

Central High School Alumni Association Providence

March 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 5:34 PM

Location: Central High School and Virtual (Google Meet)

Attendees: In Person: Tom Ausley, Sharon Morris and Elaine Whited and Virtual: Darlene Price, Deb Cockfield, Gail Davis, Vitalino Figuereo and Allegra Schell

Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 2026 meeting minutes (motion made and seconded; approved by voice vote).

Secretary's Report (Elaine): No report; no executive meeting reported.

Treasurer Report (Darlene): Current balance reported as \$8,406.96. Noted: a \$5,000 check was sent to a student at URI; funds received from Tom Ausley intended for the Hall of Fame fund (reimbursement) plus an older donation; \$50 deposited to capital. Treasurer's report (motion made and seconded; approved by voice vote)

Guest Presentation: "Funny for Funds" Comedy Fundraiser (Mike Murray)

- Presenter: Mike Murray (Central HS Class President, 1981) described a comedy-night fundraiser format and provided planning/sales guidance.
- Committee capacity: Committee size referenced as 13; suggested goal of selling ~6–10 tickets per member over ~6–7 weeks.
- Illustrative revenue example: If ~80 tickets sold at \$25 each \Rightarrow about \$2,000 "in the door."
- Raffles: Average spend estimated at \$10/person ($80 \times \$10 \Rightarrow \800), with potential to reach ~\$1,000 with a strong raffle table.
- Recommended raffle items: Liquor and gift cards (often obtainable through personal networks and local businesses). Suggested adding a scratch ticket board/poster for visibility and to drive ticket sales.
- 50/50: Estimated additional proceeds of ~\$150 (based on 80 attendees).
- Overall illustrative total: Approximately \$3,150 (door + raffles + 50/50) using the example assumptions.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Internal audit of last year's financial paperwork completed; receipts and records found to be in order. A minor \$50 discrepancy was noted but believed to be carryover from a prior year. Donor acknowledgement letters for 2025 charitable givers were drafted and will be provided to Elaine for distribution (electronic delivery acceptable). Brief check-in; team indicated finance was "pretty much wrapped up. Sharon reminded Darlene to include Renee Symonds to the Finance Committee meetings.

Scholarship Committee: Only one donation received so far (\$100). Donor follow-ups mentioned

Fundraising Committee:

- Fundraising meetings were scheduled but not accepted/held.
- 401 Gives will be held on April 30 and May 1. Registration noted as inexpensive (\$4.01).
- Need for more volunteers; a member (Vitaliano) volunteered to help remotely via calls/email campaigns.

Hall of Fame Committee:

- Venue confirmed as Cranston Country Club, Sunday, Sept 27 at 1:00 PM. Seven individual nominations were listed; request made to prepare brief nominee summaries (“snapshot” bios) from applications/notes.
- Ad booklet / trophies / raffle table: Ad booklet update noted (only one ad received so far). Trophy vendor options were shared previously by email for review. Raffle table discussed as a way to support the general fund.
- Ticket pricing: Tentative ticket price discussed at \$75 (luncheon). Spreadsheet/modeling to be shared for assumptions (ads, ticket sales, nominee counts). Early-bird pricing idea discussed (price increases after a set date).
- Payment options: Reviewed digital payment options; noted that some platforms have fees while others are commonly used by nonprofits.

Membership (Chair open) – No report given

Members: Robert, Elaine

Grant (Sharon):

Communications: (Chair open) – No report given

Nominating Committee: - No report given

Old Business

- Send the “charitable link” (free donation-acceptance platform) to the group.
- All committee members: If pursuing the comedy fundraiser, identify a target date (~6–7 weeks out), set a ticket-sales goal per member, and begin collecting raffle items (gift cards/liquor) and scratch-ticket board materials.
- Fundraising outreach approach: Agreed that phone calls/texts are more effective than relying solely on email.
- Possible fundraiser event (spring/early summer): Group discussed repeating a prior successful event concept; location selection is key (consider venue requirements if serving alcohol/food). Concern raised about avoiding conflict with the Hall of Fame event in September; suggested timing: May/June or postpone until after September.
- Scholarship donor engagement idea: Recommendation to reach out directly to former scholarship recipients and families (personalized outreach) to increase giving; several members agreed.

- Eligibility/bylaws discussion (Hall of Fame): Debate about whether a nominee (Clara Walker) fits Athletic Hall of Fame criteria due to achievements occurring outside available school sports; group agreed to review bylaws and revisit for consistency (potentially consider “distinguished alumni” category).
- Food pantry: Immediate need identified for clear bins to prevent pests; group approved purchasing bins using remaining food-drive funds (quantity to be confirmed).

New Business: No new business was discussed.

Open Discussion:

Bylaw housekeeping: Items flagged for review (attendance/absence language; Hall of Fame finance “separate buckets” for plaques/awards vs. other funds).

Next meeting: Scheduled for May 12; consensus to hold it fully virtual.

Action Items

- Fundraising committee: Schedule a committee discussion on the spring/early-summer fundraiser concept; identify preferred format (calls/texts/email) and draft next steps.
- Venue research: Identify potential venues/locations (including options outside Providence if needed) and gather pricing/availability for May/June and post-September dates.
- Donor outreach: Compile a list of former scholarship recipients/families and begin personalized outreach (phone calls/letters as appropriate).
- Hall of Fame nominations: Prepare and circulate short nominee summaries (“snapshot bios”) for the seven individual nominees based on the applications.
- Hall of Fame bylaws: Executive board to review eligibility language (including post-graduation achievements) and report back to the full board with a recommendation (Clara Walker discussion; consistency with bylaws).
- Hall of Fame finances: Review bylaw language regarding keeping funds in separate categories/buckets (e.g., plaques/awards) and propose how to track/report it.
- Food pantry bins: Confirm quantity needed and purchase bins; report cost and remaining food-drive balance.
- Fundraising meetings: Add Vitaliano to recurring fundraising meetings; confirm meeting time works across time zones.

Decisions & Motions

- Approved: Purchase clear storage bins for the food pantry (to address pest issues); follow-up needed on quantity/cost.
- Decided: Next meeting (May 12) will be held virtual unless objections are raised.

Next Meeting

- Date: May 12
Format: Virtual

Motion to adjourn: Moved and seconded (second noted as Vitaliano); motion carried.

