



PennState Alumni Association Triangle Chapter

Welcome to the 2020 Winter Newsletter

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President's Report

What a great fall it's been for the Triangle Chapter!

The Nittany Lions completed a great football season, finishing 11-2 and ranked ninth in the nation at the end of the season following a thrilling win over Memphis in the Cotton Bowl. Our only two losses this season came on the road in close games, to teams undefeated at the time, who both finished ranked in the top ten with a combined three losses between them. And our Chapter was there to root them on all the way! Again this year, we averaged over 100 members, alumni, and fans to our Football TV Tailgates at Rookie's Sports Park in Durham. If you haven't watched a game with this sort of exciting atmosphere, you don't know what you're missing!

Our success on the gridiron translated into successful philanthropy for our Chapter, too. This year, our Annual Food Drive raised 10,740 pounds of food, breaking last year's record total of 10,200 pounds! We also raised several thousand dollars for our scholarship fund through sales of halftime raffle tickets! Way to go Triangle Chapter!

Our final fundraising effort of the year was our annual gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble. Many volunteers contributed about 100 hours to the cause, wrapping presents at Barnes & Noble for donations to THON. This year, we raised a record \$713 towards our annual THON

contribution! Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time. If you've never done this, please consider volunteering for a two hour shift next year. It's a great way to increase the Penn State and THON exposure, and customers really appreciate the free gift wrapping!

Speaking of THON, in lieu of a THON watching event, we're going to focus on our online auction to raise funds for THON. Keep an eye out on Facebook or your inbox for notifications about this year's offerings. We'll wrap it up on the last day of THON, Sunday, February 23. Get online and put a bid on some great Penn State items or gift certificates for local businesses. 100% of proceeds goes towards THON!

Later this spring, the Triangle Chapter will be offering some fun and exciting events for families. First, we'll have our annual Carolina Hurricanes outing, Saturday, March 28th. This is an early afternoon game, friendly for families, and it's against the Pittsburgh Penguins, so it'll have that Pennsylvania vibe. It's also at the end of the season, where the Hurricanes will be certain to be jockeying for playoff position, so it promises to be an exciting game! Come join us for deeply discounted group rate tickets!

Keep our Annual Chapter Picnic on your calendars, too. This annual get together of Chapter members and their families also acts as our student send-off, where we invite all local Penn State students to join with their local alumni club to show them what it means to Penn State Proud! Tentative date is Saturday, June 6.

We're also in the planning stages of our second Big Ten Alumni Night at the Durham Bulls! Last year's event was a huge success, with over 200 Big Ten alumni in attendance. It was so great, we decided to do it again. Come out and show your Penn State colors and maybe you can steal a foul ball away from a Michigan alum! Tentative date is June 20.

Finally, Penn State football plays at Virginia Tech this year, on Saturday, September 12. The Chapter is considering a road trip up to the game, and will reach out to the Alumni Association for logistical help. If we have enough interest, we think chartering a bus for the round-trip sounds like a great way to safely attend and tailgate! If you're interested, let one of your Board members know when you see them, or just send me an email. I'm open to all communication from Chapter members, whether it's words of encouragement or suggestions for improvement.

We Are!

Don Torino, President, Triangle Chapter, Penn State Alumni Association

dontorino@alumni.psu.edu

Triangle Chapter Reaches Record High For Annual Food Drive



This past fall, the Triangle Chapter again participated in its Annual Food Drive, a tradition started in 2013. Our Food Drive collects food and money from our members and donates it to Urban Ministries of Wake County, a local charity that “engages our community to serve and advocate on behalf of those affected by poverty by providing food and nutrition, promoting health and wellness, and by laying the foundations of home.”

We began with small steps, donating 600 pounds of food in 2013, doubling that to 1,200 the following year, then reaching the “One Ton Club” in 2015 and 2016 with over 2,000 pounds donated. In 2017, the Penn State Alumni Association awarded the Triangle Chapter its first ever national award when it received the 2017 Outstanding Service Project Award. Not resting on our laurels, that fall we reached new heights with a total donation of 7,400 pounds of food! The following year, we soared to a new apex with 10,200 pounds of food donated during football season. Urban Ministries tells us that this amount of food represents about 4-5% of their total donations *for the year!*

This year, with such a trail of success already paved, the Triangle Chapter again outpaced itself. In the 2019 fall football season, we donated **10,740 pounds of food!** Way to go, Triangle Chapter!!! We make a difference in people’s lives. In our own local community. Representing the glory of Dear Old State! Thank you to all who donated food and money towards this terribly worthy cause. Urban Ministries has asked for our help next year in developing a challenge with other local alumni groups, so we look forward to multiplying our efforts!

We can’t wait to see what we can all do together next fall!

It's THON Time !!



Our Chapter is once again in the midst of fund-raising for this year's THON event, 2/21 – 2/23. We had a very successful gift-wrapping fundraiser at Barnes & Nobles at Crabtree Mall, raising over \$700 for THON! Thank you again to everyone who was able to come out and help gift-wrap during the Christmas holiday season.

This year our Chapter will not host a THON watch party; however, we will be holding an online silent auction with many great items available. The auction will start on Saturday, February 15th, ending along with THON on Sunday, February 23rd. Please watch your email for further information on the auction, and remember your bid helps support kids fighting cancer! For The Kids!

We are always looking for new ways to contribute to our community. If you have any questions or ideas regarding our Chapter's philanthropy efforts, or are interested in helping on the philanthropy board, please feel free to contact Mark Robinson at mark.markrob.robinson@gmail.com. WE ARE!!!

PSU MEN'S BASEBALL IN CARY

Hey college baseball fans, the Nittany Lions are coming to Cary!

That's right, our Lion Baseball Team will be playing 11 games over three consecutive weekends (February 15th 22nd and 29th) at USA Baseball in Cary. This is a first rate facility, one where all fields are kept to Major League grooming standards. The difference is, you get to see quality baseball without the expense, crowds, and parking hassles that accompany big league games! Better yet, admission is free for all games!

Here's the schedule:

2020 Nittany Lion Baseball at USA Baseball

USA Baseball

200 Brooks Park Lane

Cary, NC 27519

2/14	2:00 PM	Bucknell
2/15	Noon	NJIT - DH
2/15	~4:00 PM	NJIT - DH
2/16	10:00 AM	Monmouth
2/21	1:00 PM	Wagner
2/22	2:00 PM	Wagner
2/23	11:00 AM	Wagner
2/28	3:00 PM	Princeton
2/29	Noon	Princeton - DH
2/29	~4:00 PM	Princeton - DH
3/1	11:00 AM	Princeton

Meet the team:

Like to meet the players? The team will be having their team meal at USA Baseball following the 2/22 game against Wagner. Bring along a picnic lunch and meet the team.

It's Time For Our Annual Membership Drive



We are halfway through our 2019-2020 membership drive, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your membership support of the Triangle Chapter. With your help, we've given thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving local students attending Penn State, including a tremendous \$5000 award this year. Your membership has also helped our Chapter grow and provide valuable networking and social opportunities for Triangle area alumni and their families. This year, we once again achieved the Elm Level Group of Distinction award from Penn State Alumni Association for our involvement in alumni relations, community service, and student support, its highest award given to alumni groups.

If you have not renewed your membership, please check out our online membership renewal at www.tripsu.org. We have many exciting spring activities planned and you won't want to miss our annual picnic. The picnic includes FREE Creamery ice cream and lunch!

Finally, if you decide not to renew your membership, please consider sending us an email to help us understand what we can do to better serve our members now and into the future. Constructive criticism is very much appreciated. I can be reached via email at karensrhodes@live.com

Thank you,

Karen Rhodes

Triangle Chapter Membership Chairman

What does your membership include?

- \$5 of every membership goes to our scholarship fund for local PSU students
- FREE food and creamery ice cream at our annual picnic each June
- 10% discount on food and beverage at Rookies
- Member only emails – to keep you informed of all our Activities!!!

How do we spend your dues?

The chart below breaks out how your membership fee is spent:

Dues Break Down

Scholarship	\$5.00
Communications	\$4.50
Activities	\$3.50
Operations	\$2.00
Total	\$15.00

What is the Scholarship?

For more than a decade now, our endowed scholarship fund has been the primary benefactor of our annual budget. The first \$5 of every membership goes directly to the fund. Last year, the Chapter contributed \$6,000 to the endowment's principal balance through membership dollars, member contributions, and member related fundraising activities—over \$20 per member. With your support, the growth of the endowment has allowed us to help many local students attend Penn State.

What Communications?

Newsletters and our web presence are expenses that your membership dollars help to defray. The national alumni association subsidizes some of the cost of distributing the newsletter to approximately 4500 alumni in the Triangle region.

What Activities?

Chapter activities are also a major benefit of membership. What was once limited to football game parties and the occasional picnic has expanded to include wine tastings, theater events, baseball games, hockey games, museum events, and dance marathon parties. The activities list is constantly evolving and expanding, and it is only limited by what our volunteers have time to organize. Feel free to send us suggestions!!

What's in Operations?

A portion of your membership dollars help us fund our many Chapter service programs. Some examples of these programs are college fairs at local high schools and student sendoff activities.

How do you join our awesome Chapter?

We are so excited you decided to join this year. For your convenience, we offer three ways to join:

1. **Mail in membership form:** Please fill out the membership form and attach a check (or cash if you prefer) to complete your membership.
2. **Online via PayPal:** Please use following link
<http://www.tripsu.org/membership>
3. **Events:** Please join at any of our football events (or any other this year!)

If you have any questions about membership, please feel free to contact me, Karen Rhodes, Membership Chairperson, by email at karensrhodes@live.com

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Website: www.tripsu.org

Twitter: @TriPSU

Instagram: @pennstatetrianglenc

Facebook: pennstatetrianglenc

LinkedIn (Triangle Chapter): www.linkedin.com/groups/3758655

LinkedIn (PSAA): www.linkedin.com/groups/40178

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/15/2020 THON Silent Auction opens

2/23/2020 THON Silent Auction closes

3/10/2020 Chapter Meeting

Moe's Cary, 6:30

3/28/2020 Carolina Hurricanes vs. Pittsburgh Penguins, PNC Arena, 1:00

4/14/2020 Chapter Meeting

Moe's Cary, 6:30

5/12/2020 Chapter Meeting

Moe's Cary, 6:30

6/6/2020 Chapter Picnic. Save The Date

Details TBA

6/9/2020 Chapter Meeting

Moe's Cary, 6:30

6/20/2020 Durham Bulls Big Ten Night

Check out our website for an updated calendar of events! www.tripsu.org