



## **SPRING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2022**

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Following *The Association at a Glance* video, Porter S. Garner III '79, President and CEO of The Association of Former Students, called the Spring Leadership Council meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms of the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Garner thanked the volunteer leaders for their dedicated service to The Association and Texas A&M. He recognized special guests: President of Texas A&M University Dr. M. Katherine Banks, President of the Texas A&M Foundation Tyson Voelkel '96, and Chairman of the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees Lou Paletta '78. Garner also recognized special friend and longtime Leadership Council member Melvin Maltz '47. Megan Benzel '22, Corps of Cadets Chaplin, led the invocation, and Bill Schwensen '77, Area 10 Representative, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

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

Garner shared memories of his personal and professional relationship with Kathryn Greenwade '88, a 22-year team member, who recently passed. He remarked on Greenwade's love, passion and dedication to The Association and Texas A&M and asked the Leadership Council for a moment of silence in her memory. He went on to thank Immediate Past Chair Pat Beard '83 for his strong and faithful leadership during his eight years of dedicated service to The Association's Board. Garner noted that Aggie Ring Day was scheduled for April 7-8, with nearly 6,500 Aggie Rings to be distributed during this two-day event. Garner thanked members of the Leadership Council who assisted with distributing Rings at previous Aggie Ring Days. He announced The Association's three major goals over the next five years: Culture, Engagement and Fundraising. He then introduced Cecilee Herd '95, as the recently assigned Vice President to Former Student Programs, and commended her initiatives to provide National and Area Representatives new opportunities for engagement with their surrounding Clubs that will help The Association achieve these goals. Seventeen new Chartered A&M Clubs have joined The Association since 2021. The Association staff will work with A&M Clubs and Muster Groups around the world to coordinate Muster and will again conduct the Worldwide Roll Call for the Absent to be called – and answered – on April 21 in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Garner stated The Association is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Texas Aggie* magazine in 2022. He provided a brief update on Aggie Park and thanked Aggie Park Task Committee Chair Robert White '81, Vice President Marty Holmes '87, and Aggie Park Advisor Ron Spies '73 for their leadership with the Aggie Park project. Garner commented on one of the highlights of Aggie Park, the Distinguished Alumni Tribute, which will formally recognize Texas A&M University's Distinguished Alumni in a beautiful and permanent recognition in Aggie Park, with room to add names until 2050. Of Texas A&M's 555,000 plus former students, only 306 individuals to date have been honored with the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University. The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee recently selected twelve Distinguished Alumni to be

honored in 2022. Dr. Joe Fowler '68, Tom Powell '62, Bill Mahomes '69, Elaine Mendoza '87, Clifton Thomas, Jr. '72, Gregory Cokinos '79, Dr. Jimmy Williams '83, and Bill Jones '81 were recently notified of their selection as Distinguished Alumnus with a surprise announcement. Travis Smith Jr., Class of 1898, will be honored posthumously. The remaining surprise announcements will take place over the next few weeks. The Distinguished Alumni Gala will be held in Reed Arena on September 16, 2022.

## **INTRODUCTION OF 2022 CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Garner introduced The Association of Former Students' 2022 Chair of the Board, Dara Hegar '95, and thanked her for her outstanding service to The Association and Texas A&M University. Garner thanked Hegar and her husband, The Honorable Glenn Hegar '93, for leading by example and for their selfless service to Texas A&M.

## **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Hegar greeted the Leadership Council and stated she looks forward to serving as Chair of the Board in 2022. She thanked Beard for his inspiring and genuine service as The Association's 2021 Chair of the Board. Hegar expressed her appreciation to the Leadership Council for their involvement and for leading by example as donors to The Association.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: (UNANIMOUSLY, THROUGH ONLINE VOTING) MINUTES OF THE FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 6, 2021, BE APPROVED. CARRIED.

## **THE ASSOCIATION REPORT**

### **Fundraising Report**

Bobby Jenkins '81, Board member and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, shared that 2021 was a great year for The Association of Former Students with \$11,156,578 raised in the Annual Fund from 60,655 donors, the highest revenue in The Association's history. He noted this included a record-setting performance for Pass It Back Day in 2021, with gifts of over \$670,000 from over 6,100 donors. The 2022 Annual Fund goal is \$11,125,000 from 61,000 donors. Jenkins reported that as of December 31, 2021, forty-one new Endowed Century Club endowments had been established for a total of 1,141 endowments, bringing the fund up to \$41,666,507. In addition, forty-two new Aggie Ring Scholarship endowments were established in 2021, bringing the total to 209, with 313 Aggie Ring Scholarships awarded in 2021 and over 1,500 Aggie Rings awarded through these endowments since the start of the program. He reported on The Association's primary capital campaign, Aggie Park, with \$21.6 million received in addition to \$11.6 million more in signed agreements for a total of \$33.2 million in signed commitments to date. Jenkins thanked Vice President Nic Taunton '07 and Director of Development, Travis White '12, for their efforts in raising funds for Aggie Park. He then introduced The Association's new marketing campaign, *I Am The Why*, where Aggies can share their story at

IAMTHEWHY.com. Luke Thurman '22, Chair of the Muster Committee and Ross Volunteer, gave testimony on how The Association has impacted him as a student and thanked the Leadership Council for their support of the student body.

### **Finance Report**

Jeff Steen '80, Board member and Chair of the Finance Committee, provided The Association's 2021 financial report. In 2021, The Association provided \$13.3 million in mission support with total assets at \$196 million, and net assets of \$187 million. He reported that as of December 31, 2021, The Association's total revenues were \$41.6 million, with total expenses at \$19.4 million. Steen reported the 2022 budget includes operating revenues of \$17,826,125 and expenses of \$17,815,625, with a surplus of \$10,500.

### **Aggie Park Task Committee Report**

Robert White '81, Board member and Chair of the Aggie Park Task Committee, thanked the Aggie Park Task Committee, The Association of Former Students' staff, Midway, Shelley '78 and Jeff '78 Potter with POTTER Architects, Jim Thompson '68 with JRT Construction, Lake|Flato, Tellepsen and OJB Architects for their efforts on this significant project. White shared renderings of Aggie Park, the Grand Hall, Pillars of the Aggie Network and many other structures within the park. He reported on the timeline and closed by inviting the Leadership Council to view renderings and other details about the project online at [AggiePark.tamu.edu](http://AggiePark.tamu.edu).

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

Lou Paletta '78, Chairman of the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees, commented on the importance of The Association's relationship with the Foundation; the meaning of the Aggie Ring and what it represents across the globe; and the Foundation's investment performance to maintain Texas A&M University's position as a top-tier University in the country. Tyson Voelkel '96, President of the Texas A&M Foundation, thanked The Association for their committed success in the *Lead by Example* campaign, which helped raise \$4.25 billion for Texas A&M's academic initiatives, research, campus improvements, scholarships, college programs and more. Voelkel provided updates on the Texas A&M Legacy Society and the collaborative efforts of The Association of Former Students, 12th Man Foundation, George & Barbara Bush Foundation, Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association, and the Texas A&M Foundation. He expressed his appreciation to Porter '79 and Lisa '91 Garner for their contribution to the Legacy Society.

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

Dr. M. Katherine Banks, President of Texas A&M University, thanked Garner for his outstanding leadership and impact on Texas A&M and Texas Aggies. She recognized Texas A&M's 12th Man centennial year and the national attention it brings to Texas A&M. She stated the current enrollment at Texas A&M University is 73,000, with 68,000 students on the College Station campus. Banks reported that Texas A&M is committing \$50 million in scholarships to be awarded to members of the Corps of Cadets who are ROTC scholarship recipients, which will cover room and board for those students commissioning into service after graduation. She reported on the plan to build a new

hypersonic weapons test center at the RELLIS campus for students to evaluate the materials and maneuverability of missiles. Banks commented on the Matthew Gaines statue, which is located between the Memorial Student Center and Student Services building, and encouraged the Leadership Council to learn its story and endowment opportunities. She reported on the MGT Report and stated she formed forty-one working groups to evaluate the forty-one recommendations, which includes combining the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Science and Geosciences to form a new College of Arts & Sciences. She noted the integration of Texas A&M Student Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services into Texas A&M Health. Banks provided a brief update on several university projects including Aggie Park and updates to several athletic facilities.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Hegar stated there was no other business submitted by the Leadership Council. In a surprise announcement that Hegar cued, Association Past Chair Mark Fischer '72 was recognized as a 2022 Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M University.

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

Hegar thanked the Leadership Council for representing The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University throughout the Aggie Network. She expressed her appreciation to The Association of Former Students' team. The meeting was closed with the singing of the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dara Hegar '95  
Chair of the Board

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Porter S. Garner III '79  
President and CEO