

AHA Parent Association Meeting: April 18th, 2023

Academy of Holy Angels: Parlor (2cd floor) 5:00 pm

Attendees: Annette, Becky, Heidi, Sara

Opening Prayer – AHA Parent Association Opening Prayer Lord God, we thank you for choosing each of us to be your disciples and for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Help us to witness to the Gospel everyday by our words and deeds. Open our hearts to the outcast, forgotten, the lonely, the sick and those who will go hungry this day. Bless each of our students, staff and families. And as the community of the Academy of Holy Angels, help each of us to continue to grow in love and kindness, and to strive to be more like Jesus each and every day. We ask this in your name...Amen

- **Administrative Rep Update: Heidi Foley**

- General Updates
- What are the financial goals/hopes for Starfest?
 - ✓ Are there specific ways the funds are planned to be used this year?
 - ✓ How is registration tracking TY vs. other years?

- **Treasurer's Report: Becky**

- Budget report
 - Did you get the additional \$'s requests from Nancy for Mom/son-Father/daughter dance to cover fees for last minute changes?
 - Can you update us on the dance budget/expenditures?

Dance Update from Julia and Kelly:

- We had 2 great nights—both were well-attended and unfolded smoothly.
- We had plenty of volunteers. The photographer (Anna Bjorkstrand) was flexible and did a beautiful job. The Marriott staff was excellent, they cheerfully accommodated all requests, even at the last minute. The DJ did a great job of keeping the moshing to a minimum on Saturday night, and any crowd surfing was shut down immediately (we only had to do that twice.. Great improvement over last year!
- **Final numbers: Father/Daughter=261, Mother/Son=314.**
- **Julianne Braun is taking the coordinator position next year.** She shadowed many of the tasks over the past week and was present for the whole event on Saturday night | [believe she is planning to recruit a co-chair herself](#). We will also pass on the dinner dance binder and all of our notes from the past 2 years to her.
- Holy Angels staff involved in providing support for the events could not have been more responsive or supportive—Susan, David, Erin, Sarah, Becky, Dan, and especially Gretchen and Nancy with all of the registration activity--they really made our jobs easier.

A few final notes:

- [PA needs to finalize and confirm Marriott for next year?](#) Per Julia: I know it has become an expensive event (\$55 per person this year) and several months ago we agreed to hold

off on signing a contract with the Marriott for next year until there's been some further discussion.

- **Per Nancy Cullen, FIRST TIME EVER, No scholarships were requested for this event.** For the first time ever, I did not receive any requests for scholarships for the dinner dances. In previous years, I would receive a handful of requests. I do not see the cost as a barrier.

Suggestions for Next year:

1. **Leave the sign up/registration open longer** (until the last minute feasible). This year, it closed at noon on Monday, 03/27/23. They continued to take reservations until Friday. Nancy Cullen hand keyed 10+ reservations. (This made Nancy nervous because she would have felt terrible if she spelled someone's name wrong, or ordered them the wrong food. She prefers not to be responsible for this.)
2. **For the Sign-Up Genius seeking volunteers to work at the events for next year**, it would be helpful to specify that for parents who are attending the event, they should just enjoy the night with their child, not also volunteer to help that night (i.e., seek volunteers for the mother/son dance who are not attending the mother/son dance).
3. **It was suggested that the event nights could be flipped**—Mother/Son on Friday night and Father/Daughter on Saturday night—because of the Final Four games that always fall on that Saturday that are of interest to many of the boys.

ACTION: Becky will talk to Marriott for food menu and costs.

ACTION: Heidi sending April 5 and 6 2024 dates to athletics, to see if there is anything known on spring sports.

- **Communications Coordinator Report: Amanda**
 - Discuss timing for staff appreciation info in Connect. Annette owes you generic email for replies (working on with Gretchen)
 - Discuss suggestion from current parents for an understanding/information on who does 'staff' include...clarify who could receive award.
- **Discuss Volunteer Thanks You Notes**
 - Annette to update committee on who/how many after discussing with Joan
 - Confirm Gift card needs/amount per person
 - Want to talk a bit about Penny Cierzan and the Dance coordinators for the last 2 years: Julia Reid and Kelly Wilhoit; their service was above/beyond. **INCLUDE: Amy Meekey "retiring" after this year.**
- **Volunteer needs for Next year**
 - Amy Meekey: Staff appreciation Lounge Volunteer: This is Amy's last year. **ONLY ONE.** Everyone else is filled.
 - May 8-12 is teacher appreciation week. Week for her to do this. **ACTION: Annette to et Amy know to perhaps pick this week for updating lounge.**
- **Discuss Update/changes we would like to make for the Parent Mixer in Sept. ACTION: Talk about this at May 9th meeting.**

- This may change where other information is shared with parents.
- Need to understand needs and prep before we end school.

Service day – provide snack for each bus. Snack bags. Purchased out of our funds. How many groups.
Mark Schumacher. ACTION: Heidi to email Mark and Annette to stay in touch.

SENIOR PARTY – Sunday June 4, 2023

- Dine –In/Dine Out: 5th event April 27: Taps Society in Edina
10% off **ALL** sales for the entire day go back to AHA Sr. party.
- Annette will give update/highlights of Sr. party planning from April, 12 meeting
 - Were able to sell tickets for \$100 (\$50 less than LY) based on fundraising/donations.
 - Fundraising update
 - Senior yard signs being sold in May for \$15.00
 - Discussion: Have students sell in commons annex (after school). Checks only.
Have a list of all students, highlight and write paid. **ACTION: Heidi to look into this and get back to Annette with plan. Concern over taking in the money and where signs can be stored.**

Suggestion: could there be an alumni sibling recognition at graduation? Similar to honor guard but alumni.

NEXT MEETING: Final meeting MAY 9th! ; We will go out for drinks for the meeting!!

Awards –

ACTION: Heidi to send List departments up for awards. Becky provided the org chart:
<https://www.academyofholyanimals.org/academics/student-and-parent-handbook/6.-aha-organizational-chart.html>

Full award language from last year. **ACTION: Annette to update for newsletter week of April 24.**

Nominations Needed! 2021-2022 AHA Parent Association Staff Service & Dedication Award:

Parents, we need your nominations!! It is a long-standing tradition for the AHA Parent Association to honor a non-teaching AHA staff member (i.e. bussing, maintenance, advancement, support staff, etc.) on behalf of the parent community. This individual is recognized and presented with an award during Celebration Day in late May.

The AHA Parent Association is looking for a non-teaching staff member who encompasses living out the **AHA Way** in their daily role as a staff member at Holy Angels. This non-teaching staff member may have helped you/your family, or you may have witnessed this person assisting others in the AHA community. Share with us any positive experiences and interactions that left you feeling that AHA is a place where people and our students are empowered to succeed.

Please send your nominations to our Parent Association Chair, Joan McCrory via email - themccroryclan@hotmail.com. Please include highlights of how your nominee embodies

the **AHA Way**. All nominations will be kept confidential. *(Please remember, this is a non-teaching AHA staff member. AHA teachers and faculty do not qualify for this award.)*