

Tyler A&M Mothers' Club General Meeting

October 15, 2020

The general meeting was held at Pollard United Methodist Church with approximately 27 in attendance. The Gym had plenty of room to socially distance. A Mini-Boutique was set up for attendees to shop for Aggie-themed items. Refreshments were available. Thank you to those who brought them!

At 6:50 p.m., Tracye Martin, President, welcomed everyone and noted that she was enjoying getting to know the new Aggie moms. Paul "the Coffee Guy" from Aggieland Coffee in Bryan will be our live speaker next month. Tracye offered an opening prayer.

Attendees then played AGs Bingo as an icebreaker.

Because of a technical issue with starting the program, at 7:05 p.m. Tracye started the business part of the meeting first. The **minutes** from the general meeting held September 17th had previously been emailed to the members. Paper copies were also available. With no corrections, they stand approved as distributed.

We have several **current fundraisers**. All money raised goes to scholarships. A list of our **2020 scholarship recipients** is attached.

- Jennifer Davin reported that we are still looking for additional **Aggie Mom T-Shirt** orders to get to our minimum order of 48. Next month we will have "something really cute" to sell.
- Tracye noted that we are looking for a volunteer to help with Boutique. The online **Holiday Boutique** with other Aggie Mom clubs will be starting in November. We will be offering several items like our buff masks and potholders.
- Becky Womack and Paula Kimmey collected order forms for the **Butter Braids** fundraiser. Based on the orders so far, we are about \$2000 below our goal of \$7500. The online orders will remain open until Wednesday the 21st. Becky will email the link again.
- Tickets are available for the **T-Shirt Quilt Raffle**. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10. Members were encouraged to take sheets of tickets to sell. The drawing will be at the Christmas Party. The quilt was on display.

Orders are still being taken for another week for the Fall **Goody Bags** containing an umbrella with a A&M decal and both healthy and fun snacks. This semester's bag will not contain a lot of school supplies since most classes are online.

The **Christmas Party** will be December 10th at Cantina Laredo.

Attendees were reminded to fill out a membership form if they have not done so already.

There was no other old business from the floor. There was also not any additional new business.

With the technical issue resolved (thanks to Corey!), Christina Rook, VP – Programs, introduced **Kristie De La Garza with the Texas A&M Counseling and Psychological Services Office (CAPS)**, who spoke to us via Zoom. Kristie likened our lives right now with the pandemic and unemployment and other stresses as boats floating in a storm. "Some boats may not be as sturdy as yours." There is lots of anxiety with the constant changes. Because of online classes and restrictions, Aggies are not able to hang out with friends. She offered advice to pause and reflect, name emotions, recognize feelings, think about what you can control, bring in joy every day, be kind to others and to yourself, and think about slowing down. As humans, we desire routine and social connection.

CAPS offers students telecounseling, Zoom workshops on topics such as anxiety and depression, support groups, and a helpline for after-hours.

Aggie Junior **Sophie-Claire Rook** also spoke by Zoom about current Aggie life with online classes as lonely and strange. Freshman year is hard and even harder right now. She advised students to find hobbies to fill their extra free time.

After the program, Tracye noted that we want to hear your **Aggie Mom Brags**. Brags announced at the meeting included a new grandbaby (future Aggie?) and an Aggie offered an internship at an engineering firm in Fort Worth. Tracye also noted a praise that a football equipment manager received a \$1200 check.

Tracye and Karyn Ard, VP – Membership, held **door prize drawings** using Howdy buttons with phrases from the Aggie War Hymn and The Spirit of Aggieland. Three attendees won prizes including a handmade Aggie cutting board donated by Melissa Eeds. Karyn also selected a winner for a pound cake from “the Muffin Man” (Karyn’s Dad, Manuel Bulhoes). The Muffin Man also provided muffins for everyone to take home.

New Aggie moms introduced themselves. Karyn asked for members to fill out “**I know a new Aggie**” forms with contact information since it is difficult because of privacy restrictions to get the information from A&M and from high schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with a “Don’t forget your muffin!”.

(Minutes by Jessica Knowles, Recording Secretary)

2020 Scholarship Recipients

Peyton Adams	Jones Ard	Cameron Attaway
Carey Clark	Zachary Davin	Trevor Doke
Nathan Drain	Peyton Drain	Grace Katherine Fischer
Emily Graham	Tatum Hunter	Will Kimmey
Jenna Leihgeber	Merrill Lukas	Lindy Eve Martin
Molly Martin	Hanna Maynard	Meredith Porter
Hunter Parker	Taylor Rapp	Jansen Reid
Sophie-Claire Rook	Daniel Schmitt	Hannah Sieben
Allyson Sharp	Scott Skrocki	Taylor Stokes
Robert Thomas	Mary Catherine Wallace	