

Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2009

Call to order

Jesse Henderson called to order the regular meeting of the **Talladega College National Alumni Association** at **7:10pm** in **Board Room, Sumner Hall Administration Building**. Lawrence Carroll led the group in prayer. A quorum was present.

Roll call

The following persons were present:

Erslyn Anders
Greg Austin
Norman Campbell
Sidney Conn
Joy Daniel
Johnnie Mae Durant
Chester Fair
Marva Goff
Marilyn Hatcher Daniels
Jesse Henderson, Presiding
Vermelle Preston-Simmons
Thelma Ramsey
Leonard Smith
Tommy Thomas

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Jesse reported that Joy Daniel sent the January minutes electronically. Several members acknowledged receipt of minutes.

Open issues

Membership-

- Mr. Leonard Smith distributed a membership report.
- Mr. Smith compared last year's membership(2007-2008) to current year (2008-2009) memberships to date.
- Marva Goff sent a letter out to alumni to encourage them to pay dues. Chapters have decided to collect dues differently which does not appear to be successful at this time.
- The Far West region has no paid membership.
- No dues were collected from Birmingham. The change in their dues collection was the individual is to send their alumni dues directly to the financial secretary.
- The floor was opened for suggestions. The payment form is available via the website. Several members present collected between 1-3 dues payment.

- Johnnie Mae Durant said that the Eastern region/DC/Maryland chapter did not have any meetings this past year.
- Leonard Smith reported that we are up to 101 as of April 28, 2009.
- Chester Fair spoke and reported that he is the only one that pays dues out of his local club (Miami). Whenever there is a meeting, the focus is on the concerns and crisis of Talladega College and rather than the goals of the local organization. Membership dues are discussed for the local organization rather than the national alumni association.
- The members of Miami chapter participated in the Raffle. Chester stated that in order to get the members of the Miami chapter work and to pay dues, something needs to come to them directly. They do not receive any information directly.
- Jesse Henderson stated that this has been his argument that the national alumni association should communicate with the local/chapter presidents.

a) **Communication**

- Jesse Henderson spoke to changing the organizational structure that would drive future communication with the chapters, not necessarily a by-law change. Historically, our organizational structure has been that information is communicated to the regions. The regions then have the responsibility to communicate to local chapters. This method has been ineffective.
- We will never have high numbers but we should have more than 101 paid members.
- Greg Austin interjected that regions receive money annually for administrative costs. He questioned what happens to the money that is sent to the region. If nothing is being done with this money, it should be returned to the TCNAA.
- Leonard said that we have given over \$100,000 from the alumni association. That money has been generated from the generosity of the Board. Leonard Smith said that we have a lot of things going, e.g. dues, raffles, Tom Joyner, etc.

C) **Treasurer's report**

- Greg Austin reported that we received two letters from the IRS in October, 2008 stating that we were late filing and we owed them a balance of \$2900.55 and the other was \$2933.15.
- Greg reported that those balances could probably be adjudicated and we were able to do so. The IRS made the adjustment and we did not have to pay any late fees for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

- The 990 form is current. The national alumni body needs to receive information from active alumni chapters. The IRS has information for chapters that are active, if we do not receive anything from these chapters they will be considered “inactive”. We need every chapter to reactivate their tax Id number.
- Treasurer’s report from November 7, 2008. There was a beginning balance \$6045.80. We received from the triennial meeting. \$2378.96 and received one dues of \$74.76. We made a contribution to the college of \$4000.00. We made a contribution for Ella Pearson Mitchell of \$100.00 and we paid for the printing of the calendars for \$733.00. Giving us total expenses of \$4833.33. The balance is \$3641.43. Question was raised about the donation for Ella Pearson Mitchell. The donation was given to the college in memory of Rev. Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell.
- The raffle report for 2008. We had:

Far west	100 sold
Mid west	196
Eastern	120
Southern	250
1 individual ticket	\$30.00
- The officers had 256 tickets. We received \$1000 from the Eastern region. The alumni association contributed \$353.32 to balance out. The expenses include printing the raffles, we gave the college a \$10,000.00 contribution. We paid for the TV which was \$2179.00. We paid for the computer which was \$859.00. The digital camera was \$326.00. We made an additional contribution of \$11,000.00 to the college. Total expenses were \$24,682.30. The raffle itself generated a profit of \$20647.70.
- This is the report that covers January 1st-December 31st, 2008. Total \$43,070.54 and total expenses \$39,429.11. Leaving us with an ending balance of \$3641.43. All of the raffle information is included in this, all of the dues, and all monies we have collected.
- Report from January 1, 2009 to April 29, 2009. Everything collected up until yesterday is included in this report. We have a beginning balance of \$3641.43. We were unable to start the pay-pal but it was not able to be attached to our.

- The officers were responsible for 400 tickets. Jesse further clarified that the officers received an allocation just as each region received an allocation.
- Tommy inquired about the expense of the Grand reunion book. Those who attended the Grand Reunion received the book. The total income \$21,301.72 which includes our beginning balance. Under expenses we paid for the printing of the raffle tickets, we paid for alumni council dues, we paid the CPA for the preparation of the 990 (tax form).
- Other expenses-
 - contribution for Rebecca Phelps the volleyball coach who had a fire of \$500.00.
 - stamps for \$42.00 to Leonard Smith
 - A contribution to the basketball team a one-time gift of \$1000.00 for championship rings, jackets, etc.(The Men's Basketball team).

We paid for the printing of the Triennial Book. We had rebate dues to:

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| • Eastern Region | \$285.00 |
| • Midwest Region | 120.00 |
| • Southern region | 550.00 |
| • Total expenses | \$4179.75 |

This gives us an ending balance of \$17121.97

Raffle report (2009):

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| • Far West | 66 tickets | \$1650.00 |
| • Eastern region | 99 tickets | 2475.00 |
| • Midwest | 43 tickets | 1075.00 |
| • Southern | 89 tickets | 2225.00 |
| • Officers | 259 tickets | 6475.00 |
| • Total | 556 | 13900.00 |

- The printing of the raffle tickets \$277.75 leaving an ending balance of \$13622.25. Thelma Ramsey for donated the camera.
- We expect to spend less for the computer and TV than we did last year; the computer should be approximately \$649.00(\$800.00 last year) and \$1800(\$2100 last year). If we spend another \$2500.00 for gifts that leaves a profit of \$12,100.00.
- Dove reported that she sold an additional 27 tickets for an additional \$675.00. Greg asked if there was any additional raffle money outstanding, he would collect it to deposit it on Friday, May 1, 2009. We currently have \$17121.97.

- The on air contribution to the Tom Joyner show will not happen during this weekend. It will happen later in the Month of May. This will enable the alumni to collect additional funds and make a bigger contribution than we would have been able to do on Friday, May 1, 2009.
- Mr. Davis said that Tom Joyner is limited to the number of “on air” presentations that can be done. There are four presentations for May 1, 2009 that are over \$10,000.00. The following week he will be able to put more on. It is good for the college to be able to tie up his airspace. Next week we can come on in two spots.
- Mr. Harry Coaxum, Board of Trustees chairman introduced Dr. Joe A. Lee and President Billy Hawkins. Mr. Coaxum spoke about the state of the college and President Hawkins accomplishments that he has made in his first 12 months. There was great feedback from most of the Board of Trustees.

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President Hawkins spoke of

- Many improvements on campus.
- Donors that would have normally given have not done so due to the economic times.
- Alumni support and efforts are critical, especially within the next 12-24 months to continue the momentum and be able to maintain.
- The college’s debt
- The physical condition of the campus has improved but we continue to have some challenges.
- Enrollment is the highest it has been and there is optimism about the college.
- The Board and Dr. Hawkins are developing a long range strategic plan.
- The board is going to look internally regarding their positives and negatives.
- The foundation appears to be a bit stronger.
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- Mr. Coaxum stated that his message to the alumni will be two-fold. In order to move forward we need to stay engaged and let old “hard feelings” go about things that were not done or accomplished in the past.

- Jesse Henderson introduced Dr. Joe Lee. Dr. Lee spoke about the spirit of the college. He spoke of the President's abilities to get us out of SA CS. Dr. Hawkins was very instrumental with the relationships that he has in keeping us from under the gun with SACS.
- Mr. Anthony Davis spoke about our relationship with Tom Joyner. He explained the process of Tom Joyner and the "on air" presentation process. He no longer does the sky shows and usually reserves on air presentations for the larger schools. However, his staff will be here via remote beginning at 5am. That presentation will be followed by a luncheon.
- Dr. Hawkins spoke about the Board and their understanding the operation of the institution and the vision in which the college needs to go.
- Consultants were hired to do some of the work on campus that was sorely needed in a short period of time.
- Enrollment is expected to increase. As we grow, our challenges also grow.
- We need to upgrade the dormitories;
- we need recreational facilities on campus.
- We heard there were stimulus monies and the need to have "shovel ready" projects in order to take advantage of the stimulus money. We have plans for a new science building.
- Our athletic teams have been successful this year (Men's and Women's basketball, Volleyball). Many people are saying that it appears that we are focused more on athletics and not academics. The president said he received calls from nine college presidents telling him to take advantage of the press surrounding the team's achievements. It was good and free press from a recruitment and Public relations standpoint.
- The State of Alabama recognized Talladega's basketball team and they were asked to come to Montgomery. Senator Pruitt said that was the best thing he could have done was having the team come to the meeting because when it came time to vote on the money for TC, they remembered the team coming.
- The appropriations were approved through the House and the Senate with an increase.
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- He said that we have had a good year but we still have fiscal challenges. We have gotten great responses from our students, they are our greatest recruiters. This is a well respected institution. We have to continue to promote and sell the institution.

- Jesse Henderson thanked Mr. Coaxum, Mr. Davis, Dr. Joe Lee and President Hawkins for coming. Jesse asked for Joy Daniel to cover the minutes from the Fall '08 executive board meeting.

New business

- The Dega Ning Alumni group. Dee Dee Lassiter will be here to see if we can get the young alumni engaged. She wants to partner with us. The Dega Alumni network has about 1400 people on the network. They are trying to get 1500 by the anniversary of the site. What we are trying to do is trying to gain benefits from that. Joy is part of the committee as well. Joy is the Vice President of the TCNAC.
- Greg Austin asked that everyone join if they can(Deganing).
- Thelma Ramsey spoke of her issue with the formulation of another group that has its own officers understanding that this is an effort to get the young alumni engaged; she felt that creating a separate arm would not serve any real purpose.
- Jesse responded that he understood that issue. He said that this is a partnership. Dee Dee understands that we want feet on the ground. We want them to start somewhere. We are trying to harness that and get them into a forward direction. The goal is to increase our visibility in our local communities.
- Joy Daniel distributed the minutes. They are self explanatory. She said that she would make copies of the conference call minutes and have them ready for May 1, 2009. Dove asked a question about a loss on the financial report and if there would be an update on that. Greg said that it was his understanding that they were supposed to do a report. However, we did end up losing money. The Southern region was supposed to provide a report.
- Greg said that we received a report but it had to be revised. There was some discussion regarding missing information. The issue was with the format of the report not the content. The numbers in the report were accurate. Jesse asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Thelma moved to accept the minutes. No further questions or discussion offered. The motion carried. This decision requires further approval once we get a quorum. All eligible members voted yes.
- Jesse said that we would get started at 8:30 am and adjourn by noon. Jesse has to give a committee report at approximately 10:00. We will be meeting in the upper lounge. Jesse asked that the President-elect preside over the meeting. Jesse will be making a presentation on Tom Joyner.

- The local Talladega alumni chapter wrote a letter to clear the air. The meeting was around the alumni house. Talladega Alumni chapter proposed that we take the house over. Jesse had a phone conference with Dr. Hawkins regarding what was expected about the house. The proposal is not a written proposal to us. It should be an estimate of the expenses that it would take to get the house to usability. Currently, it is the local chapter's responsibility. They signed an agreement for the use of the house.
- Tommy Thomas asked if we were going to bring closure to the Triennial. There has been a final report accepted by this body. Jesse stated that he would leave it as an open issue.

Adjournment

Jesse Henderson adjourned the meeting at **9:08pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Thelma Ramsey, Secretary-Elect

Minutes approved by: **[Name]**