

HCAA Annual Meeting

September 28, 2021

Prior to the start of our meeting, Dr. Proctor and her team provided an informative presentation on a wide variety of initiatives and accomplishments that Harper is engaged in, including . . .

- *The Ignite Scholars scholarship program, funded by the \$18 million dollar gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott*
- *The plans to promote diversity and equity efforts in a variety of ways for our students and staff*
- *The status of the HEERF fund (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) and the distribution of the monies*
- *Harper's current Covid situation and response*

and many more. Please see the link to the PowerPoint presentation on the HCAA website.

Present: Linda Frank, Carole Bomba, Michael Nejman, Linda Kolbusz-Kosan, Sharon Martin, Jaci Carroll, Diane Kinn, Karen Johnstone, Kathy Hanahan

Guests: Bruce Bohrer, Tom Johnson, Nancy McDonald, Sue Nowakowski, Judy Thorson, Pascuala Herrera, Ron Ally, John Muchmore, Sharon Alter, Jim Edstrom

The meeting was called to order at 11:57 am

As this was her last meeting in the role of President, Linda took a moment to thank the members of the HCAA Board and team for their various contributions to the work of HCAA the past two years. The Board expressed their gratitude and appreciation, as well, for all of Linda's hard work and efforts as our President. Thank you, Linda!

Highlights of Last Meeting: Kathy shared that at our last meeting on August 16th, 2021, we voted to once again make a \$1000 donation to the Hawks Care fund on behalf of our organization. The check was presented to Laura Brown by Sharon Martin during Orientation Week. Also during Orientation week, several of our members staffed an outreach table in order to connect with current employees and encourage them to consider joining our ranks. A point of interest from the Legislative report included the news that Governor Pritzker had signed a bill, allowing community colleges to have dorms on their campuses.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon noted that since our last meeting, we've had \$1,062 in expenses (the Hawks Care donation, Judi Z's membership dues, and the naming rights for our WordPress site). We had a deposit of \$120.90 in August, bringing our current balance to \$5,720.78. Year to date deposits were \$1,067.62, year to date expenses were \$1,412.00.

Membership Report: Linda shared, on behalf of Hazel, that as of August, our membership is at 293, up from 285 a year ago. Now that Covid is not quite as great of a threat to many of us as it was last year, we're hoping to be able to do more outreach activities that had been discussed a couple of years ago.

Social Report: Jaci noted that one of the outcomes for our group due to the pandemic was the formation of our online book club, which has been successful, and usually has a fair number of participants each time. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 6th, at 3:00. Our selection is *The Last Thing He Told Me*, by Laura Dave. Let Jaci know if you'd like to join us. Also, Diane and Jaci are planning another breakfast or lunch outing soon. Watch for details.

Legislative Report: A few of the highlights from the information Michael shared include the following . . .

- A study from the PEW Charitable Trusts found that the state's pension systems are "stable." Across the country, these systems are in their best positions since the recession of 2008, primarily due to a high return on investments. However, the underfunding of the state's pension systems is still a very real concern.
- The state of Illinois has seen a 65% increase in property taxes in the last 20 years, giving us the 6th highest property taxes in the nation. This is largely due to the underfunded pension funds that the state and local governments have.
- There is controversy over the newly approved legislative boundaries, with objections from Republicans and some community groups that the process was rushed and done behind closed doors to help keep Democrats in power in the state legislature. Lawsuits have been brought, and will be decided on soon.
- Senate Bill 134 was signed into law by Governor Pritzker, which will create a new state task force to study the status of local journalism across the state, and make recommendations to the Illinois General Assembly. The task force will conduct a comprehensive study relative to communities underserved by local journalism in Illinois.
- The Primary election in Illinois will not be held until June 28, 2022.

The full Legislative report is posted on the HCAA website.

Website Report: Judi asked the group to either contact her directly, or to fill out the form that is available on our site, should anyone have suggestions or updates they'd like to share.

New Business: Linda shared the new slate of HCAA officers for the years 2021-2023, to be voted on and approved by the group.

- President: Carol Bomba
- Past President: Linda Frank
- President—Elect: vacant
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Hanahan
- Treasurer: Sharon Martin

Members at Large (we can have up to 6 members)

- Karen Johnstone
- Barbara Anderson
- Karen Chandra
- Joni Rothblum
- Jim Edstrom
- Vacant

The group voted to approve the new Board. Linda congratulated and thanked the group for their willingness to serve. Judi asked the new members to send her pictures to post on the website.

As our new President, Carole thanked everyone for their support, and shared that she looks forward to working with everyone the next few years.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm

Next meeting: Monday, October 18th, 2:00 pm, via Zoom

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Hanahan