

62ND ANNUAL

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE AGENDA • AUGUST 13–16, 2026



THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026 • Arrival & Welcome

3:00–6:00 PM	Conference Registration • <i>Hotel Lobby</i>
7:00 PM	Island Soul (IPO) Karaoke Night • <i>105 W Sunrise Hwy, Lindenhurst, NY</i> <i>*Shuttles/Ubers leave lobby 6:30–6:45 PM</i>
9:00 PM	Long Island Chapter Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026 • Business Meeting & Awards

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast • <i>Long Island Ballroom</i>
8:00 AM	Opening 62nd NER Business Meeting
8:40–11:00 AM	Chapter Reports/Committee Reports
11:00 AM	BREAK
11:15 AM	Sustainable Giving (Fundraising) <i>Patrick Gray, President</i> <i>Greater Orlando Chapter</i>
12:15 -12:30 PM	BREAK
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Awards Luncheon
1:30 – 1:45 PM	BREAK
1:45–4:45 PM	Officer Reports
4:45 – 6:00 PM	United States National Tennis Association Presentation - Courtyard
6:00 PM	Adjournment
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Hospitality Suite, Roosevelt Room
7:00 -9:00 PM	Dinner, Long Island Ballroom
9:00 PM	Hospitality Suite, RVP Suite

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CONFERENCE AGENDA • AUGUST 13–16, 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

1:45–4:45 PM	Officer Reports
4:45 – 6:00 PM	United States National Tennis Association Presentation - Courtyard
6:00 PM	Adjournment
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Hospitality Suite, Roosevelt Room
7:00 -9:00 PM	Dinner, Long Island Ballroom
9:00 PM	Hospitality Suite, RVP Suite

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026

7:00 AM	Breakfast • Long Island Ballroom
8:00 AM	Zayla Bryant, SGA President
8:30 AM	Dr. CaSonia Martin • Associate Director of FAMU Housing
9:00 AM	Northeast Regional Elections
10:00 AM	University Engagement • Dr. William E. Hudson Jr., Vice President of Student Affairs
12:15 PM	BREAK
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Fundraising Luncheon
1:45 – 2:30 PM	Social Movement • Networking & “FAMU Taught Me”
3:30 PM	Fallen Rattler Ceremony
4:00 PM	Conference Adjournment
6:00 –10:00 PM	Prime on the Mile (IPO) • 340 Woodcleft Ave, Freeport, NY 11520
8:00 PM	Hospitality Suite • RVP Suite

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

11:00 AM	Worship Service • Perfecting Faith Church, Donald McClurkin Jr., Senior Pastor • 311 N Main St, Freeport, NY 11520
1:30 PM	Sunday Dinner – IPO • TBA



Welcome to the 62nd Northeast Conference

Greetings, Northeast Region Family!

August 14, 2026

It is my sincere pleasure and honor to welcome you to the 62nd Northeast Region Conference of the Florida A&M University (FAMU) National Alumni Association.

On behalf of the Northeast Region (NER), I am delighted to welcome our alumni, chapter leaders, university representatives, special guests, and friends of FAMU. Whether you are joining us as a longtime Rattler or attending your first regional conference, we are so glad you are here!

This conference represents more than a gathering it is an opportunity for us to reconnect, celebrate our accomplishments, strengthen our chapters, share ideas, and recommit ourselves to the continued advancement of our beloved university. The strength of the Northeast Region has always been our people and our willingness to come together in the spirit of service, fellowship, and Rattler pride.

As we gather, I encourage each of you to take full advantage of the opportunities this conference provides. Engage in the conversations. Share your ideas. Build new relationships. Celebrate one another. And most importantly, let us continue to identify ways we can collectively make an even greater impact for FAMU and the students we proudly serve.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Long Island Chapter, our host chapter, conference planning team, volunteers, sponsors, and everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this conference possible. Your commitment and dedication are what allow our region to continue moving forward.

As your Regional Vice President, I am incredibly proud of the work taking place throughout our Northeast Region. We have an opportunity to build upon that momentum and create an even stronger, more connected, and more impactful region.

I hope you enjoy the conference, make meaningful connections, and leave inspired to continue the work of “Educating, Equipping, and Empowering” our chapters, our alumni, and the future of Florida A&M University.

Welcome, Rattlers! One FAMU. One Northeast Region. One Rattler Family. Keep Striking!

Sharon L. Duncan,
Northeast Regional Vice President
FAMU National Alumni Association, Inc.

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • NORTHEAST REGION

62ND NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

“Serving Love on Long Island: Northeast Rattlers in Motion”



WELCOME, NORTHEAST RATTLERS!

On behalf of the conference committee, it is my absolute pleasure and honor to welcome you to the 62nd Northeast Regional Conference of the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association—and this year, we are bringing that unmistakable Rattler energy to Long Island!

Our theme, “Serving Love on Long Island: Northeast Rattlers in Motion,” is more than a theme; it is a charge. It speaks to who we are as Rattlers—people who understand that our Orange and Green legacy is not simply something we celebrate, but something we carry, nurture, and pass forward. We are a family connected by a common bond, a shared history, and an unwavering love for Florida A&M University.

This year, we gather in Westbury, Long Island, hosted by the legendary Long Island Chapter, for a conference designed to reconnect hearts, refresh spirits, exchange ideas, and remind us of the extraordinary power of Rattler fellowship. From the moment you arrive, I want you to feel that you are home. Whether you are a lifelong Rattler, a recent graduate, a longtime alumnus returning to the fold, or a friend of the University, there is a place for you in this Rattler family.

We have worked diligently to create a conference experience that is informative, inspiring, engaging, and—most importantly—memorable. Our program is filled with opportunities to learn, network, fellowship, celebrate our accomplishments, and envision what is possible when Northeast Rattlers move together with purpose. I encourage you to participate fully, ask questions, make connections, share your gifts, and leave room for a little Rattler fun along the way!

I am especially grateful to the dedicated members of the conference committee, the leadership of the Northeast Region, and the Long Island Chapter for the countless hours, creativity, commitment, and love poured into bringing this conference to life. Conferences like this do not happen by accident. They happen because Rattlers show up, roll up their sleeves, and get the job done—and that is exactly what makes our Association so special.

Thank you for making the decision to be here. Your presence matters. Your participation matters. Your continued support of Florida A&M University matters. Every registration, every conversation, every volunteer hour, every scholarship dollar, every new connection, and every

act of service strengthens the bridge between our proud past and the bright future we are building for generations of Rattlers to come.

So, Northeast Region, Long Island is calling—and I hope you are ready! Come ready to fellowship. Come ready to learn. Come ready to laugh. Come ready to celebrate. Come ready to serve. Most of all, come ready to put that Rattler Spirit in motion!

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to Long Island for the 62nd Northeast Regional Conference. May these days be filled with meaningful connections, unforgettable moments, renewed purpose, and plenty of Orange and Green pride. Together, let us continue to serve with love, lead with purpose, and move the Rattler legacy forward.

RATTLER STRONG. RATTLER PROUD. RATTLEERS IN MOTION!

With Rattler Pride,

THE Sebastian Alexander

First Vice President, FAMU National Alumni Association Northeast Region

A GREAT BIG RATTLER WELCOME TO LONG ISLAND!



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Natalie Peters

President

Harlan Penn

1st Vice President

Cilicia (C.C.) Thomas

2nd Vice President

Douglas Thomas

Treasurer

Tonya Cantlo

General Counsel

Jeffrey Horne

Sergeant At Arms

Lakeisha McNair

Financial Secretary

Ingrid Rousseau

Parliamentarian

Nicole Alamu

Recording Secretary

Ashleigh Pryor

Corresponding Secretary

Reynolds Hawkins

Historian

Deborah Payton-Jones

Chaplain



August 14, 2026

Greetings Rattlers,

It is with great pride, excitement, and Rattler spirit that I welcome you to **Long Island, New York**, as the **Long Island Rattlers Chapter** proudly serves as your host for the **62nd Northeast Regional Conference of the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association**.

Our theme, “**Serving Love on Long Island: Northeast Rattlers in Motion**,” reflects the spirit of our beloved university and the energy of the Rattler Nation. We are honored to serve our fellow Rattlers from across the region and beyond. We proudly celebrate the legacy of one of FAMU’s and New York’s great Trail blazers, Althea Gibson. Like Gibson, our collective impact continues to move forward—creating opportunities for students, strengthening our communities, and building a stronger future for FAMU.

As you experience the conference, we encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to **learn, connect, collaborate, and celebrate**. Whether participating in conference sessions, networking with fellow alumni, supporting our students, enjoying the beauty and culture of Long Island, or simply sharing memories with old and new friends, we hope your time with us is meaningful and memorable. Thank you for joining us on Long Island.

Once again, **WELCOME TO LONG ISLAND!**

With Rattler Pride and Appreciation,

Dr. Natalie Peters

President, Long Island Rattlers Chapter

Florida A&M University National Alumni Association

62ND ANNUAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Annual General Body Meeting Agenda

Friday, August 14, 2026

Presiding Officer

Sharon L. Duncan, Regional Vice President

Invocation	Deborah Payton-Jones, Chaplain
Roll Call	Dr. Regina Boateng, Sergeant of Arms
Welcome/Overview	Sharon L. Duncan, Regional Vice President
Message from Hosting Chapter	Natalie Peters, Chapter President Long Island Chapter
Meeting Rules	Sebastian Alexander, First Vice President
2025 Annual Meeting Minutes	Karimah Lynum, Secretary

Committee Reports

♦ Chaplin	Deborah Payton-Jones
♦ Nominations	Armand Belcher
♦ Constitution and Bylaws	Monica Zeno-Martin
♦ Strategic Planning - From the desk of the National Financial Secretary	Avis Payne
♦ Fundraising	Sebastian Alexander
♦ Recruitment	Stephanie Griffith-Richardson
♦ Communications	Janaya Washington

Chapter Reports

♦ Greater Baltimore	Tyrone Crosby, President
♦ New Jersey Chapter	Dale Favors, President
♦ New York Chapter	Chantell Black, President
♦ Long Island	Natalie Peters, President
♦ Massachusetts Chapter	Courtney Leonard, President
♦ Northern Virginia	Galya Futel, Vice President
♦ Philadelphia Chapter	Courtney Laws, President
♦ Washington, DC	Larry Rentz, President
♦ Tidewater Virginia	Yolanda Thomas, President

Officers' Reports

- ♦ Regional Vice President.
- ♦ First Vice President
- ♦ Second Vice President
- ♦ Treasurer
- ♦ Parliamentarian

Sharon L. Duncan
Sebastian Alexander
Stephanie Griffith-Richardon
LaTaunya Johnson
Monica Zeno-Martin

New Business
Old Business
Good and Welfare
Adjourn



2026 Northeast Region Annual Meeting Rules

A quorum shall be established at the beginning of the general body meeting.

A person must be a conference registrant and certified as an active member of the Northeast Region to be eligible to vote on matters that come before the assembly.

The names of each eligible registrant shall be announced at the beginning of the general body meeting. An updated list of eligible registrants may be announced later during the meeting.

Each person shall display a conference badge to participate in the meeting. Each person must be recognized by the presiding officer and "given the floor" prior to speaking.

Each person must address the presiding officer when speaking. The presiding officer will address the question or comment or may choose to defer to another person to reply to the question.

Each person speaking must ensure that his/her statements are concise focused, clear and brief. Each person must remain courteous and respectful towards everyone.

A matter in debate shall be heard from those members who favor the motion as well as those who oppose it. Consistent with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, debate on a motion shall not end without a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the eligible registrants or the presiding officer ascertains that each eligible registrant who wants to speak in debate has had an opportunity to do so.

A maximum of 8 minutes total will be allowed for debate on each motion. Each registrant speaking in debate is allowed up to 60 seconds to state their position.

The registrant who makes a motion may reserve the right to speak first or last in debate. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall ensure that no one enters or exits the meeting room during voting.

Anyone who wishes to record any portion of the conference must first notify the Regional Vice President of their intention. The recording of the conference will be used solely as information for the purpose of reporting back to the chapter.

Everyone must adhere to the rules set forth. Anyone violating any of these rules shall be subject to sanctions as determined by majority vote of the members assembled.



Florida A&M University National Alumni Association

Northeast Region

Northeast Regional Annual Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, August 2, 2025

Time: 9:00 am ET

Location: 61st Annual Regional Conference – August 1 – 3, 2025, Staybridge Suites, Inner Harbor, 17 Commerce St. Baltimore, MD 21202

Attendees: Sharon L. Duncan, Sebastian Alexander, Stephanie Griffith-Richardson, LaTaunya Johnson Weaver, Dr. Karimah S. Lynum, Monica Zeno-Martin, Cassie Farmer, Deborah Payton-Jones, Courtney C. Laws, Avis Payne, Tiffany Sims, Yolanda Thomas, Boris A. Hall, Tyrone Crosby, Yolanda Davis, Petita Rentz, Larry Rentz, Danzell C.H. Bussey, Chantell Black, Floyd Patterson, Lena Smalls, Damon Branch, Horace Knight, Tara B. Blackshear, Kaia Taylor, Kimani Foreman, Anthony Davis, Robert J. Warren, Anthony Davis, Akram M. Shaheed, Gayla Futel, Horace Knight, Nakiesha Stevens, Leroy Bryant, Amy Harris, Roy Bell, Henry A. Allen, Artie L. Polk, Dr. Beth Ann Harwell, James Barber Jr., De'Shauna Thornton, Stephanie A. McCorrey, and Cassandra Barnes

Meeting Called to Order at 9:25 am by Sharon L. Duncan (SD)

WELCOME – Sharon L. Duncan

- Greetings were brought and video recording by the interim President of FAMU, Timothy Beard, was replayed for the body present.

ICE BREAKER – Members went around and introduced themselves

SD provided the results of the recent Southern Region Executive Board election results – Region Vice President – Donna K. Allen, Asst. Region Vic President – Tanya Brown, Corresponding/Recording Secretary – La'Kesha W. Johnson, Treasurer – vacant, and Chaplain – vacant

INVOCATION – Deborah Payton Jones (DPJ)

OFFICERS' REPORTS

- Treasurer Report – LaTaunya Johnson-Weaver (LJW)
 - 2024- 2025 total revenue and support = \$29,975.65 (income from the annual conference, donations, assessments, and fundraisers), total expenses = \$30,466.80, ending cash balance as of June 30th \$10,615.29.
 - Avis Payne asked about the classification of having a past due assessment, but the request was delayed. LJW stated that past due is not from neglect to pay, but it is from the previous fiscal year. Suggestion to update this line item to: Previous Dues Assessments was completed.
 - Lena Smalls asked if the assessment is due every September 30th? LJW confirmed this is correct. Is it possible to share with each Chapter how much they owe now that is due September 30, 2025. LJW stated she would email this to the Chapters.
 - Damon Branch (DB) asked if we have ever thought about putting in the assessment into the annual dues? SD restated the question to see if they were asking if the assessment on an individual basis, and SD explained how the assessment is currently determined. SD confirmed

that the question has not been brought back to the floor since a past meeting in Baltimore. SD stated it could be a lot for larger Chapters such as DC.

- Cassie Farmer asked if someone could confirm address where assessments can be mailed. LJW provided the address.
- DPJ asked if LJW could confirm their previous check from Long Island Assessment Fee was paid for the next 3 years. LWJ stated the payment was up to 2023. LJW will confirm. LJW confirmed the payment of \$300 for 2025 and updated the Assessment line to reflect in the proposed budget.
- LWJ reviewed the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget for the NER for the following areas: Income – Regional Assessments (\$5400), Fundraising Events & Activities (\$7,000), Contributions and Sponsorship (\$6,500), Regional Conference (\$13,500), and Other- Bank Interest (\$1.92). Expenses – Administrative (\$3,750), Committees (\$1,420), Fundraising (\$3,000), Regional Conference (\$7,000), and Scholarships, Awards & Contributions (\$7,710) was reviewed.
- Tiffany Sims asked (1) what funds are invested for an interest at the amount shown. LWJ stated that because previous conferences were a negative, and now positive, can look into other investment opportunities. (2) Is fundraising done through a committee. SA stated that he has originated the ideas and shared that he is happy to receive help from members, if interested in joining the committee.
- Avis Payne (AP) asked if there is an estimated amount for fundraising expenses. LWJ stated it would be set at \$3,000, as depicted.
- LWJ shared that the budget for the regional conference was previously around \$12,000 and set to \$7,000 for the upcoming year, given the money was not being spent.
- Tiffany Sims asked if the \$1,500 allotted for the Region's Contributions & Campaigns - NAA Convention is set every year? LWJ, this is not set but put in a placeholder. SD confirmed that it is in a restricted fund.
- LWJ reported an expected variance of \$7,121.92.
- Patterson ask if they can get a detailed write up on regional conference? LWJ will provide this at a later date once all expenses through a conference report.
- General Roy Bell (RB) provided additional thoughts on the how the budget is set and thoughts on individual vs
- Tyrone Crosby (TC) asked if there was a past motion for the host chapter to help pay for the hotel for the regional VP to prepare for the regional conference. Is there any consideration to include that in the budget. LWJ noted this was omitted and thought it may have been \$500? DPJ committed that it should be \$1,000. SD commented that in past years, the person overseeing the conference has paid out of their money to come early. LWJ has placed in Site Assessment and added \$1,000, bringing the total to \$8,000 for the Regional Conference line item.

Motion: To accept the budget as presented and amended today by AP. 2nd by DPJ.

Vote: All Yes/ No. **Motion carries.**

- Budget for 2025 – 2026 stands at a total Income - \$27,001.92 and total disbursements of \$20,880 with a variance of \$6,121.92.
- **Action Items:**
 - LJW will update report to Previous Fiscal Year Assessment (completed)
 - LJW to email Chapters the current amount due for Assessment fee by September 30, 2025.
 - KL to attach the approved 2025 – 2026 budget in the Appendix section of minutes.

BREAK – 11:10 am

RAFFLE – 11:25 am

ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT UPDATE – Dr. Juan Alexander, Associate VP Enrollment Management

- Dr. JA provided a background on his experience and his current role.
- Discussed quick facts, application deadlines, strategic recruitment pillars
- Average SAT and ACT scores were provided, along with the First Time in College (FTIC) and FAA application values, top 10 feeder states with Florida being the top and Maryland being 5th and DC being 6th, and this is for applications only. For students admitted, Florida still at top, with DC being 3rd. JA noted that those who participate in the early action phase are those who commit, so will continue in this manner.
- The *Freshmen Admitted Profile* was presented and there will be a *Freshman Enrolled Profile* at a later date. JA stated that there will be 1500 admitted for the Fall 2026 year with only 300 spots allotted for Out-of-State (OSS) permitted
- Quick “Elevator Pitch” was shared.
- Strategic Pillars highlighted – (1) Data-Driven Targeting, (2) Brand Elevation & Messaging, which he shared that part of the highlighting of FAMUs programs of strategic emphasis and high ROI which was at least \$44K out of college (3) Digital & Hybrid Engagement, (4) Partnership & Pipeline Programs, and (5) Affordability & Financial Aid
- 10% increase in out-of-state tuition this year, and next year it will increase to 15%.
- Question/Answer Session
 - SA – Is the goal to “price out out-of-state” students with the cap at 300 students? JA responded that this is driven by the Board of Governors (BOG) and the Board thought the University was not charging enough. As they are giving us State dollars, we do not want to block out out-of-state, but the revenue does come from Out-of-state students since the tuition is higher. The goal is not to discourage out-of-state by the Institution and really from the BOG.
 - SGR – with the 10% decrease for out-of-state enrollment and reduction in admitted students, will there be additional cuts in the future? JA does not anticipate additional cuts. Held at 10,000 students at the moment from the previous ~13,000. The BOG has them at 10K students and we may be at a position to grow. Once the cap is taken off, we may have the ability to enroll more out-of-state students (OSS), as long as the balance remains constant.
 - DPJ – When was the last time an increase put in for OSS and what the amount was. The amount of 25% over 2 years seems high. JA does not have the information and will provide by this upcoming Monday.
 - Tiffany Sims – Do you have plans to work with local Chapters for the outreach to the 10th graders for recruitment. JA confirmed they will be working with the local Chapters. There will be an Alumni portal where Chapters can see where they will be. They will reach out to the Chapter Presidents in the area to inform they will be in the area and solicit support. SD informed the Body that the training video will be sent out following the meeting.
 - Avis Payne – During the recent BOG meeting there was a statement of Florida subsidizes OSS and would like to understand how that is considering OSS pay out of state fees in addition to regular fees. JA will f/u with additional information.
 - Robert Warren – shared thoughts on OSS vs in-state due to paying taxes in Florida and hoping for special consideration. The students in the state have a higher priority to taking those spots. Would like to hear a comment and remain realistic. JA agreed with the sentiments.

- Damon Branch – Would you consider the main state performance and how this factors in? JA shared drivers of recruitment strategies (1) students that can graduate in 4 years, (2) students in majors of strategic emphasis, (3) those coming to FAMU with an associate degree which counts in the graduation values
- Anthony Davis - Analytics of Freshman that have changed their major. JA stated there is data from Academic Affairs but can provide information at a later date. The career assessment that is performed helps to match what they applied for vs what they may actually be good at. This information goes to the Academic advisor and has the conversation with the student. It does not always result in a change in the major for the student.
- Danzell Bussey – Agreed that FL student should have the ability to be admitted. He shared that coming from Washington DC, he was admitted in a special case. Noted that recruitment has slowed up, what strategy do you support or work with us to work to make sure the DC students have the support? JA stated that he thinks the DMV is a marketable area due to the military, which have tended to do well, the businesses in the area, and the school partnerships. Would need to look at the data of the high schools recruited previously and look at those who have graduated and focus on those high schools. He stated that he does not think they should move away from the DMV area.
- Larry Rentz – Is the 10K cap for undergrad and grad? JA confirmed this is total enrollment. How is the 10% value determined? JA this is based on the enrollment by BOG based on conversation on the OSS being enrolled and was told they needed to scale back. What do they think the negative implications of scaling back? JA stated that (1) is the budget. These are the students that pay the bills. (2) Selectivity or who you take. The competition standpoint, that level is going to increase, since only a number of slots. This is why the student experience and value proposition will be a focus.
- Tyrone Crosby – Alumni recruiter assessment, when will this be released? JA stated this information was previously sent out to the National President. Unsure of when this will be distributed to the Chapters. Regarding the deadlines for applications falling on Saturdays, will you allow students to the Monday after? JA stated “absolutely”.
- De’Shauna Thornton - Current retention rate for last school year and freshman class for last year? JA provided the following response - 90% for freshmen but will need to get retention rate for all students from Academic Affairs. How about OSS? JA to f/u. Would also like this information for Upper classmen/freshmen, as well.
- SGR – Will there be retooling to financial aid and student support systems? Challenges Alumni are having with getting scholarships to student accounts in a timely fashion? JA stated they are evaluating their financial aid processes by an external group (FA Services). JA shared some of the small adjustments made since his arrival, including opening FA office from 8 am – 5pm and ensuring the right people are in the right place. Can we schedule a mtg to share experiences and expectations from the Alumni. JA asked to send an email to set up the call.
- James Barber Jr – Will you be able to send what majors are the majors of interest? Who makes the decision about what majors are outlined? JA can provide the list. A lot of these decisions are driven by the BOG. JA provided the link in the chat. 2nd VP to send out to the Chapters.
- General Dr. Roy Bell – From an operational standpoint, will you elaborate on the Save Our Student Fund? Flow of funds for students accepted and enrolled and how the timespan is affected by Drop and Add. The process by which Alumni get the money to the student before the student is dropped. JA will need to look into the Save Our Student fund, as he is unaware. Funds distributed from Chapters, he will need to find out who the new person over scholarships will be, so it can be sent directly to that person.

- Avis Payne – stated that there is a gap/break in communication with the inability to trace the checks that are sent from the Chapters. AP gave an overview of the current process. There is no way to trace from the Foundation with no communication on where the money is and posted to the student's account. They are often accessed late fees since funds are not added until after Add/Drop. JA thanked for providing this insight and will f/u on how we can handle this moving forward.
- **Action Items** –
 - SD will send out the training video following the meeting to the local Chapters
 - SGR encouraged to send an email to JA to schedule a meeting to share experience and thoughts around recruitment.
 - SGR to provide list of Majors of Interest to local Chapters as provided by JA in link.
 - Karimah Lynum to share slides from presentation in the Appendix section.
 - JA to provide the following:
 - Time period of last increase for OSS and the amount.
 - Data on Freshmen students who have changed their major.
 - Data of the high schools recruited previously in the Washington, DC area and look at those who have graduated and focus on those high schools as a means of focus recruitment in the future. Information not due back to the NER body.
 - Retention rate for all students over the last year from Academic Affairs
 - Research Save Our Students Fund. Information not due back to the NER body.
 - Share plans to improve process of scholarship money sent from local Alumni Chapters for students for a more outlined process that does not contribute to possible late fees to students and a better way to track the process of checks sent.
 - How does the State of Florida subsidize OSS and considering OSS pay out of state fees in addition to regular fees?

LUNCH (12:48 pm) – Blessing of the food by Deborah Payton-Jones, Chaplain

RAFFLE

AWARDS CEREMONY – Lena Smalls and Stephanie Griffith-Richardson

- Chapter Appreciation Medal
 - Washington DC Chapter – 11 recipients – Yolanda Davis, Danzell Bussey, Stephanie Griffith-Richardson, Jeremy Green, Jessica Bullard, Asia McFarland, Dr. Willita Hawkins, Della Purefoy, Brenda Cole, Dr. Melissa Wilson
 - Tidewater Chapter – Yolanda Thomas and Boris Hall
 - Philadelphia Chapter – 2 recipients – Mackenzie Permit and Monica Bailey
 - Northern Virginia Chapter – 4 recipients including Janaya Washington, Kyndra Middleton, Robin Robinson, and Dr. Regina Boateng
 - New Jersey Chapter – Nikia Sharp
 - Greater Baltimore Chapter – 2 recipients, including Tyrone Crosby and Amy Harris
- Northeast Region Award – Janaya Washington
- Herman J. Davis, Jr. Award – LaTaunya Johnson-Weaver
- LS stated there was not a Chapter of the Year Award this year due to the lack of submissions. Please be ready for the 2026 Annual Conference.

SPECIAL RAFFLE – Sebastian Alexander

- Complimentary Regional Meeting awarded to Deborah Payton-Jones

MEMBERSHIP BEST PRACTICES PANEL – Tyrone Crosby, Greater Baltimore President, Larry Rentz, Washington D.C. President, Denzell Bussey, NER Chair of Membership

- Tyrone Crosby shared how the annual cookout has become one of their largest effective methods to get members. While you have an event and their focus, get them to pay. Challenged by social media in the past but has a new person that oversees this has helped a lot. Chapter has moved away from a standard welcome of new members. State tags are also a good way to pull in new members. With the question around creating diverse events, they think about events not only from age perspective but also family situation. They think about family fun events. In an effort to have young alumni to participate, they are working to get their name out in the public.
- Larry Rentz agreed that doing the bulk upload was an advantage. They are experiencing some challenges with the new system. Working to bridge the group of people who still like to write a check with a plan to get the checks and use the debt card account and pay the membership dues online for the person. This is available today. Utilizing social events and using the QR code that goes to the National Website to pay on the spot. They have also moved away from welcoming new members, but they do have a monthly newsletter that they are able to highlight this. Shared that the system they use Constant Contact. Given there are 12 months in a year, they ensure that they have something for everyone. Shared that a way to get young alumni involved, give them guidance and don't stifle them but provide a nurturing spirit and support. Keep your meetings short and to the point with proper preparation in the beginning. They also offer hybrid meetings for in-person and online participation. Mentioned that we really need a presence on campus from the Alumni Association instead of being off campus.
- Danzell Bussey suggested speaking to other Rattlers to understand how to move forward. Who should we connect you with in order to increase the membership. Biggest question young alumni ask is what do I get for joining? He recommended that everyone gets a personalized item when joining. Develop links directly to where you want them to go. Events planned are scheduled so you can know what time to bring certain groups including seasoned saints and kids. In an attempt to have the young alumni feel welcomed, have the seasoned saints identify where that person belongs (i.e. smaller committee). Shared that we can target the FAMU organization President that focus on locations such as the Northeast club to bridge the gap.
- Questions/Comments:
 - Avis Payne shared that the National Alumni Association (NAA) is working on a resolution to the issue with bulk membership which will include Chapters receiving written authorization allowing them to access their accounts on the Rattler behalf that will allow you to go in and pay their dues on their behalf.
 - DPJ suggested that each of the Chapters go through list and compare to system which will be helpful in cleaning up the list.
 - Damon Branch – For life members who pay the Chapter and then we send the receipt, will this still be processed in the same way? Is there a mechanism to say this person paid us directly and then on the National level, notify so the system can be uploaded? Avis Payton said there is a way, but will need to verify if this will continue. DPJ stated that this is why preference is to go directly to the Nationals, b/c this information is immediately updated. SD suggested that everyone should go online until this is resolved.
 - Damon Branch asked that with Constant contact, things will go to Spam folder. LR shared that they have that as a challenge, and they do advise people t go to Spam folder. TC shared he has the same experience with Mail Chimp. DB advised to take off of "Advertisement" and think about what you title the email in the subject line.

- Gen. Roy Bell asked why is the desired route from the individual to Nationals? AP responded there is no legal requirement, but it is the preferred method due to time delays when paying the Chapter.
- SA shared that when it comes getting young alumni involved, we should think about engaging the current students through their matriculation.
- AP and SD reminded the body that the 1st year is free for recent graduates with a discounted opportunity for life membership in the amount of \$500.
- Tara suggested getting the University conditioned to speak about the Alumni Association to all students and not waiting until graduation.
 - Artie L. Polk – shared that Artisha Polk spoke to the benefits of recent graduates during the graduation ceremony on Friday, August 1st. Artie Polk committed that he would share this message with the National President so that this can be socialized throughout their time at FAMU.
- SA suggested hosting a small event on campus during homecoming from the Northeast Region. SD shared that we could target for the future but can have additional conversations. Robert Warren shared that it may be too difficult to target homecoming but may want to consider another time frame. RW did add that utilizing the faculty. Tyrone Crosby spoke to looking at the Thanksgiving time period and sponsor a dinner. LJW shared the idea of providing gift cards during homecoming and they will show up and pick up.
- **Action Items:**
 - SD charged the Chapters that within these first 60 days of the fiscal year and go back and verify email/contact information for members.
 - SD will pull back up the bounce back report so the Chapters can target those individuals.
 - SD suggested members log into the system and update their information as an alternative to the Chapters checking the emails.
 - AP will share the process of Chapters accepting payment for Lifetime members at a later date.

BREAK (3:30 pm)

RAFFLE

DR. HUMPHRIES VIDEO RECAP (4:05 pm) – Previous video featuring Dr. Frederick Humphries was shared with the body.

FAMU GIVING – Sebastian Alexander

- Chapters and individuals pledged various amounts to the Northeast region during the fundraising portion of this meeting. The grand total pledged - \$8,775 (\$1,250 more than last year)

CHAPTER PHOTOS

FALLEN RATTLER CEREMONY – Deborah Payton-Jones

- Preston Gayaway Class of 1976
- Thelma Patricia Kitchen Hannon, Class of 1972
- Earnest R. Devoe, Washington DC, Class of 1959
- Barbara Love, Washington DC, Class of 1969

FUTURE CONFERENCE PREVIEW – Deborah Payton Jones

- DPJ shared sentiments on the excitement in the future planning by the Long Island Chapter as the host of the 62nd Annual Northeast Regional Conference Annual Meeting

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- General Bell recommended that we consider reinstating the Matching Fund Program that can be directed to the scholarship.

CLOSING COMMENTS –

- Sebastian Alexander, Annual Northeast Regional Conference Annual Meeting Chair
- Avis Payne, Greater Baltimore Chapter
- Sharon L. Duncan, Regional Vice President

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm by Sharon L. Duncan

APPENDIX

A. Admissions & Recruitment Update Slides

Freshmen Admitted Profile

Fall 2025

Middle 50% Weighted Core GPA: 3.69 - 4.24

Middle 50% SAT: 1080 - 1230

Middle 50% ACT: 22 – 27

Middle 50% CLT: 61-73

Top Areas of Study

Pre-Med

Nursing

Business

Psychology

Computer Science

Mechanical Engineering

Strike, Strike, and **Strike Again!**



These middle 50% ranges show where our admitted students fall academically. They are not cut-off requirements, but rather a snapshot of our most competitive cohort.

Why We Share Middle 50% Ranges

- Emphasizes that admission is about more than just meeting a minimum.
- Helps students gauge where they stand relative to our typical admit pool.
- Students below the range know where to focus— GPA, academic performance trends, and/or course rigor.

Talking Points & Sample Responses

- “What GPA do I need?”
 - Rather than a fixed minimum, our middle 50% GPA is 3.69 to 4.24. Students within that range represent the core of our admitted class. We review academic performance trends, academic rigor, intended major, so even if your GPA is a bit below 3.69, strength in other areas are taken into consideration.
- “Do I have to get at least a 1080 on the SAT?”
 - No, a 1080 is not a minimum requirement. However, it falls within the middle 50% range (1080–1230) of students we admitted last year. Our review process considers your GPA, intended major, academic performance trends, and course rigor—so students with scores below 1080 may still be admitted based on the strength of their overall application.

Strike, Strike, and **Strike Again!**



Application Deadlines

New Transfer

Fall Application Deadline: June 15

Spring Application Deadline: November 1

Summer A or Summer C Application Deadline: March 1

NOTE: Summer B is not available for new transfer students.

Strike, Strike, and Strike Again!



- “Is a 20 ACT too low?”
 - “The middle 50% ACT is 22 to 27, so a 20 would be slightly below that band. We’d recommend retesting if you can—but remember, GPA, intended major, academic performance trends, and course rigor matter too.”

Do's & Don'ts



Do

Frame ranges as illustrative, not cut-offs.

Remind students of our review process— GPA, intended major, academic performance trends, and course rigor. Encourage students below a range to strengthen other parts of their application.



Don't

Quote ranges as “requirements” or “guarantees.”

Discourage students who fall outside the 25th–75th

band—highlight alternative strengths. Get overly technical about percentiles; keep it conversational.

Strike, Strike, and Strike Again!



Application Deadlines

New Freshmen (Summer B and Fall)

Early Action Application Deadline: November 1

Early Action Supporting Documents Deadline: November 14

Decision Release Date: December 12

Regular Decision Application Deadline: February 1

Regular Decision Supporting Documents Deadline: February 14

Regular Decision Release Date: March 12

Rolling Admission Application and Document Deadline: May 1

Rolling Admission Decision Release: Beginning in April

NOTE: Summer B is only for freshmen (FL Residents only) with less than 15 earned dual enrollment credits.

Strike, Strike, and Strike Again!



Strategic Pillars

1. Data-Driven Targeting

- Leverage predictive analytics to identify feeder schools and regions with strong potential.
- Focus on top-producing (Magnet schools, state grade, bright futures, etc.) high schools across Florida, Georgia, Texas, and the Northeast (DMV area).

2. Brand Elevation & Messaging

- Highlight FAMU's programs of strategic emphasis (business, engineering, nursing, education and other STEM related majors) and high ROI.
- Showcase student success stories, career outcomes, and alumni impact via digital campaigns.
- Emphasize FAMU's status as the number 1 public HBCU and its value-driven education.

3. Digital & Hybrid Engagement

- Launch interactive virtual tours, personalized microsites, and AI-powered chat for prospective students.
- Host virtual "Rattler Ready" series and webinars with current students and faculty.
- Partner with influencers and alumni to create shareable content on YouTube, and Instagram.

Strike, Strike, and Strike Again!



15

Quick "Elevator Pitch"

"At FAMU, we provide the middle 50% academic profile of admitted students to help you understand where most of our students fall: a weighted core GPA between 3.69 and 4.24, SAT scores between 1080 and 1230, ACT scores between 22 and 27, and CLT scores between 61-73. These ranges are not minimums or cut-offs—they simply reflect the academic performance of many of our competitive applicants. Our review process takes into consideration academic performance over time, course rigor, weighted core GPA, and your intended major. So even if you fall below the range in one area, strengthening other parts of your application can still position you for a strong review

Strike, Strike, and Strike Again!



Strategic Pillars Cont.

4. Partnership & Pipeline Programs

- Strengthen dual-enrollment and articulation agreements with Florida high schools and community colleges.
- Expand school and community partnerships and programs for first-gen and at risk students.
- Build corporate partnerships for STEM and pre-professional pathways

5. Affordability & Financial Aid

- Promote FAMU's affordability and scholarship offerings more aggressively.
- Simplify the FAFSA and scholarship application process.
- Implement targeted aid packages based on academic merit and financial need.

Strike, Strike, and Strike Again!



16

B. Approved NER Budget 2025 – 2026

	A	B	C	D
1	ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025/2026 BUDGET	2025/2026 BUDGET ACTUAL INCOME and EXPENSE
2	1000	INCOME - REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS		
3	1010	Greater Baltimore - 2024-2025	\$ 300.00	
4	1020	Long Island Rattlers - 2024-2025	\$ 300.00	
5	1030	Massachusetts 2024-2025	\$ 300.00	
6	1040	New Jersey 2024-2025	\$ 350.00	
7	1050	New York 2024-2025	\$ 300.00	
8	1060	Northern Virginia (NOVA) 2024-2025	\$ 300.00	
9	1070	Philadelphia 2024-2025	\$ 300.00	
10	1080	Tidewater Virginia 2024-2025	\$ 300.00	
11	1090	Washington DC Metro 2024-2025	\$ 550.00	
12	1095	2023-2024 Previous Due Assessments 2024-2025	\$ 2,400.00	
13		Subtotal	\$ 5,400.00	\$ -
14				
15	2000	INCOME - FUNDRAISING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES		
16	2010	Fundraising Activities - Online Store		
17	2020	Fundraising Activities - NER Scholarship	\$ 5,000.00	
18	2030	Fundraising Activities - Lifestyle Interruption	\$ -	
19	2040	Fundraising Activities - NER	\$ 2,000.00	
20		Subtotal	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
21				
22	3000	INCOME - CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIP		
23	3010	Contributions - University	\$ -	
24	3020	Contributions - Founders Day	\$ -	
25	3030	Contributions - NER Scholarship	\$ 5,000.00	
26	3040	Contributions/Sponsorship - NER	\$ 1,500.00	
27	3050	Contributions - Other	\$ -	
28		Subtotal	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -
29				
30	4000	INCOME - REGIONAL CONFERENCE		
31	4010	Registration & Tickets	\$ 12,000.00	
32	4020	Sponsorship, Ads, Vendors, Donations	\$ 1,500.00	

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1	COMMENTS
2	
3	2024-2025
4	Paid July 2024
5	2024-2025
6	2024-2025
7	2024-2025
8	2024-2025
9	2024-2025
10	2024-2025
11	2024-2025
12	All Chapters 2023-2024 & DC from 2022-2023
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	A	B	C	D
33	4030	Region Sponsorship Scholarship Allocation	\$ -	
34	4040	Registrations - Next Conference		
35		Subtotal	\$ 13,500.00	\$ -
36				
37	5000	INCOME - OTHER		
38	5010	Bank Interest	\$ 1.92	
39	5020	Other		
40		Subtotal	\$ 1.92	\$ -
41				
42		TOTAL INCOME	\$ 27,001.92	\$ -
43				
44	11000	EXPENSE - ADMINISTRATIVE		
45	11010	Printing	\$ 300.00	
46	11020	Mailings	\$ -	
47	11030	Advertising	\$ 500.00	
48	11040	Other - Administrative Items	\$ 250.00	
49	11050	Hospitality and Entertainment	\$ -	
50	11060	National Meeting - Registration	\$ 1,200.00	
51	11070	Regional Meeting - Reg. & Travel		
52	11080	Insurance	\$ 1,000.00	
53	11090	PO Box	\$ 250.00	
54	11100	Virtual Meeting Services - Zoom	\$ 250.00	
55		Subtotal	\$ 3,750.00	\$ -
56				
57	11500	EXPENSE - COMMITTEES		
58	11510	All Committees (except Fundraising and Communications)	\$ 500.00	
59	11515	Communications - Mail Chimp	\$ 360.00	
60	11520	Communications - Graphic Design	\$ 120.00	
61	11530	Communications - Social Media Ads	\$ 120.00	
62	11540	Awards	\$ 320.00	
63	11550	Subtotal	\$ 1,420.00	
64				
65	12000	FUNDRAISING		
66	12010	Fundraising Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	
67		Subtotal-Fundraising	\$ 3,000.00	
68				
69	12200	REGIONAL CONFERENCE		
70	12210	Conference Hotel Charges		
71	12220	Conference Expenses	\$ 6,000.00	
72	12225	Site Assessment	\$ 1,000.00	

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39	Miscellaneous income not a specifically defined line item
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46	Stamps and mail tracking
47	2026 NAA Convention Ad, Ad design, other
48	Website
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50	2026 NAA Meeting - 2 representatives @ \$600 each
51	
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71	Regional Conference Planning/Site Assessment/Catering
72	

	A	B	C	D
73	12230	University President Travel Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	
74	12240	Hotel Deposit - Next Conference	\$ -	
75		Subtotal	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
76				
77	13000	SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & CONTRIBUTIONS		
78	13010	University Contributions	\$ 1,110.00	
79	13020	Region Scholarships & Book Awards	\$ 3,000.00	
80	13030	Founders Day Scholarship	\$ -	
81	13040	Region's Contributions & Campaigns - NAA Conv.	\$ 1,500.00	
82	13050	Region's University Contribution - NER Conf.	\$ 1,500.00	
83	13060	Other Contributions	\$ 600.00	
84		Subtotal	\$ 7,710.00	\$ -
85				
86		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 20,880.00	\$ -
87				
88				
89				
90		TOTAL DIFFERENCE	\$ 6,121.92	\$ -
91				
97	Comments	Prepared on July 25, 2025 by NER Treasurer, LaTaunya C Johnson-Weaver		
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81	2026 NAA Convention Donation
82	2026 NER Conference Donation
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