

Tyler A&M Mothers' Club General Meeting

September 19, 2024

The general meeting was held at Pollard United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. with approximately 34 in attendance. Attendees picked an Aggie tradition and set at the table bearing that name. Samples of Butter Braids (our current fundraiser) and a pan of brownies were served as refreshments. Thanks to the ladies who donated and baked the goodies! Items from our inventory were for sale. There were gifts for any new Aggies that did not attend the Howdy Party.

At 6:45 p.m., Treva Tew, President, welcomed everyone and applauded the new members. She introduced the officers and encouraged members to “let us know where you want to help”.

The **minutes** from the end-of-year meeting held May 2nd and the Howdy Party held July 28th were available. Katie Latham made a **motion to approve** the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sarah Jane Walker. With no corrections, the minutes stand approved as distributed.

Shelley Mraz, Treasurer, filed the **Treasurer's Report** for both July and August. During the two months we collected \$800 in dues and \$1,280 in donations. We paid for the Howdy Party, the Goody Bag backpacks, and supplies. Our balance as of August 31st was \$4,029.93. In response to a question, Shelley explained that in accordance with the Federation, we must maintain separate operating and fundraising monies. The operating income pays for operating expenses, and the fundraising pays for our donations to Aggie organizations at the end of the year and our scholarships. Sue Ellen Moncrief made a **motion to approve** the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Joyce Green.

We gave out twenty-four \$500 **scholarships** last year. Our scholarships are available to everyone who qualifies. The amount of the scholarship depends on how many qualified applicants we have and how much money we made through our fundraisers. We are “always looking” for ways to raise money.

Going forward, the minutes and the Treasurer's Report will be posted each month on the website prior to the general meeting.

Karyn Ard noted that the Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs has created an **endowed scholarship** with the A&M Foundation. Our club made a \$250 contribution to this endowed fund in July as authorized by the club in May.

Kathryn Whitmore, Historian, presented Treva Tew, last year's President, with a book commemorating the last Aggie Mom year.

At 7 p.m. Angie Wood, Programs, connected with **Abby Pendleton** of the Texas A&M Traditions Council via Zoom. The Traditions Council formed in 1975 and oversees Silver Taps and Bonfire Remembrance. Their mission is to promote and preserve Aggie traditions. Abby gave a program on the history of A&M and its traditions. She informed us about Aggie jargon “Howdy”, “Gig ‘em”, Good Bull, Bad Bull, Ol’ Army, and the horse laugh. She also presented the history of the 12th Man, the Corps of Cadets, the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band, Midnight Yell, Bonfire and the Bonfire Remembrance, Silver Taps, Muster, the Aggie Ring, and Reveille. “Traditions are what makes Texas A&M Texas A&M. They're a part of life at Texas A&M.”

Aggie Mom Camp, offered by the Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs, is a “Fish Camp for Moms”. Aggie Mom Camp will be February 21st – 23rd. Registration opens September 25th, and camp fills up quickly. Camp includes tours, a silent auction, raffles, sessions, and lots of fellowship. Featured speakers this year will be Governor Rick Perry '72, General Mark Welsh, and retiring Chancellor John Sharp. This is a great time to socialize with other Aggie Moms and learn about traditions.

Orders are being taken for this fall's **Goody Bag**. Goody bags are sold twice per year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Susan LeJeune displayed the laptop backpack, which will be filled with snacks "and love for our Aggies". There are only 100 backpacks available. The bags will be delivered to your Aggies at the MSC on Monday, December 2nd 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. Order forms are available tonight or online. The cost is \$30, and the deadline is November 15th or until they sell out. This is not a fundraiser for our club. The money is spent on purchasing the container and filling it. The stuffing party will be November 21st at our meeting.

The deadline to order our current **T-Shirt or sweatshirt** is tonight.

We will **raffle** off a T-Shirt Quilt, made by one of our Life Members, Patricia Cussen. We are collecting T-Shirts for the next quilt. The raffle will also include a dual prize of a \$125 gift card to the Warehouse at C.C. Creations. We will start selling raffle tickets in October, and the winners will be drawn in December.

Angie Wood passed out order forms for our **Butter Braids fundraiser** that starts tonight. Forms are due on October 9th. Butter Braids are delivered frozen, and just need to be thawed and baked. Several flavors of both Butter Braids and cookies are available online. The Butter Braids will be delivered in November. The club earns 40% profit, and we want to raise as much as possible for scholarships.

Karyn Ard, Projects, explained that **Boutique** is held during Family Weekend in College Station, which is April 4th – 5th next year. Aggie Mom Clubs offer a wide variety of items for sale along with raffles. If you have an idea for something that our club can make and sell to make money for our scholarships, please let us know. All items have to be approved by the university. We are looking for crafters, and we will need volunteers to run our booth during Boutique.

There is a **portrait fundraiser** currently going on. Details are available on the website or our Facebook page. The club receives \$99 for each portrait session sold. The deadline is September 30th.

We are collecting stuff for our **Garage Sale**. Jan Carter, one of our Life Members, runs the sale for us. She accepts items at her house and large items at her barn. Contact the club to get her phone number to find out when to take your items to her.

Karyn Ard announced that a brunch will be held in November for our **Ring of Honor** moms. These are Aggie Moms whose Aggies have already graduated. "We want to bring them back and love on them." There will also be socials in the spring and summer.

Upcoming Meetings: Our **October** meeting will be at True Vine. **True Vine** will give back to us \$1 for each beer and wine sold that evening from 4 p.m. until close. **Sola Bread** will also give us back a percentage if you mention Aggie Moms. **Foster** will offer some discounts on Aggie merchandise from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. At our **November** meeting, we will stuff the Goody Bags and have some fun. In **December** we will have a Christmas dinner at a restaurant. We will have an Aggie Christmas ornament exchange at that party.

Treva asked if there were any **Gig 'Em Brags**. There was art published in the Battalion, a job at Lockheed Martin, an internship in Las Vegas resulting in job offers from the company in Las Vegas and Corpus Christi, and an Aggie that learned to do laundry.

Jennifer King, Membership, held **door prize** drawings. Three winners received a prize. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. "Thanks for coming!"
(Minutes by Jessica Knowles, Recording Secretary)