

## **Alumni Blue Band Association**

### **Board Meeting**

**Via conference call**

**May 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Jeff Berinato, Ed Carpenter, Judy Engle, Curt Harler, Ben Heller, Lynn Koehler, Helen Meyer, Larry Parko, Joe Rokita, Bill Rubert, Lee Shaw and Conrad Steinmann, Bill Trach

**Absent:** Greg Bennett, Dr. Richard Bundy, Brett Butler, Jessica Devoti, Joel Guldin, Mark Heckel, Joyce Hoffman, Catherine Kaslusky, Tom Range and Sean Strine

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance/Treasurer's Report**

Ben presented the treasurer's report saying the account balances were as expected with minimal activity which is normal for this time of year. Only one donation was received for the SAO account.

Upcoming expenses will include the Fanfare postage and printing. The operating account is ahead at this point in time because of the Fanfare publication and mailing being delayed. Other upcoming expenses include the publication, printing and mailing of the summer Fanfare and membership renewals. Ben reminded the Board of recurring expenses such as, monthly phone bills, staff wages, and misc charges. A one-time expense incurred was the purchase of homecoming tables that are being stored in the instrument room on an upper shelf designated for ABBA.

#### **Blue/White Weekend**

Ben said the participants had roughly doubled this year. There were around 40 alumni at the stadium and about 60 alumni and graduating seniors at the Bar Bleu event. During the Blue/white game, Amazing Grace and the Virginia Tech fight song were played. There were orange t-shirts distributed to all participants to wear, during this game, as a tribute to Virginia Tech. Ben said it was a very special day. There was publicity online on this event. Ben also said that there was an unsolicited article sent, from an alumnus, to be included in an issue of the Fanfare. He thought this was a good response. Ben suggested sending a letter out to Dr Bundy and Greg Drane as a "thank you". Also send something via email to the student managers and librarians that were so helpful in allowing the alumni to participate with music and instruments. Ben thanked Judy, Lynn, Conrad and Helen for their help again this year.

He also suggested being there for this event about an hour and a half earlier next year, to be better prepared, because some of the alumni came very early. Judy suggested wearing the same color as the band next year, so that they can blend in and not stand out. Ben said he would make a note of that for next year. He suggested tabling this until next year's Blue/White meeting and also about allowing children of alums attending/playing to play also. Ben volunteered to chair Blue/White again next year. Conrad asked what

the reaction was for Bar Bleu, and it was stated that it was a big hit. Curt said he thought it went very well, and was well worth the cost of having it. Judy also thought there was a good turnout. Ben asked if there were any improvements to be made before next year. The Board thanked Ben for his work on this year's success. Ben will compile an article for inclusion in the upcoming Fanfare. Conrad will update the website.

### **Homecoming**

Bill Rubert told the board that he had sent the job description of Homecoming Chair out to the board and Lynn Koehler, for the board binder, via email. Conrad had forwarded this on to Sue Delanko as well, because she will co-chair this homecoming. Bill said there is a good group of people who volunteer to help each year. He thinks that Homecoming runs well, but it needs to be more adaptable. He said they played some of the chasers last year, and he thought that they worked well. He reported that he has the motel rooms reserved for this year already. He said there weren't as many responses last year, so they had to let some of the rooms go back to the motel. He didn't reserve as many as last year, so the board does not lose money on rooms that aren't used. Conrad asked Bill to suggest ways that he needs assistance. Bill thought it would be a good idea to have a target group, for instance, like from the 80's, and have a sort of reunion each year. Target a five-year period so this is your year to attend. He thought this might boost participation by doing something like this. Judy said she thought it was a good idea to give it a try. Curt thought maybe they could get Dr Bundy to help with music from that era. Conrad suggested maybe giving the leftover water bottles out to the parade participants this year to give them more incentive to join the reception at the Blue Band building. Judy suggested that maybe they do a pin for a gift this year. Bill said he would look into it. He said he would also take more suggestions, via email, on the gift. Judy asked if it would be possible to put some of the music in from Blue/White this year. Maybe more time for practice beforehand. Bill suggested that Sue could ask Dr B if they could possibly practice some of these songs. Conrad suggested that the guest speakers, who give the speeches after practice, would come over to the stadium to give them, so that the band could rehearse longer, at Holuba Hall.

### **Alumni Society**

Conrad attended the meeting of the Alumni Council of the College of Arts and Architecture/Performing Arts Society. Joyce Hoffman is the administrator for the council. ABBA was a guest of the group. At the meeting, Conrad presented a summary of the ABBA organization and activities. The council was impressed with the larger number of activities that ABBA undertakes and thought the board representation by decade was a clever idea. The council focuses on fundraising and alumni development and discussed their goals and activities for the year. There is a large anniversary event planned at the letterman's club at Beaver Stadium for alumni of the School of Architecture. In addition, the interim dean of the College of Arts and Architecture presented an update on college administration and announced there is a new dean arriving in June. There were three blue band alumni present at this meeting. Joyce and Conrad discussed the council touring the Blue Band Building as it was discovered that none had seen it. Joyce contacted Dr. Bundy and arranged to use the building for the next meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 21. The new dean is expected

to attend. Conrad will work with Dr Bundy to invite an appropriate tour guide from among the band members.

### **Committee Reports**

Other committee reports were not presented at this meeting in the interest of time. Conrad had requested committee chairmen to e-mail written reports, with any activity that occurred since the previous meeting February 10. No activity was reported. He will contact the committee chairmen individually before the next board meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **Board Package**

Lynn Koehler thanked Bill and Curt for sending their job descriptions in to her. She said she would like to put these binders together for the next board meeting. Lynn said it would be nice to have these binders available to that if we need to have an answer, it will be available in the binder, for instance when the Fanfare deadlines are. Judy said it would be a good idea to have guidelines put together for the Fanfare. Conrad stated that he had suggested to Toni to send out content before it would be put into context. Lynn has suggested that each committee write an article for this next Fanfare because this is the membership drive. A statement was made to mention Homecoming committee members in the Fanfare. Conrad suggested each committee being on the website.

Other old business was tabled for discussion among committees.

## **New Business**

### **Tickets**

One block of tickets will be granted to the College of Arts and Architecture to share among all interested groups, if the football ticket office accepts the application. ABBA as an APG must go through the College of Arts and Architecture. They will be shared with School of Music because they have requested a block already and any other groups in the college that make a request.

Lee said maybe they would like to look at the protocol to see if they could possibly receive tickets through another group.

Judy said that if ABBA did get tickets again this year, it would be handled differently when distributing them. The purchase will be done earlier than had been last year. The cost should be between 38 and 58 dollars depending on the game awarded. The games are Buffalo, at Michigan, as Illinois, Wisconsin/Homecoming, Indiana, at Temple and at Michigan State. Judy said she agrees with Lee that there is a larger issue in getting these tickets. Judy asked if this was a good idea to try to get again. Conrad said they could maybe do a tailgate at the Buffalo game before, so this could be tied together with that. Lee suggested finding some way of getting some ABBA members close to these away games that may want these away tickets. Judy said she thought it was not a good idea,

because these people would not want these tickets, because last year they would say they wanted them, and then didn't take them at the last minute. The limit of tickets that will be allotted for each game is 40. These may be split with the School of Music and the deadline for requesting them is May 21.

**Next Meeting**

Conrad proposed sending a few meeting times to the Board and making a decision from the majority on that. He thought perhaps sometime mid July.

**Meeting Adjourned**