



IHS Alumni Association
Minutes
Monday, March 13, 2017



Meeting Called to Order: The Distinguished Educator of Excellence Award was presented to Joe O'Brien on the morning of March 13 in the High School Consumer Science room and was attended by 62 former students, teachers and alumni. After the presentation and tributes, the Alumni Quarterly Meeting commenced at 12:50 pm with nine alums present. President **Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula** asked everyone to stand for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from last November's meeting were distributed and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer **Bob Wagner (66)** distributed the Treasurer's Report to everyone and stated that the Joe LaBella scholarship fund totals \$10,667.00. The IHS Alumni Assn. has \$8,502.00 in the bank. Two \$500 checks will be issued this spring to graduating seniors who win the Alumni Award. Rhonee asked if we wanted once again to purchase an ad in the yearbook. Everyone agreed. Rhonee also mentioned that there will be an expense of a \$25 gift card given to the recipient of the Diploma of Distinction awarded at the June quarterly meeting.

Bob advised that a graduate from the IHS class of 1935 may be the oldest living alum. This person's son will be providing Bob with additional details.

Calendar of Events: Rhonee reminded us that *Mary Poppins* will be performed in the IHS auditorium on March 31 and April 1 from 7 to 9 pm. There is no charge for senior citizens to attend. Also, June 2nd is designated Senior Awards day at 9 am and **Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin** and **Dale Veverka (70)** will be representing the Alumni Association as they present the Alumni Award at 12:30. Commencement is Sunday, June 4, at 1 pm. Bonnie and Dale will distribute Legacy Ribbons before the ceremony. This tradition gives the Alumni Association a public presence in the high school. The Diploma of Distinction ceremony will take place at the June 12th quarterly meeting in the high school Media Room.

Beverly Veverka suggested a fundraiser for the Association. A company called Premier Design sells jewelry at home parties. Beverly wondered if members would like to consider using them for a fundraiser. Premier would give the Association 25% of sales plus \$30 of free jewelry that could be used as a raffle prize at the Breakfast in the Park. Discussion ensued. A suggested date for this event was April 26 at 7 pm or perhaps an online sale. Bonnie stated that young ladies would be a target market and Rhonee agreed that young people are more inclined to shop online than attending a home party.

Principal's Report: Mr. McGuinness was astonished that 62 alums, teachers and friends turned out at the Induction Ceremony to celebrate Joe O'Brien receiving the Educator of Excellence Award. He said this was a good school year for IHS. The state testing is coming up in a couple of weeks. There will be some painting going on in the high school this summer. No retirements are coming up. Enrollment for this year is 360 students for grades 9 through 12. In the last 5 years, the school has seen a decline of 50 students. Principal McGuinness is hoping enrollment will see an increase due to new housing going up off Hillside Road. People tell him all the time that they moved to Independence because of the schools.

Public Relations: Some changes to our website have been made. Joe O'Brien's photo will be displayed as an Educator of Excellence. **Wendy (Schmidt 68) Manfredi** will advertise the Alumni Picnic in the Park.

Membership/Correspondence: **Elaine (Wisnieski 57) Kukawka** reported that our membership is 156. This does not include the graduating seniors who receive a free membership for one year. One member paid for a one year gift subscription which resulted in a 5 year membership. Elaine received a Christmas

card from **Walter “Bud” Wisnieski (38)** along with a donation to the Association. A thank you letter was sent to him. He also congratulated **Amber Veverka (07)** for another fine *Alumni Spectator*. A letter was received from **Margaret (Grande 75) Bierman** providing an explanation about the jewelry she donated to the Association. Elaine is still seeking someone to take over putting items in the Alumni Showcase at the High School.

Old Business: Rhonee informed us that 12 people attended the Alumni Night at the Basketball Game. Although our team lost, everyone attending had an enjoyable time. The 31st annual Alumni Basketball Tournament was held March 10 and 11. The oldest player was 63 years old.

New Business: Concerning Breakfast in the Park, **Pat (Czarniak 60) Stephan** will print out the tickets and collect them at the event. Wendy will handle the raffle prizes and **Chris Zamborsky (78)** will be in charge of securing a caterer. **Kelly Hatfield (78)** will prepare gift theme baskets, such as a movie basket, relaxation basket, lottery basket, Italian basket and Flavor of Ohio basket. Alumni will be reminded by email to bring any donated gift basket items like wine, gift cards, lottery tickets, etc. to the June quarterly meeting. Many of Rhonee’s class of 1975 will be attending the Breakfast in the Park.

Regarding Home Days 2017, there will be a sign up sheet at the June meeting for those who would be able to sit under the Alumni Tent and greet folks, sign up members, sell raffle tickets and answer questions.

Election of officers for 2017 through 2019 will be coming up. Bob Wagner made a motion that a \$200 yearbook ad will be purchased by the Association. Bonnie seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Dale asked if there were two awards being given again this year to graduating seniors. Rhonee said yes. He asked for volunteers to read essays in order to determining the potential winners. Bonnie agreed. Dale also said Pat did a good job with the food at today’s induction ceremony. Elaine asked if we could publicize who is receiving the alumni awards. Rhonee said the winners will be shown on our website.

Rita Glow asked if we can still get a tour of the old school on Brecksville Road. Several people said no including Bob who stated it is presently in an unsafe condition. Rhonee wondered if we could procure some bricks from the building and sell those as a fund raiser. It was mentioned that the old bleachers would be turned into corn hole boards.

Rhonee asked for a motion to adjourn. Pat made the motion, Elaine seconded the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Jorasch Pandin
Recording Secretary