

St. Pius X Alumni Association

4th Quarter 2020 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs Meeting

7:00 PM December 9, 2020 via Zoom

Officer Attendees:

- Harry H. Cheatham, President and Board Chair, AA
- Andy Held, Chair, Ambassadors Committee
- Norma Overberg, Chair, Spiritual Committee
- Tina Duepner, Co-Chair, Spiritual Committee
- Rick Overberg, Chair Volunteer & Service Committee

Absent but participating:

- Steve Stoll, Chair, Preservation & History submitted a Committee Report

Absent:

- Christy Stites, Board Secretary
- Jennifer Surdyke, Board Treasurer

Guests & Staff Attendees:

- Jim Lehn, President, St. Pius X High School
- Kevin Halley, Technology Coordinator, St. Pius X High School
- Diana Parker, Alumni Relations Coordinator, St. Pius X High School

Quorum: Authorized voting seats are comprised of four officers and five Committee Chairs. Total voting block is nine, with a quorum being five. Participating were two officers and three voting Chairs. Therefore, this meeting had the necessary number of “directors” in attendance for a quorum.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Cheatham.

Opening Prayer: Ms. Overberg provided the opening prayer.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the September 9th meeting, having been distributed and reviewed, a motion for approval was made and seconded without dissent.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda for this meeting having been distributed and reviewed, a motion for approval was made and seconded without dissent.

Treasurers Report: No report was presented. (note: the AA holds no funds and has no assets at this time.)

Business at Hand:

1. Mr. Kevin Halley brief the Directors/Chairs on the digital systems at St. Pius X High School. Mr. Halley explained that students are able to use their own devices (computers, I-pads, phones, etc.) and access the schools educational systems via the high speed internet at the school. Such compatibility allows students use the systems without using familiar equipment. The base system is Google G-Suite with Chrome. The administration and staff use a combination of “Cloud”-based systems and hard-drive servers with multiple backups. In addition, the School uses certain software licenses for proprietary purposes, such as Raisers Edge software to record and track donations. The Google system is the same system used by the Board. School President Jim Lehn expressed appreciation for Mr. Halley for having led St. Pius X to digital competency.

2. Mr. Held provided both a written and verbal report on the activities of the Ambassadors Committee. More Class Representatives have been recruited and more Class Rosters have been updated. This is demonstrated in the increased number of contacts recorded to which the AA can send its Newsletters and communicate otherwise. Direct contact, like receptions, have been temporarily postponed due to the Corona Virus threat. The Committee is still planning to host an in-person Trivia Night in January. If it can't be in-person, this event too will be postponed.

3. Ms. Overberg and Ms. Duepner announced that the Spiritual Committee has been and continues to work on a collection of general-theme and situational prayers for use by the AA.

4. Mr. Lehn reported that the most recent Day of Giving results surprised him, given the circumstances. Total donations that day were \$105,982, which was an all-time record. Alumni accounted for \$40,400 or 38% of the total, up from \$33,980 in 2019, or a 19% increase. Mr. Lehn thanked Mr. Overberg for stimulating the AA which certainly influenced these favorable results in financial support. Mr. Cheatham noted that, overall, Alumni participation in giving was only 5% and that much more penetration was possible and needed.

5. Ms. Parker reported the results of the October Newsletter e-mailings. While 2,230 newsletters were sent, for unknown reasons only 716 or 37% were opened. The Board will be working on trying to understand why this open-rate is so low. Ms. Parker will be inquiring of staff at Constant Contact for possible reasons, such as spam filters.

6. A general discussion ensued regarding information of various kinds in various locations on the St. Pius X website (www.stpius.com). Although the information under that tab is fairly comprehensive, the consensus was that the AA should review and improve the structure and information under the "Alumni" tab, possibly expanding information on deceased alumni and on donations by class.

7. Mr. Stoll submitted a written report, attached, for the Preservation & History Committee citing multiple activities and progress on histories of both alumni as well as faculty and administration personnel from the past. The Officers and Chairs are anxiously awaiting the publication of "St. Pius X After Dark".

8. Mr. Overberg reported that the Volunteer/Service Committee was able to power wash and clean the area around the veteran's memorial, but other projects were stalled due to virus concerns.

9. Given worsening Covid 19 infection rates, the Committee will most likely have the next meeting via Zoom.

New Business:

1. Mr. Overberg has submitted the resume of a prospective AA Vice President to Mr. Cheatham to interview prior to the next meeting in March.

2. Ms. Parker reported the results of the postcard solicitation for contact information. For the decade of the '60's, 273 were mailed but only 8 profiles were submitted. The cost was \$100. A similar mailing will be sent to the classes of the '70's and the results assessed at the March meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the possible need for a calling campaign.

Next Directors Meeting:

The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:00 PM, Saturday, March 10th, at a place or by means to be announced. Directors are each to confirm with Ms. Parker if that day and time is agreeable to them.

Adjournment: Having no further business being brought to the Board, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:00 PM.

Christy Stites, Secretary, Director

Harry H. Cheatham

Harry H. Cheatham, President, Board Chair

Steve Stoll's Progress on History of St. Pius X H.S.:

9 December 2020

1. Called Sister Gabriella: I spoke to Sister Gabriella Rowe, an original Sister, who taught at St. Pius in the early years. The motherhouse for the Sisters of the Blood of Christ is located in Ruma, IL. They are not allowing visitors at this time. She told me on our last conversation that she will be sending me her thoughts and remembrances in the near future. She is also searching the archives for certain information that we discussed. She is the last Sister at the motherhouse that I will be able to talk to about St. Pius in the early years of the school.

Question: Did you know that two of her fellow Sisters, and teachers at St. Pius, were part of the famous march in Selma, Alabama in 1965? I'll tell the whole story in the book on the history of St. Pius X H.S.

2. Received information I requested from Diana Parker: Diana answered my questions concerning fundraising in St. Pius history and what is still being done today. She also sent me information regarding the first coaches in some sports such as tennis, soccer and cross country. She continues to help me fill-in some gaps in our history.

3. Talked to Brenda Sparling regarding Father Jovanovic interview: Jim and Brenda are going to interview Father Jovanovic about his remembrances from the early days at St. Pius. He, too, is not allowed to have visitors at this time. Brenda and I discussed whether or not they could record a telephone conversation with his about his thoughts. This can be done and I will discuss this with them. They have already talked to Father about some of the questions they would like him to respond to. (Don't tell Sister Gabriella that I ended the sentence with a preposition!)

4. Talked to Dorothea (Rougly) Kehm, Class of 1963, regarding the remembrances of her St. Pius "girls": Dorothea and some of her friends from St. Pius meet monthly for a luncheon or an outing. She has asked them to send me their thoughts about the earliest days at St. Pius.

Dorothea has sent me her memories. Many of her remembrances will have to be saved for a second book, *St. Pius X H.S. After Dark*, where they would be more appropriate.

5. Rick and Norma Overberg send me the contact information for Mrs. Grace Day's daughter. Mrs. Day was one of the first teachers at St. Pius and the first "non-Catholic" to teach at our school. I might include some remembrances about Mrs. Day.

6. I sent a history of the Sisters of the Blood of Christ to our president, Harry Cheatham. He will explain the need for this.

These are some of the things I have been working on over the last few months. It is tough to talk to some people with the Covid-19 situation keeping many of us in a limited "bubble." I will continue to work on the history. I currently have about 54 pages written in the computer. If you need to get in touch with me, please feel free to call or send me an email.