

**NAA Board of Directors | Video Conference | Fall Meeting**

**Friday, September 10 | 12:00 PM (CST)**

1. **Call to Order:**

The final of four Board of Directors meetings of the UNA National Alumni Association was held on Friday, September 10, 2021, via Zoom. President Mary Leigh Gillespie called the business meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. **Roll Call:**

**Present Executive Board Members:** Susan Adams, Bishop Alexander, Lisa Clayton, Mary Leigh Gillespie, Will Hodges, Justin McGill, Savannah Liles, Christa Raney, and Christy Waters

**Present Board-at-Large Members:** Jeremy Baham, Rita Buckley, Mike Byers, Gaye Choat, Ryan Clayton, Chris Depew, Clayton Grider, John Hager, Nichole Henderson, Cody Holder, Mike Holt, Latasha Howell, Ann-Marie Irons, Anna Milwee, Sherri Stewart, and Denise Watts

**UNA Club Presidents**: Chris Burrell, Birmingham Club; Jeanne Cook, Central Mississippi Club; Tyler Delano, HSV/Madison County Club; Joshua Lambert, Shoals Area Club

**Absent Executive Board Members**: Gale Satchel and Tosha-Paige Whitten

**Absent Board-at-Large Members:** Kimberly Ann Alewine, Mike Curtis, Allison Hall, Melanie Harris, Eric Kirkman, Tina Smith, Chris Whitten, and Chelsea Yarber

1. **Approval of Minutes:**

Mary Leigh asked for a motion to approve the 07/23/2021 Executive Board-at-Large summer meeting minutes. Justin made a motion, and Gaye provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **NAA Finance Report:** Justin presented the Finance Report:
   1. **NAA Greatest Needs Fund:** The balance is $41,936.02. Expenses for the Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament will be debited, but those funds will be repaid.
   2. **NAA Distinguished Endowed Scholarship:** The balance is $33,765.58.
   3. **Alumni Association Current-Use Scholarship:** The balance is $0.00.
2. **Standing Committee Report and Alumni Club Reports:**
3. **Finance Committee:** Justin stated that tee gifts have been ordered for the Jack Karnes Memorial Tournament, which is scheduled for Friday, October 15. Ambassadors from the College of Education and Human Sciences will volunteer at the event. It is time for team sign-ups and social-media efforts.

A budget has been approved for Lions Under the Lights, and the committee is excited and working hard.

1. **Nomination:** Will tabled the Nomination Committee to New Business. The committee met on August 30, and Will thanked the committee members for their service.
2. **Student to Alumni Experience**: Savannah updated the Board on the following upcoming events: the 9/11 Day of Service at Rice Hall, tailgating on Spirit Hill this weekend, and numerous Homecoming events (the week of October 16). She also listed upcoming campus events: Greek organizations coin collection to raise awareness against hazing, Hunger Solutions Series, and miscellaneous philanthropy events throughout the semester. She reported that the Student Alumni Association (SAA) officers held a retreat and have exciting things coming. Finally, planning for the Higher-ed Career Panel is underway.
3. **Homecoming Alumni Awards:** Susan reported that all awards have been accepted, and she has secured a sponsor for one of our big events. Waiting on final information.
4. **Alumni Events & Special Projects:** Gaye recapped the Handy Fest event, noting it was a great success. The Jack Karnes Memorial Tournament, LUL, Alumni Awards Ceremony, Golden Lions, and Lunch on the Lawn are upcoming. If you want to volunteer, please contact Gaye.
5. **Alumni Benefits:** Mike reported that his committee met last month to review the results of the alumni-benefits survey. They committee discussed adding new benefits, and they will be making recommendations soon. The committee wants to integrate new benefits with current benefits and to revamp the website.
6. **Alumni Club Updates:**

Joshua, President of the Shoals Alumni Club, recapped the successful Handy Event. First Fridays was also a great event that was well attended and mixed the community and alumni. The Alumni Tailgate starts tomorrow at 3:00. Josh met with Dr. Looney, and he. The mentor programing is moving forward. If you are interested in getting involved, check the Facebook page and contact Joshua.

Tyler, President of the HSV/Madison County Club, reported that the Trash Pandas event had an amazing turnout. The club hopes to make it an annual event. They are planning for future events, both in-person and virtual.

Chris, President of the Birmingham Club, reported that the Club is in preliminary discussions about hosting a special event, potentially virtual.

1. **Old Business:**

There was no old business to discuss.

1. **New Business:**
2. (**Line Item**) **Lions Under the Lights:** Mary Leigh announced that ticket sales launched on September 3. Approximately 20 tickets have already been sold. There will be no assigned seating. Dress is business casual. Pottery sales will be available. The dinner will be plated.

LUL will take place on Friday, October 1,beginning at 5:30 pm for the cocktail hour around the Harrison Fountain, 6:30 pm for remarks by distinguished guests, and 7:00 pm for dinner at Harrison Plaza. Two women will be honored: Michelle Eubanks and Shannon Wells.

Tickets are $120.00 each, and the proceeds benefit NAA Greatest Needs Fund. The event will feature the *Jeff Eubanks Culinary Arts Management Program*.

1. **(Line Item) Campus Facilities—Construction Update:** Bishop highlighted an email from President Kitts detailing plans to construct or renovate the following buildings: a new Computer Science and Mathematics building in the same location; Lagrange Hall will become the Delores & Weldon Cole Honors College building; and Music building renovation. Bishop wants to arrange tours of completed buildings for the Board.
2. **NAA Constitution & By-Law Updates (*Vote Required***)**:** Christa thanked Bishop for his hard work and for developing significant new content. Bishop explained that one part of the new content provides explicit job descriptions for the Executive Officer positions.

Mary Leigh opened the floor for discussion. Jeanne asked for clarification about Article V and the position of Club Presidents on the Board of Directors. Discussion ensued. The discussion resulted in a motion made by Mike to amend 5.1 to read as follows: “The Board of Directors (Board) shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members, the Executive Committee, and Alumni Club Presidents by position.” Will provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Leigh then requested a motion to accept the new Constitution as amended. Sherri made the motion, and Susan and Gaye provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **2021-2022 NAA Board Elections (*Vote Required*):** Will highlighted the candidate-selection process and criteria. He then presented the slate of four nominees for the Board of Directors, 2021-2024 appointment: Tyrone Dennis, Navy Commander Scott R. Milliet, Holly Tate, and Haley Newton. Will requested a motion to accept all of the candidates at once. Mary Leigh made the motion, and Jeremy provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Will presented the slate of nominees for the Executive Committee:

**2021-2022 Executive Committee**

**President** - Susan Adams ('80) - Florence, AL

**President Elect** - Will Hodges ('10) - Edmond, OK

**Vice-President of Administrative Affairs** – Dr. Jeremy Baham ('96) - Starkville, MS

**Vice-President of Internal Affairs** - John Haeger ('99) - Nashville, TN

**Vice-President of Financial Affairs** - Mike Byers ('79) - Brandon, MS

**Vice-President of Community Affairs** - Latasha Howell ('01) - Florence, AL

**Executive Secretary** - Christa Raney ('97) - Florence, AL

**Faculty Advisor** – Dr. Lisa Clayton ('00) - Florence, AL

**Staff Advisor** - Anna Milwee ('14) - Florence, AL

**Immediate Past President** – Dr. Mary Gillespie (’96) – Florence, AL

**Director of Alumni Relations** – Bishop Alexander (’09) – Florence, AL

Will opened the floor for any additional nominations. None were offered. Will then requested a motion. Mary Leigh made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented, and Gaye and Clayton provided a second. With a show of hands, the motion passed unanimously.

1. **Discussion**
   1. **Homecoming Volunteers (Sign Up):** Bishop highlighted the following events for which we will need volunteers:

* Lions Under the Lights – Oct. 1st @ 5:30 p.m.
* Homecoming Alumni Awards Ceremony – Oct. 15 @ 6:00 p.m.
* Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament – Oct. 15 @ 9:00 a.m.
* Golden Lions Class Reunion – 1970 & 1971 – October 15-16
* Lunch on the Lawn – Oct. 16 @ 12:30 pm
* Homecoming Tailgate – October 16 @ 3:00 p.m.

**Please contact Gaye if you**

* 1. **Homecoming Parade:** Bishop requested a Trolley Coordinator, a volunteer to greet alumni at the Trolley and coordinate the trolley ride.
  2. **Higher Education Panel—Fall Event:** Jeremy explained that he, Bishop, and Melissa Medlin, the UNA Career Center, are collaborating to host a Higher-Ed panel. More information will follow.

Jeremy added that UNA Men’s Basketball is coming to Starkville for its opening game in November, and he offered to help plan an alumni event for the occasion.

1. **President’s Report:**
2. **Summer Meeting Recap:** No report was given.
3. **Food Pantry Update:** Mary Leigh’s personal project has been the UNA Food Pantry, which is operated by Bethany Green and Holly Underwood-Edens. Food items and monetary donations are accepted. There is a drop-off at the GUC.
4. **Alumni Director’s Report:**
   1. **UNA W. C. Handy Night Recap:** Bishop thanked those who attended and volunteered at the event.
   2. **Homecoming Website:** Bishop reported that the Alumni Homecoming website is live: <https://www.una.edu/alumni/homecoming/index.html>. The site is a living document as more events may be added. Bishop noted that Lunch on the Lawn is returning, at 12:30 after the parade. The meal is free. Student events are available to view on the website as well. Campus merchandise and maps are also available on the site.
   3. **Campus Job Postings:** UNA is hiring, so please review the following opportunities: <https://jobs.una.edu>
   4. **Department of Communication—New Chair:** Dr. Pat Sanders ’82 – Muscle Shoals, AL. She is this year’s Faculty Alumni Award Winner.
   5. **Fraternity and Sorority Life:** Bishop provided an update concerning an upcoming search for the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL).
5. **Announcements & Good News:**

Mary Leigh and Bishop reported on upcoming events and noted opportunities for Board members to participate.

**Football Game—September 11 (HOME):**

The first home game (North Alabama vs UT-Chattanooga, televised on ESPN+) is September 11. Tailgating begins at 3:00 p.m., and the Lion Walk happens at 3:45 p.m. Kickoff is 6:00 p.m. Since it is the 20th Anniversary of 9-11, the game is dedicated to first responders, military, veterans, and nurses.

1. **NAA Calendar of Events**
2. **2021 NAA Executive Committee–Virtual Meeting:**
   * September 14 – 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (CST)
3. **2021 – 2022 Annual Giving Days – All Day**

* Thursday, November 18, 2021 – Leo Giving Day
* Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – Founders Day & 1830 Fund
* Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – UNA
* Tuesday, May 17, 2022 – Athletics
* Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – Academic Colleges

1. **Adjournment**

Bishop thanked Mary Leigh, Justin, Christy, Savannah, and Tosha-Paige for their service and support.

Mary Leigh noted it was an honor to serve. Justin said his goodbyes, and Sherri thanked Will for his service at the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.