

## **Minutes, D'61 Class Officers Meeting, Hanover**

**September 24, 2016**

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Attending the Meeting: Don O'Neill, Denny Denniston, Vic Rich, Ivar Jozus, Harris McKee, Hank Eberhardt, Rog McArt, Dave Prewitt, Joan Prewitt, Patti Rich

Absent from the Meeting: Gerry Kaminsky, Red Facher, Oscar Arslanian, Dave Armstrong, Maynard Wheeler, Pete Bleyler, Tom Conger, David Birney, Nyla Arslanian

Invited Guests: Carol Jozus

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Don O'Neill, class president, called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM and handed out a written agenda for the meeting.

Vic Rich congratulated the Class of 1961 on winning one of the few Special Recognition Awards at last evening's COW Awards Dinner, but expressed disappointment that we were not able to follow up winning Class of the Year last year with Reunion Class of the Year for the current year, which only one prior class has ever accomplished. He suggested a few relatively minor, but "visible", improvements which the class could concentrate on going forward in order for us to once again be honored with a Class of the Year Award designation.

- First, we must make sure that each of the "brag" sections of the annual Class Activity Report is completed, if appropriate, since this is the section that the Class Awards Selection Committee (of which Vic has been a member for the past 3 years) appears to look at first and foremost.

- Second, we need to have more regional off-campus micro-mini reunions of relatively short duration (eg. luncheons, dinners, baseball games, golf outings, etc.) and not ordinarily involving a hotel sleepover.

- Third, we need to have more off-campus mini-reunions lasting more than one day. We have actually previously discussed having more regional off-campus mini-reunions for our class, especially as we get older and have more time available and begin to find it more difficult and more costly for some to travel longer distances.

- Fourth, our class needs to have a written communications plan for us to follow on an annual basis.

- Fifth, we have already instituted several activities which would fall under the heading of a class "compassion committee"; we now need to consider formalizing such committee and expanding its activities within our class.

Someone then added that our class probably should utilize social media (eg. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) more to communicate with and engage more classmates on a more current and more regular basis. Because of our age and lack of experience in these areas, this might be a challenge for many classmates. Patient ongoing training would be necessary for many of our classmates to successfully participate in a meaningful manner.

**Dartmouth College Fund (DCF):**

Hank Eberhardt, co-class DCF chair, reviewed our class' impressive DCF results for our 55th Reunion year ended June 30, 2016 and discussed prospective goals for the current year ending June 30, 2017. After some discussion, it was agreed unanimously by those class officers present that our dollar goal would be \$261,000 and our stated participation goal would be 76% (with a stretch internal goal of 80%). Hank also stressed that we need experienced and rejuvenated class agents, and agents who are adequately trained on how to use the College's VOLT system. Further, we need a qualified staff person from the Alumni Office to both assist with the training of class agents and support our class' DCF effort. In addition, we need to continue the use of a special SWAT team of at least 12 classmates to solicit difficult classmates. Finally, our class needs a new "participation chair" and/or an "outreach chair", with the broader role of engaging unengaged classmates.

Don mentioned that we have established a Dartmouth vs. Princeton challenge for the current DCF year. He also suggested that our class consider establishing a "memorial gifts chair".

Hank stated that either he and the other class DCF co-chairs, Harris McKee and Rog McArt, will soon request a DCF pledge from each class officer and that they expected that all of the class officers will have committed a pledge prior to December 31, 2016.

**Class Mini-Reunions (off-campus):**

Dave and Joan Prewitt, off-campus class mini-reunion co-chairs, discussed what they are proposing to be the next major off-campus mini-reunion, in Newport, Rhode Island, among other things the former home of the world-famous America's Cup yacht races. The proposed dates are Sunday, May 20, 2018-Wednesday, May 23, 2018 and most of the preliminary hotel and financial negotiations have been completed. Subject to the vote among the officers, they are planning to stop in Newport to finalize the arrangements and the pricing. The overwhelming sentiment was to go with Newport.

In addition, it was agreed that our class would have more micro-mini reunions in various geographic areas through the country, with probable emphasis on various cities where more classmates resided either during the late fall/winter/early spring months or during the late spring/summer/early fall months. Some locations mentioned were New York City, Boston, northern Florida, southern Florida (west coast/east coast), Los Angeles, and Phoenix.

Also, the idea of having a "virtual" on-line class mini-reunion (already done by most of the younger classes) on the 61st day of each year was suggested. After some discussion, most agreed that this would be a viable option to try, as long as classmates were clearly instructed in detail as to how to access such website and participate in such online forum. Also, we would have to develop a participation theme for such mini-reunion. This idea needs further development and planning in order to be successful.

**Class Treasurer's Report:**

Ivar Jozus, treasurer, presented a detailed written treasurer's report for the class for the year ended June 30, 2016, the highlight of which is that we are showing a cash balance which is

approximately \$23,000 more than at June 30, 2015. However, Ivar noted that he had approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 of additional reunion-related expenses paid after June 30th or still due to be paid.

Our current cash balance is approximately \$80,000. Current year's dues collections are progressing well; hopefully all class officers will remit their class dues prior to December 31, 2016. Ivar suggested that the class consider how to spend/invest some of the class' surplus funds going forward.

Vic suggested that a portion of the class' excess funds be used to subsidize the costs of future major on-campus reunions and future on-campus/off-campus mini-reunions for those classmates who might otherwise not be able to attend.

### **Class Projects:**

Don initiated a discussion of our class projects going forward. All agreed that our current ongoing class projects should be continued (arts student annual stipend, performing arts Legacy, athletics dept. annual stipend, etc.), with the amount of ongoing stipends to be reviewed. It was agreed that any long-term special projects should have some connection with the performing arts or studio arts at Dartmouth, should, if possible, include a connection to the class-donated Robert Frost statue at "D", should include the undergraduate/graduate "D" students and should be "active" rather than "passive".

Vic suggested that we consider extending the Frost statue art contest, which generated a lot of class enthusiasm and for which the class received a lot of positive publicity (*Dartmouth Now* online magazine, Dartmouth Alumni Magazine, COW Special Recognition Award, etc.) either for the current fiscal year or for the next fiscal year, possibly adding a brief written element to accompany the art component, which therefore would include the English Dept. along with the Visual Arts Dept. and would promote more team submissions (one member strong in the arts and the other member strong in creative writing or poetry). Either way, our class needs to come up with another unique project which relies more on creativity and student participation rather than merely throwing a lot of dollars into a passive project (especially since we are not an especially wealthy class with a lot of actual or potential funds available). No final decisions reached at this time. Don requested that everyone give this important decision deep thought, including both class officers and classmates in general.

### **Women's Initiative Committee:**

Patti Rich, co-chair (along with Nyla Arslanian), reported that Harris McKee, class communications officer and class webmaster, has agreed going forward to send out emails to all members of the women's committee for which email addresses are available or can be derived. The women's committee will continue to expand their membership base and compile names and email addresses on a geographic basis. Finally, since the specific women's meetings held during each major on-campus reunion and each major off-campus reunion have been well attended and successful, they will be continued going forward.

### **55th Reunion Photos:**

Harris noted that there were about 80+ pictures currently listed on the class website and more were expected. The issue arose that many classmates don't know how to access and use the

website. It was requested that Harris send out to all classmates a set of written instructions as to how each classmate could access and utilize the class website.

In addition, it was agreed that all of the awards that the class had won over the past 55 years would be gathered and listed on the class website along with the College's citations for each award.

**Class Mission Statement:**

Don handed out the class' current mission statement, prepared more than ten years ago, and asked for comments about whether it should be revised and, if so, how so as to be meaningful for at least the next five years. After some brief discussion, it was agreed that more thought should be given to the class' mission statement and discussed further, and hopefully complete, at the next class officers meeting/conference call.

The current '61 class mission statement reads as follows: *Capture and renew the spirit of brotherhood that bound us together as graduates in 1961 while continuously seeking to engage with, communicate with and generously support each other, the Class, and the College until the last of us has gone. We will view ourselves and be viewed by the College as one of its top tier (elite, etc.) classes.* One immediate recommended proposed revision was to replace "...tier (elite, etc)..." with "... performing...", so as to now read "...top performing classes."

Vic volunteered to write up an annual Communications Plan for the Class of '61 along with Harris McKee, class communications chair.

Don's final request was that we consider how to better reach out and engage the uninvolved or under-involved classmates who have always been or have become substantially or completely dormant over the decades for whatever reason. This is a problem which every class has to at least some degree, with many classes having a much more serious problem than our class. The key, however, is to create a process which can reduce this problem to a minimum in our class. If successful, we can export the solution to other classes.

Don adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

[Subsequently, Don announced that the next class officers conference call would be on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 1 PM EST.]

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Rich '61 Class Secretary