

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – July 9, 2010, 6:30 pm
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CAMPS

Opening by Willem Schrage, Association President

Attending: Willem Schrage, Damian Lewis, Chad Swenson, Chris Soper, Howard Kossover, Wayne & Nancy Stephens, Mike Melby, Bob Rezac, Mark Holtz, Marianne & Tim Jezierski, Chuck Ensign, Ashley Butenhoff, Matt Everson, Ron Elliot, David Valovage, Ryan Foley, Jeff Pastir, Neil Litton, Matt Saari, Chris Tveitbakk, Monte Fronk, Jack Golden, Phil Schorn, Jeff Brown, Ron Nikle, Brandon Van Tassel, Martin Schrage and Brad Olson

Actions Taken:

1. Motion by ? and seconded by Chris Soper to reimburse Matt/Jodi Saari for expenses occurred for the Spring Gathering for the amount of 104.69. Motion passed.
2. Motion by Jack Golden and seconded by Tim Jezierski to reimburse Chris Soper for the amount of \$58.93 for mailing of the Auroras. Motion passed.
3. Motion by Tim Jezierski and seconded by Jack Golden to accept the Financial Report as stated by Chris Soper. Motion passed.
4. Motion by Jack Golden and seconded by Tim Jezierski to return this years Staff Scholarship disbursement back to the endowment fund to be reinvested. Motion passed.
5. Motion by Chris Soper and seconded by Ron Elliot to take the total projected profits of \$800 from the sale of the scholarship CDs and donate it to the Staff Scholarship Endowment Fund. Motion Passed.
6. Chris Soper nominated Warren Tobin to the Director #1 position and Jack Golden made a motion to close nomination, which was seconded by Tim Jezierski. Unanimous ballot was called by Jack Golden and seconded by Chris Soper. Motion passed.
7. Chris Soper nominated David Valovage as the next Executive Secretary and Ryan Foley made a motion to close nomination, which was seconded by Tim Jezierski. Unanimous ballot was called by Jack Golden and seconded by Jeff Pastir. Motion passed.
8. Motion for Adjournment by Jack Golden and seconded by Chris Tveitabakk

Reports & Discussion:

1. Past President, Damian Lewis talked about the success of the NLC Centennial Celebration at the ND Capital and the role Camp Wilderness played. Damian also commented on the success of the Spring Gathering. *(A big thanks goes to Damien who was instrumental in the planning and implementation of meals for the both events. Chad)*
2. President, Willem Schrage thanked Committee Chairmen, Board Members, and the Executive Secretary for their assistance over the year.
3. Executive Secretary, Chad Swenson also thanked everyone for their help and commented on how he had been trying to promote the organization including using FaceBook and working with Chris Soper in getting information from the Fargo Scout Office to the appropriate committees.
4. Council Liaison, Brad Olson announced some of the new projects that have happened at camp including the campfire arena, the new shotgun building, archery shelter, and the new steel roof on the Black Building. Brad also thanked the Alumni Association for completing 2 new latrines at the Cub Camp and a bell tower. *(The bell was originally located at the Metigoshe Scout Reservation's chapel. Chad)* The Boy Scout Camp is currently at 100 scouts over last year with the Cub Scout side breaking even. The Centennial Celebration may have influenced some dens/packs from attending this year's camp and out of council's troops have helped bolster the Boy Scout side. For example this week there were scouts from Kansas, Florida, and Colorado. Camper fee for the Boy Scout Summer Camp is set for \$200. Staff has been going well. Chris Soper asked what the Association could do for the camp? Brad replied that promotions and influencing troops in attending camp would be on top of his list. Nice testimonials of camp. Chad Swenson made a comment at the number of council represented by members of the Association sitting at this meeting: NLC, Central Minnesota, Voyageur, Northern Star, and Heart of America.
5. Publication, Scott Ralston is currently in the Gulf of Mexico helping out with the BP disaster. However both Chris Soper and Chad Swenson commented on how efficient and effective the Aurora has been published. A comment was made that we can always use more stories on a personal nature that will add a more human aspect to the publication. Any submissions for the Aurora need to be e-mailed to Scott prior to the deadline. Scott is very good at collecting any news or stories that you email to him.
6. Alumni Achievement Award, Steve Shark submitted a letter containing this years honorees Herb Seaver from Larimore, North Dakota and Moe Logging from Bemidji, Minnesota. *(Herb Seaver was acknowledged for service and was presented with his plaque during the flag lowering service earlier that the day. Chad)* Chad Swenson told

the group that Steve has accepted the position of Lodge Advisor for Pa-hin and would like to dedicate his service's full time there. Willem Schrage offered the Association's appreciation for the dedication Steve has provided as Committee Chairman.

7. Spring Gathering, Matt/Jodi Saari (*Full report with attached receipts on file, Chad*)
 - a. This year's event was held June 11-13 at Camp Wilderness
 - b. The event was promoted via social media (FaceBook) and those alumni and staff that are a part of the Association's group were made aware well ahead of time and people placed RSVP's online.
 - c. As in past years, the format for the weekend is an event geared toward alumni visiting camp and an event that is meant to welcome new and old staff members and get them geared up for the upcoming scout camping season.
 - d. Alumni did perform a service project this year. Bob & Peggy, Mark Larsen, and Matt Saari worked on demolishing the old shelter at the shotgun range.
 - e. As in previous years, a campfire was hosted by the Association on Saturday as a "mixer" event that allows people to meet old friends and introduce new members of the staff. About 10 staffers came to the campfire early in the evening.
 - f. As in 2009, we have moved away from having a dinner off the camp property. Last year it was very successful and this year was no exception. We had a luau themed dinner with kabobs, rice, fruit & soda all served at the picnic pavilion as the weather prevented us from having the event at the waterfront. It was a huge success with 40+ staff coming down for the festivities. A special thanks to Damian Lewis for preparing the great meal.
 - g. 6 alumni and their spouses & families attended this year's event.
 - h. The budget from previous years has been \$250.00. This year's event stands at about \$158.88. The budget is attached for review (*see report on file with the Executive Secretary, Chad*)
 - i. Current Issues
 - i. The Saari's would like to be reimbursed for \$104.69 of the expenses.
 - ii. A date needs to be set for the next year's event.
 - iii. New idea for 2011:
 1. Get the word out sooner to get more alumni involved. An article in the Spring Aurora is helpful, but it is published too late to get people there. I think an e-mail blast should go out early in May.
 2. Possibly create a t-shirt for the event that could be worn as a "Class B" uniform. This serves to show off the event to the staff that missed it and also advertise the Association throughout the summer. This does cost money through.
8. Open House/Reunion Week, Neil Litton reported that 55 people had signed the Open House guest book verses last years 67 had signed the book. A very big thank you to Marianne Jezierski for making the invites that were sent out to the parents of all the staff and for making fleur-de-lis shaped cookies and apple pie. A formal request is made to Marianne to repeat her efforts again for next year. Next years Open House is set for July 8th with Reunion Week running July 3-9th.
9. Membership Committee, Chris Soper reported that the Association has 141 members. 94 in good standing – 81 of them as life time members, 10 annual members, and 3 gratis members. **?? Total members often/offered want to look at.** Mailing the Aurora out to those who have not opted to get their Aurora via e-mail has been at a cost of \$58.93. Chris encouraged more to join the Association. Discussion was made on ideas to increase value to being a member. Two ideas from previous conference call were to offer a discount in the summer camp trading post and to pay for meals at camp if they are in good standing. Concerns were made over controls for paying meals such as different id bracelets and the impact of non-members at an event. Talk of reasons or a bonus to add impact in being a member:
 - a. Benefits of helping a scout or camper
 - b. Something exciting – program, event, drawing/door prize
 - c. Loose connection after the leave being on staff
 - d. More emphasis on the short time when their membership expiresThere is \$2724.95 in our General Fund. We generated \$1913.50 in income and spent \$1556.18 in expenses. (*See additional reports at the end of the minutes*)
10. Staff Scholarship, Jenny Fisher
 - a. The Scholarship Endowment Fund total as of 7/9//10 is \$6387.25 – Thanks to everyone for making this such a great success!
 - b. Every year letters are sent out encouraging donations by past donors to the scholarship fund. This year I got recommendations back to send them by email instead of mail, so I may try that this next year. However, my

concern is that not everyone would prefer this method so I may send some electronically and others regular mail.

- c. Scholarship applications are sent out every fall to eligible staff members and the deadline to have them submitted is usually around February. I modified the applications to add a small bit of personal information and a current picture from the applicant that could be published in the Aurora so members can “meet” the scholarship recipients. This year is the first year I sent them out via email instead of mailing them and didn’t get any responses. So I am not sure if this was because I emailed them out or if just no one chose to the application. Other years have always yielded several returns.
- d. No scholarship applications were returned this year so the \$306.06 that was available for disbursement has 2 possible destinies. I spoke with Darrell Utke (NLC’s Accounting Specialist) this morning and he going to check with Mark Holtz (Council Executive) to see if that money can be transferred into the endowment fund to continue accruing interest, which is what I requested. However, if this can’t be done then the \$306.06 will “roll-over” to be added with the amount available to be disbursed next year. He will follow-up with me once he has a chance to talk to Mark.
- e. CD inventory: 6 at the Fargo Scout Office plus 17 at camp for a total of 23 CDs. 77 if the 100 CD’s have been sold so far for a profit of \$570.00 (77 x \$10.00 - \$200 initial cost). The CD profits were intended to benefit the endowment fund. Question #1 up for discussion – When would be a good time to transfer the money earned from the sale of the CDs into the endowment fund, since so far the profits have been going into the general fund? And have the profits from the sale of the CDs been even been put in the general fund yet? I am not sure how all the money gets transferred from the sale of association things at camp and the scout office, maybe Chris know if the Association has received the profits. Question #2 – I don’t think that we need to re-order the CDs at this time with 23 left, but just wanted to make sure everyone else has the same idea.

Profits from the note cards hand-made by Marianne Jezierski also go in to the Endowment Fund. The cards are available at the camp Trading Post. A big thanks goes to Marianne for making and providing these cards at no cost to the Association. Also a thanks goes to Chris Tveitbakk who was instrumental in getting the Staff Scholarship CD recorded.

11. History Committee, Bob Rezac reported that the committee is continuing to interview campers & staffers about their experience at camp. The committee asks to be alerted if they know of any individuals who may be a candidate for an interview. Possible candidates for interviews include Erik Williamson, Bob Sunderland, and Tim Boostom (Jeff Pastir knows). The committee is still adding pages and adding more information to the History Trail book. Some how since last summer 3 books have disappeared. The committee is in the process of replacing the books. Discussion was made over the possibility of creating a patch to be sold in the Trading Post for the completion of the trail. Another idea would be to add the History Trail to the Scout Leader Badge. Talk was also made of the possibility of someone doing the tour for individuals/groups. Discussion came up about the museum... questions of where, how, ideas?
12. Reunion at Camp Wabaunaquat, Chad Swenson commented that the reunion is still scheduled for September 18th at Camp Wabaunaquat on White Earth Lake and will be a chance to visit the old camp.
13. Twin Cites Social and Saints Game, Jeff Ronning and Jeff Pastir passed out a flyer looking for feedback on upcoming socials to be held in the Twin Cites. Another flyer was passed out on a gathering at a St. Paul Saint’s baseball game on August 25th. For more information contact Jeff Ronning at 651-815-7252 or at jeffmronning@comcast.net.
14. New Website, Dave Valovage has taken on the challenge of updating the Association’s website by adding more tools, security, and flexibility. Starting with a open public section, a member section with sign-in allowing to update member information, access for the committees to add updates, and the use of a wiki-like for updating information on camp, history and such.
15. Steve Werpy Memorial, Chad Swenson wanted to remind everyone that it is not too late to make a donation for the courtyard brick to honor Steve. Currently we are \$300 short of meeting the \$1000 threshold for a 16 x 16 brick. A few members offered to step up by making a contribution. Any contribution can be made by sending the donation to the Fargo Scout Office with the specific notation that it should be for the Steve Werpy Courtyard Brick. Ron Elliot told the group that he is planning on making a bench specifically in Steve’s honor similar to those that are by the Black Building. Jack Golden let the group know about Pa-hin Lodge plan to dedicate a Vigil site at the Witscheman location in Steve’s honor.
16. Other Business - none
17. Election of Officer- Chris Soper nominated Marianne Jezierski as our next Executive Secretary however she respectfully declined preferring to keep doing what she has been doing for the Association and learning more about the operations of the Associations.

18. Adjournment of the meeting concluded with the singing of the song "Hail to All". (*Brad brought in a newly revised application for the Scout Leader Badge with the new requirement of walking the History Trail as one of the optional requirements.*)

Chad Swenson thanked Willem Schrage for his service as President and the new officers passed on nametags, a token of the office. Chad Swenson, in coming President then made appointments for Committee Chairman for the next term.

Publication – Scott Ralston

Alumni Achievement Award – Mike Melby

Fall Fellowship – Ryan Foley

Spring gathering/Staff Week – Matt/Jodi Saari

Open House/Reunion Week – Neil Litton

Membership – Chris Soper

Staff Scholarship – Jenny Fisher

History Project – Bob Rezac

A big thanks goes to these individuals and everyone else who helps out with the Association.

Respectfully submitted by Chad Swenson 7-22-10