

**Rust College International Alumni Association
Annual Spring Alumni Meeting (Informational)
May 4, 2024
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by the president, Keithney Glass. Prayer was offered by Chase Carr. After the alma mater and alumni oath, the agenda was adopted. The minutes were approved with one addition, Panola County was present during the 2023 Founders' Day Meeting.

The roll was called with the following chapters being present: Atlanta Rust Club, Chicago Rust Alumni Club, Dallas Fort Worth Rust Club, Delta Rust/MI Alumni Club, Washington DMV Club, DeSoto-Metro Alumni Club, Golden Triangle Rust Alumni Club, Gulf Coast Rust/MI College Club, Holly Springs-Marshall/Benton Counties Rust/MI Alumni Club, Jackson-Hinds Rust Alumni Club, Michigan Rust College Alumni Club, Memphis Rust/MI Alumni Club, Milwaukee Rust College Alumni Club, Panola County Rust Alumni Club, Springfield Rust/MI Alumni Club, and Starkville Rust Alumni Club. Seventy-five members were in attendance.

The following officers were present: Keithney Glass, Julius Cotton, Jacqueline Riddle and Fergenia Hood.

RCIAA Updates were given by the following alumni:

Jacqueline Riddle-Balances- The balances are as follows: Special Fund (President's Challenge) \$9,968.40; Lifetime Membership Endowment Fund \$255,063.82; Alumni Revenue (dues, non-specific contributions \$3,950.00.

Michael James-Fundraising-The chair solicited \$3,000-\$5,000 per club. The total goal is \$100,000. The money will be used for scholarships as well as building improvements. The funds are due by October 1, 2024.

Julius Cotton-Membership- The current membership is as follows: regular membership-130; life members 256; 9 new life members; 2 associate members. Activities included the following: Freshmen Movement Day, Membership Spotlight, Fall Membership Drive, Spirit Week, HBCU Day, Black History Day, Basketball Game, and Virtual Town Hall Graduation Celebration. EACH ONE REACH ONE IS THE GOAL.

Felicia Gatewood-Awards and Recognition-The period to received nominations for awards and recognitions was extended to June 30.

Damien Ellington-Affinity Groups-This group is focused on young alumni membership. Recent graduates are encouraged to joined the organization.

Keithney Glass-2023-2024 Recap and Look Forward-President Glass explained the following issues: 1. Freshman Move-in, 2. Bearcats Inservice Workshop 3. Wells Fargo Bearcats Debit Card, 4. Member Only Perks Program, 5. Bearcat Discounts, 6. Scholarship Application, 7. Recruitment and Enrollment, 8. Infrastructure, 9. Academic Support, 10. Rust STEM Support, and Effective Communication.

Dr. Dixon was not available for the Rust College Update. However, there was a Questions and Answers session with staff members Phylis Morgan Spragin and J. Harpe and the President of the Trustees, Cecelia Sawyer supplying answers.

The meeting was closed with remarks by Presidents Sawyer and Glass.

Secretary,
Fergenia H. Hood