

## **General Chapter Meeting Minutes September 12, 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 10:36 am.

Prayer by Darryl Pilate

### **Approval of the Agenda**

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

### **Approval of the Minutes [Tabled]**

**Action:** The chair asked tabled the voting of the minutes from the August General Meeting, in order to work on communicating the minutes on the website. We will approve several minutes in the next meeting.

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

Darryl welcomed everyone to call. We are approaching over 23 people and I am excited and impressed with our alumni in this market who participate on the video calls. This is the way of the future for our meetings. This is more convenient. Darryl thanked everyone for the Day of Giving; over \$600,000 was raised. We had a specific portal for the Houston area to give in and through. There are a lot of things going on with our athletics and it has been added to the agenda to be discussed by Thaddeus Reed. Despite Covid-19, we are continuing to get things done. The Chapter continues to maintain a strong balance sheet and we are being good stewards of all the money being taken in by the Chapter. We are working hard to get our membership up. We wanted to be at 50 by now. We need everyone to pay dues to maintain the local Chapter.

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

For the period of August 1, 2020, to August 30, 2020. Mitchell Harris submitted the Treasures report indicating a Beginning Balance of \$8,939.85 and an ending balance of \$9,217.56. Mitch reported an operating Balance

as of August 31, 2020, of \$5,045.06. The Treasure's report was accepted for future audits.

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

For this fiscal year, we currently have 48 dues paid members. The goal is to be at 75 by the end of September and 100 for the fiscal year 2020-2021. On August 14, 2020, there was a membership zoom happy hour. Twenty (20) people participated and eight (8) members paid their dues the day after the event. We had a host, hype man and a DJ. Kaala Duffy helped control the video. Darryl will be sending an email to everyone to remind them to pay their dues which helps support the operating funds for the local chapter on a monthly basis. Kimberly wanted to mention Centerpoint is hiring. Networking is an important benefit of joining the Chapter in addition to raising funds, recruitment, and keeping up with the latest information regarding the University. If you are seeking employment or know someone who is, reach out to Kimberly. We may do another membership drive before the end of the year.

**Student Recruitment by Jeremy Sanford.**

Jeremy thanked Sedric Myers for taking the baskets to the new students in Jackson and Katherine Cage for decorating the basket to the first student who distributed it to the other students. For the returning students, we are working on a way to get them their baskets this month. Jeremy will reach out to the office of recruitment on how they want to proceed with recruitment given Covid-19, as many schools in the Houston area are not allowing visitors. Jeremy wants to coordinate a zoom call recruitment event. Jeremy will send the regional counselors the info to disperse to their students. Jeremy shared photos of the students receiving their baskets. The pictures and the student's names will be shared in an email that will be forthcoming. Katherine Cage corrected that Tammy Terrell-Brooks decorated the baskets.

**Community Service by LaKrystal Foster.**

Last year we collected 200 toys for Texas Children's Hospital's toy drive. This year we cannot do that due to the Center for Disease Control's guidelines due to Covid-19. This year we want to help our Chapter's members during the Christmas season. Next month we will start panning. If anyone wants to join the committee, they can contact LaKrystal.

## **Athletics – Thaddeus**

Darryl announced that Thaddeus has received the outstanding achievement award. Thaddeus thanked Darryl for nominating him for that award. In Madison, the WC Gordon golf tournament was held, which raised a record amount of \$76,000. The tournament was full and had numerous sponsors. Many Houston Alumni Chapter members participated. Coach Henricks was relieved of his coaching duties. A national search was conducted, and a new coach will be announced in the near future. The facilities for sports have not been updated for 20 years. The softball teams don't have lockers. There will be new locker rooms for the tennis, softball, and baseball teams. There will be an expansion to the football facility. The Walter Payton building is already being updated. There will be an opportunity for naming rights in those buildings. The first basketball games will Nov 10 and the first football game will be February 27. There will be five home games for the Spring and there are precautions in place to be safe. The fall football season will start Labor Day weekend against FAMU in Miami, FL. To download the schedule, go to [jsutigers.com](http://jsutigers.com). The staff from the athletic director (AD) will provide an update on how tickets will be handled for those who had tickets for the fall season. Thaddeus will get that question to the AD.

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

The Gala will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021, at the Hilton Post Oak near the Galleria. The ballroom is large, and the venue has a glamorous atmosphere. The cost for early bird ticket is \$85 through December 31, 2020. After that date, the price increases to \$100 per ticket and \$1,000 per table. The goal is to net \$45,000. We have added LaKrystal Foster to the honorees in recognition of all her hard work in the Houston Chapter. The other honorees were announced last month. For entertainment, alum Anthony Cornish will be performing and bringing his band. Yolanda has put information about the Gala on the website and emails will go out and announcements will be made on the Chapter's social media accounts. We added a Sapphire Sponsorship level at \$15,000 since some people will be going through match giving. The benefits will be posted on the website in the near future. Our tickets are \$85, but the tax-deductible amount is \$10. Dr. Austin reviewed the various sponsorship levels and their associated benefits and tax-deductible amounts. We all are expected to participate at least at the Pearl - \$500 level. This helps us make a sizeable tax-deductible amount as opposed to buying individual tickets. Thus far we have received \$1,250 for the Gala and there are additional funds in route. Dr. Austin presented our commitments thus far at the various levels. Our goal is 18 at the \$1500 Diamond Level, nine so far have committed to this level. At the Pearl Level, we need three and have three committed. The Gala committee

is working on a Plan B virtual Gala, if we are not able to have an in person Gala due to Covid-19. By December, we will know the details for the Plan B virtual gala. Also, by December we want to have half our goal raised. One Chapter member asked Dr. Austin if the band members were included in the meal count. It was recommended that they be provided with refreshments at the least. In the contract, there is language where we can get our deposit back from the hotel if we cannot hold the Gala in person due to Covid-19.

### **Unfinished Business.**

None.

### **New Business.**

None

### **JSUNAA Officer Remarks.**

**Tarita Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President,** provided updates from the National prospective. The Million Eyes of Excellence has been extended through 2022, and all contributions to the university count towards this campaign. To date, we have raised over 3.1 million dollars. Tarita congratulated this chapter, other chapters, and the JSU National Alumni Association. The unofficial total raised to date is \$127,407.50. We gave during Juneteenth - \$20,000 was raised. Thee True Blue Box fundraiser, developed with Reed Enterprise, has received rave reviews for the August boxes. The winter box is available for \$135. To date, we have raised a little over \$12,000. The alumni participation rate (APR) is increasing because we are giving. Please make sure names are attached to the giving to get hard credit for the contributions in order to increase the APR. Last year the APR hovered around 3%. A donor wall is being created which will recognize major donors who have given to JSU over the years. More info will come at the October 24 Fall council. Communications will come forth regarding registration for that event. Darryl added that the University does track lifetime giving, the Wall of Giving will recognize lifetime givers. The foundation has a mask fundraiser which includes masks and hand sanitizer. The Kroger and Amazon Smile initiatives are going well, contributions are received from each purchase and sent to JSU, which JSU is assigned as the charity of choice. Tarita will assist anyone who needs help signing up for those programs.

**Sedric Myers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,** Currently, we have a total 3,391 members which include new graduates. If we exclude the new graduates (who receive complimentary membership), that number drops to 2236. These numbers are as of September 3, 2020. We need to get the numbers

up, as we are down 48 from this time last year. The MyEra membership campaign is still in effect. Text MyEra to 71777 to participate. Please take advantage of paying local and national via the JSU HAC website.

**Je'Juan Gray, Southwest Regional Vice President**, expressed his appreciation for all the fundraising efforts and encouraged the chapter to keep pushing for membership. A token of appreciation has been mailed to the Chapter. Be on the lookout. He expressed appreciation for efforts to support JSU. There is a meeting with JSU and MyPlates scheduled for October 2020. An update on the issue will come after that.

**Good of the Order** Judge Angela Graves was given an opportunity to speak. She looks forward to participating. She encouraged us to do our part and vote. We should seize our visibility in the community while there is attention on HBCUs. There are paid poll worker positions available. We will have 24-hour voting locations and drive-thru polling locations. Go to the County Clerk's website for more information. Please encourage any high school students you know to apply so they can get school credit, a letter of recommendation from Chris Hollins (Harris Country Clerk) and get paid \$17/hour.

Darryl encouraged the Chapter to participate in the Census 2020 which ends September.

There is a voter registration event at Krush Bistro and Bar, 11am-2pm on 9/13/20.

Darryl is working on developing a way to showcase our entrepreneurial alums and their businesses on our Chapter; website. More info is forthcoming at the November meeting.

Thaddeus advertised for the JSU vote tees which can be found on the Reed Enterprise website; 12% of the proceeds will go to university.

Marilyn thanked everyone for giving during the lost of her husband. She thanked everyone for their prayers and condolences.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:49 AM.