



## **WINTER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2017**

---

Following the *Welcome to Aggieland* video, Porter S. Garner III '79, President and CEO of The Association of Former Students, called the Winter Leadership Council meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Garner began by thanking the volunteer leaders for their service to The Association. Garner recognized special guests Michael O'Quinn '86, Vice President of Governmental Relations; Chad Wootton '96, Associate Vice President for External Affairs; Hannah Wimberly '17, Student Body President; and Bill Toler '76, Chairman of the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees. Justin Martinez '17, Deputy Corps Commander and Chaplain, provided the invocation, and then Chris Williams '95, President of the Northeast Tarrant County A&M Club, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRESIDENT AND CEO'S REMARKS**

Garner provided an update on recent events and activities taking place at The Association of Former Students. He reported The Association recently hosted its eighth annual Orange & Maroon Legislative Day in partnership with Texas Exes. Over 400 volunteers visited legislators on behalf of the two institutions of higher learning during this one-day event.

Garner shared the story of Lauren Brown '16, who had battled Ewing Sarcoma for more than six years. One of her last wishes was to attend an Aggie football game. Garner thanked Association Board member Mark Fischer '72 and his wife, SuSu, for hosting Lauren and her family in their suite at Kyle Field last fall.

Garner announced that on April 7, over 6,200 students will receive their Aggie Ring and encouraged the Council to volunteer their time on this special day. Garner reported on the latest Ring added to the Aggie Ring collection, which belonged to William Dillworth Anderson, Class of 1890. The Ring was donated to the collection by Ross '08 and Lindsey '08 Durr.

Garner was pleased to report that in 2016, The Association set all-time records with more donors and more dollars raised in the Annual Fund than ever before in its history.

He announced that the Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee met on February 3 and selected 10 Aggies in 2017 to receive the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University: the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The Distinguished Alumni Gala will be held on September 29, 2017 in Reed Arena to honor the 2017 award recipients, along with all prior recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

## **INTRODUCTION OF 2017 ASSOCIATION CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Garner introduced Phil Miner '80, The Association of Former Students' 2017 Chair of the Board, and recognized him for his outstanding service to The Association and Texas A&M University. Garner also introduced Miner's wife, Sue Ellen'81.

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Miner greeted the Leadership Council and stated he looks forward to serving as Chair of the Board this year. He thanked Immediate Past Chair, Dwain Mayfield '59, for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University in 2016.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: (MICKEY BATSELL '67/HENRY HILL '56) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2016, BE APPROVED. CARRIED.

### **THE ASSOCIATION REPORT**

The 2016 Association Impact Video was shared.

#### **Fundraising Report**

Cathy Mann '92, Board Member and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported The Association exceeded its Annual Fund goal of \$10,250,000 by raising \$10,251,477 from 53,897 donors. She noted that since 2012, The Association's Annual Fund has grown by more than \$2,500,000 in revenue and 10,000 donors. There were 50 new Endowed Century Club gifts in 2016, bringing the total to 911 Endowed Century Club funds. Mann reported the Endowed Century Club Trust Fund balance exceeds \$22 million, and with the earnings from this endowment providing over \$820,000 to the 2016 Annual Fund. She also noted that in 2016, 14 new Aggie Ring Scholarships were added, bringing the total number of Aggie Ring Scholarships to 67. In 2016, 113 Aggie Rings were awarded through both endowments and pass through scholarships, 47 of which went to Aggie Veterans. Mann shared the story of Ike Morris '33, who is the oldest known living Aggie at 106 and recently established the Tom C. "Ike" Morris '33 Endowed Aggie Ring Scholarship. During the upcoming Aggie Ring Day in April, an Aggie veteran will be the first recipient of an Endowed Aggie Ring Scholarship bearing Morris' name. Mann reported that all gifts to The Association of Former Students count toward the university's \$4 billion *Lead by Example* campaign and as of December 31, 2016, gifts to The Association totaled \$66 million.

#### **Finance Report**

Mark Fischer '72, Board Member and Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed The Association's 2016 financial report and reported The Association provided more than \$12,528,000 in direct support to Texas A&M last year. As of December 31, 2016, total assets were \$108,262,278, total revenue for all funds was \$20,233,187, total expenses were \$17,792,597, and The Association's Operating Fund had a net revenue over expenses of \$272,647.

### **STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT REPORT**

Hannah Wimberly '17 provided an update on behalf of the student body. She touched on the Aggie United event in the fall, creation of the Texas Student Government Coalition, student election results,

and the impact of the Aggie Network on the Student Government Association. She thanked the Leadership Council for their leadership and support on behalf of the student body.

### **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT**

Chad Wootton '96, Associate Vice President for External Affairs in the Office of Provost, reported 66,426 students were enrolled at Texas A&M University in the Fall of 2016, which includes the College Station campus, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Texas A&M University at Qatar, and the Texas A&M University School of Law School. Wootton reported on the growth of the University with the newest Health Science Center in McAllen, Texas.

### **Legislative Update**

Michael O'Quinn '86, Vice President for Government Relations, presented a legislative update relating to state appropriations through the Texas Legislature. O'Quinn thanked Garner and The Association of Former Students for the creation of the Texas A&M Advocacy Network, which is very important to the University.

### **TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION REPORT**

Bill Toler '76, Chairman of the Texas A&M Foundation's Board of Trustees, provided an update on the *Lead by Example* campaign and announced the campaign surpassed \$2.4 billion in contributions by the end of 2016. Toler reported on several new fundraising projects including engineering, music and the gardens expansions.

### **CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Miner commented about the Board's recent trip to Balfour and complimented the 26 people who handcraft each individual Aggie Ring. He reported that Balfour makes over 14,000 Aggie Rings annually; second to that is Clemson with 1,500 and third is The University of Texas with 1,200 rings

Miner spoke about the highest award bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University, the Distinguished Alumnus Award, and a special presentation commenced to recognize William "Bill" Huffman '53 as a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M. Mr. Huffman currently serves on the Leadership Council as a Class Agent.

Miner thanked the Leadership Council for representing The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University throughout the worldwide Aggie Network. He announced the Sul Ross Reunion is scheduled for March 22-24, 2017, and the Fall Leadership Council meetings will be held November 3-4, 2017. To close the meeting, former Yell Leaders led in singing the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Phil Miner '80  
Chair of the Board

---

Porter S. Garner III '79  
President and CEO