

**MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING of the MEMBERSHIP**

Hybrid: In-Person at Nissan Auditorium and Zoom Call, 4 p.m.

Friday, April 8, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Katherine Shell Benson called the annual meeting of the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association (MUWAA) to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S WELCOME

President Benson shared she is nervous but excited because this is practice for Convocation. Ms. Benson welcomed everyone Home! She stated it has been so long since we were all on campus together. She encourages everyone to enjoy every minute of the weekend!

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

LuAnne Farrar McGuirk moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as presented. Jenny Katool seconded. Motion carried.

IV. RECOGNITION OF 2021-2022 MUWAA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President Benson recognized Board Officers and Directors as well as Non-Director Committee Chairs with slide presentations and thanked them for the amazing job done this year. She also recognized Dr. Anna Ogburn and President Miller. She says that she does not know what she would have done without this team.

V. MUWAA ANNUAL REPORTS

A. OFFICER REPORTS

- **Parliamentarian**
Wesley Garrett, Board Parliamentarian, had nothing to report at this time.

- **Secretary**
LuAnne Farrar McGuirk, Board Secretary, had nothing to report at this time.

- **Treasurer**

Jane IZard Turner, Board Treasurer, reported there has been some activity in several accounts in the past few months. We adjusted the account balances to be accurate and fully endowed. We are on or under budget in all categories based on “budget to actual.”

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS- STANDING

- **Finance**

Jane IZard Turner, Chair, shared the current report only includes expenses since January. The committee had goals to provide reports and compile recommendations for “suggested giving profiles.”

- **Bylaws**

Kym Golden Gore, Chair, shared that the policy and procedure on the OUR Scholarship has been updated. This will be updated on the website. Ms. Gore made a motion to add “Magnolia Mingle” to the Policies and Procedures Manual, Appendix F: Naming Rights. The motion is as follows (changes redlined with strikethroughs and additions in blue):

“The Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association (MUWAA) shall maintain exclusive ownership of any and all designated naming rights for any and/or all special events for which it proposes, develops, promotes, and maintains on behalf of the benefactor, Mississippi University for Women, including but not limited to the following events: The MUWAA Long Blue Line Auction, ~~and~~ the MUWAA BLUE Event, [and the MUWAA Magnolia Mingle](#).”

Motion passed at the Board meeting on Thursday.

- **Chapters and Constituencies**

Monique Jenkins, Chair, was not in attendance. Michelle Wescovich shared the report in her absence. The committee’s workshop was held on January 22, 2022, with great success. The committee is still working with other groups to add them to our Alumnae Association.

- **Nominations and Elections**

Rebecca Rogers, Chair, was not in attendance. Katherine Shell Benson gave the report. She shared that the committee has been working hard since January. She was excited for all the people who attended the balanced board workshop. They compiled a spreadsheet with each person’s information in specific categories. Ms. Rogers shared that the annual report will be given tomorrow but she won’t be here, so:

34 nominations, 4 not eligible, 3 received multiple nominations
25 were determined eligible, 18 accepted the nominations
The committee then deliberated to move forward with balanced
recommendations.

- **Past Presidents**

Kristi Hipp Mosley, Chair, shared that past presidents were tasked with creating a new fundraiser. They have been busy with the creation and planning for the Magnolia Mingle. The event will be held tonight and will be fun!

- **Public Relations- Print**

Annie Oeth, Chair, shared that she is excited to be here. The committee has worked to publicize Homecoming and BLUE. The committee is also working on media suggestions and any upcoming needs.

- **Recruitment and Retention**

Lydia Coffey Pierce, Chair, shared that they requested Faculty Grant recipient application. They invited those people to Convocation. The committee is also working on transferring scholarship applications to digital formats. The committee is also helping with a better process and workflow for nominees who aren't selected.

- **Special Events**

Katy Canion Pacelli, Chair, stated that her committee has been continuing to work on the Long Blue Line Auction (LBLA). They have designed a new logo. They have also opened a drop off spot during the weekend for donations. As soon as HC is over, they will be hitting it hard with the LBLA. She is hoping we can share more info and such with the GiveSmart platform. The committee has received over 50 items donated already. Please make sure we share all social media posts regarding LBLA.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS- SPECIAL

- **Digital Marketing**

Bridget Smith Ellis, Chair, shared that the committee has been actively publicizing various events including Spring Fling, Board Elections, the D and I Roundtable, and Magnolia Mingle. The committee will have another push for the "Why do you W?" Facebook analytics for a one month period showed that the page view was 210 with a of 6,129 individuals. Please continue to follow, like, share, and comment with all social media posts.

- **Diversity and Inclusion**

Jermarra Jones-Price, Chair, reported that the committee is working to prepare for our Virtual Roundtable on April 30, 2022. They were successful in getting the alumnae survey out this year. The survey asked some hard questions and not as many people participated. The committee is working to compile the list of inclusive events. JJ also shared that Anghaarad Tees was recently named the first female pastor of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church in Virginia.

- **Membership Recruitment**

Ashley Dean, Chair, reported that the committee is currently in the big membership initiative with the “Why do you W?” In May, they will be doing something more detailed with stories and pictures and such. The Board members will not be included in this. Graduation is May 7, 2022, to give out gifts. The committee is also working on getting graduation gifts for the next few years.

- **Mentoring**

Kacey Keeton, Chair, shared that her committee report is not in the packet. She apologized. The committee has had monthly Zoom meetings. The committee hosted the BLUE Event in a hybrid format. Bridget helped with all the publicity and social media engagement. The speakers at the event were amazing and enjoyed the event as well. Shoutout to committee member Yarbrough for encouraging students to be there. The Spring Fling event today was a huge success. Many students participated in getting their headshots and goodie bags.

- **Strategy and Support**

Symone Bounds, Chair, reported that her committee has had several Zoom calls. The committee has continued to work on the MUWAA branding guide. This will include logos, colors, trademarks, etc. Her committee is working with the digital marketing committee to come up with a short description of each committee and the time commitment required. This should aid in recruitment. The committee has suggested a Board survey to be given out at the end of the board year. A motion was presented that read as follows:

“The Strategy and Support Committee moves that the MUWAA Board of Directors approve the BOD Year End Survey as presented (in

our packets) to be utilized at the end of the current and future board service years.”

The motion passed at the Board meeting on Thursday.

D. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Benson recapped this past year. The goals of the MUWAA board have been centered around the goals of enriching our W Communication, Connection, and Community – simple words that seemed so easy to accomplish before 2020. This year has been designed to work to strengthen our community by enriching the ongoing open lines of communication between the MUWAA Membership, Board, and University in order to encourage the creation of even stronger support systems and connections between each other and with our University.

Through better Communication that we make stronger Connections which develop a more successful Community. Ms. Benson stated this year we have made a large dent in these goals. Through the creation of the Digital Media PR Committee – we have streamlined the goals and work loads of both MUWAA Public Relations committees and communication through both Digital and Print Media has been exponentially higher. Through the acquisition of the new GiveSmart digital fundraising platform, we have been able to not only add backend organizational features to help the Long Blue Line Auction committee in their huge paperwork mountain they have for each auction, but added easier user features for all of us who bid. The software is able to be used for ALL MUWAA fundraising events. We have developed a brand new fundraiser, the Magnolia Mingle, to help diversify our fundraising efforts. We have fully endowed a new scholarship in support of the Office of Undergraduate Research. We have had another banner year for both the Blue Leadership Conference for Students, the Chapters and Constituency workshops, and Spring Fling Headshot Program.

To finish up the year, we have some brand new programs that we are super excited about: The Board has developed a new membership program called “WHY do you W?” encouraging alumni to remember their “Why” – why do you comeback, why do you love the W, what makes you give back to our beloved alma mater? We also have developed a brand new Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable that will be taking place virtually on April 30th to discuss the wonderful diverse perspectives of our Long Blue Line and student body. And coming from its new forever time spot of the last weekend in September, the Long Blue Line Auction.

That is just a small part of the many wonderful things that the MUWAA has accomplished with the goals of Communication, Connection, and our fantastic W Community in mind during the 2021-2022 Board year.

VI. RECOGNITION OF ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

President Benson honored the following Alumni Award winners:

2022 Alumni Award Winners

- *Alumni Achievement Award*
 - Erin Rust Munton
- *Alumni Service Award*
 - Virginia Segrest Hughson
- *Outstanding Recent Graduate*
 - Linsey Boatner

VII. MUWAA PRESIDENTIAL COMMENDATIONS

President Benson recognized the following superlatives for exemplary service to the Association & Board of Directors:

- *Excellence in Board Service*
 - Bridget Smith Ellis
- *Excellence in Committee Leadership*
 - Kacey Keaton, Monique Jenkins, and Rebecca Rogers
- *Board Spirit Award*
 - JJ Price
- *New Ventures Award*
 - Kristi Hipp Mosely and Katy Canon Pacelli

VIII. INSTALLATION OF 2022-2023 MUWAA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President Benson installed, by oath, the following new Officers and Board Members:

MUWAA President to Serve for the 2022-2023 Term

- Symone Bounds, Class of 2012

MUWAA President-Elect to Serve for the 2022-2023 Term

- Heather Fasciocco Stone, Class of 2002

MUWAA Board of Directors to Serve for the 2022-2025 Term

- Anne Swearingen, Class of 1973
- Bayleigh Vick, Class of 2016
- Phillip Cockrell, Class of 2003

- Terry Gargano Coffey, Class of 1985
- Cynthia Williams Kittrell, Class of 1978

IX. RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING MUWAA BOARD MEMBERS

President Benson thanked the following departing Board members for exemplary service to the Association and Board of Directors:

- Rebecca Rogers, Class of 2000
- Monique Jenkins, Class of 2008
- Troy Lewis, Class of 1991
- Christie Jones Lawrence, Class of 1981
- Barbara Black Travis, Class of 1970
- Jane Izard Turner, Class of 1980

X. OPEN FORUM

President Benson called for any questions or comments. Thanks was said by all.

XI. PASSING OF THE GAVEL AND INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

MUWAA President, Katherine Shell Benson, passed the gavel to newly elected MUWAA President, Symone Bounds. In return, President Bounds presented Past President Katherine Shell Benson with a branded MUW lapel pin.

Incoming President Bounds thanked Ms. Benson for all she has done this year. President Bounds stated that Katherine has lead the board to many endeavors over the past year. Symone also thanked Rebecca Rogers as well for her leadership. Symone thanked President Miller for representing the University in the best way possible. She thanked President Miller for helping all students. Symone thanked the development and alumni staff. President Bounds thanked all her fellow alums. She welcomes everyone home. She encouraged all alums to do our best to reach out to others so they can be involved as well. Ms. Bounds encouraged all of us to help in all areas especially with D and I and social media platforms. Symone said she will lead with service.

XII. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

President Benson thanked Symone. We are all looking forward to her leadership officially starting on July 1st.

The business meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.