

Minutes

CLASS OF '51 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING September 23, 2017

The Class of '51 Executive Committee met in Blunt Alumni Center in Hanover. Members present: Howard Allen, Al Brout, Jack Giegerich, Barbara Hall, Pete Henderson, Bob Hopkins, Bill Leffler, Peter Martin, Peirce McKee, Loye Miller, Dotty Mori, Henry Nachman, Peggy Read, Charlie Russell, Jack Weingarten and Joe Welch.

Minutes of the October 1, 2016 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Pete Henderson's Secretary's report highlighted news coverage of 115 different classmates in 6 *Alumni Magazine* columns since the 2016 meeting. Twenty-three obituaries have been posted to the class website in the past year. A "Spirit of '51" award was prepared for presentation to Don O'Dowd during this mini-reunion weekend. The current class census: 238 living classmates (35.5% of 670 matriculants in 1947), 220 living widows. Neither total includes "not interested" '51s: 27 men, 21 widows.

Jack Giegerich reported for Head Agent Dave Saxton that a total of \$152,251 was raised from the class in the campaign just ended (+9% vs. last year, 109% of our \$140,000 goal). Participation was 46.8% vs. 51.2% last year.

Hits to the class website rose markedly this year, according to Webmaster Al Brout. Contributing factors: strong interest in reports of the 65th reunion, the frequently-accessed obituary section, and a number of useful new links.

Three issues of *'51 Fables* were produced, as planned, during the past year. Editor Charlie Russell was warmly applauded for his work in reviving this important vehicle for class cohesiveness.

Committee members were enthusiastic about the remarkable achievements of "Spirit of '51" honorees, although divided on the importance of service to Dartmouth and the class of '51 in selecting recipients. A new suggestion: consider for future awards classmates who have been awarded medals for distinguished and especially courageous military service.

Loye Miller delivered the Bartlett Tower Society report prepared by Herb Knight, long-time chair of this important and successful committee whose charge is to attract bequests and other planned gifts to Dartmouth. The class of '51 continues to rank among the leading classes in achieving such results. We rank 11th in realized bequests among classes since 1930 (27 bequests totaling \$6,642,516) and second among classes near us in age in the number of BTS members (77). Herb urged all Executive Committee members to remember Dartmouth in this important way.

Al Brout and Bob Hopkins, co-chairs of our new '51 Cares initiative aimed at encouraging '51s to reach out to classmates in need, reported heartening (even if somewhat anecdotal) evidence of early success. We can confirm at least 35 known contacts plus an outreach to 36 '51s and widows living in Florida following this month's destructive hurricanes. All efforts to reconnect with classmates are seen as positive in strengthening ties within the '51 family. We are also working to ensure that the class is represented at funerals of '51s.

Loye Miller reported a slight decline in our class treasury despite increased dues and tight cost control. The number of dues-payers declines (174 vs. 209 last year) as classmates die. Assets are now \$8,811, down from \$9,168 last year. Emphasis in spending continues to be on the class newsletter and our Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Scholarship Fund has a book value of \$236,742 and a market value of \$313,985, according to Scholarship chair Henry Nachman. The fund will provide partial support to needy Dartmouth students (currently 3) and will be available in perpetuity.

The theme of strengthening the '51 Family (alumni, their wives and widows) was emphasized in Henry's report on mini-reunions. Attendance at Hanover mini-reunions has declined (31 "Family" members were on hand for this year's event) but strong support was voiced for offering opportunities to get together in different locations and formats. Howie Allen (Boston) and Bob Hopkins (Connecticut) will organize luncheons in their areas for "Family" members. Barbara Hall, Dotty Mori and Peggy Reed agreed to arrange an event in Hanover for nearby spouses and widows, especially those experiencing hard times.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Henderson, secretary