

Arlington Band Boosters
General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024

The General Membership meeting of the Arlington Band Boosters was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on February 22, 2024 via Zoom by Dave Kamen.

Present

Dave Kamen, Eileen Eckert, Beverly Embry, Eric Gillman, Paula Wrafter, Barbara Desilets, Matt Somma, Nicole Raskopf, Evan R zodkiewicz, Darrell Keech, and Rob Atkins, Alan Labouseur.

Open Discussion:

There was discussion between Barbara Desilets and Eileen Eckert about the box truck the winterguard is using for the season. Concern from truck driver Wayne the truck will not make it to Dayton, Ohio in April. Barbara Desilets reported that the trailers will be in use for percussion at that time. Darrell Keech joined the discussion and mentioned that the equipment was to be stored under the coach bus. Darrell Keech will reach out to Bert Cousins for the logistics of the Dayton trip regarding equipment transportation.

Approval of Minutes

Beverly Embry distributed the minutes from the January 25, 2024, ABBI General Membership Meeting to the board members via email.

A motion was made to accept and approve the January 25, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was accepted by Paula Wrafter and a second by Alan Labouseur. All members present approved the motion for the minutes. Motion accepted and carried.

Treasurer Report: (Nicole Raskopf)

Treasurer Report emailed out to the board at the meeting. Dave did not have a report in his email. Nicole Raskopf just emailed them to Dave Kamen, Eileen Eckert and Beverly Embry. Beverly Embry was asked to email the report out to everyone.

- Discussion of Treasure Report:

- Payments are coming in for the following groups: Winter Percussion, Admirals Winterguard, and Cadet Winterguard.
- A couple checks went out
- We sold some winterguard merchandise.
- We are in the black so far.

Beverly Embry asked the board to wait on voting on the Treasurer report until everyone has a chance to review it. Dave Kamen agreed.

Nicole Raskopf shared her screen shared the Treasurer report with everyone.

Dave Kamen asked if we should wait to vote or vote now on the Treasurer report.

Eileen Eckert made a motion to accept the Treasurer report as presented. It was approved and seconded by Eric Gillman and Barbara Desilets.

Directors Report: (Mr. Keech)

Darrell Keech reported there were upcoming concert coming up:

- 9th grade Instrumental Extravaganza (Thursday of next week), Mrs. Handman will be retiring at the end of the year, and this will be her final time conducting this concert.
- Guest Conductor concert is the following week. We will be utilizing faculty from K-12 to conduct.
- The concert with the 9th grade band is with the middle school. Mr. R zodkiewicz is motivating and pushing to recruit band kids. Started earlier this year.
- Winterguard Invitational is coming up and the clothing drive.
- The marching band uniform prototype has been selected and the sample will be sent soon. We are not sure if the money for uniforms will be in the budget for next year.
- We have a potential anonymous donor for marching percussion equipment. Our last set of percussion equipment was purchased by an anonymous donor.

- The 2024 marching band show design is 85% complete and meetings are ongoing.

Director's Report: (Evan Rzodkiewicz)

Evan Rzodkiewicz started by thanking ABBI members for their support.

He went on to thank Melissa Palestro for helping with the Adams gift card fundraiser at the two middle schools. Union Vale and Lagrange Middle School. He reported that the fundraiser brought in roughly \$500. 00 for UVMS and around \$300- \$400 for Lagrange Middle. The next step is to find a couple parents to run this through the year and to set up separate accounts for each group.

Thank you to Alan Labousuer for setting up JotForm that will be used for Music in the Parks and Summer Band.

Jazz Machine had a very successful Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival performance. They placed 3rd behind NYC Magna schools. The group jives very well together.

President's Report (Dave Kamen)

Dave Kamen started by thanking the directors. Dave Kamen asked the directors if there was any value in having ABBI speak at any of the concerts? Maybe at the March 4th concert with the 9th grade band? Darrell Keech mentioned that the concert is a middle school concert, and we would need to get permission from their directors to speak. Darrell Keech suggested that ABBI speak at the guest conductor concerts on March 7th. Evan Rzodkiewicz suggested ABBI could speak at the 9th grade combined concert and ask ASOA to speak too. This is on February 29th. Dave Kamen will be away that night.

Dave Kamen received an email from Rich Guillen regarding Todd Gates who is looking for someone to help or guide him with knowledge on how to organize a band boosters' organization. Todd Gates is from the New Paltz district. Darrell Keech offered to assist Dave Kamen asked to please give his name to Todd Gates.

Vice President & Winter Guard Report: (Eileen Eckert)

Eileen Eckert started her report discussing the openings we have for the executive board and heads of committees. She reported Janine Gwinn is going to step back from communications. Eileen Eckert feels that we should split the communications spot with the alumni coordinator and the secretary. The alumni coordinator will take the newsletter and the secretary will send out communications. Eileen Eckert has reached out to the

scholarship chair, Deb, to see if she is continuing. Scholarship time is fast approaching. We need a person to coordinate and run Photos for the marching band season.

The winterguard clothing drive will be held on March 3rd and the silent auction for the home show will begin on March 1st. March 10th is the Winter Invitational where different groups will be participating from winter guard, winter percussion and school clubs. The event begins at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion on the floor:

Dave Kamen likes the idea of dividing the work into communication and secretary.

Dave Kamen mentioned that Karen MacNish will not be in attendance because she is working on Jazz Cab. Dave also mentioned he will be out of town during Jazz Cab and unable to help at the event. Dave also mentioned to Karen MacNish about using Chef Losee kitchen for the Jazz Cab event, instead of the school's kitchen.

Committee Reports:

Webmaster: (Alan Labouseur)

All is well. Dave Kamen asked him to summarize JotForm for everyone. Alan Labousuer discussed how we originally brought the annual bronze package for Summer Band and Music in the Parks. Everything was running smoothly until Sunday, and we received a communication about the number of signature blocks for the form. Our current plan only allows for 100 signature blocks per month. Alan Labousuer had to upgrade the plan to accommodate the need of additional signature blocks. We upgraded to the silver package where we now have 250 signature blocks per month. Alan Labousuer has suggested we bump the plan down to bronze when we don't need it and bump it back up when we do. It is \$18 per month for bronze and \$24 for silver. (not sure if this is a take action item but maybe a reminder to make sure it happens)

ASOA Liaison (Paula Wrafter)

Paula Wrafter reported that ASOA's nominating committee is all set and they are in need of a secretary. ASOA has two concerts coming up 9th grade groups and POPS concert. POPS tickets are on sale until March 1st for Early Bird pricing and March 1st on the tickets will be regular price, even at the door.

Admiral players are working on their sponsorship ads for the program. Rehearsals are currently happening. Paula Wrafter asked Dave Kamen about the ad to use in the program. Are we using the one from the Fall program? Paula Wrafter will email Dave Lamen if she needs an updated ad.

Props and Pit (Barbara Desilents)

Quiet and nothing to report.

Eileen Eckert asked if Susan Smith had reached out to her about the parent performance for the Winter Invitational? Barbara mentions an email had gone out.

Secretary and Band Camp (Beverly Embry)

Beverly Embry reported that we need a secretary for next year and the all the director seats are filled.

We currently need a chairperson for band camp. The previous person who agreed will not have a child eligible for band this year. Beverly Embry has agreed to make calls and set up arrangements for ice and ice pops. She will also set up a sign-up genius if we cannot find someone. Beverly explained some of the functions that need to be carried out for band camp. Working with Mr. Keech, collecting donations, calling food service to get into the building and freezer, sign up genius to coordinate volunteers and staff lunches and fruit donations. Beverly explained that her daughter will be moving into college the 1st week of band camp.

Open Discussion on the floor:

Dave Kamen talked a bit about band camp. Dave Kamen talked about Andrea Hagan possibly helping with band camp because she is there.

Eileen Eckert will add band camp chairperson on her priority list with photos.

Beverly Embry mentioned it would be easier to do with 2 parents as opposed to one. It is a lot of work. She discussed how she and Jenn Nesbitt each took a week and helped each other.

Beverly Embry mentioned she had sent the Treasurer Reports out to the board as requested in the beginning of the meeting.

Dave Kamen briefly talked about IBM volunteer donations. Brian Laferriere reached out to Dave Kamen and told him the amount of money for volunteer donations has doubled. Eileen Eckert asked if we have seen any of this money from IBM recently?

Can we ask Brian Laferriere to give us a 101 on how to do this? We need to follow up to see if we are getting the money.

Rob Atkins joined the conversation and stated that the paperwork isn't cumbersome. You must look for Arlington Band when looking for the organization. You cannot see the dollar and where it flows to when filling out the paperwork on his end. Rob Atkins suggested anyone who submits a form follow up with an email to the Treasurer to let them know.

Dave Kamen stated we get notifications when they receive a donation. Dave Kamen will check to see if anything has come in.

Dave Kamen asked Rob Atkins if he could create a cheat sheet on how to do this and we can add it to the ABBI website.

Evan R zodkiewicz asked if he could talk to Dave Kamen after the call.

See you at the Spring Concerts.

Adjournment:

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

Minutes submitted by: Beverly Embry