

**The Association of Harvard College Class Secretaries and  
Treasurers**



**AHCCS&T 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Business Meeting**

Tom Quirk '74, AHCCS&T President, called the meeting to order.

We approved the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes.

We observed a moment of silence for the following recently deceased members of the association:

- Sherwood "Joe" Bain '45, MBA49, Secretary
- Rev. Thomas Buckley '49, Secretary
- Wellington Scott, III, Esq., '49, Treasurer
- Richard Lincoln '53, Secretary
- Jay Pasachoff '63, AM65, PHD69, Secretary

We also welcomed the following new AHCCS&T members:

- David Silverman '53, Secretary
- Stephen Weddle '60, Treasurer
- Jan DuBois '62, Secretary
- Kelsey Griffin '23, Secretary
- Kylie Simms '23, Treasurer

**Treasurer's Report**

April Edrington '91 delivered the Treasurer's Report. April gave a reminder that several years ago the Executive Committee and the HAA came together and agreed that the HAA, which had been subsidizing this annual meeting for some years, would assume the full cost in lieu of asking classes to contribute. She noted that this arrangement has allowed the Executive Committee to set class dues to zero. The Association will retain the option of raising dues again, but they do not anticipate that there will be a need, as the HAA covers the cost of the meeting. As a reminder, the Partnered Treasury Program is up and running. Interested classes can visit the Officer's Lounge for more information.

## Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee stands as follows:

President: Tom Quirk '74 (T)  
Secretary: Brad Paraszczak '11 (T)  
Treasurer: April Edrington '91 (T)  
Honorary Chair: Manisha Bharti '98 (S)

Executive Committee: *Above officers with:*  
Michelle Dimino '14 (S), Committee Member  
Debra Graham '88 (S), Committee Member  
John Henn '64 (S), Committee Member  
Arthur Karell '01 (S), Committee Member  
Rod Kessler '71 (S), Committee Member  
Nina Srivastava '18 (S), Committee Member

Ex Officio:

Chris Duble '75 (S), College Appointed Director representing AHCCS&T  
Sarah Karmon, Executive Director, HAA  
Kristen DeAmicis, Senior Director, College Alumni Programs, HAA

In reviewing next year's leadership team, Tom shared that Brad Paraszczak will step into the role of President. Brad serves as treasurer for the Class of 2011, and he is also an active admissions interviewer and HAA Board member. He received his JD from Georgetown in 2016 and lives in Whitehall, PA.

Additionally, April Edrington will serve as Secretary. She is currently the treasurer for the Class of 1991 and has co-chaired several of her reunions. She received her EdM in 2001 from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and lives in Belmont, MA.

Finally, Debra Graham will serve as Treasurer. She is currently the co-secretary for the Class of 1988 and is co-chairing her 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion this year. She is also an admissions interviewer and has been a dedicated Harvard College Fund volunteer. She received her MBA from Harvard Business School in 1993 and lives in Chevy Chase, MD.

Tom opened the floor to new business. No new business was raised, and the business portion of the meeting was adjourned.

## University Update

We then heard a University update from Sarah Karmon, Harvard Alumni Association Executive Director and Associate Vice President.

## **Keynote Conversation**

Manisha Bharti (S) '98 moderated a conversation between her classmates Sewell Chan '98, Editor in Chief, the *Texas Tribune*, and Allison Feaster '98, Vice President, Player Development & Organizational Growth at the Boston Celtics. This wide-ranging and thoughtful discussion included BIPOC leadership in the public eye and how Sewell and Allison have stayed connected with Harvard over the years.

## **Class Report Distribution Update**

Michelle Dimino '14, member-at-large, of AHCCS&T's executive committee, shared an update on a shift the HAA Class Report Office (CRO) has taken in the last two years on Red Books distribution. She reminded the group of the policy change in 2017 due to national and international laws around privacy (e.g., General Data Protection Regulation) to no longer disclose private contact information for all alumni in the books without an explicit opt-in from participating class members. In the last two years, based on outreach from alumni expressing concern about books being accessible in more public forums, the CRO stopped the practice of distributing Red Books to five non-Harvard institutions, the Library of Congress, the New York and Boston Public Libraries, The Athenaeum, and the New England Genealogical Society. Michelle invited members to join a breakout session that she and Diane MacDonald, senior associate director of the Class Report Office, to answer questions and discuss how class secretaries can work together to increase transparency around the secure, internal availability of Red Books.

## **Breakout Discussion Groups and Themes**

- Class Reports Distribution:
  - Importance of keeping the books within the Harvard community to ensure class members feel comfortable and empowered to participate fully
  - Residual concern over stopping the practice of distributing books to the five prominent public institutions (“de-identified versions” or time embargo ideas raised)
  - Removal of directory-style contact information from records of nonrespondents in the books has placed class secretaries in a new and at times time-consuming position of serving as a resource for contact information for classmates
  - Marketing request made suggesting a communications include a visual example of how to hide/show contact information
  - Recommendations made for more video marketing and other creative/highly visual outreach strategies to increase visibility and participation
  - Mention of digital books are being distributed securely by the B School
  - Interest in access to Class Reports from other classes (keep alumni connected with contemporaries and are powerful as learning tools of what to expect at different reunion/life milestones)

- Class Treasuries
  - Reviewed specifics of the Partnered Treasury Program and why these are not intended to be interest-generating
  - Discussed the need for multiple signatories on any external treasury
- Alumni Day
  - Interest in understanding the decision and decision makers behind decoupling reunions and Commencement
  - Importance of centering the College experience and alumni community within Alumni Day
  - Discussion around ways for non-reunion classes to engage with Alumni Day.
  - Brainstorming of ways to enhance or improve this new tradition
- Non-reunion Event Best Practices
  - Virtual class programming (social zooms, panels, presentations)
  - Regional in person events (lunches, local attractions)
  - Hosting gatherings around other Harvard events (Harvard Yale, President Elect Gay's inauguration)
  - Class Newsletters, Facebook groups, and other social media
  - Building up to a reunion or keeping the momentum going after a reunion year
- Class Governance and Succession Planning
  - Discussed the utility of class constitutions and Brad shared that 2011 has a new, but developed constitution they will be using. There was discussion about whether constitutions are valuable for class governance
  - Talked through the need for a succession plan for all class leaders, but particularly the more senior classes and those with external treasuries
  - Also discussed how classes choose leadership Reunions, which differs by class