

Truman State University
Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting
October 20, 2016 • Official Minutes



The Truman State University Alumni Board of Directors met Friday, October 20, 2016, on the University campus in Kirksville, Mo. The meeting was called to order shortly after 8 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-Michaelis, Chelle King, Greg Jochems, Ann Patterson, Denise Smith and Jason Turk. Also attending were Jordan Ganter and Callie Templeton. Joining via phone was Pamela Popp.

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

Chapter Reports:

Arizona – There was not an Arizona rep present so Denise Smith reported for the chapter. The Arizona Alumni Chapter kicked off the year with the Arizona Campaign event. Their membership is a little behind, but they are working to meet their goal. Many of the board officers are ready to step down so the struggle continues to recruit new leaders.

Chicago – Lizz Esfeld reported that the Chicago Alumni Chapter has been hosting more events in the City and they have had more new grads at their networking/social hour events. They have a core group of people showing up on a regular basis. They hosted a Serial Killers Tour with Sal Coasta but turnout was not as high as expected. They also attended a baseball game and have a campaign banquet in a few weeks.

Colorado – Pamela Popp reported their young Board is still trying new events. Their biggest challenge is the large sprawling metro area with a scattered alumni population. They just had a great event in September prior to a Rockies vs. Cardinals game that brought out some new people.

Dallas – Denise Smith reported a successful campaign event was hosted in Dallas and the search continues to find people who are willing to/have time to step up to a leadership role.

Iowa – Jean Kaul reported that memberships are continuing to come in and they have had a successful year and have continued to host on events to attract young alumni families as well as a diverse alumni population. Sebastian Speer will be their new treasurer.

Kansas City – Hope Harms reported that the chapter has had success with membership this year and their budget is healthy. They are looking for a location to move their student send-off indoors due to heat. Their golf tournament continues to raise monies for their chapter scholarship.

Mid-Atlantic – Justis Tuia reported the chapter is transitioning to new leadership with Danny Hague moving into the role of president. They had a great event at the Smithsonian Art Museum led by an alumnus providing a private tour. They have also hosted several chapter events at public events in the District.

Mid-Missouri – Tania Cook reported that Mid-Missouri hosted numerous events in 2016, including a recent winery tour, an event at Coopers Landing, a Student Send-Off, and a Roller Derby event.

Northeast Missouri – Don Bindner and Donna Bailey reported that the Northeast Missouri Alumni Chapter has hosted many successful events 2016 on a monthly basis. Recent events included Fun at the Farm, Dogs for Dawgs service event at the football game, a Future Alumni Welcome and they are finalizing their plans for their Annual Fall Banquet.

St. Louis – Carol Keller and Jason Turk reported that the chapter is doing well with recruitment and membership. Their Cardinals event was down in numbers but that was due to it not being a Cubs vs. Cardinals event. They hosted a highly successful Student Send-off at a new venue. They are cohosting a tailgate event at the McKendree football game with the Truman Touchdown Club. Their Architectural Tour was a big hit and they have planned their events for all of 2017.

Florida Club – Chelle King reported they are not drawing large numbers for their events but have had a lot of interest and a variety of alumni attending.

Springfield Club – Rich Cole and Bill Cox reported they had a very successful golf event that was a fundraiser for Truman football and they have raised more than \$10,000 in the past two years. In August, they hosted another successful Student Send-Off event with over 100 alumni and families attending including about 35 Truman students.

Committee Reports

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 for an open At-Large representative.

Jason Turk was re-elected for a third term, July1, 2016 – June 30, 2018.

Executive Committee:

Keith Epperson encouraged all Board members to continually consider 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. Epperson also encouraged Board members to consider executive leadership roles on the Alumni Board.

Hope Harms commended thanked for participating in committee conference calls and for exhibiting such positive energy. All committees should continue to keep her in the loop for calls so she can serve as a resource.

Secretary Denise Smith announced the membership report is in packets and we are almost at year-end goal. Right now, memberships are at the two-for-one rate and the special form is also included in your packet. Congratulations to Iowa, Kansas City and NEMO for already reaching 2017 goals! NEMO continues to hold strong as the largest chapter. There are a lot of new prospective alumni chapter volunteers attending the Alumni Leaders Conference in the afternoon. Chapters were also reminded to submit membership goals for 2017.

Denise Smith also provided a campus update. Many of the alumni web pages have a new layout. If you notice a broken links or have comments, please email Jordan Ganter and Deanna Rood. Baldwin is closed for a complete renovation, including the addition of restrooms and opening the layout more. Greenwood renovation is slated to start in 2018. Greenwood will open as an Autism Clinic and will also house other related facilities. Not all of the funding has come through from the Governor, but it has been earmarked. Truman's capital campaign is going well and Chicago will host the next event.

Chapter Development Committee

Committee Chair Jean Kaul reported that the afternoon's Alumni Leaders Conference has a great attendance and they hope it is a collaborative event. Their committee hopes to provide more opportunities for mentoring leaders and will discuss further in April. Donna Bailey is reviewing the Alumni Resource Book.

Programs and Awards Committee

Ann Patterson and Carol Keller reported on the committee's new project, TruCare. They want to encourage alumni, students, faculty and friends to volunteer in the month of March and log their hours. This project was created to extend the spirit of the Truman students "Big Event" hosted on April 1 on campus. TruCare will show that Truman cares and alumni and friends will show their support of their communities nationwide and worldwide. They are encouraging each chapter to schedule a service event in March. There will be a web page created and the hashtags are TruCare and BulldogForever.

Patterson also reported on the Alumni Travel Program. The 2017 trip is to Scotland in early June and is sold out with a waiting list. Choices for the 2018 trip include Iceland, Panama and Cuba. The committee has forms at the Alumni Center and they are asking interested alumni to vote on their preferred destination. Iceland is approximately \$3200 plus airfare, Cuba \$3900 plus airfare and Panama \$2500 plus airfare.

Alumni Coordinator Jordan Ganter reported on the recent National Truman Spirit Day. It was an extremely successful event and will continue in the future. Ganter coordinated a Facebook photo contest and the winners received a Homecoming weekend package.

Student Relations Committee

Chelle King and Don Bindner reported their committee is encouraging more collaboration with athletics and hope chapters will be aware of the changing schedules to try to support more athletic events.

Old Business

Vice President Hope Harms announced the Strategic Plan Committee is progressing in their work to draft a new plan. They hope to have a revised document to the Board for the April meeting.

New Business

Denise Smith is working with the auditors to amend the Articles of Incorporation for the Truman Alumni Association.

Event insurance was also discussed—the St. Louis Alumni Chapter recently paid \$600 for a one-time insurance policy. Rising costs continue to be a concern.

Keith Epperson asked the hard question, “What do alumni want out of a chapter?” For example, the Dallas Alumni Chapter has no leaders and few events but reached membership goal. He encouraged everyone to consider their motivation. Next meeting will cover this topic.

Denise Smith covered announcements for Homecoming weekend and reviewed the schedule as well as the time slots and events for volunteers. The meeting was adjourned and Board members were encouraged to return by 5-5:30 p.m. for the Bulldog Forever Homecoming Banquet.

The next Alumni Board meeting is Friday, April 8, 8 a.m. in Kirksville.

(Minutes prepared by Jordan Ganter and Denise Smith)