

## **General Chapter Meeting Minutes August 1, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Mitchell Harris, Candice Elliott, Jeremy Sanford, Mable Austin, LaKrystal Foster, Rose Austin, Michelle Myers, Regina Myers, Lee Elder and Darryl Pilate. There were 39 total members present via video and phone.

Meeting called to order by Darryl Pilate at 10:33 am.

Prayer by Pastor Lee Elder

### **Approval of the Agenda**

**Action:** The chair asked for a motion to approve the Agenda: A Motion to approve was made by Sedric Myers and second by Mitch Harris. Motioned Carried.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Action:** The chair asked that June 6, 2020 General Chapter Meeting Minutes to be tabled. Meeting minutes will be made available on the website.

### **Presidents Report by Darryl Pilate.**

Darryl thanked everyone for their participation. The year is moving fast. We are still moving forward with our planning. The University is continuing to plan as well for the upcoming year. The best way to get info is to go to the university's website. The chapter will try to send out important information.

The football season has been moved to the Spring. The season will end by April 30. FAMU and BCU have been added to the SWAC division. I am anticipating the Labor Day weekend 2021 game with JSU vs. FAMU.

Darryl completed the chapter report and the chapter has accomplished a lot despite COVID-19. The hope is to receive all the alumni awards. We will continue to dominate in the fundraising category. We have given more \$85,000 out of the market. The Chapter gave \$5,000.

We finished the year with 109 members. Seventy-three (73) are local dues-paid members and the remaining (36) are life members that are not active in the local chapter. I created a slideshow to highlight some of the events from the past year such as tailgating at Prairie View A&M University, the

student sendoff, LaKrystal's acceptance of the young alumnus award, and the honoring of the Golden Class of 1970.

### **Treasurer's report by Mitch Harris.**

For the period of July 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020. Mitchell Harris submitted the Treasures report indicating a Beginning Balance of \$7,402.50 and an ending balance of \$8,939.85. Mitch reported an operating Balance as of July 31, 2020, of \$5,587.35. The Treasure's report was accepted for future audits.

### **Membership Committee by Darryl Pilate on behalf of Kimberly Blasingame.**

The fiscal year 2020-2021 membership goal is 100 members. To date, the chapter has 28 members. The virtual happy hour zoom membership rally is scheduled for August 14, 2020, from 6 pm – 9 pm. The membership committee will be contacting members who have not paid their dues yet. I am proud of the team for provided multiple ways for dues to be paid: PayPal, Cash App, Venmo, cash, check, and cashier's check. Darryl reviewed the membership package dues structure which is posted on the chapter's website.

### **Student Recruitment by Jeremy Sanford.**

Jeremy thanked everyone for the school supply donations. Four (4) boxes were collected in total. On August 8, 2020 there will be a 45-minute zoom send event to introduce the chapter leaders, for the student to meet, and the chapter members to share their JSU experiences. The care packages will be shipped to JSU because it is easier than trying to home delivery them to the students who live in various parts of the Houston area. Nine (9) students will be attending JSU. Jeremy reached out to all the students; some did not respond. Even there will not be a high school day 2020, the chapter members are requested to choose the blue and white membership package for the future to offset the cost to visit the institution. Jeremy showed a few pictures from the Kona Ice event where members dropped off school supplies.

### **Director of Development by Dr. Rose Austin.**

The next big event is the Gala 2021. The 45th anniversary of the chapter will be celebrated. The expectation is that 150 guests attend from the local, university, and national associations. The goal is a profit of \$45,000. The stone for the anniversary is the sapphire, therefore, the theme is "Thee

Sapphire Affair." The gala was going to be held in a central location at the beautiful Junior League of Houston but it is all booked. The proposed two alternative options are the Hilton Post Oak and Marriott West Loop. LaKrystal and Rose looked at both, made a pros and cons list for both hotels. After discussing the pros and cons, they decided on the Hilton Post Oak Hilton because it is a beautiful facility, with sufficient room. The Marriott is not as aesthetically attractive. The available dates for the Hilton Post are Friday, May 14, or Friday, May 21.

Vote – Dr. Austin moved that the 2021 Gala hotel be held May 14, Hilton Post Oak. No second was needed. Several chapter members expressed that school graduations are that weekend. The motion was rescinded. Dr. Austin moved that the 2021 Gala hotel be held May 21, from 7 pm – 11 pm at the Hilton Post Oak. All approved, none opposed or abstained.

Motion: The motion is to price the early bird ticket at \$85 (dates TBD) and for a table of 10 = \$850. The regular price will be \$100, Table 10 = \$1000. Dr. Austin expressed that this is a lean budget and this will probably be the last year we will be able to keep it under \$100. Since the motion is coming from the committee, a 2nd is not needed. The chapter members requested to review the budget first before making a vote, in case the ticket price needs to be increased.

Dr. Austin reviewed the budget expenses which totals \$13,550. Some students may come down as a testimonial of where the money is going towards which is scholarships. A chapter member suggested that Dr. Austin ask the hotel for a sponsorship. Rose will ask for a room for the auction. Only four to five people will be staying at the hotel. There is no fee to use the rented space. The only requirement is to pay for the meals, for which there is not a minimal purchase required. A chapter member suggested negotiating with the Hilton hotel all comps before the contract is signed.

The motion reviewed again: The majority approved, no one opposed, and one abstained.

The attire for the gala is blue and the dress is not formal but attendees should dress in nice attire appropriate for an anniversary celebration. The Gala will celebrate six (6) honorees. All the honorees are local this year since it is our anniversary celebration. There was a discussion if the students who have received scholarships will be honored. Dr. Austin will take that suggestion back to the Gala committee to discuss.

Dr. Austin motioned to accept the list of honorees that was proposed. All approved, none opposed or abstained. Chapter members should E-mail Dr.

Austin if they have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. The expectation is that all the chapter's members come in at least at the Diamond level.

### **Unfinished Business**

The scholarship committee is being developed by Darryl. Darryl is working with Jeremy to get the meeting scheduled for this month to report back to the chapter in September.

### **New Business**

None

### **JSUNAA Officer Remarks.**

**Tarita Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President,** discussed the following topics: 1. JSU day of giving was moved back to August 27, 2020. The goal is to raise \$400,000. The Alumni association is encouraging the chapters to give towards the endowment and individuals and to do so earlier than a week before the day of giving to make sure that it counts. 2. Giving towards the Million Eyes of Excellence is moved to June 30, 2022. The goal to raise \$5,000,000. The APR – alumni participation rate will increase as alums give which will cause organizations to be more willing to give. The APR is currently 3% (the average is 7-10%). 3. The fall Council meeting will be October 24, 2020, and will be virtual, more info to come

**Sedric Myers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,** reported that there are currently 85 life members and 17 regular members. He also reported that there are 1594 life members, new grads included – 1155, 387 regular members, 7-associate members – 3,104 members actively part of the alumni association as of July 31, 2020. He encouraged the chapter's members to participate in the MyEra membership campaign which will help increase APR and contribute to the Gap fund.

**Je'Juan Gray, Southwest Regional Vice President,** thanked for participation in regional virtual Southwest region work day; a lot of positive feedback was given Something else will be coming in the future. He reiterated that fall council meeting will be virtual He provided a JSU tag update, it will come to a resolution by the end of the month. No tags can be purchased at the moment. Approximately 30 individuals are in queue waiting to get the tags due to the pending situation. There are currently approximately 403 active tags.

**Katherine Cage, Treasurer,** reported that the JSUNAA received approval for the group exemption application for 501c3. Fifty out of the fifty-five chapters are 501c3 tax-exempt under the umbrella of the national alumni chapter. We will need to follow the 501c3 tax exemption guidelines.

### **Good of the Order**

The next chapter meeting will be September 5, 2020, but may be moved to following weekend since that weekend is Labor Day weekend. The student sendoff will occur be zoom and the information will be sent to all of the membership. We have 3 authors in our chapter: Loukisha Lewis and daughter wrote a children's book, Dr. Rose Austin has written a family history book and LaKrystal Foster has written a children's book.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:08 PM.