

## **Class Officers Telecon January 8, 2014**

Denny Denniston, Class President, called the Class Officers meeting conference call to order at 1PM.

In attendance on the call were: Denny Denniston (President), Ken DeHaven (Vice-President), Vic Rich (Secretary), Oscar Arslanian, Rog McArt, Hank Eberhardt, Bob Conn, Pete Palin, Harris McKee, Dave Prewitt, Maynard Wheeler and Nyla Arslanian (invited guest).

Absent were: Ivar Jozus (Treasurer), Tom Conger, Dave Birney, Tom Dalglish, Pete Bleyler, John Damon.

The first topic discussed was the proposed Memorial Fund Class Project, wherein the class would contribute \$100 into the Class of '61 Legacy Fund for the Performing Arts at Dartmouth for each classmate who has passed away since our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion and who will pass away henceforth. Everyone who commented thought that this was an excellent class project in that it would recognize each classmate who leaves us and would continue to provide certain minimum guaranteed ongoing funds to the '61 Legacy Fund, at least until all of our classmates have passed away. Someone suggested making the contribution per classmate only \$61, but the response to this was that it appeared to be too small an amount to recognize adequately each classmate. Another suggestion was to include in the tribute spouses who have been active within our Class. Based on discussions that Denny has had with Ivar, there appears to be sufficient funds currently in our class treasury and coming into our class treasury on an ongoing basis to fund this project at \$100 per classmate without any need to increase class dues. It was decided that with each contribution made, a class officer (president, vice-president, treasurer or secretary) would send a standardized, pre-printed condolence card or letter from the Class of 1961 to the family of the deceased. A committee consisting of Vic Rich, Oscar & Nyla Arslanian, and David Birney was appointed to consider the exact format, wording, artwork and budget to accomplish the aforementioned.

The second topic discussed other potential class projects to be implemented this year, preferably for intended completion by our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. One suggestion was to extend and beautify the area around the class-installed Robert Frost statue and the path leading up to the statue. This would be discussed further at the next Class Officers conference call. If anyone had another viable suggestion, they should submit same as soon as possible to the Class Officers for consideration.

The third topic discussed was the notification to classmates of the passing of a classmate. What is the fastest way and the best way to notify classmates that a classmate has passed away, with the objectives being timely notification so that remaining classmates would have the opportunity to attend the funeral and/or the memorial service (if any) and to be made aware so as to be able to send personal written condolences to the family in a timely manner. This would have nothing to do with the preparation and submission of the formal obit notice to be prepared and posted on the class website by the class necrologist, Tom Dalglish. The preliminary conclusion reached was that Denny D., as Class President, would send out all initial obituary notices by email to all classmates as well as submit such notices to Harris McKee and Tom Conger for immediate posting on the class website and the class newsletter. Another suggestion was to include in such notifications selective deceased spouses of classmates who had been active within the class throughout the years. It was agreed that this was a good idea as long as the selection of active spouses, or spouses of active classmates, could be determined on a consistent basis.

The fourth topic discussed was about the operation of the '61 Legacy Fund by the College. More specifically, on what basis were funds withdrawn from the Legacy Fund account each year (eg. to cover only direct artist costs and/or to cover related administrative costs)? Are there any college imposed or class imposed limitations on how much money can be withdrawn each year (eg. income only versus income plus

principal)? What do the original documents from our class state (Oscar A. to review his files)?

The fifth topic discussed was the proposed Class Survey, drafted by Bob Conn and sent out to the Class Officers to review. Denny D. asked for clarification comments and other suggestions from the Class Officers and recommended that all Officers actually take the survey prior to sending out to all classmates to complete in order to see if there are any current questions that are too general and/or too vague. Bob C. will send out the most current version of the survey questions for officer to final review and comment upon prior to the next class conference call on February 12<sup>th</sup> (preferably by the end of January in order to provide sufficient time to revise the questions into final draft form for approval at the February conference call).

The sixth topic discussed related to the selecting an approximate date and location for the next off-site class mini-reunion. Dave Prewitt, Off-Site Mini-Reunion Chair, discussed a few locations (Williamsburg, VA; Key West, FL; Seattle, WA; Jamestown, WV) and emphasized that about a year was needed to locate and negotiate for a specific location, negotiate the social agenda, negotiate a viable overall financial deal, advertise the weekend event to all classmates, collect the required funds from classmates, etc. After further discussion, Williamsburg, VA was selected on an initial basis for the location and April/May 2015 was selected for the time.

The seventh topic discussed related to the BTS program of encouraging classmates to include Dartmouth College in their wills, for some specific bequest amount or percentage of the estate. Pete Palin reported on the progress to date in dealing with the appropriate college personnel and the success to date (2 additional classmates had recently been added). Denny requested that a more coordinated and intense class effort be put forth by Pete P. and by John Damon (via letters, college brochures, telephone calls and personal visitations – where feasible) if the Class were to achieve further success

in the area. Pete P. agreed to communicate the aforementioned to John D. and to intensify their efforts to make more progress at a faster pace.

The final topic discussed (briefly) was the class initiation effort to get more spouses and significant others involved in class activities and possibly even class governance as time goes on. Nyla Arslanian, Chairperson of this effort, reported that she was in the process of putting together a committee of spouses to accomplish the above stated objective and would have more to report by the next conference call in February.

Just prior to closing, Henry Eberhardt, Co-Head Agent provided a brief update on the progress of the DCF. He reported that cash receipts of \$112k have been received from 108 donors. He asked that ALL class officers give or pledge ASAP to reach 100% participation from class officers.

The President adjourned the meeting at 2:10PM. The next conference call is scheduled for February 12, 2014 at 1PM for approximately one hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor S. Rich, '61 Class Secretary