

Schutz American Schools of Alexandria Foundation (SASAF)
Annual Meeting Minutes
Saturday, July 22, 2017
The Stultz Farm, Butler, PA

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Steve Jamison at 11:45 a.m.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting

The minutes were approved by those present with the following change: The title should read, "Minutes," not "Agenda."

3. President's Report to the Membership

Treasurer Steve Jamison welcomed everyone to the 2017 reunion and thanked Paul in absentia for driving our active community. He called upon Susan Knight to give a communications update and Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer to talk about the proposed WikiSchutz project.

a. Communications, Website Update, and Community-Building

In the past year, Karen Ezell was hired by SASAF to manage the Schutz alumni website. She has done a phenomenal job, is very responsive at low cost, and has streamlined the website with reliable basic functionality. The website has become more active and most members have been able to navigate and use the website for paying dues, making donations, becoming website "members," and viewing both public and member-only information.

Mary Beth Neely said her sister had had some trouble using PayPal; Susan will have Karen Ezell get in touch with Debby Neely to fix any problems.

Susan urged members to contribute material and information to the website, particularly helping us add profiles to the "Whatever Happened to..." web page. Everyone agreed a prime goal of the website and all our outreach efforts are to foster connections between Schutzites and enhance communications. Susan encouraged members to send messages, concerns, problems with the website, requests, and things to post via the website email address, sinceSchutz@gmail.com.

Susan reported that the board has approved two fundraising campaigns per year, one for dues and one for donations, giving the Schutz community two ways to contribute to our ongoing community-building costs, such as the website and special communications projects like the proposed WikiSchutz. SASAF dues are not tax deductible, but donations are, thanks to our 501c3 status. Ed Pollock suggested we arrange for donations from retirement accounts, such as the amount for an

individual's annual Required Minimum Distribution, which have greater tax reduction impact than donations from income. Ed said this mechanism is now a permanent part of the tax code.

b. WikiSchutz

Charlotte explained that the proposed WikiSchutz is a platform for members of the Schutz community to stay in touch and contribute to the Schutz knowledge base. She showed the members the test website, which is similar to, but simpler than, Wikipedia, and based on a summary of activities of each Schutz year from 1924 to about 1994. In the test site, 1960-61 was used. Charlotte showed how the summary was dotted with links to more information, as Wikipedia is. Ed Pollock asked who would be able to contribute to the early years. David Allen said he could address the years his mother was at Schutz, using documents and memories. Peter Parr asked if participants could upload documents. Susan said documents could be sent to Karen to be hosted by the alumni website, to which the WikiSchutz link could be made. Charlotte said documents could be sent directly to Alice Meloy. Sandy Jamison was concerned about an invasion of privacy with web postings; she pointed out that when an individual agrees to post information on a website, s/he agrees to post on the internet.

The membership was enthusiastic about the concept. Charlotte said no start date has yet been set, and that the Board's approval is needed to move ahead. Ron Pollock made a motion to approve the project moving forward. Kirk asked about costs of implementation and maintenance. Charlotte is exploring those now for a report to the Board. The membership unanimously supported exploring further the WikiSchutz concept.

4. Other Business

a. George and Mary Lou Meloy Scholarship

Steve updated the membership, saying no further progress has been made on this agenda. Originally, the scholarship was given with few stipulations to a graduate. The board and membership have in recent years been exploring a more robust scholarship that develops students before graduation. Communications continue, but so far there has been no resolution with Schutz School of their opinion of and interest in the proposed changes. It should be noted that the scholarship is currently being supported by only a very few specific donations.

Kirk Lindly asked how much was being given for the scholarship? Steve said a year-end contribution of \$1500 was being made to the school for the scholarship and currently there was only \$200 in the scholarship fund. SASAF tries to fund the scholarship via the school by fall for the past year. Steve also pointed out that the amount of the scholarship can be modified at any time.

b. 2018 Grand Reunion

Caroline Kurtz reported that the Edgefield Hotel on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon has been reserved for next year's Grand Reunion. The hotel was once a poor farm, but now is a quirky, delightful place to explore, with several pubs, a brewery, and glass blowing on the property. We have locked-in the ballroom with our deposit, meaning the sought-after wedding venue will be used for our meetings, though weddings can still be held on the beautiful hotel grounds. Fifteen rooms are being held for the Schutz group, but members are highly encouraged to book now individually without mentioning the Schutz block, thereby saving the block for later registrants. The accommodation costs are the same whether booking within the block or not. Many rooms use a private bathroom suite down the hall, but a few rooms have ensuite bathrooms, another reason to book early.

Caroline is exploring optional outside activities for reunion attendees and will be setting these up after canvassing the membership. Schutzites are encouraged to extend their vacations before and/or after the reunion to enjoy the many sites of nearby Portland and other places in beautiful Oregon.

5. Nominations to the Board of Directors

Steve called for nominations and volunteers to serve on the SASAF Board of Directors. There were no nominations or volunteers from the floor. Steve reported that five board members' terms were expiring this year, and four had agreed to continue serving for another term: Bill Pollock, Amanda Johnson, Ed Nicholas, and Susan Knight. Kim Smith will retire from the board.

Steve reported that Marilyn Watkins has been nominated to the board and thanked her for agreeing to serve. Hearing no objections, the nominees were elected by acclamation.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Treasurer Steve Jamison at 12:28 p.m.

Prepared by Susan Knight