

DECEMBER 2020, ISSUE 01

# BLUE & WHITE

The Official E-Newsletter of the PSAA Minnesota Chapter



## *Hello Everyone...*

and welcome to our first edition of "Blue and White!" We've decided to modernize the newsletter and give it a fresh look. Rest assured, paper copies will be available for those who prefer hardcopy. We hope to release these newsletters on a more regular basis to keep you up to date on Chapter happenings.

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# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Hello Nittany Nation!

I hope you all have stayed safe and healthy over these tumultuous past few months. My name is Zach Robinson, and I am currently serving as President of the Penn State Alumni Association Minnesota Chapter. I graduated in May of 2019 with a B.S. in Agribusiness Management, and I moved to Minneapolis that same summer to begin work with Hormel Foods.

Like most of you, I fell in love with Penn State at an early age. On campus, I got involved in a variety of different clubs, attended nearly every home football game, and frequented the Skeller, Phyrst, and Zeno's (just to name a few!). As President of the PSAAMN Chapter, I hope to follow in the footsteps of our previous Presidents by continuing to grow and improve our organization.

Unfortunately, the global pandemic has made it difficult for all of us to meet in person and share our passion for Penn State. However, the Chapter is trying to fill this void with virtual events and activities, and we will continue to offer virtual programming until we're able to meet safely.

I look forward to gathering together with all of you for a Penn State football game or volunteer event in the (hopefully) near future! In the meantime, I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

WE ARE.

-Zach Robinson

TRIVIA TIME!  
THE DORMITORIES  
IN EAST HALLS  
ARE ALL NAMED  
AFTER **THIS**  
**GROUP** OF  
PEOPLE. CAN YOU  
GUESS WHO THEY  
ARE?

ANSWER ON THE NEXT  
PAGE



# What We've Been Up To

## July

Our new board members assumed their roles and got to work! The Board currently consists of the following PSAAMN Chapter members:

- Zach Robinson, President
- David Leard, Vice President
- Dean Creighton, Treasurer
- Jean Anderson, Secretary
- Paige Severson, Scholarship
- Helene Slocum, Membership
- Emily Zuber, Past President
- Petrina Zaraszczak, Past Vice President
- Eric Kile, Member at Large
- Matt Yanchek, Member at Large



Are you interested in getting further involved with the PSAAMN Chapter? We're always looking for new members to add to our Board! Simply reach out to [president@psumn.com](mailto:president@psumn.com) for more information.

## August

The Student Send Off goes virtual! Due to COVID restrictions, we transitioned to a virtual setting for our Student Send Off this year. Games were played, prizes were won, and scholarships were awarded. Congratulations again to our scholarship recipients, Stacy Brehman (Senior, International Politics) and Cali Carper (Senior, Criminology and Comparative Literature). Each recipient was awarded a \$2,567 scholarship. We wish them and all our Minnesotan Penn Staters the best of luck in their studies during the Spring Semester!

## October

Penn State football is BACK IN ACTION! Throughout the season, we've been asking all of you to engage on Facebook during select games. To kickoff the season, we asked folks to show us how they were tailgating while socially distant. During the Ohio State game, we asked everyone to show off their Penn State pride (see some examples on the right) and Halloween costumes for the chance to win a unique print of the Nittany Lion Shrine!



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THE DORMITORIES  
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Left: Past-President Emily Zuber



Right: Member Alaina Stiles  
Below: Board Member Matt Yanchek



# Chapter Board Updates

Here are some additional updates from our Board members. If you have more questions about any of the updates below, please reach out to [president@psumn.com](mailto:president@psumn.com)!

## **Membership, *Helene Slocum***

Here are our most current membership numbers:

- 70 members from 60 households
- 11 households are lifetime members, including two new lifetime members in 2020. Thank you for your support!
- Remember to re-up your membership if you have not already done so! See the right side panel for more info.

## **Treasurer, *Dean Creighton***

The Chapter checking account balance is \$5353, and the balance in savings is \$11,906. Many of you have graciously donated specifically to our scholarship fund so we recently moved \$4000 from checking to savings to eventually be put toward our student scholarship endowment.

Our Chapter has supported Second Harvest Heartland food bank in the past, so the board made an additional donation of \$100 in June in response to the difficulties many are having. We also made a donation of \$250 to the Lake Street Council to support businesses affected by the unrest in downtown Minneapolis.

During this time when the Chapter cannot meet in person we are missing the normal opportunities for members to donate to our student scholarship. If you feel so inclined to add to this effort you can send me a check or donate through PayPal on our website.

## ***REMINDER!!!***

BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR PSAAMN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP. MEMBERSHIP DUES ENABLE OUR CHAPTER TO CONTINUE PROGRAMMING (WHEN SAFE!), AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO PENN STATE STUDENTS, AND CREATE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. TO RE-UP YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE VISIT OUR PAGE AT [WWW.PSUMN.COM/STORE.ASP](http://WWW.PSUMN.COM/STORE.ASP)

## ***Find us on Facebook!***

If you're looking for ways to interact with fellow PSU alums or our Chapter in general, head over to our Facebook page! We regularly monitor our Messenger inbox and will be posting information regarding socially distant gatherings over the coming weeks. Here's a direct link to our page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PSUMN>



# Upcoming Events

We're all anxious to get back to doing what we love... sharing our passion for Penn State in person! The Chapter is following guidance from the Penn State Alumni Association and adhering to local and state guidelines prohibiting large indoor gatherings. Once we can get together safely, we will absolutely do so. Until then, check out some upcoming events that we are planning to host:

## **Facebook Raffles *December***

Expect to see another raffle for our final football game of the year when Penn State takes on the Michigan State Spartans! As we head into the hockey and basketball season, keep your eyes peeled for additional ways to get involved on our Facebook page.

## **Holiday Campfire *December***

Gather round the virtual campfire for some Penn State trivia, PSU stories, and "Best Holiday Cookie" contest. We want to hear how YOU celebrate the holiday season.

## **Paint and Sip *January***

Join us for a contactless Paint and Sip experience! Pick up some supplies at a local craft store, a bottle of your favorite beverage, and come prepared to put your artistic skills to the test! All proceeds will be donated to our Chapter's scholarship fund.

## **CHAPTER RECOGNITION**

FOR YET ANOTHER CONSECUTIVE YEAR, OUR CHAPTER HAS BEEN AWARDED "LAUREL LEVEL DISTINCTION." THIS IS IN NO SMALL PART DUE TO THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION DISPLAYED BY THE ENTIRE 2019-2020 PSAAMN BOARD. BY REACHING THIS LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE, OUR ALUMNI GROUP IS PLACED IN THE UPPER ECHELON OF THE PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S AFFILIATE GROUPS.

## ***I Want YOU to Join PSAAMN***

**We're always looking for new general members and Board members! If you or someone you know would like to get involved in the Chapter or join our Board, please reach out to [president@psumn.com](mailto:president@psumn.com).**

