



MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

· A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 ·

PO Box 307
Monteagle, TN
931-924-2286

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April 2020

From the President

Board News and COVID-19

The February 29 board meeting was a marathon meeting that lasted 3.5 hours.

Some of the Highlights:

Financial Report: Cash balances are good with water and sewer expenses trending higher due to a water leak. (The leak was found and repaired on Thursday, March 6.)

General Managers report: The roofing projects on Warren Chapel and the Bell Tower are complete. The offers for the youth staff are in the final stages, and it appears we will have a large number of returning staffers.

ARC Committee: The board approved motions for modification and improvements for the following Cottages:

Cottage #9 ("Lexington"- Ferris and Neale)- Decorative addition to Roof

Cottage #61A ("Alabama House"- Rollins) - Replace windows on dining room addition

Cottage #61B ("Toadstool - Rollins) - Replace former balcony

Cottage #56 ("Southern Comfort"- Fox) - Revised drawing and for the secondary storage building.

The board approved the following motions concerning the ARC Process:

"The ARC committee be allowed to approve thru e-mail occasional minor changes only to those projects already approved by the MSSA Board of Trustees and already substantially in progress and only if approval is unanimous with all members of ARC reporting.

In the interest of expediting the installation of handrails when needed for safety considerations, the board approved the following motion: "Simple handrail designs endorsed by the ARC committee at the 1/31/2020 meeting may be installed with the approval of the General Manager."

COVID 19

There has been a lot of news about the virus, but a couple of things are certain: there are a lot of unknowns about the duration of COVID-19 and its socio-economic impact to the world, country and community. Scott Parrish and I have been communicating daily since early March, discussing some of the various scenarios and impacts this pandemic is causing, and we will continue to talk and evaluate the reports. We have modeled financial impacts, reviewed human resource requirements, CDC guidelines, state closure

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MSSA

From the President

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requirements, playgrounds, public facilities cleaning, travel restrictions, etc. The list goes on and continues to change daily.

Ruth Cobb, platform superintendent, and Scott Parrish are 95-98 percent complete with final plans and preparations for the season and continue to be optimistic about the upcoming season. Unfortunately, we must also be realists and proactively plan for the “what if.” If the virus continues to spread, will CDC or State and local governments put additional restrictions in place, more travel restrictions, tighter lockdowns, etc.? How will these effect MSSA? Could there being no season, or a delayed start to the season, a partial season say weeks four to eight, or a limited season where there is no dining hall, no group activities larger

than 10, fewer speakers? Lots of options but what are the risks?

As the number of cases and deaths rise in the U.S., it is becoming clear that the forecast crest of the bell curve will happen later rather than sooner. The next board of trustees meeting is scheduled for May 2 and should be the date when the Board of trustees will make the decision concerning what will happen for the season. The season opens on June 7, so the May 2 date will give us just a little over 30 days to adjust any of the platform plans, not to mention travel plans for the youth staff, speakers and other summer employees. The decision will have an impact on owners, renters, employees, the summer staff and the Town of Monteagle.

The final decision about the season must be made with the thought of safeguarding the health and welfare of our members, families and community.

Stay well and Healthy
Regards, Bill Cox

From the GM

Although all MSSA buildings and facilities are closed, there is plenty of work still going on at Warren's Point, the Mall area, and at cottages throughout the campus. The nature trails are in great shape, and the wildflowers are spectacular, so enjoy nature walks and experience forest bathing at its best.

The platform and office staff continue to work toward a full MSSA season, while closely monitoring the daily changes in the COVID-19 effect on the United States. Fortunately, we are in a position to make any and all changes and adjustments to our 138th season in short order. We will stay in communication with you about program plans and any necessary changes.

Stay Safe. Be Well.
Scott Parrish

QUICK BITES

Lawn trimmings are collected on Wednesdays.

Dogs must be registered, including proof of rabies vaccination. Pick up after your pets.

Trash pickup begins at 6:00 am on Monday & Thursday. Secure garbage can lids to avoid critters from getting into them. Garbage crews can only collect bagged trash located inside garbage cans.

The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the Board of Trustees.

Safety first! Call (931) 607-8615 when the main office is closed for any security questions or concerns.



The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was organized by Charter issued by the State of Tennessee on October 4, 1882 for the purpose of: “... the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination.”

The Mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.



Join Us for E

Enlighten.Enrich.Endure

Join us for E, a festive, social and educational wine and cheese gathering on Friday, July 3, 2020, from 5-7 p.m. in the MSSA Auditorium. Our hope is to educate, entertain and inspire all attendees to consider a gift, large or small, to our perpetual Endowment Fund and thereby ensure our long-term vitality and sustainability. Past and present members of the MAEFC (Monteagle Assembly Endowment Fund Corporation) Board of Trustees will be our hosts for the evening as we bring new life to this important MSSA legacy.

The event will culminate with an entertaining and informative presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Bill Dedman, author of Empty Mansions. Dedman will tell the story of the building of a family fortune and the reclusive heiress who inadequately planned for the fortune to live on and create good deeds. This platform program will further instill the many values and positive impacts of live-time giving.

The gathering and presentation is open to all MSSA members and their families and is free of charge.

Platform Update

Buds on the trees and warmer weather are sure signs that another platform season cannot be far away. Final edits are being made to the program book, workshop descriptions prepared for online registration, and we have a platform team ready to reunite and get to work! Here's an introduction to the people who will work together to bring to life all that is in the program book.

Trent Whisenant will return as the platform coordinator. Last summer,

Trent was the go-to for all things technical and the audience

experience was greatly enhanced by his skills. He will graduate from the University of the South in May and hopes to begin a graduate degree in sacred music this fall. Although Trent began playing the organ at the age of five, he has explored other areas of interest. When he was a



child, Trent wanted to be a news anchor so badly that he and his sister founded an online news site for kids. And, he may be the most active 4-H member in history who never participated in an agriculture project. Ask him about that this summer.

Ethan White

joins us this summer as platform assistant. Raised in Savannah, Georgia, as the son of two ministers, he has been making music, singing and playing instruments his entire life. (In his interview, when asked if he had experience with church bulletins or new letters, he acknowledged that he had been pressed into service.) Ethan visited the Assembly last summer and was keen to be on the staff this year. He is currently majoring in music and history at the University of the South and anticipates graduation in 2021. He completed the University's European Studies



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Around the Grounds

Work continues across the Assembly:

Mall- Hardscapes, Murray
Bell Tower, Band Stand
Warren's Point
East Courts-resurfacing,
Gazebo repair
Office paint/repair

COVID-19 and MSSA

MSSA is not immune to the Coronavirus. When you are at the Assembly and in the surrounding area, please remember to practice all forms of protective measures as outlined by the CDC, including self quarantine if you are coming from a COVID-19 hotspot. The State of Tennessee, Grundy County, and Sewanee are under Stay at Home Executive Orders. State Parks are closed; Sewanee trail heads and parking lots are closed; restaurants are takeout only; all MSSA buildings and facilities are closed.

Stay Safe. Be Well.

HOUSING QUESTIONS? ASK RHONDA!

Should you have concerns that your cottage has not rented to your satisfaction during the season or off-season, contact the housing office to discuss your options. If you are willing to consider offering your cottage for 3-day rentals, negotiate or prorate rentals, or if you have questions about your rentals, call Rhonda.

The housing office can also help if you want to rent a golf cart during the season.

The housing number is (931) 924-9000.



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Key MSA Contacts

Platform Superintendent – Ruth Cobb
ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org

Director of Housing & Guest Services –
Rhonda Atkins rhonda.atkins@mssa1882.org

Office Manager – Becky Hammond
becky.hammond@mssa1882.org

Bookkeeper – Crystal Hill
crystal@mssa1882.org

Facility Superintendent – Rick Duncan
rick.duncan@mssa1882.org

LEASEHOLDS AVAILABLE

#15	Bridgepoint	\$595,000
#58	Fleur de Lis	\$330,000

To arrange a tour or for
more information contact:
W. Scott Parrish,
General Manager
scott.parrish@mssa1882.org
(931) 924-2286

ARC PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Planning a renovation project? The Architectural Review Committee will accept projects for review and recommendation to the Board of Trust for approval four times per year. Questions about possible projects, the process, and necessary requirements should be referred to the General Manager. Projects submitted by the following dates will be reviewed and presented at the board meeting following the submission.

June 10 July 31 September 30

January 15 February 28

The ARC is available throughout the year to advise members on their project planning prior to submission of a request. Not sure if you need ARC approval? Check with the General Manager first.

SAFETY FIRST

The MSA security team is at your service. If you have any emergency --medical or otherwise-- call 911, but our seasoned team is here to help for non-emergency situations. If you have a safety issue or see suspicious activity anywhere on the grounds or at the Point, don't hesitate to call (931) 607-8615 after 5 pm or call the office during business hours. There are no silly concerns--it's better to call and quell your fears than to let something go because you are afraid of a false alarm.

Consider putting the security number by your home phone and/or plugging it into your cell phones.

Kids got cell phones? Plug the security number in those too.

Together we'll keep MSA the safe haven it is!



Platform Update

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program, entailing a semester of study at Oxford as well as extensive travel throughout western Europe. When not spending time with friends and family, he enjoys roaming the Domain or relaxing in an Adirondack chair.

Also this summer, the platform is grateful for the provision of a

seminarian intern from the School of Theology, **David Boyd**.

His official title is Platform Family Ministry Intern, and he will be the living, breathing embodiment of hospitality for the platform. On Monday mornings, he will greet families and offer information (with other platform staff) about programs being offered in the current week. The same welcome and fellowship will be offered each Tuesday morning at the Gazebo on the Mall at the Platform Coffee; plan to stop by! David is a seminarian from Atlanta, Georgia, entering his final year of seminary. He will use his experience to help facilitate changes to the Twilight Prayer service while providing consistent help and oversight with each guest minister. Last summer, he was married to Sarah, a fifth grade teacher from Paducah, Kentucky. They met on their first day of college at their alma mater, Centre College, and have since travelled abroad to six countries together. They live in a house divided: David a rabid Georgia Bulldog fan and Sarah a devoted Kentucky Wildcat fan. **Sarah** is also the Hummingbird Director.

I'm looking forward to bringing to life the first platform that I've planned! (With even greater admiration to those who have gone before me.) Our family anticipates great excitement beyond the 138th Platform — we are welcoming two new grandchildren. Our son and daughter-in-law in Washington, D.C. await their first child in May, and our daughter and son-in-law in Arizona will welcome their third child in August. What a terrific summer ahead! We live in hope.

*Ruth Cobb,
Platform Superintendent*



2020 Youth Staff

Jenny Jervis-Youth Program Superintendent
Burch Baine-Youth Coordinator
Mary Ann Friday-Christian Coordinator

Alan Huston Head-Youth Director
Dustin Stensby-Youth Director
Blaise Zeitler-Youth Director
Izzie Spinelli-Youth Director
Grace Ann Davis-Youth Director
Shelby Bowles-Adventure Director

Sarah Boyd-Kindergarten Director/
Craft Director
Isabella Randolph-Crafts /
Kindergarten Assistant
Jenna Black-Crafts/Kindergarten Assistant
Kieara Stroud-Crafts /Kindergarten
Assistant

Tony Phillips-Pool Manager
Katie Douglass-Head Lifeguard
George Davis-Lifeguard
William Davis-Lifeguard

Felix Mann-Tennis Teaching Professional

Sarah Bennett Smith-Snack Shop Manager
Duncan Knopf-Snack Shop
Assistant-Manager

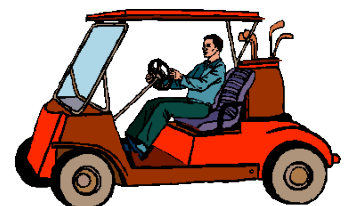
Riley Burnett- Projectionist

Golf Cart Registration:

Gotta golf cart?

Gotta register with the office!

It is time to renew your golf cart registration! All carts must renew the no-charge registration at the beginning of every year.



Prayers

Margaret Hayes Wiley died on March 1 at the age of 88. A seventh generation Middle Tennessean, Margaret Wiley grew up at Midway, the family farm, now Brentwood Country Club. She attended Robertson Academy Elementary School, the Ward Belmont School and Vanderbilt University. A lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, she was also a member of the Junior League of Nashville and the Colonial Dames of America. She co-founded the Stock Exchange, a popular consignment store. She was also a member of Monteagle Sunday School Assembly, the Belle Meade Country Club, Linville Golf Club, the Centennial Club, the Hillmeade Garden Club, the International Study Club, and the Canby Robinson Society. She also provided scholarships to deserving girls at the Harpeth Hall School for years. Margaret and David Wiley married in September of 1984, and she began spending her summer months in Linville, North Carolina, where she enjoyed many happy years. She loved travels with her husband and friends, gardening, floral arranging, golf, bridge, Vanderbilt sports and anything involving the great outdoors. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Harpeth Hall School, the Crossnore School & Children's Home in North Carolina, and the Linville Foundation.



Eads Poitevent III passed away February 26 at the age of 73, after a long illness. A lifelong New Orleanian, he attended New Orleans Academy, graduated from Woodberry Forest and Tulane University. Trained as a banker, he pursued graduate studies at Rutgers University. Mr. Poitevent established a long and successful career in retail, founding popular local business Feet First, Inc. He was involved in many Carnival organizations and served on the boards of several nonprofits, including: St. George's Episcopal School, Garden District Association, Metropolitan Crime Commission, Junior Achievement, and Leukemia Society of America, Louisiana chapter. Predeceased by his parents, Eads Poitevent, junior and Elizabeth Schramm Poitevent, he is survived by his wife of 50 years, Deborah Roulhac Poitevent; their two children, Eads Poitevent IV (Dayna Ann Gessler) and Evelyn Poitevent Sanders (Lemuel Moye Sanders, junior); and granddaughter Amelia Laine Sanders. Mr. Poitevent also is survived by his brothers, Edward Butts Poitevent II and William James Poitevent, along with numerous nephews and nieces. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Poydras Home, St. George's Episcopal School, and/or Trinity Episcopal Church.



HIGHLIGHTS

Warm Welcome

Be sure to welcome new member Dot Neale, owner of cottage #9. She will be a member of the Episcopal Caucus.

Easter Service Cancelled

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have decided to cancel our MSSA Easter service and egg hunt.

Don't Forget!

Join us for E! Friday, July 3, 2020, from 5-7 p.m. **Enlighten.**

Enrich.

Endure