

# Schutz American Schools of Alexandria Foundation

Annual Board of Director's Meeting

July 20, 2013 ~ Inman, SC

## Board members present:

Carmen Rosser

Jean Stultz

Amanda Johnson

Lavina Pattee

Ed Nicholas

Bill Pollock

Marina Moraitis

Paul Clark

Mary Beth Neely

Nathan Walker

Steve Jamison

Approximately 10 guests were also present.

Paul Clark, president, called the meeting to order at 9:22 AM.

A determination of quorum was made by Amanda L. Johnson.

The agenda was passed out for review.

*\*A **motion** was made by Steve Jamison and seconded by Bill Pollock to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes from the last meeting (February 2013) were reviewed.

*\*A **motion** was made by Mary Beth Neely and seconded by Bill Pollock to approve the minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.*

## Opening remarks

Paul Clark welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance. He noted the vote taken by the membership on the motion to disband SASAF as a challenge to action. He thanked everyone (volunteers) for getting involved and getting others involved in SASAF to keep the organization moving ahead, broadening its exposure and accomplishing new things.

Paul has a special thanks to the Rosser family for opening their house to everyone for the reunion.

## Communication and Community Building Committee Report

Carmen Rosser summarized the past meetings and discussions on how to keep communication going among SASAF members and Schutz alumni. Some topics discussed at these meetings were newsletters, website, updates, blogging, and notes. The committee wants a way to draw the younger generation that will also appeal to everyone.

Ed Nicholas reported on the website upgrade. The website has moved to a more dynamic style. WordPress was identified as a good server and the price was right, free. Ed explained the site possibilities and recommended some plug-ins. BuddyPress would offer options for free profiles,

private messaging, friends, groups, activities, events. A membership plug-in (some of which are free and others, not) would offer different levels for access. There could be a SASAF member area, SASAF board area and alumni (non-member) area. Ed reported that he feels the website is on track for getting up-to-date.

Paul Clark suggested that the website be used more for sharing experiences and stories. He wants to see people returning to the site more often. He asked Ed if there was a way to restrict public access to proprietary information. Ed responded that people would have to subscribe with a profile and then be approved for access with a password.

Nathan Walker asked if there would be a share function for Facebook, Twitter or feeds. Ed replied that there would be.

Steve Jamison commended the work that had been done to set up the new website but suggested that the best way to get people to use it and promote it was for people to get more people involved in SASAF meetings.

Mary Beth Neely stated that if the website was better and more user friendly, then more would keep coming back to use it.

Carmen Rosser offered to use her “detective” skills and help locate Schutz alumni and asked that names be given to her.

Steve Jamison again reminded people that interaction is important.

Everyone was in agreement that the website should be the main platform for communication.

Ed Nicholas stated that one of the reasons the website is better is that more people can deal with and control the content.

Paul Clark said stories should be posted to draw in people.

Nathan Walker said he will update events at Schutz.

Paul Clark suggested that the committee meet soon to detail the website organization and content. All agreed.

Marina Moraitis feels good about the new website and likes that more people will be able to add and edit the content. She thanked Ed and the committee for their work.

Paul Clark thanked Marina Moraitis for her effort and time put into the communication plan.

Meetings

Paul asked those present if moving the annual meetings will help draw more and new people. Do we want to move it elsewhere next year? Do we want to focus the outreach to eras? Suggestions should be made soon so decisions can be made.

Steve Jamison suggested focusing on geographical locations with higher concentrations of Schutzites.

Paul Clark reminded that electronic meetings are possible and will allow people outside the location or those unable to travel to attend.

The member map was shown and discussed. It was clear that a majority of the members are on the east coast, but it needs to be updated.

### 2015 Grand Reunion

Kathy Winkler Berger reported on the progress made on planning the 2015 grand reunion in Washington, DC. The 4H center has been contacted and the date is set for July 17-19, 2015. Based on the recap on the last one there from Ed Pollack, 75 rooms have been reserved. The number can be increased or decreased if needed. A deposit of 1/3 (\$7300) is needed when the contract is signed.

Paul Clark asked if costs were fully covered at the 2012 meeting. Steve Jamison was not aware if it was.

Kathy Berger stated she would contact Steve Jamison when funds were needed. She asked that feedback be given so the committee can plan events accordingly.

*\*A **motion** was made by Bill Pollock and seconded by Nathan Walker to commit to July 17-19, 2015 for the next SASAF Grand Reunion in Washington DC. The motion passed unanimously.*

Kathy Winkler said the committee will meet soon to firm up plans.

### Treasurer's report

Steve Jamison reported that SASAF will have just under \$10,000 in the bank after the estimated \$9300 expenses of the 2012 reunion. Recent expenses consist of \$1500 for the Meloy scholarship and \$2000 that was set aside for the website upgrade. Future expenses will be \$420 for the incorporation fee, \$600 for ongoing website upkeep, and future reunion expenses.

Annual dues remain at \$20. The floor was open to discussions on how to encourage members to pay dues so that there is a more regular inflow of money to the account.

Mary Beth Neely suggested people could sponsor separate fundraisers.

Nathan Walker felt people might be more willing to give to scholarship. Would it be possible to include that in the outreach efforts?

Paul Clark reported that the 501 c(3) status is gone and suggested that Steve gather the information required to reinstate the non-profit status so that people are more willing to make contributions.

Ed Nicholas said that in the past dues and other donations worked and feels the 501 c(3) status will encourage higher donations.

Steve Brooks asked the board to consider an annual mailing with a request to pay dues and additional donations.

Ed Nicholas suggested setting up a recurring dues payment option.

Alexandre Byron-Exarcos asked if it was possible to pay forward (in advance). Steve stated that it was possible.

Marina said reminding people will definitely help get more dues paid.

#### Meloy Scholarship Report

Nathan Walker reported that the scholarship awardee was very appreciative and a high performing student. Her family was in financial need for further education and she will be going to school in India to study engineering.

Amanda Johnson said she put a photo of the recipient and information on the Facebook page.

Levina Pattee stated that she received a wonderful letter from the recipient thanking SASAF for the scholarship.

#### SASAF Future

Paula Clark stated that he and the board was open to new ideas for developing the future of SASAF. Some of his ideas include:

- He hopes the new website will draw more of both past and present Schutzites.
- He would like there to be a feature story on the scholarship recipients.
- Paul also stated that he feels there should be plans to organize groups to visit Schutz, possibly in groups of graduate classes for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries
- Wants to revisit the idea for alumni to sponsor Schutz graduates who are visiting colleges.  
Nathan Walker stated that the school would support this with fundraising to help students.

Nathan Walker feels there should be a community building aspect to SASAF also. He reported that a group of students from Schutz raised money to help local children attend the school.

Paula Clark stated that a legacy is needed.

Carmen Rosser and Amanda Johnson were both very open to host in students looking at colleges.

Paul suggested the target of 2015 as being the first year for alumni to visit Schutz, followed by other graduate classes. Nathan stated that the 90th anniversary plans are underway. There will be events occurring 2014-15 and encouraged Schutz alumni attendance.

#### News from Alumni

Levina reported the following:

- Tom and Jean Bower have been back and forth working with the Fairhaven School for the Handicapped
- There is a Schutz alumnus who is the architect for the Islam Center at ground zero in NYC.

#### Other Business

Ed Nicholas asked if the annual dues fiscal year could be changed from July-June to January-December.

Steve Jamison stated that it already had been done.

*\*A **motion** was made by Steve to recognize and acknowledge the leaving board members; Jean Schutz, John Meloy, and Marina Moraitis, and to re-nominate Amanda Johnson, Ed Nicholas, and Bill Pollock. The motion was seconded by Bill Pollock and passed unanimously.*

#### Next Meeting

There will be a call for a meeting in the fall, possibly October. Some of the topics to be discussed will be:

- Communications report: alumni data base, website improvements, 2014 meeting plan.
- Financial report: 2013 financial statement, 2014 annual budget approval.

*\*A **motion** was made by Mary Beth Neely to adjourn the meeting at 11:06. The motion was seconded by Steve Jamison and passed unanimously.*

*Minutes prepared by Amanda L. Johnson, secretary*