

**Arlington Band Boosters**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

December 21, 2023,

**Opening**

The General Membership meeting of the Arlington Band Boosters was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on December 21, 2023, via Zoom by Dave Kamen.

**Present**

Dave Kamen, Eileen Eckert, Beverly Embry, Karen MacNish, Eric Gillman, Lisa Sassi, Paula Wrafter, Alan Labouseur, Andrea Hagan, Barabara Desilents, Mr. Guillen, and Mr. R zodkiewicz.

**Approval of Minutes**

Beverly Embry distributed the minutes from the November 16, 2023, ABBI General Membership Meeting to the board members via email.

A motion was made to accept and approve the November 16, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was accepted by Eileen Eckert and a second by Karen MacNish. All members present approved the motion for the minutes. Motion accepted and carried.

**Bylaws Proposed Changes Vote:**

A motion on the floor by Dave Kamen to accept the proposed bylaw changes from the November meeting. The motion was accepted by Alan Labouseur and approved by Karen MacNish. Followed by Paula Wrafter and Eileen Eckert. All attending members were in favor.

**President's Comments:**

The new SOP for the upcoming election is a good thing. Dave will follow up with Mr. R zodkiewicz with an email to distribute to the band families about the new SOP and the nominations that are coming up. This will be addressed after the break.

**Treasurer Report: (Dave Kamen)**

The treasurer will send the report at the end of the month. Taxes have been filed.

**Directors Report: (Mr. Guillen)**

Winter concert season was busy. There were 4 very successful concerts held. Mr. Rzdokiewicz's Concert Band performed the same night with the UVMS concert. Which was a positive experience. Jazz is underway and going well. The Teachers Association Holiday Party was a success. Jazz Machine is preparing for the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival. Mr. Guillen will touch base with the executive board about needs and appreciates ABBI's generous support. Evan and Rich are looking for additional performance arenas for the jazz groups. Next concert series will be held in February and March. Thanked ABBI for all its support.

**Question on the floor by Dave Kamen:** What is the date for Jazz Cab? It will be held a week later, on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Director's Report: (Evan Rzdokiewicz)**

Evan wanted to thank ABBI for their support. Winter Concerts are complete. We were at levels that were closest to pre-pandemic with excellence and skills. Ninth grade band did well. Jazz 2 and 3 are great. Winter Percussion registration closes soon.

Alan and Evan met last June about Music in the Parks billing. We need to reexplore this. Alan sent a JotForm in October. Alan will resend it to Evan. ASOA- touched base with President. Alan has access to Square with ASOA.

Discussion about Adams Gift Cards. Expanding to middle school for instrument purchases. Dave mentioned we will have discussion later in the meeting on this topic.

**Remarks from the group on Alumni:**

Dave: the winter concert was one of the better ones in 8 years. Dave loves the alumni angle.

Rich G: There were 30 something alumni that attended the Wind Ensemble concert. How do we get this out to communities other than social media? We do not have a great alumni email base. We need to reach out to ASOA on what they use.

Dave: We have our newsletter: Quarter Notes. Maybe we could put up an alumni table at the concerts? We need to build a database and create an alumni coordinator or facilitator position.

Evan R: feels torn on this topic. We can ask other alumni groups to see how they are doing. We need data to see what the gain is for doing this.

Rich G: There is nostalgia from performing.

Dave: asked Alan to create an email account, [alumni@abbimusic.org](mailto:alumni@abbimusic.org) We will tell alumni to send contact information to email and we will send newsletters and communications.

Evan R: asked who gets the Quarter Notes emails? It goes to a lot of people. People who registered for Marching Band. The people who attended the webathon and information contacts from spreadsheets.

Evan R: Is it being updated? Alan responded with not that we know of.

Evan and Rich: They feel we need to do a data dump every year for ABBI and we need to get personal emails.

Dave: Can we put a card in the Senior Recognition packet to have the kids join the alumni?

Rich G: We need to pass down as much institutional memory to others.

### **President Report: (Dave Kamen)**

We sold the bench from Sounds Like New York for \$450.00.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **ASOA: (Paula Wrafter)**

ASOA is not meeting in December. ASOA sent an email once for Philharmonic and a rash of parents asked to be removed in June. They lost a lot of alumni.

#### **Vice President/Winter Guard Report: (Eileen Eckert)**

The Chamber of Commerce is selling their membership list for \$175.00. Dave is not opposed to the idea but would like to know what we would do with the list?? The business owner on Route 55 has reached out to Eileen and wants to support ABBI. They are a Beauty Salon located above Dunkin. They are still formulating their marketing plan. Eileen gave suggestions to them on ad placement.

Dave: Going back to the Chamber of Commerce, do we have a sponsorship packet to give them? It is not prepared yet. We need a use before spending the money.

**Jazz Cab (Karen MacNish):**

We will discuss it in January.

**Good and Welfare (Lisa Sassi):**

Lisa sent a donation to the Norwalk Marching Band.

**Adams Gift Card Discussion:**

Dave: ABBI is about supporting high schools, but we support the middle school guard program. We can raise awareness of ABBI at the middle school level and envelop the middle school parents. Is there a value to adding them to our membership?

Eric: suggested that we (ABBI) be present at other events.

Lisa: it may be worthwhile to go to the middle school concerts and speak. Lisa will do the concerts at Union Vale.

Andrea: will this encourage the kids to stay in the band? Also, would they want more support from ABBI monetary wise?

Rich G: equipment is needed for middle schools. They are starting to ask for money on the budget. ABBI will assist with the gift cards and support.

Evan: middle schools have Music in the Parks and Jazz bands. They don't have a need for parental support. He does not want the high school parents to do the work for the benefit of the middle school. We want a middle school parent to run the sale for the middle school. We need to see if we can get a parent to do both schools or one parent at each school.

Dave: is open to exploring more. February ask Mrs. Rizzo or the band directors what kind of support is needed. We already do Summer Band and Middle School Guard. Make a master order of Adams Gift Cards. This can be a feeder program for band programs and ABBI members. Dave is on board for the Adams Gift Cards. Let's find champions to do at the school level.

Evan has ideas on how this will work.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Dave Kamen to adjourn the ABBI general meeting at 8:00 p.m. Accepted by Alan Labouseur and approved by Eileen Eckert. All members were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: Beverly Embry