



## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2009 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS<sup>i</sup>

### 2009-2010 Board of Directors\*

Bill Peard '02  
*President*

Beth Ambrose  
'91  
*First Vice  
President*

Brendan  
McCann '99  
*Second Vice  
President*

Bill Hitchcock  
'62  
*Secretary*

Erin Tario '97  
*Treasurer*

Bob Borsari '58

Chris Cobey '67

AB Kebede '07

Doug  
McFadden '58

Jerry Papazian  
'73

Joe Stewart '53

(\*Years denote high  
school graduation  
class year, not  
necessarily year/s of  
page service.)

1. **Call to order:** By President Bill Peard at 12:00 p.m. EDT.

2. **Roll call:**

Participating: Beth Ambrose, Bob Borsari, Chris Cobey, AB Kebede, Brendan McCann, Doug McFadden, Bill Peard, Joe Stewart and Erin Tario.

Absent: Bill Hitchcock and Jerry Papazian.

Special Guests: Robin Bridges, Registrar of the House Page School and Thomas Savannah, Principal and Guidance Counselor of the House Page School

3. **President's Report:** Bill Peard provided background and history of the Page Alumni Association to the Special Guests. Peard explained why the association exists, what the goals of the association are, what work has been accomplished the past 2 years, and the purpose of their requested attendance – to officially connect with the current Page Program.

4. **Open Discussion with Special Guests**

What is the best use of funds for the Page Program from the Page Alumni Association?: Peard presented the Special Guests several ideas previously discussed among the BOD which include: a Mentorship Program; a College Scholarship Program; a Uniform Pass-Along Program; and a Speaker Series. Thomas Savannah openly endorsed the College Scholarship idea first. Savannah's main reasoning was that the Page Program provides un-paralleled opportunities and a scholarship will only further to help push that idea. The scholarship idea is viewed as a great way to give back while also helping students pursue their personal mission. Question then presented to the BOD from Savannah was; will this be a merit-based scholarship or a needs-based scholarship? Robin Bridges suggested the scholarship application include an essay section to see how focused the potential recipient is while also hearing about what the potential recipient would like to do in the future. Savannah did express potential concerns the House Clerk's Office may have with the idea (presenting an award to current/existing working pages) and thought awarding the scholarship should occur when they are High School Seniors (upon completion of service in the Page Program) to help avoid any potential legal conflicts. Upon completion of such discussion, it was shared that while the

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Page Program would like to add value and input to the selection process, they would prefer not to be overly burdened with responsibility in the selection process.

Savannah then returned to the idea of a Page Mentorship Program, or at least a directory that could be provided by the Alumni Association that lists former pages, colleges attended and current occupation. This idea would have minimal financial demands while providing a much needed service. The basic goal is to allow current pages to reach-out to alumni for the purposes of professional career advice, college selection counsel, etc, etc.

Other ideas the Alumni Association could help pursue in connection with the current Page Program presented by Savannah included: a Page Assistance Fund, to help advance money to students and assist them in getting to Washington, DC; a financial contribution to the Yearbook, as it cost the House Page Program \$46,000 last year; Class Ring Aid, to those students who would like a class ring but are financially unable to buy one; a Uniform Pass-Along program, to help lessen the financial burden of incoming pages by collecting exiting page uniforms and offer them to the new pages (currently page uniforms cost ~\$230 per student). Bridges agreed with all the ideas, as well as suggesting an assembly each semester the Alumni Association could sponsor.

Also, currently the House Page Program completes a *Washington Seminar* where they meet for six Saturday's each semester. Bridges suggested for one of those Saturday's that the Alumni Association host a pseudo career fair where Alumni could be present to provide advice, etc, to the current pages. To the last idea, Beth Ambrose discussed a potential Speaker Series Networking Event (which the current Small Events Committee is debating) that the current pages could potentially attend.

Lastly, before Bridges and Savannah departed, they suggested we add "College Attended" and "Current Profession" box to the names enrolled in the database. Also, Chris Cobey requested a copy of the list of awards with descriptions the Page Program currently presents to ensure a scholarship would not conflict.

### 5. Pressing Old Business

Budget / Membership: A mocked-up budget for 2010 based on 2008 and 2009 earnings and expenditures was presented. A question was then proposed, what is the value of an official budget when a steady cash-flow stream has yet to be established? Some BOD members would prefer the Association focus on resolving basic issues regarding membership and dues collection before discussing a budget. It was suggested that the budget be non-binding and serve as loose framework to help provide a basic level of understanding of the Associations costs and expenses. Besides setting direction in terms of what the Association intends to do, it helps to provide aspirations and goals for fund

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raising activities. It was informally agreed that the budget presented will serve as an informational, non-binding item and will await further activity per the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee was then tasked with compiling a list of needs while putting forth recommendations to resolve the dues issue and things associated with that (Membership incentives? Membership benefits? Tiered membership donation levels? Etc). Joe Stewart, Bob Basari, and Erin Tario agreed to serve on the Finance Committee and complete such work mentioned above to be presented at the next BOD meeting.

Newsletter: In the discussion about Membership, Dues, and the Budget, the idea of a quarterly newsletter kept arising. A newsletter would help serve several functions outside of being informative. It can help be a soft fundraiser, as well as a tool used by several other committees. Also, the Finance Committee may decide that receiving a newsletter might be a perk of membership later in the future. Beth Ambrose, Doug McFadden, and Brendan McCann all volunteered to serve on the Newsletter Committee to resolve issues surrounding potential cost, parameters, content, and dissemination method. The Newsletter Committee's recommendations will be presented at the next BOD meeting.

Outstanding Matters: Unfortunately, there was one item on the agenda that the BOD was unable to address, due to time constraints. A draft of a "3-year strategic plan" that had been circulated among the BOD may be brought up at a later BOD meeting.

### 6. Quick Briefing

New York Page Alumni Association Holiday Reception: Peard informed the BOD that Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Michelle Billing Patron graciously hosted the Page Alumni Association Holiday Reception at her apartment in New York. The event was a resounding success as 20-25 alumni covering 3 decades gathered and shared stories and professional connections.

### 7. Adjournment

Ambrose adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

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<p><b>Next meeting</b> will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. EDT. Call-in information for those attending by telephone will be provided with the agenda for that meeting.</p>
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Respectfully submitted,

Brendan McCann  
Acting Secretary

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<sup>i</sup> Do to the attendance of the Special Guests the BOD meeting did not follow the traditional meeting format (Report from the President, Committee Reports, Old Business, and New Business).

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