

Black Alumni Constituent Society Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2009 Phone Conference

Members Present: Phil Anderson, Dori Armstead, Ebonee Cooper, Fred Cox, Teresa Jeter, Pam Morris, Charles Payne, Charmaine Powell, Carl Radford, Sue Taylor and Laura Waldron.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Pam Morris.

Minutes

Minutes from the April 4, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved by a voice vote following a motion from Carl and second from Dori.

Announcements

Joyce was in the process of moving to Arizona and her reunion attendance is unlikely.

Alumni Council

Sue read a report Mike had submitted regarding the April 25 Alumni Council meeting. His report to the Black Alumni Society stated that Chase Bank will not be renewing a partnership agreement with the BSUAA after the current contract expires in 2011. Ball State Federal Credit Union renewed an 18-month sponsorship agreement through June 30, 2010 for the amount of \$20,000. Fifty Legacy Scholarships were awarded by the BSUAA in the amount of \$2,000 each. Mike noted that there was discussion on the BSUAA's efforts to become a 501c3. Fred noted that the application was approved by the Secretary of State on Friday, June 26. In society related news, the Black Alumni Society Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$9,437.14.

Summer Events

Expo – Pam will make a few reunion reminder flyers for the Ball State booth at Indianapolis Expo. Carl expressed an interest in helping with the booth. Sue noted that the booth is usually coordinated by Admissions and she will contact Charles Haynes for more information.

United Way Breakfast – Individuals joining the Black Alumni Constituent Society table at the United Way breakfast were encouraged to send Sue their reunion polo shirt sizes as soon as possible. It was hoped that board members could wear reunion shirts to the breakfast and the Jillian's event. Carl and guest, Pam Morris and guest, Ebonee, Mike, Charmaine and her guest will be in attendance at the breakfast.

Jillian's – The board will gather "unofficially" at Jillian's on July 18. Pam reported that the contract had been signed and the down payment made. The reception will be held from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. The BSUAA does not have staff available for this unofficial activity. Members of the board will staff the event and collect a \$10 charge at the door in hopes of recouping the expenses of the event. The board will publicize the event at Expo, via word of mouth, email and through social networking (Facebook and Ning).

"Be the Change" ~ Reunion 2009 (July 31–August 2)

Co-Chairs: Joyce and Keith (as vice presidents)

Awards: Fred, Phil, Teresa, Mike, Sue and Joyce (chair)

Entertainment: Fred and Keith (chair)

Publicity: Fred, Charmaine, Phil, Sue and Keith (chair)

Hospitality: Foster, Allen and Pam (chair)

Menus: Pam (chair). Lunch tickets will be issued for Saturday at registration.

Decorations: Ebonee, Charmaine and Pam (chair).

Photography: Mike White will be the photographer (confirmed by Fred and Sue)

Vendors: Charmaine. Vendors will be asked to pay for their lunches, but not their table space.

Publicity: "Be the Change"

Flyers have been mailed for the reunion. The website (www.bsu.edu/alumni/blackalumnireunion) has full details on all aspects of the reunion and a printable reservation flyer. Laura reminded the membership that a list of attendees will be published on the site and requested that reservations be turned in as soon as possible. Names online and personal contacts will strongly encourage alumni to attend the reunion. Keith is publicizing the reunion on his Ning site and a new Facebook group. It was requested that Ebonee's Facebook group also publicize the reunion. Dori will post information on the wall of Keith and Ebonee's Facebook group's pages. Fred is working to get the reunion publicized on some media outlets in the Indianapolis area.

Music

Joyce was going to bring music on her iPod to be piped throughout the conservatory and pre-event areas of the Alumni Center during Friday's reception. In Joyce's absence, Fred agreed to compile music for the event.

Decorations

Pam stated that she, Ebonee and Sue would discuss decorations after the meeting. Everything will be elegant but simple and the committee is entertaining suggestions.

Entertainment

Thomas Griffin signed a contract to DJ on Saturday evening after the awards program.

Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room will be at the Hampton Inn. The Hampton Inn has extended its reservation deadline to July 24. Fred said that he believed Foster was running the hospitality room the same as they have in year's past. Fred agreed to follow up with Foster and confirm details.

Menu

The Saturday lunch is the biggest difference in the reunion menu from 2007. The lunch will be a fiesta bar with tacos and related items. Lunch tickets will be provided at check-in and required for the lunch.

Saturday Vendors

Pam said that Brian Settles, '66 is very excited to have a vendor booth on Saturday. He will have copies of his new book available for purchase and will be signing copies as well. Letters have been sent out to 12 potential vendors and Sue is currently awaiting a response from these individuals. Per Carl's request, Sue will check with TIS Bookstore about their ability to sell merchandise at the Alumni Center or perhaps provide coupons for their store.

Saturday Panel Discussions

For the Unsung Heroes panel, Teresa has confirmed three married couples (all alumni) who are bringing change and impacting their communities. She asked if lunch could be made available for the panelists. Fred agreed that it would be a very nice gesture. Pam supported the idea as well. The board unanimously agreed to provide lunch for the six Unsung Heroes panelists. The funds will come from the Black Alumni Constituent Society Fund. Teresa will draft a letter to request biographies from the panelists and will add the information about the lunch aspect. Sue will print the letter on Alumni Association letterhead and include a new flyer with the Saturday lunch indicated as complimentary.

Pam's forum on the Black Alumni Society will include her vision and discussion on the board's mission. This will be an informal information session run like a town hall. She will answer questions and help alumni understand the

scope of the board, let them know how they can become more involved and accept comments and suggestions. She requested that board members be present. Dori suggested that a survey be sent to alumni to discuss this panel and maybe generate questions in advance. Dori will work on some survey items and send them to the board for consideration the week of July 6th

Saturday Dinner Program and Script

The welcome will be done by Keith and Pam. Ebonee will light the candelabra at this time. Mike will be the emcee and will introduce members of the board. Dori will perform the invocation prior to dinner.

After much discussion on the placement of awards in the program and the order of recipients, it was decided that Award of Achievement recipients would be honored first by Keith and Dori. They will be presented alphabetically. Teresa and Phil will introduce the Outstanding Black Alumni recipients – Krishna Thomas-Walker, Melvin Johnson and Sandra Hall Parker.

Pam will make closing remarks and turn the evening over to DJ Thomas Griffin.

Awards

Sue has heard from almost all of the award recipients. Outstanding recipients will receive a complimentary dinner for themselves and a guest and one hotel room for Saturday evening. Award of Achievement recipients will receive Saturday evening's dinner for themselves and one guest.

"Best Week Ever" ~ Homecoming 2009 (www.bsu.edu/alumni/homecoming)

Fred mentioned to the board that Homecoming Day events have moved two hours earlier do to the game being televised. Fred, Carl and Dori questioned the availability of the Alumni Center with the earlier kick-off time. Sue will check with the Center's staff but cautioned that there are many activities that day and a reduced staff.

Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. An additional conference call is scheduled for **Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. (Muncie/Eastern Standard Time)**. Details for joining the conference call will be emailed prior to July 23. The awards dinner script and reunion details will be finalized.