



PSAA-MN NEWS

News from the Minnesota Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Here's hoping for only good things for all Penn Staters during the holidays and on into 2020!

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

Saturday, December 28, 11:00 AM Central Time (Poor Richard's doors will open at 10:30)

TV Tailgate for the Cotton Bowl: #10 Penn State vs. #17 Memphis

For the last time in 2019, we'll gather at Poor Richard's (8301 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington 55438). We'll be in the Club Room, so there will be plenty of space for everyone.

The Memphis Tigers (12-1) are the highest-ranked Group of Five team in the College Football Playoff rankings. A win over Penn State (10-2) would be a statement victory for them. Obviously, we don't want to lose to a Group of Five team. The oddsmakers see this as a high-scoring game with Penn State winning by a touchdown.

Although our Lions are not playing on New Year's Day, this game is one of the prestigious "New Year's Six." Join us to watch Penn State finish its football season on a winning note. For extra fun, during the game those who want to can create mail for PSU students who will be dancing in THON.

Wednesday, January 15, 8:00 PM Central Time

Penn State Men's Basketball at University of Minnesota

On December 16, the Lions broke into the Top 25 on the AP Poll, at #23 (the Gophers weren't ranked). Although the chapter is not buying a block of tickets for this event, you can purchase directly from the U of MN: <https://gophersports.com/sports/2019/9/19/mens-basketball-tickets.aspx>

Date TBD: Volunteering at Second Harvest Heartland

Possibly we'll do this on the first or second Saturday morning in March, followed by lunch at Frankie's Pizza, as we have in past years. It's a feel-good and family-friendly event. Watch for details.

April 18: Annual Dinner at Poor Richard's Commonhouse

We're starting to think about this. As in past years, we're doing it on the day of the Blue-White Game.

NEWS SINCE LAST TIME

Fall TV Tailgates at Poor Richard's Commonhouse

We drew an average of about 35 people for these game-watch parties (once only 10; once nearly 50). This year, we were in the Club Room on days when it didn't conflict with Ohio State. For Buckeye fans, Poor Richard's is now their only game-watch location and they now draw more people to PR's than we do. Due to management and staff changes, there have been some bumps in the road but we're hopeful that PR's can remain our sports bar for games and other events.

Food Drive Challenge Against Ohio State, November 23

Speaking Ohio State, Poor Richard's is especially interesting on the day of the PSU-OSU game, with fans of both teams under the same roof at the same time. This year, to make it interesting, we challenged the Ohio Staters to see which group could raise more items for the Joyce Uptown Foodshelf in Minneapolis, where Janelle Jordan (one of the Ohio Staters) is a volunteer. Final score: Ohio State 216 items, Penn State 343 items. But the real winners? The people we helped through our generosity. Because We Are Penn State.



November 8: Mixer Featuring the Penn State Pep Band, Cheerleaders, and the Lion

This event, held at the Best Western Plus Bloomington Hotel the night before the PennState-at-Minnesota football game, greatly exceeded our expectations. We hoped for 200 people; 299 people signed in (56% from MN; 26% from PA), and some attendees bypassed the sign-in table (such as the pep band, cheerleaders, and the Lion), so we think we had about 330 people altogether. There was a cash bar for those who wanted a drink, free water and pop for others, and free pizza and veggies for all. To recoup chapter expenses, we accepted donations to our scholarship fund, raffled off a Ki-Jana Carter bobblehead and classic PSU bracelet designed by our own Marilyn Binkley, and sold stadium blankets, tote bags, and chapter t-shirts. The story of the night might best be told in pictures, so see below.

Dan & Dave at sign-in table



Helene & Jean at merch table



Dean & Paige at raffle table



Long shot of the room



Three triplets and their friends



Mary Ellen and a really tall Lion



Paige with hubby & newborn



Brian, Marilyn, and the boys



Paul Clifford, PSAA CEO



Emily in her Lion blazer



Chapter T-Shirts

We've got a new batch of them! For chapter members: \$15 for short-sleeve; \$22 for long-sleeve. For non-members: \$18 for short-sleeve; \$25 for long-sleeve. If interested, contact president@psumn.com or see a Board member next time you come to an event.



Chapter Again Recognized as a Group of Distinction

In September we learned that, on the basis of our most recent annual report to the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA), we have (again) been named as a Group of Distinction at the Lion Level. The letter from the PSAA included this: "In reaching this level of excellence, your efforts have placed your alumni group in the upper echelon of our affiliate groups. ... We are very proud of your accomplishments and as always, thank you for what you do!"



Chapter Board Members: Emily Zuber, President; Petrina Zaraszczak, Vice President; Dean Creighton, Treasurer; Jim Kaufmann, Secretary; Dan Gordon, Membership/Student Sendoff Coordinator; Paige Severson, Scholarship; Helene Slocum, Historian; Jean Anderson, Rob Behler, David Leard, and Andrew Miller, Members At Large.

NOTE: At least 3 of the above Board members are going off the Board, effective July 1. We're always looking for people who are willing to step up and contribute if only in a small way (as Board members or as non-Board committee members) to help the chapter remain viable. If you'd like to help, please drop an email to president@psumn.com. *Thank you!*