

**Archmere Academy Alumni Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2002**

Council Members Present: Marc Albero, Tom Anderson, Carmen Franceschino, Earl Francis, Ed Gallagher, Jack Haley, Dick Joyce, Noelle Lauer Ippolito, Peter Mariani, Bob McCann, Sue Padien, Mike Pembroke, Ray Radulski, and T.J. Voell

Excused Absences: John Barnum, Marty Londergan, and Al Minutola

Unexcused Absences: Kert Anzilotti

Others Present: Theresa Carroll '85, Tom Mallon '85, Michael Matassino '96, and Phil Toman '49

Honorary Members Not Present: Mike Dowling, Danielle Kissel, Lynn Mineo and Paul Pomeroy

1. Opening Comments

- Carmen called the meeting to order and explained that Father Mullen had been planning to attend the meeting, but fell yesterday afternoon outside of school.
 - Tom Mallon explained that Father Mullen accidentally fell while walking outside yesterday and is undergoing x-rays and medical treatment for a suspected fracture.

2. Gift Committee Report

- Mike Pembroke reported that the Gift Committee had gotten together with Tom Mallon and Adam Wojtelwicz and came up with a list of 5 possible projects towards which the Alumni Association could make their annual donation
 - An “athletic van” capable of transporting 11 people (approximate total cost is \$30,000)
 - Refurbishment of the Raskob Piano
 - Continuation of the fence down Manor Avenue
 - A second “water wheel” for the athletic fields
 - Lighting in front of St. Norbert’s Hall
 - It was unanimously decided to put this year’s donation towards the purchase of the athletic van.
 - It is estimated that our donation will be approximately \$10,000 and it was further suggested that a small plaque be placed on the van stating that the Alumni Association helped to purchase this vehicle for the school.

3. Committee Sign-ups for Fall 2002 Activities and Events

- Carmen passed out a sign-up sheet for all 2002-2003 activities and asked members to sign up where interested. The sheet will have to be updated at the next meeting to give those who weren’t in attendance at tonight’s meeting the chance to sign up.
- Noelle presented ideas for more informal events (like the Happy Hours) held more frequently, which were suggested to her by fellow alumni. She mentioned that people have expressed an interest in these informal get-togethers, and further stated that people have said they don’t mind paying a “cover charge” to help offset the cost of such functions – the point is they just want to have the opportunity to have these gatherings.

4. 2002 Sports Hall of Fame Inductees Selection

- Bob McCann didn't have any new information to report. He said that at next month's meeting he would have a list of 5 nominations to be voted upon. Bob further stated that he needs to know who wants to be on this year's committee.
 - A discussion ensued about whether or not there should be 2 separate committees – one for the banquet and one for the nominating committee. Carmen read from previous meeting minutes that it had been decided to merge the 2 committees into one. More discussion followed on whether or not this original decision to merge the 2 committees should be maintained going forward.
 - Peter said that the committee persons will get together to decide how the structure will be going forward and will present the decision at next month's meeting.

5. Varsity Shop Update

- Tom Anderson and Theresa Carroll have met and decided that ACCESS was the best program to handle the Varsity Shop inventory/database.
- There are unresolved issues that need to be addressed such as shipping costs, 1932 Club Memberships, etc. which will affect how the ACCESS database needs to be structured.
- Theresa mentioned that because Archmere is a non-profit organization, we could get a drastically reduced licensing fee for the ACCESS software. This would also allow Theresa to do the work from home (setting up the program) and then transfer it to the school's systems.
- Tom A. discussed the way the database will be set up, including how discounts should be handled, suggesting that there should only be one discount percentage (as opposed to faculty discount vs. alumni council discount, etc.).
- By next month's meeting, Tom and Theresa hope to have the license squared away, then Theresa will begin working on the implementation and set-up.

6. Update from By-Laws Committee

- T.J. Voell stated that since Marty and Al weren't able to attend tonight's meeting that there was no update to present on the by-laws situation.
 - Carmen asked T.J. to contact the rest of the committee members and tell them that they need to have a meeting to present updates by next month's meeting – Carmen would like to attend this committee meeting.

7. Status of Activities

- Auktion
 - Tom Mallon stated that things are progressing nicely. They are getting ready to send the program off to the printers.
 - Tom also stated that raffle ticket sales for the Audi car have been slow, and asked everyone to try and sell some tickets.
 - Peter asked what would happen if the minimum number of tickets aren't sold. Tom replied that they would either just hold the raffle for the cash prize of \$25,000 (providing they had sold 250 tickets) or they simply wouldn't have the raffle and would have to return \$100 for each ticket already purchased.

- Annual Fund
 - The second mailing has gone out and the telethon is well under way (Wednesday the 13th is technically the last day for the telethon). Tom stated that he's probably at \$130,000-\$140,000 by now, and that the Annual Fund still needs to have \$100,000 pledged and collected by June in order to meet this year's goal.
 - This year's telethon campaign is having roughly the same results as last year – many calls are being screened by “caller I.D.” and answering machines.
 - Peter inquired about the policy regarding taking the call sheets home, so that calls could be made on his own time. Tom replied that it was okay for Council Members to do this, they would just have to return the pledge sheets to the school for processing. Tom further stated that this policy would not be allowed for the general alumni population, just Council Members.
- Memorial Mass
 - Ed Gallagher reported that there have been no new developments.
 - Peter mentioned that Fred Casino '81 just passed away, and Peter believes that Fred may be the first alumnus to die who has a spouse who is also an alumna of the school. Peter stated that it might be a nice gesture to ask her and Fred's family to bring up the gifts at this year's mass.
 - Jack is working on signing up readers and people to read the lists of deceased classmates. Carmen expressed his desire to once again read the names from the 70's.
- AA Website/Diny Society Website
 - Peter reported that the Alumni survey was sent out to approximately 2,000 e-mail addresses and so far we have received approximately 272 responses, which give us an approximate response rate of 15%. Peter plans on closing the survey at the end of February.
 - Peter will compile the results of the survey for everyone to review soon. He also mentioned that “The Patio” is still a very big issue for those who replied to the survey.
 - He stated that there has been a nice cross-section of responses, with the Classes of 1994 and 1995 having the biggest number of responders.
 - Peter also mentioned that of those responding, 80% are okay with the Alumni Association soliciting funds for the 1932 Club, and 95% of the responses indicate an awareness that the Alumni Association is not funded by the school – thus, the lack of 1932 Club Memberships cannot be explained by ignorance.
 - Peter briefly mentioned the database software. All the “kinks” have been worked out and it's ready to go – Peter asks that everyone please review it for any further suggested improvements.
- 1932 Club
 - We received one new Charter membership (Class of '00).

8. Other Business

- Bob McCann stated that the Development Office was recently awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the Longwood Foundation, and reminded everyone what a tremendous accomplishment this is. Bob further reminded the Council that we all have a responsibility to spread the word about this foundation grant, expressing

the positive nature of the school and the fact that area foundations are taking stock in the quality of Archmere. Congratulations to Tom Mallon and his staff!

- Tom Mallon mentioned that 3 additional foundations are expected to award grants to Archmere in the very near future.
- Peter stated that the Blue Rocks game is scheduled for August 7th. We have reserved the picnic area which accommodates 140 people (cost of ticket is \$20 each). He suggests that we invite faculty and board members to the event, and stated that we need to discuss the increased cost in ticket price over previous years' events and decide whether or not we want to subsidize the cost of tickets (perhaps with the budget for one of the Happy Hours).
 - **Action item:** Everyone needs to think about the idea of subsidizing the ticket costs and at next month's meeting we will vote on how this should be handled.
- Dates have been confirmed for the following:
 - Golf Outing – Monday, October 7th
 - Sports Banquet – Friday, October 18th
 - Homecoming – Saturday, October 19th
- Carmen has been asked by Father Mullen to make a presentation to the Board of Trustees. By Monday, February 18th, he would like each Council Member to send him their replies to the following questions:
 1. What are, with perhaps a brief explanation, the three most successful aspects of the Alumni Association, about which should be included in my presentation?
 2. What are, with brief explanation, the three aspects of the Alumni Association that seem to be the most deficient or in need of development?
 3. What are three concrete goals that you would like to achieve over the next three years for the Alumni Association if we had a "blank sheet" for finance, personnel and time?
- Mike Pembroke asked about the status of the Patio and if there were any new developments.
 - Carmen replied that negotiations are still ongoing about everything, including the departure date of the Norbetines. Proposals have been going back and forth; in the meantime, plans are proceeding for the transfer of the deed back to the school.
 - Everyone was advised to be extremely cautious in mentioning any of these developments to the Archmere community.
- Peter asked that Tom Mallon relay to Dan Hickey that his presence is requested at one of our meetings (especially as we get closer to the Fall) to field some questions which were raised by survey responders – specific questions about tuition costs and class size, gender/racial percentages, etc.
- Ray Radulski now has e-mail access. His e-mail address is: RCRRMR@aol.com. Please add this to your contact directory of Council Members.

9. Next Council Meeting Date: **Thursday, March 14th** – 6:30 PM