

Tyler A&M Mothers' Club HOWDY DINNER

August 10, 2019

Our sponsors: *Rebecca and David Mohr*

The Howdy Dinner was held at Pollard United Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. with approximately 60 in attendance. A Mini-Boutique was set up for attendees to shop for Aggie-themed items. The 70th Birthday slideshow that featured lots of pictures from the history of our club scrolled on a big screen.

At 6:15 p.m., Renee Wright, President, welcomed everyone, proclaiming that it is exciting “to kick off our Aggie Mom year”! She extended a special welcome to the new Aggies and their families, and our guest speaker Major General James K. Brown and his wife, Jane. She noted that Aggie Mom Clubs have been a tradition at A&M since 1922 and that the Tyler Aggie Moms celebrated our 70th birthday last year. Our **purpose** is “to support our students, to learn more about TAMU and its traditions, to build friendships with other moms, and to raise money for student scholarships”.

Renee announced that we will be selling **Butter Braids** soon. We will be having a **Garage Sale**, so everyone needs to clean out their closets. Tickets are available for the dual Quilt and \$100 Aggieland Outfitters Gift Card **Raffle** we have in progress. The quilt was on display. The **Scholarship Dinner** is being planned for February 8th. Last year’s dinner “was a blast”. She invited everyone to visit our Facebook page.

David Mohr, husband of former President Rebecca Mohr, said the invocation. Rebecca invited attendees to help pay for the dinner by placing a donation in the Senior Boot of her son, Joe '19, who graduated last year and is “gainfully employed in his field”. Donations in a boot are a tradition in the Corps of Cadets. Everyone enjoyed salad, lasagna, spaghetti and bread from **Bruno's** in Tyler. **Manuel Bulhoes**, father of Karyn Ard, Corresponding Secretary, baked “Maroon Velvet” and “Aggie Velvet” **cupcakes** for dessert. Officers helped with the dessert expense and donated bottles of tea, water and canned sodas.

After dinner, Katie Latham, Vice-President-at-Large, introduced **General James K. “Red” Brown '80**. General Brown was commissioned in the U.S. Army in May 1980 and served 39 years, retiring July 31, 2019. General Brown had the new students come and sit at the podium. He asked them to introduce themselves with their name and major. He welcomed them to the Aggie family and to A&M – “the greatest university in the U.S.” He warned them that A&M “will be more difficult academically than anything you have ever done” since most students at A&M are in the top 10% of their high school class or scored very well on the SAT. He also encouraged them that “everything is set up to help you succeed”. He noted that his core values of A&M, “the things that make us different”, are “leadership and selfless service”. There is “no other better fulfillment” than “serving your fellow man”. He encouraged them to “study hard, embrace the Aggie Spirit, and have fun on mom and dad’s money”.

General Brown had Greig Latham '80, his former “Ol’ Lady” (roommate in the Corps of Cadets), draw a name. Marty Foster was awarded a \$250 scholarship from General and Mrs. Brown. General Brown was given a framed Pointillism as a gift.

Renee read the names of the current scholarship recipients:

<i>Chipper Adams</i>	<i>Ashlyn Atkin</i>	<i>Jones Ard</i>
<i>Cameron Attaway</i>	<i>Parker Brown</i>	<i>James Brumfield</i>
<i>Peyton Drain</i>	<i>Courtney Feds</i>	<i>Levi Fhrman</i>
<i>McCray Fletcher</i>	<i>Callie Gray</i>	<i>Collin Gray</i>
<i>Carter Henderson</i>	<i>Eason Hood</i>	<i>Weston Keener</i>
<i>Ashley Kethan</i>	<i>Will Kimmey</i>	<i>Karley Lea</i>
<i>Derek Mayhugh</i>	<i>Elizabeth McKnight</i>	<i>Lukas Merrell</i>
<i>Chase Moore</i>	<i>Ashley Oldham</i>	<i>Hunter Parker</i>
<i>Michel Pitonak</i>	<i>Taylor Rapp</i>	<i>Ryan Reynolds</i>
<i>Daniel Schmitt</i>	<i>Alyson Sharp</i>	<i>Wade Smonko</i>
<i>Anna Mary Starr</i>	<i>Dillon Stewart</i>	<i>Jaxon Taylor</i>
<i>Landon Walker</i>	<i>Mary Catherine Wallace</i>	<i>Rebecca Weathers</i>
<i>John Womack</i>		

All of this year's 37 recipients received a \$500 "Norma Lawson Memorial Scholarship". "Norma was a wonderful person and a true Aggie Mom. She passed away this year after a battle with cancer, but she is missed tonight and hopefully she is here with us in spirit. Chocolates for each scholarship recipient were donated by the Robert E. Lee sign language team where Norma worked". Norma loved chocolate! The nine scholarship winners present had their picture taken by Margaret Rapp, Historian.

Renee recognized the incoming **freshmen Aggies and transfer students** present along with their **moms**. Each announced their name and major. Some were done by proxy by their moms. Each of the new Aggies was given a "Wash – Dry – Aggie – Repeat" laundry bag as a gift from the club. The new Aggie moms received an Aggie "12th Mom" towel. Margaret took a group picture.

Renee and Tracye Martin, 1st Vice President – Membership, held **door prize drawings**. One student won a gift in the blue ticket drawing. Three attendees won prizes in the red ticket drawing. General Brown helped draw the names. Any Class of 2020 attendees were invited to receive a 12th Man Towel with "Class of 2020" imprinted on it.

Jones Ard '22 held an impromptu **yell practice**, teaching the attendees the four parts of an Aggie Yell: the passback, the hump-it, the hand motions, and the wildcat.

Attendees gathered in a large circle and sang the Aggie War Hymn.

Renee thanked everyone for coming.

(Minutes by Jessica Knowles, Recording Secretary)