

DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY PTA MINUTES

January 17, 2019

For a list of meeting attendees, see sign-in sheet on file with PTA secretary

Call-to-Order and Opening Remarks

Following the Pledge, Tatiana Rice, PTA president, brought the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

PTA Officer and Committee Reports

Tatiana Rice presented November's meeting minutes for review. Motion was passed and minutes were approved.

Erin Battista, PTA treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report. Copies of the budget and Reconciliation Summary were distributed and approved.

Erin confirmed that of \$1202.84 that was not spent on the Turkey Drive, \$877.90 will be donated to Mission 22 and \$324.94 will be donated to Wreaths Across America.

Activities Committee: Kathy Bleacher, committee chair, was not present. Tatiana reported in her absence that the Winter Dance, scheduled for mid-February, was canceled. Many at the meeting agreed that this was unfortunate, so ideas for alternate activities were discussed. The hope is that Student Government will speak to Commandant Pullella about planning another activity or event. Not only would an activity be fun, but it would be a way for Student Government to raise funds for class gifts, etc.

DMA teachers, Ms. White, Ms. Aunet, and Mrs. Dick spoke about the newly formed SAT/PSAT committee. The committee is asking the PTA to support the student breakfast that they have planned for the sophomores and juniors taking the PSAT/SAT on Wednesday, March 27th. PTA will support the event by recruiting parent volunteers and providing food and beverages. While the school has already earmarked \$500, the PTA passed a motion to donate another \$200 towards the event.

Fundraising Committee: Erin shared that we have resumed selling Season's pizza. While we are slowly catching up in profits, we are still behind. Cindy Ferry suggested selling ice cream at lunches and will look into prices, profitability, etc.

Amy Kalafut, committee co-chair, shared details of the Designer Bag Bingo event scheduled for March 23, 2019. She has purchased fifteen designer bags for \$1500. It was decided that tickets for the event would sell for \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Action items for the event were discussed: What time should set up start? How many volunteers are needed? What food should we serve/sell? Do we need to "cap" attendance? Tatiana confirmed that the rental tables will be donated. How many tables do we need? We are in need of a bingo machine/bingo board. Check with John Grant about music and other technology needed for the event.

Hospitality: Anne Keunnen, committee chair, reported that the next hospitality event is the Junior Ring Ceremony, scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th.

Membership: Michele Kipp, committee chair, had nothing new to report.

Military Support: co-chairs Jenn Probanz and Brad Bacci were not present. There was nothing new to report.

Reflections: Mary Lee Dichiaro and Georgia Byron, committee co-chairs, reported that there were seven Reflections participants. Four cadets participated in the "Pick Next Year's Theme" contest and three cadets submitted works for consideration in this year's contest. One poem, one narrative and a film were submitted and all three will move on to the state-level competition. All seven cadets will receive participation certificates.

Staff Appreciation: Members of the PTA board are planning Teacher Appreciation events until a new chairperson is named. Tatiana reported that last month's Italian luncheon catered by Dom's was a big hit. Next up is the "Souper Bowl" luncheon scheduled for February. Maryellen and Tatiana will coordinate this event.

New Business

Ms. White shared more information on the SAT/PSAT Committee. The goal of the committee is to look for ways to better prepare the cadets for the SAT and PSAT, thereby increasing scores. The committee will be hosting the aforementioned breakfast with the support of the PTA. The breakfast will run from 7:00 to 7:45 and the testing will begin at approximately 8:00 AM. Ms. White will meet with Tatiana and Maryellen to work out details of the event. PTA will send out a sign-up genius asking for volunteers and donations of food and beverages.

Ms. White, Ms. Aunet and Mrs. Dick provided additional information about the SAT/PSAT Committee: Extra batteries and calculators will be available to cadets on test day. DMA is the recipient of a grant that will fund SAT/PSAT prep materials including new IPADs and access to KHAN Academy. Juniors will work on test prep in Naval Science.

Finally, a concerned parent brought up Apple Watches and how it is rumored that these and other smart watches, IPHONES, etc. can be used for cheating on exams. There was a lot of discussion on this subject and these questions were raised: Why not ban the watches at DMA? Can teachers/instructors collect watches, IPHONES at the beginning of class and return to cadets at the end of class? This is a concern of parents as well as many students. What can be done?

Tatiana thanked everyone for attending and announced that the next PTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Maryellen Charno