

Tyler A&M Mothers' Club General Meeting

November 16, 2023

The general meeting was held at Pollard United Methodist Church Gym at 6:30 p.m. with approximately 22 in attendance. Thanks to Luba Pitonakova for providing the refreshments! The T-Shirts from the fundraiser were available for pick up.

At 6:35 p.m., Treva Tew, President, welcomed everyone and offered an opening prayer.

Shelley Mraz, VP – Programs, introduced **Scott Jarvis**, '00. Scott is currently a Director of Development for the Texas A&M Foundation. Scott talked about the “Fightin’ Texas Aggie Bonfire” and its history. The tradition started in 1909 as a trash pile. The camaraderie “captivated the entire campus”. Bonfire burned every year from 1909 to 1998, except for 1963 due to the assassination of President Kennedy. “It is the most we have and the least we can give”. The stack was taken apart log by log. Bonfire collapsed on November 18, 1999, at 2:42 a.m. Twelve Aggies lost their lives, and 27 were injured. Scott told his first-hand account of that terrible time while serving as Public Relations Officer for the Corps of Cadets his senior year. “Bonfire did not define the Aggie spirit, but” the Bonfire tragedy put the Aggie spirit “on display for the entire nation”. Scott was given a framed picture of Kyle Field and the adjacent lake, which was taken by Shelley.

The **minutes** from the October 19th meeting were available. Margaret Rapp made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tammy Proctor. With no corrections, the minutes stand approved as distributed.

Becky Womack, Treasurer, filed the **Treasurer’s Report**. Butter Braids were delivered before this meeting. Our club made \$1,373 on them. Our balance as of October 29th was \$3,664.

Susan LeJeune reported that orders for this fall’s **Goody Bag** are due tonight. She had the A&M storage cube organizer on display with the Aggie Christmas ornaments she made to go with the bags. She currently has orders for 66 with about 12 pending. There will be a “stuffing party” on November 30th at Pollard to assemble the contents. The bags will then be delivered to your Aggies at the MSC on Monday, December 4th as they get ready to study for finals. Volunteers are needed in College Station on delivery day if you would like to come help hand out the bags.

Other activities coming up for our club:

- Tickets are for sale tonight for the **dual-prize raffle** of a **T-Shirt Quilt**, made by one of our Life Members, Patricia Cussen, and a **\$125 C.C. Creations gift card**. The quilt was on display. Tickets cost \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Members are encouraged to sell tickets for this fundraiser. The winners will be drawn at the Christmas Dinner. We are already collecting T-Shirts for next year’s quilt.
- Our club’s **75th Anniversary** will be celebrated on February 17th at the Petroleum Club at Lake Tyler. The evening will include a silent auction, and we need donated items from businesses. All of the proceeds go to our scholarships. Karyn Ard is trying to get the Aggie Wranglers to perform that night.
- We are collecting stuff for our **Garage Sale**. No date has been set yet.
- **Boutique** will be held during Family Weekend in College Station (April 12th – 14th).
- **Aggie Mom Camp**, offered by the Federation of A&M Mothers’ Clubs, is February 23rd – 25th. Deadline to register is December 15th.

- The **Christmas Dinner** will be Tuesday, December 12th at Roma's Italian Kitchen. Attendees will be able to order from the full menu and will pay for their own meal. We will also have our annual Aggie Ornament exchange. The drawings for the raffle will be that night.

Treva asked if there were any **Gig 'Em Brags**. There was a daughter that taught a student-led class, which was identified as the "best class".

Sue Ellen Moncrief, Membership, and Treva held **door prize** drawings. Three winners received a prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. "Enjoy your Aggies while they're home."

(Minutes by Jessica Knowles, Recording Secretary)