

PBKAAGA Newsletter - December 1, 2017



Board of Directors

Officers

Suzon Kemp, President

Pam Autrey, 1st Vice-President

William Schleuse, 2nd Vice-President

Scott Morse, Treasurer

Joyce Pulich, Secretary

Members

*Gemma Marangoni Ainslie
Michelle Berger*

Noble Doss

Catherine Jaffe

Michael Palombo

Yashvinder Sabharwal

Joyce Statz

Louise Weinberg

Alice Virginia White

Robert Bridges, Past President

Committee of Advisors

This has been an exciting year for the “the IIBK alumni chapter,” as we sometimes shorthand it, with two excellent membership meetings, one at Texas State University, our first “road trip.” For the board, it’s been a year of reviewing our goals, reevaluating our objectives, and beginning to expand our programming. Suzon Kemp reviews the year in her Letter from the President.

Year in Review – a Letter from the President

When I began my term as president of PBKAAGA, after many years as Treasurer, I looked forward to helping shape our future. It seemed time to reexamine the goals of our Association and to refocus and expand our activities in pursuit of those goals. This was reinforced this past June, when I had the pleasure of visiting the Phi Beta Kappa Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. I met with Secretary/CEO Frederick Lawrence to discuss the ideals and goals of Phi Beta Kappa and how they can be promoted by alumni associations like ours. It was exciting to meet with Dr. Lawrence and share his vision, and it has been gratifying to see the changes we have begun this year in our Austin area alumni association.

The board agreed that our association could be strengthened by appealing to younger members, with the objective of increasing their representation. This is being pursued by board member Michael Palombo, our liaison to UT Alpha Chapter, and Ana Worrel, of young PBK professionals. In addition we have begun to develop outreach and programming with younger Phi Beta Kappans in mind, including offering mentorship opportunities.

We have formed a Committee of Advisors composed of outstanding PBK community leaders who exemplify excellence in their lives and careers. We expect the Committee to serve as a resource for the Board and to foster wider recognition of our organization and its programs.

*Paul Burns,
M.D.*

Libby Doggett, Ph.D.

Larry R. Faulkner, Ph.D.

Michael Gagarin, Ph.D.

Thomas J. Garza Ed.D.

*The Very Rev. Cynthia Briggs
Kittredge, Th.D.*

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza Ph.D.

Barbara Leonard Smith

Ambassador Pamela Willeford

George Willeford III, M.D.

In the planning stage is an award for excellence in teaching at the secondary school level, which grew out of an idea by board member Pam Autrey. We are expecting to develop external support for this award and to support other expanded programming, in addition to our own dues and contributions.

Informal gatherings have been added to our schedule of quarterly board meetings and semi-annual membership meetings. The board now convenes for happy hour at Fabi & Rossi in months between quarterly board meetings, affording a chance to socialize and brainstorm. This has fostered enthusiasm and ownership of projects by individual board members.

In keeping with a national PIBK initiative, we held a Sunday afternoon "Key Connections" social in September at Deep Eddy Cabaret, designed to raise awareness of our Association and to promote networking. The venue was courtesy of board member Robert Bridges. A submission of our plans submitted by Yash Sabharwal won a \$400 cash award from national PIBK, which paid for the pizza.

PBK's fall membership meeting was held in November in the Wittliff Collections on the Texas State campus. Director David Coleman delivered a colorful and interesting lecture on the history and mission of the Wittliff Collections. Our first meeting out of Austin was a resounding success, thanks to the vision and facilitation of Cathy Jaffee. Two new board members were elected at this meeting. It is my pleasure to welcome Louise Weinberg and Steven Weinberg to our board.

To close out the year, the board will host a cocktail reception in December at the home of Libby Malone, to honor and welcome members of the Committee of Advisors.

On the media front, Joyce Statz has overhauled and updated our website <http://pbkaaga.wildapricot.org> and continues to make it more user-friendly. William Schleuse has edited PBKAAGA's first e-newsletters.

A reminder and a plea: your tax-deductible contributions - as well as your dues - sustain our organization and our scholarship program. Your assistance is critical and we ask for your continued support. You may contribute online or by mail. We look forward to your participation in 2018 and beyond.

Best wishes for the upcoming Holidays!

Suzon S. Kemp, President

Scholarship Endowment Fund Now Directly Available for Donations

Our chapter has an endowment fund at the Austin Community Foundation to help us provide for a sound future of granting

scholarships. You may now contribute directly to that fund when using the donation page on our web site, or by using this link directly: [Endowment Fund Link](#) (You may be prompted to provide our fund name - Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin Endowed Scholarship Fund.)

Mentoring Opportunities

As mentioned by Suzon Kemp in her President's letter, we have a new mentoring program underway. Everyone in the chapter is invited to be available to mentor to a college Phi Beta Kappa student who is looking for guidance on professional development, career advice, subject matter expertise, or simply conversation. If you're interested, please complete the form at this link: [Mentor Form](#)

Membership Directory

Note that our membership directory is now published in the member's section of the website, always up to date as well as saving reams of paper! For more information about the PIBK Alumni Association, check out our website: <http://pbkaaga.wildapricot.org/>.

And remember, it's time to renew your membership, and to consider an additional contribution!

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