

Penn Manor Alumni Association Minutes  
Thursday, April, 21, 2022

President Becca Carver called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the high school's new PMAA conference room. In attendance were the following: Becca Carver, Cindy Rhoades, Cindy LaMaster, Dr. Jan Mindish, Frank Geist.

First item of business was the possible naming of the new alumni conference room in honor of a person who made a tremendous contribution to our association. After a discussion it was decided that long time educator and substantial financial benefactor, Luella Mellinger, seemed the most appropriate person for this naming honor. A voice vote was unanimous in this selection and Cindy Rhoades will report this decision to Dr. Leichter and the district committee on Art, Memorials and Memorabilia. A future school board vote will finalize this honorary naming. PMAA has now given Cindy Rhoades and Cindy LaMaster full authority to decide on how the conference room door will be marked and the room decorated.

Judy Duke submitted a written treasurer's report in her absence which reflected the following: Current checking account balance: \$2507. Money market account: \$10,102. The PMAA investment account at Raymond James at 3-31-22 stood at \$139,828. Because of the pandemic the PM Class of 2020 was not able to utilize their class funds totaling \$6,600. In an extraordinary consideration PMAA is holding these funds for up to five years as that class decides on how to utilize their treasury.

The next item of business was the Penn Manor Wall of Honor programs. At this time there are two pending induction classes of alums to be so honored, one each for athletes and one for distinguished alumni. PMAA will work with the superintendent in the possible honoring of these inductees in a "catch-up" ceremony during the spring 2023 dedication of the new high school. This will guarantee a substantial audience for this ceremony. A decision will be made for what year will be the re-start of these every/other year programs and whether the distinguished or athletic wall will come first.

It was further discussed that going forward PMAA will only be marginally involved in the athletic wall of honor, limiting our participation to providing two alumni to serve on the selection committee and also being available the high school athletic director in any way she (he) may request. At the same time,

PMAA will continue with more involvement with the distinguished alumni wall of honor program. In fact this may be an area where the association considers establishing a PMAA endowment to provide financial support of this program in perpetuity. This will require more consideration at a future meeting.

The phone extension for PMAA at Penn Manor was discussed with the hope of setting up a program where every incoming phone message will generate an email. This will avoid delay in making an appropriate response expeditiously. Cindy Rhoades will pursue these technical changes in how PMAA incoming calls will be directed and handled going forward.

The importance of maintaining a social media presence was discussed. As the day of annual alumni banquets and printed directories passes the importance of social media expertise is now emphasized for alumni associations. Becca Carver presently maintains a FaceBook page and administers a FaceBook Group also. These FaceBook sites have become very important and Becca indicated she will be willing to keep these vital. It was mentioned PMAA will have to be flexible in these social media possibilities as younger PM graduates may migrate to InstaGram or other platforms to stay connected with classmates and fellow alums.

Part of this discussion indicated that the PMAA Chatter will no longer be published. PMAA has made the commitment that if PMAA has an alumni news item that requires publishing PMAA will include an article in the Foundation Focus.

The possible transfer of some of PMAA funds to PMAA for endowment was discussed. A consensus seemed apparent that a program that would impact as many of the ten PM schools as possible on a yearly basis would be preferred. It was also noted that such an endowment should be written loosely enough that as situations and programs change over the years the alumni reps helping to make yearly grant approvals would have appropriate flexibility to alter targeted programs over the coming decades. (Currently two ideas floated as representative programs might be supporting mental health programs in the schools and, secondly, providing personal books for individual reading at the elementary level which would become the personal property of each student.) It was agreed this is a big step and needs more discussion to develop such an endowed program.

As cooperative efforts between PMAA and PMEF increase that idea that the PMAA alumni committee may be the perfect vehicle to steer some programs. Becca expressed the idea that PMAA should have the power to name the two alumni reps for this committee and those reps could then serve two-year terms on the PM Wall of Honor selection committees as the alumni representatives. Jan felt all this would be doable from a PMAA perspective.

As a final item of the night, it was mentioned how important Cindy Rhoades, Judy Duke, Jan Mindish, and in more recent years, Becca Carver have been in keeping PMAA alive and functioning. However, one PMAA volunteer has truly stood out during the upheaval of the high school renovation project with the need to move all PMAA records, photos and memorabilia to a safe, secure climate-controlled space. Cindy LaMaster was noted to have stepped up and provided the care, organization and handling of all this at no charge. So in fairness to her, a stipend of \$500 per year was unanimously approved. The first \$500 to be paid now, and the final of the two payments to be paid in January 2023.

With the attendees in agreement that more discussion about how PMAA will alter its mission going forward is needed, Becca adjourned the meeting with the group's commitment to meet again in a few months.