

MOTOROLA AUSTIN ALUMNI CLUB

LONE STAR NEWS

October 2020 Issue, Volume 25 Number 4

NOTICE – The November 10, 2020, meeting is to be a ZOOM (video conference) meeting.

The following meeting is Tuesday, February 9, 2021

- The Lone Star News is a publication of the Motorola Austin Alumni Club. Motorola is not affiliated with the club and neither endorses, nor is responsible for, any of the content in this newsletter.

2021 Dates to Remember

General Membership Meetings (10 A.M., the 2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month of the quarter)

February 9, 2021 May 11 August 10 November 9

Board Meetings (10 A.M., the 2nd Tuesday of 1st month of the quarter)

January 12, 2021 April 13 July 13 October 12

Annual Picnic: Will advise when we can hold one again.

Christmas Party: Canceled.

Newsletter Article Deadlines: January 29 April 30 July 30 October 29

Submit articles to any Board member – see Newsletter for addresses

GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 11, 2020 (Our first Zoom meeting).

ATTENDEES: We had 28 attendees at our first ZOOM meeting with those who responded to the idea of holding our quarterly general meeting virtually on the ZOOM platform. It was great to be able to see the faces of our members, including some who have moved out of state.

SPEAKER: Sandra Lawell introduced our speaker Mark Pryor and said she and Ray would use an interview question format and others could also ask Mark questions after telling us about himself. Mr. Pryor is a British mystery writer and Assistant District Attorney for Travis County, Texas He is best known for his mystery novels featuring Hugo Marston, a former FBI agent from Texas and now head of security at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. Mark grew up in Hertfordshire, England and now lives in Austin, TX with his wife and three young children. Over the years, he has been many things: ski instructor, journalist, personal trainer, and a bra folder (he lasted one

day: fired for giggling at the ridiculousness of the job. If it is any excuse, he was just nineteen years old.) His first real career was as a newspaper reporter in Colchester, Essex. There, he covered the police and crime beat for almost two years. He also wrote stories on foreign assignments, including accounts from Northern Ireland while with the British Army, and from Romania where he covered the first-anniversary celebrations of that country's revolution. Mark moved to America in 1994, mostly for the weather. He attended journalism school at the University of North Carolina, in Chapel Hill, and then law school at Duke University, graduating with honors, a lot of debt and a wife. He is currently an Assistant District Attorney with the Travis County DA's office, or as he tells his kids, "I help catch bad guys." Simplistic, yes, but you try explaining the judicial system to six-year-old twins!

Mark travels to Paris yearly for background material for his Hugo Marston series of books. There are 8 books in the series with the ninth book, *The French Widow*, coming out in about a month. His series is in Barnes & Nobel bookstores. His first book was published in 2012.

Sandra asked Mark if he always wanted to be an author... Mark said he thinks he always did because he had a teacher who introduced him to a newsbook format and when he came back from vacation, he wrote a book about his summer vacation.

Ray asked if Mark had ever written a book that got turned down right away... Mark said he had 3 books rejected before the first book in the Hugo Marston series.

Sandra - What is the process you use to write your books... Mark said he has had about 600 rejections over the years. I used to write 2 books a year and sometimes when I write a story, it gets rejected right away.

Ray – How do you come up with ideas for your books? Mark says he carries a notebook and writes down things he sees. Sometimes ideas come to me and I write them down like when I worked on my showerhead and it gave me an idea for a scene in a Hugo Marston book. I sometimes get ideas from cases I have in court. Mainly things in the process used to solve the case, detective work.

Sandra – Any of your characters based on real people? ... Yes, I used people's names and most times their descriptions.

Ray – In one of your books you killed off the main character, why would you do that? ... A lot of times the character gets shot or stabbed in the book, goes to the hospital and after a few days they are all right. Sometimes the character doesn't live, and a different character becomes the new main character.

Sandra – How has the Coronavirus affected your writing? ... I have been finishing some projects, but it has stymied me and I need to go on vacation to get the juices flowing again.

Ray – Ever been interested in movies or TV writing? ... Yes, I have been approached by a couple of writers to help collaborate, but the Coronavirus has put things on hold.

Sandra - What kind of books do you like to read? ... I like to read mystery or detective stories. I grew up reading the Hardy Boys and crime fiction.

Jim Binneboese – How do you keep both jobs going? ... I have 250 cases, but the Coronavirus keeps us on hold. I don't work long hours and I only work weekends when I have a jury trial. I use time management mostly.

Sandra thanked Mark for participating and thanked everyone who asked questions.

Scholarships: Jim Binneboese thanked the members of the scholarship committee, Wayne Harned, Bill Pfaff, and Mary Jane Harned who were former teachers for their hard work selecting the recipients of this year's awards. Winners were Nicholas Martin from Cedar Park who is going into Electrical Engineering at TX A&M, Nicholas ranked #49 out of 500 with his GPA and Sara Barlow from Hays Consolidated who will be attending UTSA Medical for General or Emergency Surgery. Sara ranked #11 out of 647 and has family in the medical field. All four candidates submitted their applications and had ZOOM interviews. We ended up with over \$5,000.00 dollars in the fund and will have the leftover money as seed for next year's scholarship fund.

The Gary Daniels Motorola Scholarship for Leaders in Electrical Computer Engineering (UT Scholarship) candidate will receive \$1500 sponsored by an anonymous donor and we are waiting on the BIO and a picture.

Picnic: Wayne Harned announced that the annual picnic for this year is cancelled and we will try again next year hoping for the Coronavirus to be over.

Christmas Party: Sandra Lawell said we have until the first of December to cancel the Christmas Lunch and that Maggiano's can either return our down payment or hold it over for next year. We will be waiting to see how the pandemic is going with schools back in session both remotely and in person classes. We will know by November's meeting whether we will cancel Christmas lunch.

Treasurer Report: Cal Gooden stated the MAAC Checking account increased from \$949.94 to \$1,084.94 due to some members sending in their dues. MAAC Savings account increased from \$5262.29 to \$5,277.54 due to dues and interest accrued. The total Scholarship fund increased from \$4,635 to \$5,645.52. The "Members Fund" portion is at \$4,445.52 and the Gary Daniels Scholarship Fund portion is at \$1,200.00. We did receive a special donation of \$1,000.00 for the UT Gary Daniels Engineering Scholarship Fund. We also had the \$60 reservation deposit from the Parks and Recreation Department returned due to cancellation of the picnic.

Jim Binneboese thanked Ray Voith and Sandra Lawell for setting up and training some members on ZOOM Meetings and thanked everyone who joined in for today's meeting. Our next meeting will be November 10, and may also be on ZOOM.

Sandra mentioned that she still needs names of any Motorolan that may need assistance with rides to doctors or groceries. We also need biographies of the club members. This will help us get to know some of our newer members and refresh our minds with some of our regular members. It doesn't need to be very long, just some interesting fun facts and maybe even a picture of yourself.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 and each participant signed out.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, October 13, 2020

ATTENDEES: Jim Binneboese, Mike Coley, Mary Jane Harned, Sandra Lawell, Terry Lawell, Cal Gooden, Janet Tidwell and Danna Redford

Treasurer Report: Cal Gooden presented the Treasurer's Report. Scholarship Fund shows a decrease of \$5500.00 with \$4,00.00 sent in 2 checks of \$2,000.00 each to MAAC Scholarship winners schools Texas A&M and UTSA. A \$1,500.00 check to the Gary Daniels UT Scholarship winner sent to UT. Cal stated we have received acknowledgement of receipt from UT and Texas A&M and are still awaiting acknowledgement from UTSA. Cal stated income since August 2020 was \$80.13 from dues paid and interest of \$0.13. Mike asked Cal for a list of Paid Members, but Cal replied that Warren had kept a paper spreadsheet of the members who had paid and not paid. Mike Coley said he would check with Warren's sons to get that information. Ray Voith stated in a post meeting email that he is the keeper of the list of members and who has paid dues. He has asked Cal for who has paid during Warren's illness. Ray said he would usually get the list from Warren who got it from the Treasurer.

Jim welcomed Terry Lawell and said it was good to see him. Sandra stated he has been in the hospital and having some complications from his heart attack and therefore would not be available to be the speaker for our next General Meeting in November. Suggestions for speakers for November were for the meeting to be dedicated to Warren Weimann. Mike said he would get with Warren's sons and see if they would come and talk about their father, and if anyone had any experiences or stories about Warren would they please tell their experiences.

After the portion of the November General Meeting dedicated to Warren, then it was suggested that Ray take 15min to talk about his volunteer opportunities in the Austin area followed by Jim Binneboese who would talk about his experiences being a small aircraft pilot.

Plans are for the November meeting to be a ZOOM meeting like we had in August. Jim felt we might need another practice session prior to the general meeting. Ray Voith said he is open to another practice session, but requests that it be after Election Day. He said he will be available to facilitate the November Zoom meeting.

Jim asked Sandra about the Christmas party and whether we should cancel. He suggested checking with the membership to see if we should cancel or make a board decision to cancel it for this year and plan for next year. The board decided to cancel it and the Picnic for 2020 and try for a Spring picnic if COVID allows. Most board members feel that with our age group and risk of complications that could arise, it is better to cancel and try for 2021. Sandra will call Maggiano's and request a refund.

Mary Jane Harned said we will try for a picnic sometime around April or May of 2021 depending on the pandemic. Jim asked her to have Wayne check with the Parks & Rec Dept when they plan on opening the Senior Center.

Jim sent a message to Ray about posting the scholarship recipients to the MAAC website and Warren's Obituary, condolences and remembrances.

Jim expressed concern about the dues and should we cancel them for the rest of this year. Most board members feel we need to continue the dues to keep the club viable and we need to keep collecting donations to the scholarship program so we can continue to award scholarships to

Motorola family members. In Ray's post meeting email, he writes, "let's not cancel dues- it's a small symbolic gesture of commitment to the club. It allows us to assess the level of interest in the club." In his next email to the club, he will request people pay their dues. \$15 a year is nothing (-5cents per day). He will check which members have paid.

Jim Binneboese said he was overwhelmed by all the people who have reported illnesses to him. He is concerned with members leaving the club because we can't meet in person. Ray wrote he thinks we are ok. Although we miss the onsite meetings, in some sense the ZOOM meetings are easier to attend than on site meetings. He also said that the decision to have or not have meetings should be a board decision and not submitted to the members for a vote.

Jim brought up board members changes. He reminded the board that he would stay in the position of President for 1 year. November is typically when we vote in board members and we need to know who is willing to stay in their position or would like to change positions.

Ray Voith will set up the Zoom Meeting for the November 10th meeting and will notify the membership. He will also set up the schedule for the ZOOM training session.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

In Memoriam
Warren Wiemann
Dave Manning
Carol Shelton
Ann Wiles (Mike's wife)

Motorola Austin Alumni Club 2020 Officers and Board Members

Elected Officers:

President Jim Binneboese, 209 Cherokee Rose Circle, Georgetown, 78626, (512) 251-8622
V-Pres Sandra Lawell, 7434 Fireoak Dr, 78759, (512) 663-1969
Secretary Janet Tidwell, 14910 Johnson Rd Trail, Manor, 78653, (512) 913-0039
Treasurer Cal Gooden, 1101 Castle Ct, 78703, (512) 658-0032
Pres. Pro-tem Mike Coley, 10811 Redmond Road, 78739, (512) 965-3232

Our NEW Website: <http://maacweb.org>

Our NEW Email address: maacweb@yahoo.com

Board Members (Committee Chairs):

Newsletter Danna Redford, 3416 Hillview Road, 78703, (512) 371-7332
Membership
Picnic Wayne Harned, 16227 Oxbow Trail, Buda, 78610, (512) 295-7041
Christmas luncheon Sandra Lawell, 7374 Fireoak Dr, 78759, (512) 663-1969
Programs Terry Lawell, 7434 Fireoak Dr, 78759, (512) 663-1969
Communications/
Webmaster Ray Voith, 7105 Shumard Cir, 78759, (512) 258-3230
Scholarship Jim Binneboese, 209 Cherokee Rose Circle, Georgetown, 78626, (512) 251-8622

**Return Requested
3416 Hillview Road
Austin, TX
78703**

**MOTOROLA AUSTIN ALUMNI CLUB
Application for membership**

NAME: _____ YEARS OF SERVICE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
(Please note if you do NOT have computer access or email)

SPOUSE'S NAME (If applicable): _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CLUB? _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MAAC Rev: 11/21/17

MEMBERSHIP: **\$15.00 per year**, due by February's meeting or \$7.50 if joining after July (new members only)
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (eliminated, but with a reduced fee): **\$10.00 per year**, also due by February's meeting.

Don't forget that Spouses need to be members also. We need your other half as part of our club, so sign them up!

MAIL TO: Cal Gooden, 1101 Castle Ct, Austin, TX 78703