



**Florida A&M University National Alumni Association
General Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.**

General Body Meeting – called to order by NAA President Tommy Mitchell, Sr., at 9:42 with prayer by Dr. James Moran.

Roll Call – Tommy Mitchell, Sr. (NAA President), LTC Gregory Clark (1st Vice President), Atty. Nicole Jones (2nd Vice President), Dr. Leila Walker (3rd Vice President), Mary Smith (Recording Secretary), Tomia Austin (Corresponding Secretary), Andrew Lawyer, II (Financial Secretary), Dr. James Moran (Treasurer), LTC Robert Porter (Sergeant-At-Arms), Atty. Reginald Mitchell, Sr. (NAA General Counsel), Artisha Polk (Parliamentarian), Marion Gibbons (Publicity Director), Carolyn Collins (Governmental Relations), Carmen Cummings (Office of Alumni Affairs), LTC Maurice Pickett (Florida Region Vice President), Patricia Shaw (Florida Region Member-At-Large), Skip Mclemore (Southern Region Member-At-Large), General Roy Bell (Northeast Region Vice President), Eleanor Carter (Midwest Region Vice President), Willie Washington (Midwest Region Member-At-Large), Tirrell Hamilton (Farwest Region Vice President), Van Russ (Farwest Region Member-At-Large), Doris Hicks (Distinguished Alumni Awards), Charles Lewis, III (Time & Place), Stephen Roberson (Media & Technology), Carolyn Jones (Membership), Gioia Bufkin (Audit), Lynette Wims (Nomination), Seabon Dixon, Shirley Carrington (Awards), Anthony Siders (SGA).

Absent: Rev. Dr. Richard Mashburn (Chaplain), Clinton McGill (Southern Region Vice President), Jim Jones (Northeast Region Member-At-Large), Dorothy Williams (Programs), Tonnette Graham (Young Alumni).

Roll Call Chapters – (*Present*) Alachua, Birmingham Metro, Brevard, Broward, Capitol City, Central Mississippi, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Detroit Metro, Gold Coast Miami, Greater Austin, Greater Dayton, Greater Orlando, Houston, Texas, J.R.E. Lee, Kentucky, Las Vegas, Leon, Madison, Marion, Massachusetts, Metro Atlanta, Metro St. Louis, Miami Dade, New Jersey, Northern Virginia, Palm Beach, Pensacola, Philadelphia, Polk County, Plant City, San Antonio, Sarasota Manatee,

South Dade, Southern California/Los Angeles, St. Lucia, Tampa, Taylor, Volusia, Washington DC, West Ga./East Alabama.

Quorum Established: Executive Board Members – 31, NAA Chapters Representation -39.

Convention Rules and Regulations presented by Artisha Polk, Parliamentarian.

- Motion to accept convention rules and regulations by Dr. Moran
- 2nd by Atty. Reginald Mitchell.
- Motion carried. Rules Approved

President Report – Tommy Mitchell

Goals for 2014-2015

- To significantly increase the number of FNAA members (Young Members, Life Members)
- To continue to increase the number of alumni donors
- To improve the communication and the relationship between NAA and University
- To develop an FNAA data base of FAMU Alumni

Recognition given to past FAMU National Presidents (Carolyn Collins, Dr. Webster), FAMU former Chapter Presidents and Florida House of Representative Alan Williams. President Mitchell highlighted the following:

- Met with President on numerous occasions and one of many requests was for more funding from alumni. President Mitchell mentioned that if the university is requesting more money, more respect must be shown.
- Attended the 2014 HBCU Digest Conference in New Orleans to accept the HBCU Digest Best Alumni Association Award on behalf of FAMU NAA.
- Currently serving on the planning committee for the Health & Physical Education Reunion to be held October 23-October 24, 2015.

- Currently serving on the FAMU Athletic Department Fundraising committee for scholarships and facilities, where one focus is to assist more student athletes to attend summer school.

1st Vice President – LTC Gregory Clark

Reported:

- Thanked the Midwest Region for a great 2014 Convention.
- The number of registrants for the 2015 Convention is approx... 200. This is the largest convention since 1999. The Distinguished Alumni Award Gala is sold out.
- We are thankful for a 5 year \$200,000 sponsorship from Geico. We are presently in year 2 of this partnership. Alumni are encouraged to go online: www.geico.com/famu to get a quote. With each quote, the FAMU NAA will receive \$10.00 that will come in the form of a check every quarter. No purchase necessary.
- Thanks given to Charles Lewis, Andrew Lawyer, James Moran, Jr., Atty. Reginald Mitchell, Student Alumni and SGA for the team work to make this a successful conference.

2nd Vice President – Atty. Nicole Jones

Reported: The 2014 2015 initiatives were submitted in draft form at the last conference which included materials to help with recruitment, retention and scholarships.

Action item:

Carolyn Collins moved to receive document into official status, moving it from DRAFT form since it's been a full year in this form. General Roy Bell seconded.

- Atty. Reginald Mitchell asked for clarification of what are we trying to accomplish by moving from “draft form to official,” since all reports are in DRAFT form. Atty. Reginald Mitchell opposed the motion.

Carolyn Collins Recommend the handbook be accepted with all necessary corrections to be resubmitted and modified with revisions.

- Point of order – Richard Dawson, Dayton, Ohio – the original motion is still on the floor

President Mitchell ruled motion out of order, motion withdrawn.

• *Carolyn Collins motioned that the report submitted be reviewed prior to leaving the scheduled second General Body meeting this afternoon in order to be voted upon.*

• *Seconded by General Roy Bell.*

• *Call for hand vote 42 yeas 28 nays*

• *Motion passed.*

3rd Vice President– Dr. Leila Walker

Reported: Ongoing solicitation for scholarships. See report on page 12 of President Booklet.

Recording Secretary – Mary Smith

- Carolyn Collins asked that a bullet be added under the Governmental Relations discussion regarding the Brooksville, Florida Land Grant efforts which are underway and being pursued.

- Carolyn Collins motioned to accept the minutes with the stated correction
- Seconded
- Motion passed

Financial Secretary – Andrew Lawyer – Report pages 17-31

Reported:

- Chapters are forming and submitting charter information
- Top Chapters
- Congratulations to New Life Members
- Restricted and Unrestricted giving explained
- 2014 NAA and 2015 giving comparison
- NAA Income Report and Budget Report

Question: Carolyn Collins – \$75,000 is not listed on report spread sheet, is there an update of where this money is? Andrew Lawyer stated he will research.

Question: Las Vegas, West Africa and Madison are listed as new chapters; does this mean they were granted their charter? Andrew Lawyer responded, no, they will still need to be voted on by the Executive Board.

Treasurer – Dr. Moran – Report page 32 – 39

- Emphasized loss of tax exempt status by some chapters
- There are 21 chapters in jeopardy of losing their tax exempt status
- Thomas Mitchell of San Antonio chapter asked if we knew why 21 chapters have not filed a 990. Dr. Moran stated he found several reasons including some chapters did not know they had to file, no communication upon change of leadership and some chapters were not active. President Mitchell stated there was a committee formed that will also be looking into chapter certification and de-certification.

- Suggested info/workshop sessions take place to education chapters who may not have known the importance of the 990.
- Lillian Granderson – made motion to transfer \$17000 alumni housing to scholarship. President Mitchell stated he will take care of this situation because these funds were originally restricted for housing, stated he will get with NAA legal counsel and write letters to heirs of givers. Carolyn Collins suggested that these funds be given to housing for students.
- August Smith – Houston chapter – suggested downloadable check list especially when there is transition in chapter leadership.
- Carolyn Jones suggested a meeting with the treasurer during this annual meeting.
- It was communicated that the NAA was to file for chapters that had no financial activity.
- Doris Hicks had concerns about Polk County being listed when they thought they were in compliance.
- Carolyn Collins, recommends identifying a central person at the university to handle this issue in order to prevent the inconsistencies, negligence and chapters loss of 990 statuses.

Dr. Moran stated he will continue to call the IRS to find ways to assist chapters with this process.

Far West region – No report

Florida Region – Maurice Picket report on page 41 - Highlights

- Alumni Village conducted at Homecoming 2014 was a success
- Florida Region's bi-annual Conference will be held in 2016
- Planning efforts are beginning for the annual Alumni Village during homecoming weekend
- \$25k Endowment established

Midwest Vice President Eleanor Carter report on pages 43-49 - Highlights

- Hosted 2014 NAA convention
- Recognized 2 chapters that contributed significantly to the Midwest Region through their financial giving and membership (Greater Dayton Ohio and Detroit Michigan chapters).
- 2015 Regional Conference July 31 – August in Detroit, MI.
- Introduced new Regional Vice President – Derris King who will take office on August 1, 2015.

Northeast Region – Gen. Roy Bell report on pages 50-51 - Highlights

- NER Alumni donated and or pledged in excess of \$32,000 to FAMU during President Luncheon at the 2014 NER 50th Anniversary Conference.

Southern Region – Dr. Leila Walker reported for Clinton McGill report on page 52 - Highlights

- Reinstated Central Mississippi and Montgomery, AL Chapters

Meeting recessed at 11:35 a.m. for Lunch

2:20 p.m. Reconvened

Distinguished Alumni & Scholarship – Doris Hicks

- We must adhere to our strict deadline in order to get the monies to students on time – June 15, 2015 is Scholarship application deadline.
- One of the applications are for incoming FRESHMAN applicants only and another is for students already at FAMU. There is also a book stipend
- Question was if there was a scholarship for graduate students, answer was no.
- DAA – 1st time we are presenting at the NAA National Convention

Time and Place – Chuck Lewis – report on page 170

- Committee is comprised of regional VPs
- Next convention - May 26-29, 2016
- Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay \$129
- Can we avoid the problem of most of the rooms taken by the Foundation?
- Yes, we have learned from this situation
- How did we come to identify Memorial Day weekend?
- Availability
- Victor Gaines - Can one of the upcoming national meetings be re-located in Tallahassee, in order to increase our FAMU presence there?
- Mrs. Granderson: We need to have something going in Tallahassee.
- Mrs. Fountain – Agreed with Victor Gaines to have NAA return to Tallahassee.
- Charles Lewis – The convention and visitors bureau in Tallahassee – FAMU is the biggest weekend in Tallahassee. They know they have a monopoly and they don't care to accommodate us with better pricing
- Moved and seconded to accept the report and 2016 convention date, location, etc.

- Regarding locations in Northeast Region – please start saving your money b/c the cost will be significantly higher starting at \$169/night
- What about Atlantic City? Rates are starting at \$169

Budget Report – Reggie Mitchell – page 140

- Moved & seconded to approve budget.
- Motion by Tommy Mitchell Jr.
- Ann McKinney seconded

Constitution & By-laws – Reggie Mitchell – page 144

- As Legal Counsel, I strongly encourage you to NOT approve the document submitted by the 2nd Vice President from DRAFT status to official

- Gen. Bell – how do we move forward with any action? The 2nd VP is tasked to carry out the function of recruiting students. Do we hold up that function because we haven't found the legal answer with this issue?
- Atty. Mitchell - We are proposing to meet within 45 days to address all 3 documents to address the controversial revisions.
- Caroline Collins – w/in 72 hours all the notes will be shared in order to accomplish the 45-day deadline.
- In 50 days, we set an executive committee meeting to approve this document.
- We're asking that document w/o the Draft written through it so that it can be read clearly for everyone.
- Carolyn Collins – moved for 50 days resolution to vote
- Seconded – August Smith
- Motion Passed

Fundraising – Leila Walker, 3rd VP – page 147 -163

- Carolyn Collins – can the FAMU NAA be added to the United Way so that we can take advantage of the global matching programs of employers.
- Cassie Farmer – How can we eliminate the competing forces of NAA vs. Local events and activities? What are efforts to come up with ideas that are attractive to non-FAMUans?
- Tommy Mitchell – we need recommendations for ONE fundraiser that everyone can support from all of the chapters.
- Dr. Leila Walker – we attempted to develop a fundraiser calendar. As of June 1 – Dec 31, 2015 for chapters to include all fundraisers to eliminate competition.

- Lawrence “Killer” Williams - suggested we do something on Kick starter that all the chapters could participate.
- 10 for 10 campaign would be a great suggestion
- Maurice Picket – we need bigger ideas with a bigger bang for more long-term results.
- Van Russ - The activities we have implemented; only 17 chapters of 60 chapters have participated. We need more chapter participation. In spite of the lack of participation, we’ve still made a profit.

Governmental Relations – Carolyn Collins - report was left out of printed report

- 2/4/16 – FAMU Day at the Capitol. May also be HBCU Day as it may be done differently this year?
- University of North Florida

Membership – Carolyn Jones

- Our purpose is to increase membership of the association.
- Need to rebrand the NAA.
- Will be issuing a survey to address ideas and benefits.
- Lack of communication – need constant communication so we are proposing a monthly electronic newsletter
- Look at the culture for the FAMU NAA
- Need a membership table at the National Conference
- Creating a membership best practices committee
- Passed out paper to collect chapters’ membership chairs contact information

- Emma Fountain – how do we get other groups like, pharmacy, band, SBI to be tied into the FAMU NAA?
 - Mrs. Granderson suggested that we just ask people to pay the National Dues of \$35
 - August Smith– we found very successful by throwing more events. Spend money to pay money. At whatever event we have, we hit people up for memberships. If you let people get away, then they will get away. Offer them the opportunity to pay online. Upgrade your technology.
 - Tommy Mitchell - There is nobody to get your friends to join us but you! That's the beauty of the 10 for 10. Talk about it. The one thing you can do better than anyone else is to ask your own friends.
 - Alan Williams – suggested a “Best Idea” contest and incentivize the best one.
 - Motion to accept Madison County, Las Vegas and Engineering majors to be chapters by Henry Lawrence
- Seconded
 - Motion passed
 - Engineering Chapter chose the Florida Region

Audit Committee - Gioia Bufkin

- Will meet about chapters' loss of 990

Nomination Committee – Lynette Wims

- Does not have a list of nominations
- Tommy Mitchell opened nomination **President** Gregory Clark - nominated by Alonda Thomas; Seabon Dixon - nominated by Maurice Pickett; Motion to close - Carolyn Collins 2nd – inaudible. **1st Vice President** Charles Lewis, II - nominated by Willie Youmans, Greater Orlando Chapter; Brodes Hartley, Sr. - nominated by Alice Bacon; Motion to close nominations - Roy Bell 2nd - Carolyn Collins; **2nd Vice President** Nicole Jones - nominated by Seabon Dixon; Motion to close - No motion 2nd – none; **3rd Vice President** Mary Smith - nominated by Apryl Freeman; Cecka Green - nominated by Victor Gaines; Eleanor Carter - nominated by Tracy Payne-Tellis; Motion to close Seabon Dixon 2nd - Carolyn Collins; **Recording Secretary** Attorney Reginald Mitchell - nominated by Tommy Mitchell, Jr.; Motion to close nomination Ben Johnson 2nd Carolyn Collins; **Corresponding Secretary** Apryl Freeman - nominated by Patricia Shaw, Broward Chapter; Artisha Polk - nominated by Sharon Duncan; Motion to close - Killer Lawrence 2nd - Ben Johnson; **Treasurer** James Moran - nominated by ? Mississippi gentleman; Andrew Lawyer - nominated by Jean Downing; Motion to close - Carolyn Collins 2nd – inaudible; **Financial Secretary** Juanita Moore - No name given; Patrina Baxter - No name given; Motion to close - Ben Johnson 2nd - Van Russ.

Tommy Mitchell is asking each chapter to develop the history of each chapter to be compiled in a book to be sold back to the alumni.

Media & Technology – Stephen Roberson

- There is now one official account for NAA social media
- **Elections Committee**
- Carmen Cumming has been asked to chair the elections committee

- Moved and seconded for Carmen Cummings to be elections committee
- Collins seconded