



REA NEWS

Newsletter of the UWF Retired Employees Association • Vol. 11, No. 1, Feb. 2022

Save the Date!

Monday, March 14

**Afternoon Social
& Spring Business Meeting
UWF Conference Center
Time: 2 p.m.**



Wednesday, March 16

**Leisure Learning Excursion
Bellingrath Gardens—Vibrant
Azaleas**

**Time: 9:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.,
Cost: \$75 per person**

Registration closes on Feb. 18

**Included: Round trip motor coach
transportation, lunch at Bellingrath,
and Bellingrath Gardens tour
Further information: uwf.edu/**



Saturday, April 23

**Outdoor REA Social
UWF Baseball Doubleheader
UWF vs. Valdosta State**

Time: 1 p.m.

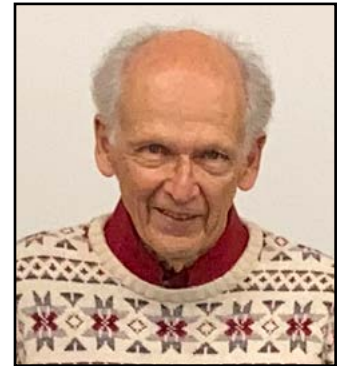
**Left Field Party Deck reserved for
UWF REA members**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT... CARL BACKMAN

“Light precedes every transition. Whether at the end of a tunnel, through a crack in the door or the flash of an idea, it is always there, heralding a new beginning.”

—Teresa Tsalaky, *The Transition Witness*

With the appearance of light at the end of the COVID tunnel, the partial opening of a door as evidenced by our well attended 2021 holiday social and business meeting, and an idea for sustaining the future of the UWF that resonated well with the REA board and the University administration, we can look forward to a re-start, if not a new beginning for the REA in 2022. Following very fruitful conversations with President Martha Saunders, Provost George Ellenberg, and Vice President Howard Reddy about the importance of the UWF REA to the University community, Dr. Howard has invited the UWF REA to become an entity within the Division of Advancement. Accepting this invitation means the REA will have an official home within the University, access to support not otherwise available, assurance of the continuity of the organization, and, most important for REA members, more opportunities for retirees to maintain connections with treasured colleagues. The board is in the process of working out the details of this transition and will present a plan to the REA membership later this semester.



In this issue of the REA newsletter, in addition to highlighting the October Dutch-treat luncheon and the December social/business meeting, there are two new features: “Meet Your Board” and “Spotlight on Members.” The inaugural “Spotlight” article has been prepared by Connie Fleming in which she shares her thoughts on “what it’s like to go to the dogs after retirement.” We would very much like to use the “Spotlight” feature to highlight post-retirement activities of REA members. We hope you will consider submitting an article about what you are doing with all this “free time” you have now that work doesn’t consume the better part of your day.

When we ask members what kind of activities/events they would like the REA to hold, we consistently hear that they want time to interact with those in attendance; i.e., don’t fill up the time with speakers; leave plenty of time for mixing, mingling and conversation. Another concern we hear is holding events in the evening, thus requiring driving in the dark—which is very difficult for many of us older retirees. As we plan events, we will give priority to daytime events with opportunity for mixing and mingling. Through the REA newsletter and e-mails, we will keep you posted on REA and University events, activities and opportunities in which you might wish to participate.

We invite you to contact board members with your ideas and suggestions for making participation in the REA more meaningful to the University’s retirees.

—Carl Backman, *President, UWF REA*

Meet the REA Board

CARL BACKMAN, President (cbackman@uwf.edu)

DATES OF SERVICE AT UWF: Sept. 1969–Jan..2016

POSITIONS AT UWF

- Faculty member, Elementary Education
- Chair, Department of Elementary & Secondary Education: Curriculum & Foundations

• Dean, College of Education

• Vice Provost/Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

• Professor Emeritus, Teacher Education

• College of Business, Associate Dean

Experiences prior to UWF

• Mathematics teacher, Central Junior High School, Quincy, Mass.

• Adjunct instructor, Syracuse University, College of Education

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

• Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Division of Colleges and Universities, Florida Board of Education (“on loan” from UWF from July 1999 to June 2001)

POST RETIREMENT ACTIVITIES/INTERESTS

- Visiting with family
- Family history research
- Travel
- Picture taking (as opposed to photography)
- Reading, especially mysteries
- Crossword puzzles
- Yard/garden maintenance

WHERE BORN AND RAISED

- Born and raised in Quincy, Mass.
- Son of Carl P. Backman and Hilda L. (Fogelberg) Backman Family:
- Married to Ingrid M. (Håkansson) Backman (on July 4,

1964, in Sunne, Värmland, Sweden)

- Three daughters, 10 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren

OTHER INFO YOU THINK REA MEMBERS MIGHT FIND INTERESTING

• First-generation college graduate (Northeastern University, B.S.Ed. and M.Ed. and Syracuse University, Ph.D.)

- Currently serves as the assistant executive secretary and

assistant clerk for the Pensacola Florida Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- Member of the Rotary Club of Pensacola-Cordova

ANNA SHIPLEE, Immediate Past President

(ashiplee@gmail.com)

Greetings! I am Anna Shiplee and I am a Pensacola native who went to school through high school in Pensacola. I moved to Tallahassee after graduation where I spent the next 18 years. After receiving my master’s degree, I worked at FSU 11 years in various academic/

student-related positions. A wonderful opportunity at UWF became available and I moved back to my hometown in 1988. My tenure at UWF spanned over 26 years throughout which time I was mainly involved in working with students. My various positions included implementing an automated student degree audit system (my first position at UWF), international admissions (graduate and undergraduate), the first student-athlete academic advisor and the last years were spent in the University Advising Center, advising students and coordinating and teaching the Freshman Seminar. I retired as the associate director in 2015.

Retirement has afforded me the time to explore new hobbies, such as golf, and spend more time honing my skills rehabbing furniture, making jewelry and other artistic

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Pat, Connie, Anna, Carl, Jacqui, Bill, Rohan

Meet the REA Board (continued)

endeavors. I also enjoy gardening especially growing herbs. Travel and spending time with family and friends are also added benefits. I have one daughter who is married to an Army Officer. They are both alums of UWF.

I joined the REA in 2016. The last three years I have been actively involved as a member of the REA Board and I am currently in the past-president position. I look forward to continued activities with the REA and interaction with former colleagues.

WILLIAM HEALEY, VICE PRESIDENT (whealey@uwf.edu)

DATES OF SERVICE AT UWF: 1972-2019

POSITIONS HELD AT UWF:

- Assistant Dean Student Affairs (Director of Recreation)
- Executive Director of Student Life (Athletics, Student Activities, Recreation & Wellness)

ACADEMICS: BS University of Central Missouri, MS University of Illinois

POST-RETIREMENT ACTIVITIES

- Travel
- Golf
- UWF Argonaut Athletic Club.

WHERE BORN AND RAISED: Springfield, Mass.

FAMILY: Two Daughters—Rachel and Mary, both UWF graduates

OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO REA MEMBERS:

- Administrator for Athletics '80, '83, '08 '09
- Facility development: Aquatic Center, East Sports complex (Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Track), HLS Facility
- Healey endowed scholarship supports the annual Healey Leadership Award. Established by Alumni and Friends, 2002
- Served on national Board of Directors for NIRSA and the NIRSA Foundation Board, President Pensacola Sports '09, Volleyball Pensacola/Waves Volleyball; coach, director, board member
- William Healey Consulting

PAT WENTZ, SECRETARY (pwentz@uwf.edu)

DATES OF SERVICE AT UWF: 1972-Present

UWF POSITIONS:

- Professor, Teacher Education and Educational Leadership, 2022
- Professor and Assistant Chair, Educational Research and Administration, 2019-2021
- Professor, Department of Educational Research and

Administration, 1999-2021

- Director, Florida Office, Southern Association of Colleges & Schools/AdvancED (1-12), March 1998-December 2018
- Interim Chair, Department of Research and Advanced Studies, 2014-2015
- Director, Educational Research and Development Center and Professor, Educational Leadership, 1995-1998
- Chair, Division of Professional Studies, Foundations and Technology, 1991-1995
- Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, 1990-1991
- Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Sept. 1988-Aug. 1990
- Dean, College of Education, Jan. 1987-Sept. 1988
- Interim Dean, College of Education, 1986-Jan. 1987
- Associate Dean and Director, Office of Teacher Education Student Services, 1982-1986
- Director of Teacher Certification and Field Experiences, 1980-1982
- Director of Clinical Studies, 1975-1980
- Assistant Director of Clinical Studies, 1974-1975
- Assistant Director of Student Teaching, 1972-1974
- Director of Pre-Student Teaching Field Experiences, 1972

PRIOR TO UWF:

High school guidance counselor, high school English and U.S. history teacher, junior high English and social studies teacher, junior high librarian, state news desk reporter for the News and Observer (Raleigh, N.C.) and two years as librarian at NC State University.

FAMILY: Married to Dr. Charlie Wentz (now deceased) for 65 years.

STATES I HAVE LIVED IN: N.C., S.C., Ga., Mo., Texas, and Fla.

ACADEMICS: Graduate of East Carolina University (B.S., M.A.) and Texas A&M University (Ph.D.).

JACQUI BERGER, TREASURER (mmagma@hotmail.com)

NAME: Jacqueline “Jacqui” Berger

DATE OF SERVICE AT UWF: Aug. 19, 1972-March 31, 2009 (OPS Staff from 8/1-18/1972)

POSITIONS AT UWF: Various positions in the Controller’s Office and then assistant director and eventually director of Institutional Research in the Department of University Planning

POST RETIREMENT ACTIVITIES/INTERESTS: Have completed all Core Courses of the Florida Master Naturalist Program and most of the “Special topic” courses. Am a member of the Francis Weston Audubon Society,

Meet the REA Board (continued)

participating in birding hikes. Also a member of the Pensacola Historic Preservation Society. Continue to have and act on the travel bug.

WHERE BORN AND RAISED: Moved to Pensacola at age 4. Spent summers until I entered college primarily in New England visiting relatives.

FAMILY: Bob (husband)

OTHER INFO YOU THINK REA MEMBERS MIGHT FIND INTERESTING:

Bob is a major contributor of fish (primarily mullet) for the animals at the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida.

CONNIE FLEMING, DIRECTOR (conniefleming@cox.net)

NAME: Constance (Connie) Ruth Fleming (Fleming with one "M")

DATE OF SERVICE AT UWF: 1998 – 2006 (I know, not very long...wish I had found UWF sooner. Thanks to Connie Marse for advising me of the opening in the Business Office. And thanks to Mr. Tom Henderson who hired me even though I didn't know how to bake a cake.)

POSITION AT UWF: Accounting coordinator in the Business Office

EXPERIENCES PRIOR TO UWF: After attending PJC for 1 ½ years, I enlisted in the Air Force. After a year as an instructor in the Basic Training Squadron at Lackland AFB, Texas, I was accepted into the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program. I was assigned to Syracuse University, majoring in Business Administration and upon graduation attended Officer Training School (OTS) in San Antonio, Texas, where I received my commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. Throughout my career I worked as a deputy finance officer, a WAF Squadron Commander, detachment commander in the AF Reserve Recruiting Group, Admin Officer, Command Post Officer and Senior Reservist at Eglin Air Force Base. After leaving active duty, I worked short tours of duty at Eglin AFB and Andrews AFB. One of my proudest accomplishments was earning a Private Pilot's license and making numerous solo flights in and around New York state and Wisconsin. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

After AF retirement, I worked as an accountant for the City of Pensacola; as accounting coordinator for Vacation Clubs International; then as a travel agent for Cordova Travel here in Pensacola before coming to the University of West Florida. I retired from UWF in June 2006.

POST RETIREMENT ACTIVITIES: I have had dogs all my life and after I retired, I was able to devote as much time as I wanted to the dogs. The pups and I took part in obedience and agility competitions as well as dabbling in such activities as lure coursing, barn hunting, herding, tricks and free-style dancing. In addition, we continued our work with the Caring Canines, visiting nursing homes, retirement homes, schools and special events. Five years ago, I was contacted by the Pensacola Airport and asked to assist in starting and coordinating the Pensacola PUP Patrol, ie., "Pups Unstressing Passengers." That ongoing program has been a delight to all.

My second passion is photography. Over the years, my pups have been the major subject of my efforts which have left me with many happy memories of the 10 pups who have shared my life since 1965.

Third, I enjoy writing poetry, as the inspiration grabs me. Occasionally I also write alternate lyrics to previously written music. (My "Copacabana" isn't about Lola – it's about Connor and other agility dogs.) My unofficial collection has been dubbed "My Musings in and around the Galaxy" and includes poetry, free-verse, song lyrics and, here and there a photo.

WHERE BORN AND RAISED: I was born in Johnson City, N.Y. My dad was a field service engineer for Link Aviation, so we did a lot of traveling all over the country. Once it was time for me to start school, Dad asked for a permanent assignment, and it was then Pensacola became my home. I was told once that I was a genuine "Damn Yankee" since the term applies to Yankees that come South...and stay! Not counting the years I spent in the Air Force, Pensacola has been my home since 1947.

FAMILY: Sadly, I've had to say "Good-bye" to my mom, dad and brother, Paul. They are greatly missed. Most of my other living relatives are still in the New York area (upstate not the city). I do have a niece just north of Atlanta, who I love dearly. Otherwise, the many friends I've made here in Pensacola are like family. Of course, my close family, and the joy of my heart, are my two shelties, Connor (9 years) and Kira (2 years), both Shetland Sheepdogs. They follow in the pawprints of their predecessors Sabre, Libbee Lee, Chelsea, Sam, Chrissy, Kaitlyn, Trip and Morgan...all waiting at the Bridge.

IN CASE YOU ARE INTERESTED: Okay, I admit it...I'm a long-time Trekkie. Met "Capt Kirk" for the first time in 1974 in New York at his very first convention. Met Leonard Nimoy backstage after his performance in Atlanta playing

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Meet the REA Board (continued)

the lead in “Fiddler on the Roof.” Met Scotty and Dr/ McCoy at another convention in Atlanta. Now, since the 50th Anniversary of Star Trek in 2016, and thanks to Creation Las Vegas and Pensacon, I’ve met practically every major character that appeared in all the incarnations of the Show. Ah, Starfleet...”Beam me up, Scotty, there’s no intelligent life here...”

CONCLUSION: I know, “finally,” right? Well, I just wanted to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent at UWF. While it was fairly short, it was extremely enjoyable. The people in

the business office where I worked were like family, caring and supportive. One of the reasons I enjoy serving on the REA Board is because it keeps me connected with one of my favorite places: The University of West Florida.

ROHAN HEMASINHA, DIRECTOR (rhemasin@uwf.edu)

DATES OF SERVICE AT UWF: Aug. 1986–May 2020

POSITIONS: Professor, Department of Mathematics

POST-RETIREMENT ACTIVITIES:

- Reading (interested in railways and aviation, and their histories)
- Continued involvement in doing mathematics

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

~Thucydides

Walter Kenneth Rutledge, Finance and Accounting,
Oct. 19, 2019

Frances Dunham, Psychology, Dec. 25, 2019

Sharon Cobb, Professional Studies, Feb. 2, 2020

William “Bill” Halpern, Chemistry, Feb. 10, 2020

Glen Edward Rohrer, Justice Studies & Social Work,
Feb. 26, 2020

David Doerrler, University Library, April 9, 2020

Jean Sprague, April 26, 2020

R. Daniel Pace, Accounting & Finance, May 15, 2020

Amir Karimi, Communication Arts, June 20, 2020

David Timberlake, UWF Foundation, June 27, 2020

Ronald Evans, English & Foreign Languages, July 18, 2020

James Miklovich, History, Aug. 17, 2020

Charlie Wentz, Construction Management, Aug. 18, 2020

Deborah Tripp, University Advancement, Sept. 27, 2020

Susan Metzger, Computer Science, Nov. 1, 2020

Priscilla Myers, Professional Studies, Jan. 12, 2021

Liston Eugene “Gene” Baldwin, Management,
March 28, 2021

Allen Frank, Accounting, June 6, 2021

Evelyn Gross, Academic Affairs, Aug. 16, 2021

Lynn Lauderdale, Music, Sept. 29, 2021

William Henry “Bill” Griffin, Ed. Research and
Development, Oct. 10, 2021

Laura White, Computer Science, Oct. 30, 2021

Dr. Algirt “Mike” Michael Yots, English, Dec. 3, 2021

Evelyn Davis, Business Ed., Dec. 4, 2021

SPOUSES:

Robert “Bob” Stanny, husband of Claudia Stanny,
Oct. 16, 2019

Eleanor Novosed, wife of Bob Novosed, Feb. 2, 2020

Nancy Biasco, wife of Frank Biasco, May 27, 2020



Spotlight on Members—Connie Fleming

What It's Like to Retire and Go to the Dogs

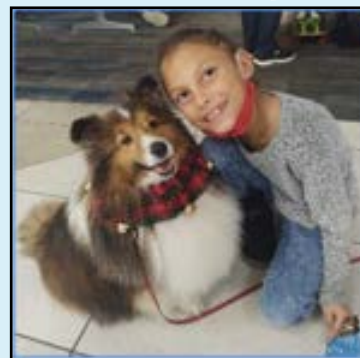
I can't remember a time in my life when I didn't have a dog...or two, and at one point, three. Even during my time in the Air Force, I shared my life with a wonderful pup for almost 18 years. It was after I left the Air Force that I got my first Shetland Sheepdog (sheltie) and that has been my breed of choice ever since. It was my first sheltie that led me to share more than just an "owner-pet" relationship with my canine companions. Over the years, we began getting involved with canine sports competitions like obedience, agility, lure coursing, barn hunting, herding, etc. My sweet shelties led me into school programs to teach Responsible Pet Ownership, into nursing homes and assisted living facilities as therapy dogs and, just five years ago, to the Pensacola Airport's PUP Patrol where the dogs work to "unstress" people.

Initially, we were told that the "PUP" in PUP Patrol stood for Pups Unstressing Passengers. But I it soon became obvious that it wasn't

just passengers who loved seeing the dogs, but airport staff, flight crews, volunteers, everyone who came in contact with the Patrols were finding the pups a bright spot in their day. It has been so rewarding for those of us participating in the program and we are so proud of dogs. Oh, and did I mention—my PUP Patrol partners are 9-year-old Connor and 2-year-old Kira, both Shelties, of course.

At present, the PUP Patrol has 14 handlers and 17 dogs in the program. We have divided up into teams so that we currently have a patrol at the Airport four days a week. With the start of this new year, we are working to create a couple more teams with the idea of being at the Airport five or six days a week. We are proud, too, that among the 17 dogs currently assigned, there are 13 different breeds represented, clearly showing that any breed, with love and the proper training, can be a successful therapy dog.

I've written a poem about what the PUPs do at the Airport. Hope you enjoy.



As we stroll around the Airport, there are lots of people there.

Passengers, staff and crewmen are scurrying everywhere.

Some folks there are happy, some folks there are sad,

And some folks there are really stressed, the tension can be bad.

But then we note, when folks look up and see the puppies near,

Smiles come out, as do the phones, and then we're sure to hear

"Oh, can I pet, I love the dogs, and can I take a photo?"

"Of course you can, we'd love you to, that's why we're here - to cheer you."

We sit the puppies side by side, invite the folks to join them.

The dogs all smile, the people grin, and the cameras start a-snapping.

The children sit among the pups, and some big folks do, too.

And watching all this canine love, no way can you be blue.

There's nothing makes us happier than seeing people smile,

When they watch in wonder as the dogs all go the extra mile.

The pups shake hands, they sit and wave or snuggle close beside.

And folks leave Pensacola, flying off while smiling wide.



Rite of Passage Lecture Series

Looking for an insightful way to spend a Friday afternoon? The prestigious Rite of Passage Lecture Series celebrates UWF faculty recently promoted to full professor. The events begin at 2 p.m. in the Argonaut Athletic Club with a reception following, free and open to the public.

Feb. 25


- Dr. Zhiyong Hu, Professor, Earth & Atmospheric Science
- Dr. Lakshmi Prayaga, Professor, Information Technology

April 22

- Dr. Shiela Dunn, Professor, Music

Additional information about the Spring 2022 Lecture Series is available on the Academic Affairs website:

uwf.edu/academic-affairs/awards-recognition/rite-of-passage



REA THANKS

Thank you to Judy Weaver for serving so conscientiously as the chair of the REA Sunshine Committee. If you know of any of our members to whom we should send a caring note or card, please send that information to Judy at jweaver@uwf.edu.

Thank you to Connie Marse for serving so ably as the REA newsletter compiler and editor. Please send articles and pictures to Connie at bluemoon6749@bellsouth.net. Deadline for receipt of articles for the next edition is May 1, 2022.

OF INTEREST: About 30 feral cats populate the university campus in four colonies

The UWF Campus Cat Program (CCP) was established 2017 to oversee the feral cat populations living on UWF campus. Volunteers are task force members: faculty, staff, students and alumni as well as community members who monitor, evaluate and provide humane care for the campus cats. Those on campus often are the offspring of abandoned pets. Like most feral, the campus cats have limited human contacts. Some hide, some watch people from a distance. A few will allow touch and petting. UWF joins other universities across the country in using the veterinarian-approved system Trap-Neuter-Return system for managing our cat populations.

- Feed—Seven nights a week, year-round including holidays. Volunteers provide clean water and veterinary recommended food. This also discourages foraging in trash containers, random and inconsistent feeding by kindly strangers and

hunting for prey such as birds or squirrels, although the cats are welcome to prey on rats and mice!

- Monitor—Volunteers become familiar with the cat population and are alert to anomalies among the cats they visit frequently.
- Trap—Trained team members humanely trap the cats. Program traps have identification labels.
- Neuter—Trapped cats are taken to a local veterinarian, where they are spayed or neutered. Their left ear is “tipped” so people will recognize that the cat has been seen by a vet, received a rabies vaccination and been sterilized. Our cats also are tested for disease. The cats are then returned to their colony where they may live out their lives without contributing to the overpopulation of homeless cats.

ADOPTION

Some of the feral cats have been socialized and are ready for adoption.



NUTMEG, available soon

If young kittens are born or found on campus the volunteers try to trap them at about 8 weeks old with the goal of finding them a loving home. All kittens adopted out are fully vetted (if/when possible). Each kitten may spend several days or weeks in a foster home. Foster families spend hours each day with the kitten(s) to socialize them and learn personalities so they can be matched with the best forever family. When they are ready to go to loving homes, they are posted in @uwf newsletter. If you are willing to open your home up to an awesome kitty please contact Nicole McDonald nmcdonald@uwf.edu.

Updates from our Members



Visiting Laurel, Miss. Gloria Resmondo, Linda Dye, Jacqui Berger, Carol Morgan (Carol served as treasurer for UWF REA) checked out some of the places featured in the HGTV series: Home Town.



Rhonda and I are planning a trip this coming fall to Oberammergau, Germany. The Bavarian Villagers have hosted The Passion of Christ (Play) every 10 years for more than 370 years.. The play is usually conducted in the aught years of each decade. Unfortunately, it was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic; it was only the third cancellation in nearly four centuries. We plan to spend some time in Europe on either side of the play. —Jerry Maygarden

Updates from our Members



Jim and Judy Weaver have added a new member to their family. It's Miller, a 3-month-old Bernedoodle, a cross between a Bernese Mountain Dog and a Poodle, who was adopted by their daughter's family. He'll be coming to Pensacola in a few weeks to meet Granny and Grandpa! We love his pictures! The photo is a picture of Miller when he was about 8 weeks old.



Connie Marse's one-act play, "Jack and Diane," won honorable mention in the Storefront Theatre's 2021 "We Like Short Shorts" festival in Waxhaw, N.C. The play was produced on Zoom and was featured along with the other winners on the theatre's You Tube Channel in May 2021.

Viewing link: <https://youtu.be/5XADSYRj1M4>

Another of Connie's short plays, "The Waiting Room," won honorable mention in the Storefront's 2020 festival and was produced in Waxhaw in March 2020.

*Dutch Treat Luncheon
Taylor's Breakfast
and Lunch
Oct. 27, 2021*



*Holiday Social & Annual Meeting
Dec. 6, 2021*



*Holiday Social & Annual Meeting
Dec. 6, 2021*



*Holiday Social & Annual Meeting
Dec. 6, 2021*



*Holiday Social & Annual Meeting
Dec. 6, 2021*



*Holiday Social & Annual Meeting
Dec. 6, 2021*

