

Schutz American Schools of Alexandria Foundation (SASAF)

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, July 14, 2018

Troutdale, Oregon

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Clark at 12:05 p.m.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of July 22, 2017 were approved as submitted.

President's Report to the Membership

Paul welcomed the group and reported on the Board's discussion points, the primary topics being SASAF's financial position and the need to adopt a fundraising approach and plan for the organization, future reunion plans including the question of a trip to Alexandria in 2025 to participate in the 100th anniversary commemoration of Schutz School, and said the "WikiSchutz" initiative being developed by Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer and Alice Meloy.

Nomination and Election of New Directors

With two Board seats being vacated this year and there already being three other unfilled seats, Paul asked if there were any nominations for Directors for the 2018-22 term. Steve Jamison nominated Caroline Kurtz to serve another term. No other nominations forthcoming, Caroline was re-elected to the Board of Directors.

SASAF Funding

Paul then discussed a number of issues relating to the long-term financial needs and aims of the organization. Our basic annual expense is approximately \$4,500 for all corporate and operating requirements including routine filings such as corporation council reporting, state and federal tax returns, communications expense including website maintenance fees and the estimated annual cost of the new WikiSchutz website and the related personnel expenses. Our current account balance being approximately that same amount, we are obliged to consider improving our ways of meeting revenue needs.

Paul noted that the first order of business was to encourage all members to stay current with dues. We now have over 100 alumni who have registered for the website, and taking into account other alumni who have remained active attending reunions we are probably an active

community of perhaps 150 or more. If everyone pays the \$30 annual dues, there is no reason why the organization cannot be solvent.

Moreover, as an organization with a long-standing sense of “commitment to community” we have other program aims and priorities beyond staying in touch and attending gatherings. In 2017, the Board adopted a policy to set an annual voluntary fundraising goal so that we would be able to meet these aims, and to provide for a prudent financial reserve. The fundraising needs we considered were the Meloy Scholarship that we have been funding annually at \$1,500 and funds to support attendance at our gatherings by those who would otherwise be financially unable, and to have the capacity to take on other activities. In regard to the second objective, the Board has proposed to commence planning for our participation at the 100th Schutz School anniversary commemoration in Alexandria, Egypt that will take place in 2025, which will require funding. All these needs considered, the Board set a 2018 fundraising target of \$5,000. We decided on the following: (1) we would select one month in the year to conduct the annual fundraising campaign; (2) we would sponsor on-line “silent auctions” of donated items (such as getaways to vacation homes); (3) we would invite funding contributors to make donations in name of persons or events relating to our Schutz experience and post their writings of same on the website; and (4) as needed, the Board would sponsor matching “challenge” donations to encourage people to contribute.

Paul pointed out that this year’s fundraising target is not beyond imagining: if we all participate, the average individual donation amount would be on the order of doubling the annual dues payment of \$30. He said he would be reaching out to people to assist with the fundraising effort.

2019 Reunion

It was suggested that SASAF reunions be shifted from the current practice of annual gatherings with every third year being a “Grand Reunion,” to holding a reunion every other year. It was noted that the annual reunions for many years coincided with the Presbyterian Mission Conference in New Wilmington, PA, but that in recent years attendance at both events had been declining. Starting in 2013, the Board decided to move the reunions to different parts of the U.S. and while this had resulted in some additional attendance, the Board agreed that it may be time to reduce the number of gatherings. The SASAF by-laws require an annual general assembly meeting, so in the off-years the members’ meeting could be arranged telephonically, timed with one of the Board meetings during that year.

After asking for a show of hands, the proposal to henceforth hold reunions every other year was approved, meaning that the next reunion would be in 2020. For this reunion, Caroline Kurtz offered the plan that the Board had discussed for a “beach week” format in Emerald Isle, N.C. where Paul has a cottage, and to rent several additional nearby properties, with the idea that people attending could come at any point during the week but that the main events would be scheduled for the second weekend. Additional cottages would be rented as registrations warranted, and to take advantage of off-season rates, the event could be scheduled for Spring

or early Fall when the weather and water temperatures are ideal. Assuming an average of seven per house, the cost including food for group meals, ground transport and entrance fees for several nearby tourist attractions (e.g., the Pine Knolls Shores NC Aquarium, the Civil War site Fort Macon, the Colonial-era governor's mansion in New Bern, etc.), would be on the order of \$400/person for the week. The group was favorable of the idea, so it was decided to plan the 2020 reunion to be held in North Carolina.

Grand Reunion in Alexandria, Egypt

At the 2012 Grand Reunion in Washington, D.C. it was proposed, and agreed, that for the 2024 Grand Reunion we consider arranging a trip to Alexandria for the School's 100th anniversary commemoration. Paul reported that the incoming Head of School, Michael Schooler, was enthusiastic about having a delegation of the Schutz "legacy" community attend the event and to make this affordable he would work on arrangements for housing, ground transport and other expenses to be covered, provided that those attending from the U.S. could arrange their own air travel to Egypt. For this purpose, it was agreed that SASAF would include the air travel cost as one of the fundraising goals over the next several years in order to make the trip affordable for anyone interested in participating. He noted that the commemoration event would coincide with the School commencement ceremonies in Spring 2025 and that we would need to commence planning and raising funds for the event if the membership agreed to the idea.

A show of hands indicated that a number of those present at the meeting would attend the 100th anniversary celebration, so it was agreed that the Board would undertake further discussion with the School and also look at chartering airline travel and other ways of reducing the travel cost.

Wiki-Schutz

Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer made a presentation of the on-line "Wiki-Schutz" which the Board approved following the 2017 reunion in Butler, Pa. She explained the definition of "wiki" to be a website that allows collaborative development of content and structure by multiple participants. The SchutzWiki is structured by year, including lists of faculty and students and with a basic narrative supplied by Alice. Each year of the wiki is organized by various topical categories covering different aspects of campus life. Web access for the Wiki-Schutz is www.schutzhistory.org.

All users must register with usernames and passwords. She conducted a live demonstration of the wiki site and asked Paul to go through the registration process. She showed how participants could offer comments on the narrative and add commentaries, photos and essays, and react to contributions of others. The wiki administrators (currently Charlotte and Alice) can take contributions posted by participants to add to the basic wiki narrative. The wiki has embedded links to other web-based sources including the SASAF website, www.schutzalumni.org.

Charlotte's presentation engendered a lively discussion that made it clear the on-line wiki would be successful in drawing the Schutz alumni community to contribute their personal memories of their experiences at Schutz and add to the historical narrative. It was agreed that it would be helpful to post a brief tutorial note on the operational elements so that people could join in the on-line discussion. Paul expressed the appreciation of the Board on behalf of the Schutz alumni community to Charlotte, Alice and Jason Keen for the work they have put into the wiki, eliciting a hearty applause from the group.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Prepared by Paul Clark