

ΦBK KEY NOTES

The PBKAAGA Newsletter

April 2, 2019



Key Notes, the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin newsletter, highlights Association news, recent and upcoming events, and developments in the Association's continued evolution. Additional details about this newsletter and the organization can be found on the Association website: <http://pbkaaga.wildapricot.org/>

Welcome from the New Administration, Fellow PBKAAGA Members!

2019 brought a lot of new faces to the PBKAAGA board, and together we've learned a lot in these first three months. I always knew there were talented folks among our membership, but I'm privileged to have a great group working with me and giving tirelessly of their time and energy to keep this organization moving forward. I've learned there are a lot of details with a transition, from new bank account authorizations, and budget and financial handoffs, to figuring out who has website access and the post office box keys! I've also learned there are a lot of night owls among us, whether by choice or default, as everyone is working for the organization while also working long hours at their jobs.



So, I am grateful for the budgets and financials that have been prepared, the outreach to members to renew their membership, the research for speakers and locations, the drafting of agendas and minutes, the website updates, and the newsletter writing. I'm thankful for the notifications to school districts regarding our Scholarship and Teacher Excellence Awards, our representation at the Scholarship Fair, and the long hours spent reading submissions, making selections, and preparing for the awards meetings.

And I'm grateful for our membership...whose donations and membership dues help fund these efforts.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Cisco's on May 5th!

Best always,

Connie

**Spring 2019 General Membership Meeting and Scholarship
Presentation - Sunday, May 5, 3-5 PM**

On Sunday, May 5, we will gather to hear from angel investor W. Austin Ligon, speaking on Business and a Liberal Arts Education, and to present our annual scholarship awards. Please join us at Cisco's Restaurant and Bakery, 1511 East 6th Street, Austin, TX 78702.



Austin Ligon is the co-founder and retired CEO of CarMax, Inc. He retired in June 2006, and is now a private angel/seed stage investor with Tewada Ventures. Among his recent investments are Redfin.com; Rev.com, Getaround.com, Startup Angels, CarTrade.com (India), Eneza Education (Kenya) and Tazza Kitchen.

Austin and Rick Sharp, then Circuit City CEO, developed the CarMax idea together in 1991 and launched the first CarMax store in Richmond, Virginia, in 1993. Austin became president of CarMax in 1995. He led the company through a decade and a half of rapid growth, including its IPO as a tracking stock of Circuit City in 1997. He added the title of CEO upon the company's spin off from Circuit City in 2002.

Austin came to Circuit City from Marriott Corporation where he had been senior vice president of strategic planning for Marriott Hotels and Resorts. Austin was previously a senior consultant for the Boston Consulting Group in London, England, and an independent financial consultant in Bangkok, Thailand. Prior to that, he worked as a health economist in Dallas and San Antonio.

The primary focus of Austin's community involvement is education. He is an advisory board member of the Yale School of Management and St. John's College Board of Visitors and Governors (Annapolis and Santa Fe). He was advisory board chairman of the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at John's Hopkins University. He previously served on the governing board of the University of Virginia Investment Management Company (UVIMCO), the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia and the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities. He also serves on the board of several venture start-up companies.

Austin earned a B.A. in 1973 from the Plan II Honors program at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He studied at the Pontifical Catholic University in Lima, Peru in 1972-73. He subsequently earned his M.A. in Economics in 1978 from the University of Texas and an M.B.A. in 1980 from the Yale School of Management.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 5, 2019, 3-5 p.m. -Spring General Meeting and presentation of the annual scholarship awards – see the article above for program details. Join us for this very special meeting, at Cisco’s Bakery, 1511 East 6th Street, Austin, TX 78702.

Friday, May 24, 2019, 3-5 p.m. – PBK Alpha Ceremony, Santa Rita Room of the Texas Union at UT. Join students and their families to celebrate, as the students are inducted into the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Sunday, November 10, 2019, 3-5 p.m. – Fall General Meeting and presentation of Teaching Excellence Award. Meeting location TBD, but mark your calendars!

Young Alumni Events: Attention recent college graduates and young professionals! We are in the process of planning upcoming events to engage newer graduates for networking and social gatherings. Previous events include: Trivia Night at Pinthouse Pizza, Burgers and Social Hour at Deep Eddy Cabaret, and more.

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Stay in Touch

Want to stay connected with Phi Beta Kappa news and updates in the Austin Area? Like and follow our Facebook page, Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin, or search **@PBKAAGA**

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A Final Word: Please renew your membership for this year, and consider a little extra donation for our scholarship and teacher awards. PBKAAGA - the start of these initials might remind you of PB&J, the basic sandwich that takes us back to a time of simplicity. We each earned our PBK designation, and like PB&J, we probably don’t take ourselves all that seriously. But there is one thing we all do take seriously: the value of academic excellence and promoting PBKAAGA. That means supporting the main endeavor of this organization – giving scholarships to worthy applicants and recognizing Teaching Excellence. With your help, we are able to make a difference in the lives of even more students and teachers. Like PB&J – we’re asking for a simple donation.

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