

National Alumni Association Home Coming Meeting Remarks

**Dr. John T. Larkins, President
National Alumni Association of Saint Augustine's University**

November 1, 2019

1:00 PM

Your National Alumni Association at Work!!

- ◆ **The Summer National Conference included Workshops on: Fundraising, Recruitment and Enrollment Activities, Membership, Including Working with Millennials. We also had a great couple of hours with Board of Trustee members and the University Administration discussing a list of challenges facing Saint Augustine's University and a very candid and revealing question and answer period. A Summary of the 2019 Summer Conference was included in my Newsletter this summer, the third issue of the Newsletter and is posted on the National Alumni Association's website at <https://staugalumni.com/>**

- ◆ **The NAA Newsletter is a tool we now use to keep Alumni informed; information of importance is also posted on the National Alumni Association's website. If you haven't been receiving the Newsletter, please provide your current email address and make sure you are financial with the Nation Alumni Association. There have been several videoconferences with Chapter Presidents and Regional Coordinators over the last year to keep alumni better informed as to what's happening at Saint Augustine's.**
- ◆ **This afternoon you'll hear about some problems your NAA is dealing with and some progress we're making on activities to make us better, particularly as it relates to supporting Saint Augustine's University. That's not to say all we do is handle problems, we've provided you some fun events for your Homecoming, CIAA Tournament and other events.**

- ◆ **I believe in being transparent and open on NAA business, especially since I am asking for your money, time and expertise. One of the items on my to do list this year to continue our policy of transparency and efficiency is to develop an *Administrative Manual* to document all of our procedures and business processes to facilitate the next group of NAA-SAU Officers taking over the operations of the organization.**
- ◆ **Last year our Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Lynn, reported issues concerning the NAA-SAU not filing taxes for three years and potential loss of our tax-free status 501(3)c exemption]. Well, all of that been reconciled by some hard work by Mr. Lynn with support from the previous president and treasurer. We filed on time this year and are looking good.**

- ◆ **In addition to hearing NAA Officer Reports and Standing Committee Reports, you are going to hear about efforts aimed at helping to increase enrollment through greater Alumni efforts in recruitment and hopefully in the admissions process. If time permits, Dr. Ronald Brown, V.P for Enrollment will discuss the results of your efforts.**

- ◆ **Many of you have supported the NAA-SAU effort to raise funds to pay off some of our creditors for necessary work on our student dormitories. First, let me say thank you for your contributions and please keep them coming. The University has a reputation for not paying contractors, who work for us and we need to change how we do business. We hope that in the future we can utilize a better business model to keep us financially sovereign and able to care of essential services. I will say more about this later.**

- ◆ **I believe that Alumni of Saint Augustine's University can be the rock to building a more stable and sustainable University. We need to be committed to getting out the message that Saint Augustine's is doing well, has a vision and plan for the future, and should be the private school of choice for African American students.**