

Tyler A&M Mothers' Club General Meeting – September 21, 2017

The General Meeting was held at Pollard United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. with 39 in attendance. Ice cream and toppings were served. Boutique items were available for purchase.

Rebecca Mohr, President, called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. She welcomed everyone. She asked that everyone sign-in and get a door prize ticket. She encouraged everyone to bring a friend to the next meeting and to check into Facebook. She noted that we plan to utilize Facebook more this year. If you ordered a Maroon-Out Shirt, they are available for pickup. Rebecca passed out Aggieland Outfitters discount cards that give Aggie Moms 12% off their entire purchase.

The **minutes** from last year's End-of-Year Meeting held on May 2nd and the Howdy Dinner held on July 30th had previously been emailed to the membership. Paper copies were also available. With no corrections, they "stand approved as distributed".

Rebecca summarized the **purpose** of our club by saying "it is very important that our club not only raise funds for scholarships, but also provide fellowship and friendships with other Aggie Moms. After all, I promised your students that at our Howdy. I said we'd keep Momma happy!"

Norma Lawson, Vice-President-at-Large, showed a Federation **video** on the importance of Aggie Mom Clubs. It featured an interview of Norma made in April along with cameo appearances by Katie Latham and Cherie James.

Joni Farmer and LeAnn Cargile, VPs - **Programs**, announced that Andy Duffie, '78 will be our speaker at the October meeting. He will tell us about the Aggie Century Tree Project. Seedlings grown from the Century Tree's acorns can be purchased with a portion of the proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Rebecca showed a photo of a marriage proposal at the Century Tree, a very popular spot. They are still working on the speaker for the November meeting. In December, we will have our **Aggie Ornament** exchange, so start looking now for an ornament. December will also feature cookies! In the spring, we will have some fellowships and some "surprises". We might do an Aggie Barn painting.

In the spring, we will also have a **Silent Auction** with Congressman Louis Gohmert as our speaker. Joni asked members to help get items for the auction by asking stores that they support for a donation. One of the items that has already been donated is a two-person Swedish massage.

Kim Costanza, VP - Hospitality, passed around the sign-up sheets for **refreshments** for future meetings. She will send you reminders prior to the meeting.

Rebecca thanked Tracye Martin for filling in for Cherie James, VP – **Membership** and reminded everyone to turn in their membership forms. Dues are \$25 and are used for the administrative expenses of our club. Forms can also be mailed to the address at the bottom of the form. You need to join by the October meeting to be included in the printed membership directory.

Shelley McGuire, assisted by Stephanie Henderson, coordinates the **Goody Bags**. The Goody bags for the fall semester will be a white pillowcase with "Gig 'Em" on it. It will be stuffed with gift cards, pennies for Sully, snacks and school supplies, and delivered to your Aggie with a hand-written note from you right before finals on December 4th. The bags will be stuffed on December 2nd. Shelley invited members to help with the distribution. Order forms are available tonight, and you can also pre-order your Goody Bag for the spring semester on the form.

Lou Ann Viergever is coordinating our **Butter Braids** fundraiser. Our sale will run through October 19th (our next meeting), and you need to turn in the money that night. A Butter Braid is a frozen pastry that will quadruple in size when it is thawed overnight and then baked. Returning flavors are apple, cinnamon, cream cheese, strawberry cream cheese, and blueberry cream cheese. A new flavor this year is 4 Cheese and Herb that comes with marinara sauce. Also new this year are apple dumplings. We are also selling cookie dough if you have a lot of Butter Braids already in your freezer. The orders will be delivered on November 2nd. Lou Ann encouraged members to make a list of events where you might need a pastry, and if you participated in last year's sale, to contact your previous orderers. This is one of our "good" fundraisers where we can make several thousand dollars.

Christy Good is in charge of our raffles this year. We will be giving away two quilts at our dual-prize **raffle** in December. One of our life members makes a **T-shirt Quilt** for us, and we need donations of Aggie T-shirts for future quilts. Rebecca displayed the square **Lap Quilt** made by one of her friends that will also be raffled. Tickets will be available next month.

Jan Carter reminded everyone to start cleaning out their closets and collecting items for our **Garage Sale** which will probably be in February or March because there is less competition in those months from other sales. We also need a day when it is not cold or raining. She will take smaller items from now until about two weeks before the sale. You can leave items outside her house in Whitehouse, or you can bring them to the meetings. Clothes should be on hangers or folded in a box. Jan sorts and prices the items. The sale will be held at her metal building at the intersection of 110 and 344 in Whitehouse on a Saturday. Big stuff can be brought now if you contact her so that she can meet you at the building. Jan suggested that members ask for the leftover items from other sales. Members and friends will be allowed to pre-shop the sale the day before. We need to take a picture of the stuff in the building and send it out for advertisement.

Boutique is held in April during Family Weekend (formerly known as Parents' Weekend). It is like a "Maroon Canton" where you can find all kinds of "Aggie-fied" items. This year for our **raffle during Boutique**, we will be giving away two gift card trees that will have a value of less than \$600 each. This is in place of the apartment items raffle we have done in recent years. A survey of some students found that they want to pick out their own stuff, and they are getting ready to move out in April so they are not looking to collect more stuff. Members were encouraged to donate a **gift card** and to ask businesses for donations of gift cards. The club will be sending a letter to corporations that require a six-month notice for donation requests.

Rebecca notified the membership that the Board has decided not to have a **booth at Boutique** this year. "It's expensive for us to participate and our sales are down." In spring 2017, our net income from Boutique was \$1,310.65 (revenue of \$3,757.60 minus expenses of \$2,446.95). "We just didn't think it was worth the time and trouble. We have other fundraising ideas for this year. This was not a decision taken lightly, and, remember, it's a trial this year!" She also noted that we are looking for "a really unique idea that we can have as 'our thing' and have available on the website. We are even looking into an Etsy page." Boutique-style items will still be sold at meetings and other events. Kenya Johnson, Boutique Chair, asked members to submit ideas for items that could be sold at meetings.

Wendy Milam, VP – Projects, explained a new **envelope fundraiser** for this year. One hundred envelopes are numbered 1 – 100. They will be organized into groups of five. Members will be asked to take a few and ask their friends to choose an envelope and make a donation based on the number on the envelope. One set of filled envelopes will raise \$5,050. The envelopes will be available next month. This fundraiser costs us only \$2 in expenses. Rebecca noted that it is cheaper to make a donation than travel to Boutique with gas, hotel, and food costs for you, your Aggie and their roommates.

Joleen Doke, Treasurer, presented the **treasurer's report**. As of today, our balance is \$2900. We have membership dues coming in and sales from the meeting Boutique items. She also presented the **budget** for 2017 – 2018. She noted that the budget is "not aggressive" on fundraising income. Fundraisers included are the Butter Braids, Envelopes, and a Scholarship Dinner. Details are still being planned on that dinner – maybe a dance – where we hope to sell tickets for \$25 and net about \$12.50 per person. The Goody Bags are "in and out" on the budget, meaning that the income passes through the accounts but all money is used on the bags and their contents. We "went heavy" on the expenses to be conservative. The budget includes giving out \$10,000 in scholarships this year. \$935 would be left over to start next year. "I feel good about this budget." Kim Costanza made a **motion to adopt the budget**. Wendy Milam seconded the motion, and it carried with a "Gig 'Em".

Joni recognized the **new moms** that were present and had them introduce themselves and tell the major of their Aggie. Joni then led the group in a game where she shared Aggie trivia and "**secrets of Aggieland**". This information will be sent out to the members. Norma shared the Destination Aggieland App that gives information about restaurants, parking and hotels.

Norma noted that we have two **Facebook** pages. The "Tyler A&M Mothers' Club" page can be seen by anyone. The "Tyler Aggie Moms" page is a closed group for members only. Katie Latham shared that **Aggie Mom Camp** is coming up in February, and there will be more information to follow.

Rebecca held **Door Prize Drawings**. Three gifts were given out.

Joleen Doke made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Jeri Kazlow seconded the motion, and it carried with "Thanks and Gig 'Em".

(Minutes taken by Jessica Knowles, Recording Secretary)