see us - we expect to see you in your PSU gear on game days at Primanti Bros. for our Game Watches. Gathering starts an hour before game time. As always, there are raffle prizes just for attending. Each time Penn State scores, we will collect "dollars for scholars" for our scholarship fund. We will also be collecting items for charities, like used eyeglasses for the Lions Club and used cell phones with chargers. These phones can be a lifeline for our local women's shelter. (The shelter provides an emergency bag containing a phone without a service plan that allows someone in an abusive situation to call 911.) It's a simple way to give back – just bring these items to Game Watches and we'll make sure they are donated.

Future Ideas...

With the York campus still experiencing on-site restrictions, we are looking for a location to hold an "I Bleed Blue" drive in August or September. More details to come. We are looking for additional, safe opportunities to gather and help our community. If you have a suggestion that you would like to see, as a social event, or participate in, as a charity event, please reach out to me at alelliott@alumni.psu.edu. The Board will discuss each idea to be sure we can participate while following the University rules and guidelines. Looking forward to seeing everyone. WE ARE!

Awards and Scholarships

by Randy Seely '91, Past President

The York County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association is pleased to announce that we have once again presented our chapter award. This award is given annually to a Penn State York campus student who possesses outstanding qualities of scholarship, leadership, and service to the campus. The recipient must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and participate actively in the Blue & White Society and/or Lion Ambassadors.

This year, our recipient is Sweeta Rasiyan. Sweeta has served as a Lion Ambassador since her freshman year



(2019-2020), having recently been elected as the secretary/treasurer of this organization. Additionally, she is involved in the Multicultural Club, the University Programming Board, the Graham Fellows Program, the Student Government Association, the Blue & White Society, serves as an orientation leader, and works as a work-study student in the Admissions Office. She was also a key leader in the organization of the Fall 2020 Donation Drive, which involves the coordination of numerous campus clubs to collect items to donate to those in need in our community.

Sweeta is certainly deserving of this award, and the York County Chapter is delighted to support her in her efforts. Students like Sweeta are the reason that we continue to remain Penn State Proud. Thank you Sweeta, for all that you have done and continue to do to serve Penn State and the greater community.

If you are interested in supporting the scholarship efforts of the York County Chapter, please visit our website at <https://pennstatealumni-yorkcounty.org/scholarships>. The chapter each year presents a substantial amount of financial assistance, but we would like to do even more. This will be possible only with the continued support of our membership. Thank you.

Penn State Family Celebration with the York Revolution on Thursday August 12



York Revolution vs Lancaster Barnstormers at PeoplesBank Park, York, PA

Gates Open: 5:45 p.m. Game Starts: 6:30 p.m.

- James wants to see a white-out! Fans encouraged to wear white (We'll have a supply of white shakers to give away too!)
- Penn State themed bus displayed from 5-7 p.m. on the Plaza
- Nittany Lion appearance and first-pitch
...other surprises too!

50% of ticket sales to be donated to York Co. Chapter Scholarships

\$10.50 Field Box Ticket / \$14.75 Field Box Ticket with food voucher

Preferred method to order tickets - ORDER ONLINE: YorkRevolution.com/PSU – Use Code PSU
Place Orders by: 7/30/2021 Order your tickets today!

A mail-in order form is available at: <https://pennstatealumni-yorkcounty.org/psu-day-with-revs-8-12-21>



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 events are returning!
Join us at Primanti Bros. Queen St. York
for all PSU football games!

Board Members 2021 - 2022

President

Lori Houser '04

President Elect

Judith Higgins '05

Past President

Randy Seely '91

Secretary

Ann Elliott '93

Treasurer

Krista Deemer '01

Board Members

Richard Booth '59
Glenn Detter '83
John Greene '88, '90
Greg Gromicko '86
Eric Kensinger '88
Stephanie Kin '80, '94
Anthony Lau '08
Jayne Shepro

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR COMMUNITY

by Lori Houser '04, President and Volunteer Coordinator

The York County Food Bank had a need and our Chapter stepped up to assist. Since March 17, 2020, we have had at least three alumni members with an average of eight each week at the Emergency Hub site on Haines Road in York. Our members have volunteered over 1288 hours through 2020. This work still continues today with the same weekly attendance.

The pandemic hit the community hard with generally 200 families needing assistance to growing each week hitting a high of 2200. It was hard watching the numbers grow and seeing the families from week to week due to growing unemployment from corporate and state shutdowns. With as tough as it was for the families, they brightened our day. Some came through with smiles on their face or a smiley pillow hanging out their window to say Thank You! as we are all masked up. Some played music which livened our hearts. There are so many quantitative measures we can advise, but the intangibles are the most important. This was not our Chapter giving back to the community, but the community giving to us. One older gentleman comes through the line to pick up for seven families. He spends his evening distributing to those families who are unable to visit with us themselves.

Our volunteers have chosen to step up during a pandemic, possibly exposing themselves. They understand the risk yet believe in the cause. We recognize any one of us could be in a position of being food insecure due to the economy. We know we are fortunate and will continue to serve as the need exists.

We are excited to be recognized by the **Penn State Alumni Association for the Outstanding Service Project Award**. We are proud of our members and thankful they are being recognized for their selfless commitment to the York County Food Bank. THANK YOU! to all who have volunteered at the Food Bank!

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 business sponsorships. The proceeds of the business sponsorships will go directly toward funding the Chapter Scholarships, given annually to deserving Penn State students. There are advertisement opportunities in our electronic

and printed newsletters which 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 sponsorships that will be effective from July 1 to June 30.



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