

**Truman State University**  
**Alumni Association Board of Directors**  
**April 9, 2016, Meeting • Official Minutes**



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The Truman State University Alumni Board of Directors met Saturday, April 9, 2016, on the University campus in Kirksville, Mo. The meeting was called to order shortly after 8:30 a.m. by Alumni Board President Keith Epperson.

The Alumni Board members attending the meeting were, Donna Bailey, Don Bindner, Tania Cook, Keith Epperson, Natalie Gerhart, Hope Harms, Jean Kaul, Carol Keller, Greg Jochems, Ann Patterson, Denise Smith and Vid Vidyasagara. Also attending were Sharon Husmann, Tyler George and Callie Templeton.

President Keith Epperson welcomed everyone and introductions were made. The agenda and minutes were both approved.

**Chapter Reports:**

Arizona - Vid Vidyasagara spoke of the Arizona Campaign Kickoff event and reported a good turnout. The Arizona Alumni Chapter kicked off the year with their annual Palonza event; Hope attended and ran the half marathon. Vidyasagara reported that membership is a little behind, but is confident that they will meet their goal. Many of the board officers are facing some personal issue, so they are working through those things and keeping the chapter on track. The chapter has been cultivating relationships with current students from Arizona, who feel strongly about volunteering. The chapter is excited about having them back in Arizona for the summer for potential service events. The chapter's biggest challenge right now is leadership.

Chicago – no report

Colorado – Pamela Popp reported good membership numbers in Colorado along with a young Board that is trying new events. Their biggest challenge is attendance at events partially due to the large sprawling metro area and traffic challenges.

Dallas - Natalie reported that Dallas is in a "tough time." Without a president, the chapter is struggling to find people who are willing to/have time to step up to a leadership role.

Iowa - Jean Kaul reported that memberships are coming along and that they've had a few events thus far this year, including a trivia night. Ronza night is coming up (tomorrow night), and there's a big "Behind-the-Scenes Tour" coming up when Iowa alumni will come down to Kirksville to a campus history tour with Zac Burden. They are trying to put on events to attract young alumni families who are starting to have kids (ice cream tour, etc.). Their new treasurer to start this summer (Crystal Baldwin is moving to Florida; Sebastian Speer will be taking over).

Kansas City - Hope Harms reported that the chapter is on track to reach their membership goal, and their budget is healthy. They will be awarding two \$1000 scholarships this year. The chapter has heard requests about "intellectualizing" events, with perhaps a social event afterwards. They've had mixed success with it so far, but are optimistic about the future. In January, the chapter hosted their annual Rose Brooks Domestic Violence Shelter service event, which went well. The chapter is building a relationship with the shelter that will continue on for years to come. The chapter is planning a brewery tour for mid to late-May, hoping to connect with recent graduates. The chapter has also worked with communications faculty member Jay Self to come and do a dinner and conversation on the topic of humor (hopefully this summer).

Mid-Atlantic - Hope reported on behalf of Justis Tuia, who was unable to attend but submitted a report. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is off to a good start with a few successful events. They are looking forward to next weekend's Pursue the Future Campaign Celebration (April 16). Other events include a 5K, and a Nationals vs. Cardinals game. The chapter currently stands at 32 members, and is well-positioned financially.

Mid-Missouri - Tania Cook reported that Mid-Missouri has had some great events thus far in 2016, but the calendar for the rest of the year is a little shaky. The chapter is trying to partner with the Northeast Missouri Alumni Chapter on a Warm Springs Ranch tour, which is where Anheuser-Busch keeps their famous Clydesdales. Chapter President Kati Abbott is also expecting a baby!

Northeast Missouri - Don Bindner reported that the Northeast Missouri Alumni Chapter has had many successful events already in 2016, and they are making strong progress towards their chapter membership goal. Bindner spoke of a new model that the chapter has adopted for their chapter scholarship. They recently started awarding one scholarship to an area freshman and another scholarship along with a chapter membership to an upperclassman. The hope is that it will act as a mentorship program and also help students connect with the alumni chapter.

St. Louis - Carol Keller reported that the chapter is doing better this year with recruitment and membership. They had a very successful networking event in late January. In March, they helped host Bulldog B.I.T.E. - an elevator pitch competition for Truman students. The finals were in St. Louis, followed by a networking event at the Downtown T-Rex. Keller shared an idea of "rubber stamping" events to make them more replicable by other chapters. There are 40 St. Louis alumni going on a tour of Anheuser-Busch Brewery. They will also be touring Bellefontaine Cemetery in May and attending a Cardinals vs. Dodgers game in July.

### **Nominating Committee:**

The search for nominees for Board representatives from the Arizona and Dallas Alumni Chapter continues. All Board members are encouraged to submit suggestions.

Board members should watch for an email ballot later in the summer to vote on the Chicago representative, and the At-Large representative.

The next agenda item was extension of Keith Epperson's term to extend it to allow him to serve as president of the Alumni Board. Ann Patterson moved to extend his term and Carol Keller seconded. Motion passed.

The following Board members were also reelected by acceptance of the slate:

Donna Bailey, Northeast Missouri Chapter Representative - third term

Jean Kaul, Iowa Chapter Representative - second term

Ann Patterson, At-Large Representative - third term

Pamela Popp, Colorado Alumni Chapter Representative - third term

Greg Jochems, Student Representative - second term

Hope Harms, Kansas City Alumni Chapter Representative - second term

### **Executive Committee:**

Keith Epperson facilitated a discussion on developing new leaders and cultivating young alumni as potential volunteers. He encouraged everyone to utilize their connections in all areas to help with recruitment of volunteers.

Hope Harms commended everyone for taking on the leadership roles of facilitating a discussion at the retreat. She requested that committee chairs to keep her and Denise Smith in the loop on meeting times, progress, etc.

Secretary Denise Smith announced membership goals and an April membership report were located under tab 5 in the booklets. Overall membership is at 69% of the 1385 national membership goal. Smith also announced an update on the Gambaiana and Paino Funds will be provided at the Foundation Banquet later in the evening.

### **Chapter Development Committee**

Committee Chair Jean Kaul reported that the committee was working on the Alumni Resource Book and planned to have a new structure and edits ready by October 2016. Kaul requested Board members give consideration to international alumni outreach. She also requested suggestions from the Board for the fall Alumni Leaders Conference. Don Bindner suggested a session that covers the balance of what alumni chapters do as opposed to fundraising. Bailey reinforced the idea of highlighting successful chapter events to show other volunteers — along the lines of the "rubber stamping" that Keller suggested.

### **Programs and Awards Committee**

Ann Patterson talked about an alumni month of service in April in lieu of National Truman Spirit Day and possibly calling it TruCare. Chapters could be encouraged to host volunteer/service activities sometime during that month. Patterson also reported the Alumni Travel Program will be going to Scotland in 2017, and possibly Cuba in 2018. They are also developing a list of possible future trips.

Tyler George reported for the committee in regards to National Truman Spirit Day. He felt participation was good and posted photos to the Alumni Facebook page.

The committee discussed organizing some type of National Networking Day but tabled the idea for the future.

### **Student Relations Committee**

Don Binder reported for Justis Tuia who was unable to attend the meeting. They are working with service-related student organizations in regards to students/graduates joining alumni chapters. The mock interview process has been put on hold for October and the Podcasts are also on hold since Todd Kuhns moved and his position is open.

### **Old Business**

Vice President Hope Harms announced the Strategic Plan Committee is pulling together a lot of good information and progressing in their work to draft a new plan. The core of the strategic plan is to keep alumni connected to the University. To allow the committee to really evaluate and disseminate information to draft the updated plan, the Board suggested extending the current plan for up to two years. Ann Patterson moved to extend the plan and Don Bindner seconded. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

The Strategic Plan Committee is seeking new members to assist in developing the next Alumni Association Plan. The Committee currently includes Epperson, Harms, McLain, Gerhart, Vidyasagra and Williams, but some members' terms will end June 30. Epperson emphasized that a diverse range of perspectives from all grad years will strengthen the plan for the benefit of the entire alumni base. Harms encouraged any interested board member to contact the Executive Committee.

President Keith Epperson called for a new online Alumni Resource Book. Since the current one is outdated and the Chapter Development Committee is dividing up sections of the book, they may reach out to other committees for assistance.

Denise Smith reviewed the activities for the rest of the weekend, and announced the start time for the Foundation Reception and Banquet. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. for the next activity, a tour of Kirk Memorial.

The next Alumni Board meeting is Friday, October 21, 2016, 7:30 a.m. in Kirksville.

*(Minutes prepared by Tyler George and Denise Smith)*