



**IHS Alumni Association**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, November 12, 2018**



**Meeting Called to Order:** The November meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with sixteen alumni present. President **Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula**, asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance. Veterans in attendance were recognized.

**Introduction of Board Members:** Officers introduced themselves. Guests included **Joanne (Koscielski 61) Cowden** and **Gayle (Perkins 61) Grencewicz**.

**School Updates:** **Principal Bill McGuinness** spoke about our great fall sports program. Girls' volleyball enjoyed their first ever state championship match; boys' soccer advanced to regionals for the first time. A junior, Emily Skoczen, ran very well at the state cross country meet. We are very proud of our spring advanced placement students. The high school allowed senior students to paint their parking spots this year. Forty nine spaces were painted and this was so well received that it will become an annual tradition at the high school. The school sponsored a fund raiser in October for brain cancer research and raised over \$10,000 on this teacher's behalf. During the football game against Kirtland, the students wore gray apparel and presented a check to their teacher. A drone took a photo of the students on the field forming a gray ribbon. He is doing well. Stop by the high school anytime for a tour as we'd like to show it off to our alumni.

**Minutes of September 10 Alumni Meeting:** Recording Secretary, **Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin**, distributed the Minutes. **Dale Veverka (70)** made a motion to accept the Minutes, and **Don Krolkowski (77)** seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer **Bob Wagner (66)** distributed his November 12 report. He stated our Alumni Association's quarterly expenses were \$284.48. These included supplies for the Educator of Excellence Award, Alumni of Distinction Award, Breakfast in the Park food, printer ink and stamps for corresponding secretary and quarterly bank fees. Quarterly income for this quarter was \$516.04. This included \$180 for memberships, \$315 of donations to the Association, Breakfast in the Park tickets turned in late and quarterly interest. The account balance as of November 12, 2018 is \$11,832.40. This is a good time for alumni to make a tax deductible donation to their Association prior to year's end. The LaBella Scholarship Fund is in good shape. The Cuyahoga Heights Athletic Booster Club made a \$380.00 donation from their Boys and Girls Basketball teams. Balance for the Scholarship Fund is \$8,960.26.

**Calendar of Events:** Rhonee said the Alumni Night at the Basketball Game is the same day as the Athletic Hall of Fame. She queried if the Association should continue having this alumni night designation. Bob Wagner said this was a good time if we tie this night to the Hall of Fame where our attendance may be better. We will be kept posted via email as to when this will be held, probably in late January/early February.

Rhonee explained that our March quarterly meeting will feature our Educator of Excellence, where the Association honors a teacher or support person or principal who made a difference in our lives. Would we rather have this in the evening? Any nominations? Should we nominate the high school math teacher? The June quarterly meeting will showcase the designee of the Diploma of Distinction Award, where we honor alums doing great deeds for our community.

Concerning our school gift, Principal Bill McGuinness said he is looking for ways to spruce up the building which will turn 14 on January 6. Painting the cafeteria will be done as well as 2 x 3 foot banners to honor the clubs and organizations at the high school. Also, the art teacher found some panoramic banners to take up a huge area of space in the cafeteria. The small banner would cost \$800 to \$1200 and the large one \$2,000. Any amount the Alumni Association would care to donate in this effort would be appreciated. The banners are vinyl and would last a long time. Mr. McGuinness would like a big mural on the gym wall—we need more color. Bob Wagner said it's a good idea to recognize the clubs at the school. Seventy percent of the students are involved in one or more activities. Dale asked if the students know about our association. Mr. McGuinness said the seniors are aware of the Alumni Association but he will make it a point to educate the underclassmen. Bob recommended a banner of \$1,200. Dale made a motion to support the banners for the cafeteria in the amount of \$1,200. Bonnie seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Rhonee verified the March 11 quarterly meeting will begin at 11:30 am in the Family Consumer Science room at the high school. It will open with a light lunch, testimonies and presentation of the Educator of Excellence award. The alumni meeting will follow.

**Alumni Spectator:** **Amber (Veverka 07) Axner** requested any articles, photos or reunion information. She wants to publish this before Christmas, so please submit articles before the end of the week

**Public Relations:** Communications Director **Wendy (Schmidt 68) Manfredi** stated she will publish the date of the Alumni Night at the Basketball game and Athletic Hall of Fame. She will also include a prompt about giving memberships as Christmas presents and making tax deductible donations to the Association. Webmaster **Don Krolkowski** said there were 72 visits to our website since September 10. Hospitality Chair **Pat (Czarniak 60) Stephan** continued to make reminder phone calls to alumni concerning upcoming events.

**Membership:** A new volunteer is needed to chair membership.

**Correspondence:** Corresponding Secretary, **Elaine (Wisniewski 57) Kukawka** was absent but forwarded her meeting notes. She received a thank you note from **Tony DiGeronimo (75)** for his Diploma of Distinction award. He enjoyed his Father's Day dinner purchased from Giant Eagle as further enjoyment of this award. A thank you note was received from **Nicole Dolansky (18)** for the Alumni Award which she plans to use to buy books for her classes. Elaine received a great article for the next *Alumni Spectator* from **Jack Katzenmeyer (57)**. She also received an updated roster for the Class of 1956 from **Alice (Harenski 56) Engelman**. Elaine sent a thank you to **Walter Wisniewski (38)** for his donation of \$100.00. Sent 6 membership renewal cards and 1 new membership card. As of November 12, 2018, our association has 176 members.

**Old Business:** The Association's Yearbook advertisement was passed around. The yearbook costs about \$65 to \$70. A class ring costs about \$200. The high school population is 355 students. The entire school district has 1,050 to 1,075 students.

Vice President **Kelly Hatfield (78)** stated that bricks from the old demolished school on Brecksville Road are still available. She brought two with her if anyone is interested. She talked about renovating the Alumni Showcase and placing some bricks inside. Mary Lucarelli is donating her class ring for the display case. The blackboards from the demolished school were signed by former students before the building was taken down. These boards will be placed in the high school library. The Block "I" was also salvaged.

**New Business:** Is anyone aware of additional class reunions? The Class of '88 has a 30 year reunion this year. Applebee's wants to start up a "Dining to Donate" fundraiser for our Association. This fundraiser will offer 10 to 15 percent of the diner's check back to our Association if they present a flyer advertising the event. Are we interested in starting this up again? Wendy said we could use this event as a membership recruiting tool – invite a non Alumni member and encourage them to join. Bob Wagner wondered if Verso would still sponsor a Dining to Donate event as they have in the past now that they have moved to Spins Bowl. Mr. McGuinness added that the bowling area at Spins Bowl is phenomenal and may be a draw for a fundraising event.

Dale Veverka explained that a toilet with the imprint "Go Blue Devils" appeared recently in Rhonee's front yard. It is painted an attractive blue and gold and is being displayed around town to elicit school spirit. Evidently, if one wants the commode removed from their yard they must pay \$10 and will never see it again. The party also gets the privilege of designating the next recipient of said toilet.

Regarding this year's senior alumni awards, Dale is in charge and needs volunteers to read essays. Kelly and Bonnie said they would help.

Pat Stephan made a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting and Kelly Hatfield seconded the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bonnie Jorasch Pandin**  
**Recording Secretary**