



# **PennState Alumni Association**

## **Triangle Chapter**

## **Welcome to the 2021 Winter Newsletter**

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It certainly has been an interesting year! Pandemic, politics, economics, schooling – all these things and more have taken its toll on all of us in some fashion.

As a Penn State Alumni Chapter, we've felt the effect of it as well. Predictably, our membership is down. Many members renew their membership at in-person events, like football TV tailgates and our annual picnic, all of which had to be cancelled in 2020. Still, we're grateful to the over 150 local alumni who renewed this year. This has always been one of the more stronger alumni groups outside of Pennsylvania, and we continue to show it in ways that might be quite unexpected.

First, our financial situation is better than ever. Your Board takes advantage of all financial assistance that comes our way from the Alumni Association, and goes to great lengths to be good stewards of our funds. We continue to explore alternative funding resources, like our Amazon Smile arrangement, where shoppers (like you!) on Amazon can navigate their purchases through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select the Triangle Chapter as their charity and purchase the same items at the same prices as they would through the regular website, but a half a percentage point of total purchases goes back to our Chapter.

We also recently added a new Board member: Bill Doyle has joined us as Treasurer, taking over the role from Rick Orlemanski, who ably manned this important post for a few years. The Board wishes to thank Rick for his service to the Chapter and welcomes Bill into the fold.

We participated in a fun promotion this year, where we bought three cardboard cutouts for Beaver Stadium home games and raffled them off to members who qualified under three categories: membership, scholarship donation, and food drive donation. Congratulations to Jim Devore, Tim Eisel, and Bill Doyle's son, all of whom watched from the stands (at least their cardboard cutouts did!) this past season.

Finally, in the "surprising, but not surprising" category, our Chapter really knocked it out of the park this year with our annual Food Drive. You can read the accompanying article in this newsletter about our Food Drive in general, but the short of the story is we raised \$4070 this year, or the equivalent of over 21,400 pounds of food!! That's WITHOUT the benefit of any in-person events. We had a good share of large and small donations, and the Chapter's general fund also kicked in with donations from the annual picnic budget from 2020 and the honorarium we received for winning the 2020 Outstanding Service Project Award from the Penn State Alumni Association. Needless to say, this is a staggering donation, more than doubling our efforts from 2019. Pandemic? Yes. Economic hardship? Maybe. Penn State Pride? Always!!

Thank you to all of our members and those who donated above and beyond to help our philanthropic causes this year. Like many of you, we can't wait to get together again as a group and share pandemic stories, catch up with friends old and new, and cheer on our Nittany Lions!

We Are!  
Don Torino, President



## **FOOD DRIVE HONORED AGAIN BY PSAA, HITS RECORD TOTAL**

In 2020, the Triangle Chapter was again honored by the Penn State Alumni Association for its efforts with our Annual Food Drive, as we were awarded the Outstanding Service Project Award for the second time in four years. Our Chapter, which dates back to the early 1980's, had never won a national award from the Alumni Association until the 2017 Outstanding Service Project Award.

Our Food Drive, which benefits Urban Ministries of Wake County, began in 2013 as a friendly competition with other local alumni groups. We donated 600 pounds of food that year, doubling it the following year to about 1200 pounds. In 2015, we reached the "One Ton Club", donating over 2000 pounds that year and the following year as well. This effort led us to our first national award in 2017, and that year, we responded by donating about 7,200 pounds of food, or more than we had collected in the first four years of our Food Drive collectively. In 2018, we broke a new milestone, donating 10,200 pounds of food, and not to be outdone, the following year we donated 10,700 pounds to Urban Ministries of Wake County.

The Alumni Association honored our Chapter again by awarding us the 2020 Outstanding Service Project Award for our Food Drive. (It is highly unusual for the Alumni Association to award the same Chapter for the same project again so quickly, but then again, we are a highly

unusual Chapter!) Replicating our response in 2017, we absolutely shattered our previous year's record by donating \$4070 to Urban Ministries, or the equivalent of over **21,400** pounds of food! (Urban Ministries turns cash donations into actual food by purchasing food from the North Carolina Food Bank, and it's how they determine the food equivalency of cash donations.)

The magnitude of this accomplishment cannot be overlooked. As a Chapter, we did this without the benefit of any in-person event. We found inventive ways to encourage donations, like our Beaver Stadium cardboard cutout raffle. Members donated both large and small. The Chapter itself donated money that would have gone to the 2020 picnic to the effort, and also donated the \$500 honorarium that we receive with the annual award directly back to this worthy cause. Truly a team effort!

Out of all the things we do as a Chapter, I receive the greatest satisfaction out of serving others. Whether it's the sizable scholarship we award every year to a local student, or our annual donation to the quintessential Penn State philanthropy – THON, what we do makes a difference in people's lives. What can be more noble than providing life-giving sustenance to our neighbors in the middle of a once-in-a-century pandemic and all the economic fallout that accompanied it?

We thank the Alumni Association for recognizing our Chapter's continued dedication to this philanthropy, and a special thank you to this Chapter and its members for making it all happen.

The only question left is what are we going to do in 2021?!?

Penn State Proud,  
Don Torino and the Triangle Chapter Board

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# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

## Membership News

We are over halfway through our 2020-2021 membership drive, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for support of our Triangle Chapter. While our membership numbers are lower this year (151 members vs an average of 290), we want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you. We all know what a challenging year this has been, and we all are hoping things will be a little more normal soon.

Despite those challenges and 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.

But don't worry!!! There is still time to renew - please check out our online membership renewal at [www.tripsu.org/membership](http://www.tripsu.org/membership).

Finally, if you decide not to renew your membership, please consider sending me 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](mailto:karensrhodes@live.com)

Thank you,  
Karen Rhodes  
Triangle Chapter Membership Chairman



## **THON Update**

THON Weekend 2021 took place using a virtual format this year, bringing together Penn Staters from across the world with dancers each participating remotely from their own homes. A limited setup inside the Bryce Jordan Center included an "anchor desk" and stage for masked, physically distanced performances, allowing student production team 46Live to livestream THON Weekend from Friday, Feb. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 21. Penn State THON 2021 raised \$10,638,078.62 for Four Diamonds at Penn State Children's Hospital, an amazing accomplishment for a pandemic year!

Locally, The Triangle Chapter collected donations virtually as well. In total, to date, we've collected \$525 that will be sent to Four Diamonds shortly. Thank you to everyone who donated!



## **Triangle Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association Scholarship Winners 2020-2021**

This year's 2020-2021 Triangle Chapter scholarship was awarded to Lindsay Madden and Lindsey Rogers. The scholarship award was in the amount of \$5,392.00, which is again the highest scholarship award our Chapter has ever awarded! Thanks to all of our Chapter's members generous donations throughout the years to our scholarship fund. It is an incredible opportunity that we have as a chapter to be able to help current students pay for the increasing cost in college tuition.

Lindsay Madden is from Wake Forest, NC. She is an Animal Science major in her Sophomore year at University Park. She is a member of the following clubs at school: Pennsylvania State Club Swimming, PSU Pre-Vet Club & PSU Poultry Science Club. Her parents are alumni of Penn State.

Lindsey Rogers is from Durham, NC. She is an incoming freshman majoring in Chemistry at University Park. Her parents & grandparents are alumni of Penn State which is why she chose to come to Penn State.