



**NAA Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
8:00 – 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)**

I. Call to Order:

The regular monthly meeting of the UNA National Alumni Association Executive Committee was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, via Zoom. President Mary Leigh Gillespie presided and called the business meeting to order at 8:02 am.

a. Roll Call and Quorum Report:

Present Board members: Bishop Alexander, Lisa Clayton, Mary Leigh Gillespie, Will Hodges, Savannah Liles, Justin McGill, Christa Raney, Gale Satchel, Christy Waters, and Tosha-Paige Whitten

Absent Board Members: Susan Adams

Present Non-Board Members: Sherry Wilkes, Alumni Relations Senior Administrative Assistant.

b. Approval of Minutes:

Mary Leigh asked for a motion to approve the 04/9/2020 Board of Directors meeting minutes as emailed. Justine made the motion, and Will provided a second.

II. NAA Officer & Standing Committee Reports:

a. Board Nominations: Will discussed the processes for officer and Board-at-Large nominations. First, the By-Laws state that to be eligible for an officer position, a person must have served for at least one year on the Board-at-Large. Second, only four Board-at-Large members have the option to roll off this year; if those members choose to stay, then only one spot will be available for new members. Lisa suggested that Will email all Board members to solicit their interest in serving another year.

Next, Will discussed the timing of the nominations and the selection process. After some discussion, he suggested that nominations open in early June and stay open through June/July. In August, the Nominating Committee would convene to vote and determine a slate. Then, the Executive Board would meet in September (at our regularly scheduled meeting) to vote on the slate. The Board adopted Will's suggestion.

Will and Bishop discussed revising the titles of officer positions:

First Vice President to First Vice President of Administration
Second Vice President to Second Vice President of Recruitment or Membership
Secretary to Executive Secretary
Alumni Club Advisor to Vice President of External Affairs (Community Relations)
Treasurer to Vice-President of Finance

Will added that one of his initiatives is to diversify membership of the Alumni Association and to tap into different groups that defined the undergraduate experience for many alumni. Affinity groups, such as the Marching Pride and former Miss UNA winners, are easy ways to bring people together for one vested interest. Currently, the LaGrange Society, for example, does not have an Affinity Group. The Board discussed these opportunities.

- b. Finance:** Justin provided the following financial report:
- i. Jack Karnes Alumni Golf Tournament Update**—The Jack Karnes committee met recently. The date for the event is Friday, October 15, 8:00 am start (course to be determined). The committee will meet again to discuss specific tasks, such as marketing, food, sponsorships, location, etc. This year's goal is to double sponsorships. Megan Dye, Bishop, Susan, Sherry, and Diana Taylor serve on the committee.
 - ii. NAA Greatest Needs Fund**—The current balance is \$43,333.72.
 - iii. NAA Distinguished Endowed Scholarship**—The current balance is \$31,930 (or possibly \$31,940). Bishop announced that the scholarship will be awarded this fall. The \$250 Book Scholarship was awarded, so that amount will be debited.
 - iv. Alumni Association Current-Use Scholarship**—The current balance is \$0.00.
- c. Fall 2021 Homecoming Alumni Awards**—In Susan's absence, Bishop announced that the window for nominations is from April 1 – July 1. Please submit nominations as we want a full slate. Mary Leigh suggested that Executive Officers share the call for nominations on our social media pages. Nominees will be selected the third week of July.
- d. Special Events & Projects**—In Gaye's absence, Bishop reported that UNA Handy Night is July 27, 2021. If you want to volunteer, please email Gaye. If you know of possible

vendors, please send that information to Sherry. Bishop shared the official Handy Night Poster. See XIII.d for additional information regarding the Handy Night event.

- e. **Student to Alumni Experience**—Savannah reported that she has an upcoming meeting with Tammy Rhodes to discuss the Fall FYE classes and the need for alumni speakers.
- f. **Alumni Benefits:** In Mike’s absence, Bishop reported that thirty-eight people responded to the survey. The Alumni Benefits committee will meet to review the results of the survey.

III. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

IV. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

V. Discussion:

- a. **By-Law Updates, Executive Board Positions**—See II.a. for this report.
- b. **STARS Alumni Advocacy Ambassador**—The Higher Education Partnership updated Bishop on the addition of a new STARS Alumni Advocacy Ambassador. Bishop, who currently serves as an Ambassador by position, noted that the appointment is for a three-year term. Bishop described the duties and expectations of the ambassador. Susan has expressed interest, but other Board members may also express interest. Please contact Bishop for more information and to volunteer.
- c. **Lions Under the Lights**—Bishop requested feedback regarding the date to host LUL: Fall 2021 or Spring 2022. Mary Leigh advocated for a fall date, but expressed concern about UNA and high school football schedules. Tosha-Paige and Savannah also advocated for a fall date.

Bishop requested that Board members bring fall football schedules to our July meeting so that we can discuss a potential date.

VI. NAA President’s Report:

- a. **Light the Fountain Recap**—On April 28, 2021 at Harrison Plaza, Light the Fountain took place. Mary Leigh highlighted the wonderful event, and she and Bishop discussed the NAA Bookstore Scholarship winner, Divy Garg, a Senior/International student.

- b. **Spring Commencement Recap**—On May 7 and May 8, nine hundred students graduated from the University of North Alabama.

VII. Alumni Director's Report:

- a. **Alumni Trivia Night**—The Huntsville/Madison County Alumni Club will host Tuesday, May 18 at 6:00 pm. Dr. Jeff Bibbee will host the event with club leaders. Bishop also discussed the Trash Pandas event. See VIII.c for more information.
- b. **Celebration Saturdays**—Bishop announced that the next Celebration Saturday is May 29, 2021.
 - i. Email special announcements to alumni1@una.edu by May 24.
 - ii. Featured on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.
- c. **Fall 2021 Homecoming Weekend Update**—Bishop provided a brief update of Homecoming 2021, which is scheduled for October 14-16.
 - i. Football Kickoff is set 6:00 pm on October 18.
 - ii. Parade recommendation is to start at 11:00 am. The Homecoming Committee will vote on this recommendation.
- d. **Status of Leo III—University Update**

Leo III on the University of North Alabama campus is doing well. He is in good health and thriving in the George H. Carroll Lion Habitat, according to his two volunteer and local veterinarians who monitor his health regularly. His daily care is managed by Anne and Dan Howard, the couple who brought him to campus in 2003 from his birthplace in New Hampshire. He will celebrate his 19th birthday in November of 2021.

The only addition would be related to another lion at this stage in Leo III's life: Adding another lion to the habitat is not advised by Leo III's veterinarians, and, as the experts, we defer to them.

VIII. Alumni News and Campus Announcements:

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

- a. **Athletics Giving Day 2021**—Mary Leigh reminded Board members that Athletics Giving Day is Tuesday, May 18 (<https://www.una.edu/dayofgiving/index.html>).
- b. **NAA Board Meeting – Campus Meeting | Gunn Commons Hall**
 - i. The event is scheduled for Friday, July 23, 2021.

- ii. 11:00 am (CST) – Lunch
 - iii. 12:15 pm (CST) – Board Meeting, which will include Campus Speakers, Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee (COAS) and Michelle Eubanks (UCM), Co-Chairs: UNA Sesquicentennial Taskforce and Listerhill Credit Union and NAA Board Member Tosha-Paige Whitten (Listerhill Keystone Card)
 - iv. Please RSVP to Sherry as soon as possible.
 - v. A virtual attendance option will be available.
- c. UNA Alumni Night – Hosted by HSV/Madison County Alumni Club**
- i. Saturday, July 24, 2021
 - ii. Toyota Field – Huntsville, Alabama – Kirkland’s Picnic Terrace (100)
 - iii. Trash Pandas vs Tennessee - 6:30 pm
 - iv. Food Service: 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
 - v. Tickets: \$16.00 Admission
 - vi. Children: Free for ages 2 and under
 - vii. Firework Show will happen throughout the game
- d. UNA Handy Night 2021 – Free Admission**
- i. Tuesday, July 27, 2021 | 6:00 – 9:00 pm
 - ii. Location: North Court Street Median
 - iii. Entertainment: Opening Act: Hollis (6:00 – 6:45 p.m.)
 - iv. Featured Headliner: The Midnighters (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.)
 - v. Host: Division of Advancement: Office of Alumni Relations
 - vi. Featuring Live Music, Food Trucks, etc.
 - vii. Masks are required and Social Distancing

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 am.

2021 NAA Executive Board – Virtual Meetings

- January 12, 2021 - 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)
- March 9, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)
- May 11, 2021 - 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)
- **July 13, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)**
- **September 14, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)**

2021 NAA Board of Directors – Virtual Meetings

- January 8, 2021 – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (CST)
- April 9, 2021 – 10:00 am – 11:00 am (CST)
- **July 23, 2021 – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (CST)**
- **September 10 – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (CST)**

2021 Alumni E-Newsletters

The alumni newsletters in 2021 will feature Campus News, Alumni Spotlights, and other can't-miss updates about your alma mater.

- April 23
- June 25
- August 27
- October 29
- December 17