

Minutes

D'61 Class Officers Teleconference/Meeting

July 8, 2020

Attending the Meeting: Don O'Neill, Denny Denniston, Gerry Kaminsky, Vic Rich, Ron Wybranowski, Harris McKee, Dave Prewitt, Maynard Wheeler, Tom Conger, Henry Eberhardt, Oscar Arslanian, Rog McArt, Bill Collishaw, Dave Armstrong, Nyla Arslanian, Patti Rich

Absent from Meeting: Pete Bleyler, Joan Prewitt

Invited Guests: Vince Wilson

Don O'Neill, Class President, called the meeting to order at noon EDT.

Don then called for the formal approval of the Minutes for the June 10, 2020 class officers telecon meeting. The Minutes for the telecon meeting were approved as written and submitted.

Secretary's Report

Vic Rich, Class Secretary, reported that he had completed and submitted the Minutes for the June 10, 2020 class officers teleconference. In addition, he prepared and submitted the '61 class column for the *ClassNotes* section of the September/October issue of the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine.

Vic spoke to Ron Boss, who is the final one-year recipient of the Class' Tanzi License Plate Plaque prior to our 60th Reunion, and followed up call by sending the plaque to him. In addition, Vic sent a "farewell" and "thank you" note to Beth Kelly, former Director of Alumni Activities, thanking her for her several years of work with our Class and our decade of classes (1960-1969). Vic also communicated with several classmates and various members of the College's administration dealing with alumni matters.

Finally, Vic referred to the last page of the May/June issue of the “D” Alumni Magazine, which highlights one alumnus/alumna in each issue with a full page professional and personal spread and related cartoonish character. This issue covered an alumna from the Class of ’98, a child psychiatrist of apparent renown, who in her second statement for the article commented that “At Dartmouth I studied biological psychology with Michael Gazzaniga ’61 ---- a great mentor”.

Treasurer’s Report

Ron Wybranowski, Class Treasurer, presented his preliminary report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 (modest subsequent revisions – see Minutes for August 12, 2020). The Class’ current cash balances totaled approximately \$41,600 in the Class’ checking account and approximately \$8,800 in the Class’ reunion/mini-reunion checking account. Since July 1, 2019, the Class collected dues of \$15,280 (\$61 from 251 classmates) and voluntary contributions from many classmates to various existing class projects of \$7,703, for a total of \$22,983. For the current fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, the Class made \$10,793 in donations to the College, a portion from the Class directly and the remainder indirectly from classmates via the Class (\$1,500 to the “D” Anthropology Department, \$2,500 to the “D” Athletics Sponsors Program, \$6,793 to the two currently outstanding class projects – the ’61 Legacy and the Robert Frost dual project). Finally, \$1,247 was paid out by the Class primarily for mailing expenses incurred by the College relating to ’61 class activities.

Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) Class Report

Harris McKee and Henry Eberhardt, co-chairs (along with Rog McArt) of our Class’ highly successful DCF efforts, presented the Class’ report of actual dollars contributed by classmates and number of classmates contributing through June 30, 2020 versus projected goals for the Class of ’61 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020:

- Our DCF dollar goal was \$310,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The Class actually exceeded its dollar goal for the current year and the prior year, although the final amount has not yet been communicated to us by the College.
- Our DCF participation goal was established at 72% (332 donors out of a total current base of 461 eligible classmates) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The Class actually exceeded its participation goal for the current

year and the prior year, achieving a participation rate of approximately 78%, although the final rate has not yet been communicated to us by the College. On a preliminary basis, it appears that our Class will be ranked #1 or #2 in participation for all non-reunion classes and possibly for all classes.

Our Classes DCF participation rate success is primarily a result of our Class DCF “SWAT team”, begun several years ago and now perfected by our key classmate swat team leaders: co-chairs Harris McKee, Hank Eberhardt, Rog McArt; vice-presidents Denny Denniston and Gerry Kaminsky; current president Don O’Neill, former class officer Bob Conn; adopted classmate Zhuoman Gardner; all assisted by College DCF administrator Vince Wilson. Our Class “SWAT team” campaign for this year was shared with Sylvia Racca, College DCF Executive Director, and Catherine Briggs, outgoing Alumni DCF Chair, who articulated that our “SWAT team effort is extremely impressive and would serve as a great model for other classes to follow.”

At Don’s request, Vince prepared a Class of ’61 participation schedule for the past 15 years, from fiscal 2006 through fiscal 2020, during which time we were above 75% nine times and below 70% only three times; for two of those years our Class exceeded 80%. Also, Vince noted that since graduation the Class of ’61 has given \$13,527,000 to the DCF. Henry added that since graduation, including all non-DCF donations by classmates to the College (e.g. via testamentary donations, specific grants, special purpose direct contributions, donations to “D” organizations other than DCF, etc.), ’61 classmates have donated nearly \$41 million to Dartmouth.

Finally, Harris stated that DCF planning was well underway for our 60th Reunion in 2021. Our Class financial goal of \$610,000 is set and leadership gifts already committed have been strong.

Everyone at the meeting, with Don leading, congratulated all of those involved in our Class’ DCF efforts.

D’61 On-Campus Mini-Reunion Report (Hanover, NH – October 2020)

Maynard Wheeler, on-campus mini-reunion chair, reported that the Fall on-campus mini-reunion, scheduled to be held October 2-4, 2020, has been planned, scheduled and budgeted. However, because of the continuing COVID-19 ramifications, the Fall mini will not be held on-campus. Instead, we will have to plan for a virtual mini-reunion to take its place. As all of this happened only recently, no virtual mini-reunion plans have as yet been developed.

D'61 On-Campus 60th Reunion (Hanover, NH – June 2021)

Pete Bleyler, 60th Reunion chair, was not available for the meeting but Vic, a member of Pete's committee, was able to fill in the other class officers. Because of continuing COVID-19 issues, much of the actual events and housing for the reunion from June 14-17 cannot be completed or committed to at this time, but work towards those goals are progressing. During the interim, however, Pete has established a group of approximately 25 classmate "affinity coordinators" whose responsibility it will be to encourage classmates, directly or indirectly through other recruited classmates from their respective assigned fraternities, sports teams, secret societies and/or other campus groups to attend our 60th Reunion, which will probably be the last large scale assembly of 1961 classmates and their spouses/significant others. In conjunction therewith, Pete has developed and recently sent out excel spreadsheets to each affinity coordinator with the names, email addresses and telephone numbers included (where available) for each respective affinity group member.

Robert Frost Endowed Class Project

Pete Bleyler, chair of this project, was not able to attend the meeting and did not submit a report. However, he previously has stated that everything was moving along as planned and that there was nothing new to report at this time.

Webmaster's Report

Harris McKee, Class Webmaster, reported that during the past month he had posted approximately 19 website updates and 5 iModules emails to classmates (including 6 obit notices). In addition, he was working with Oscar and Nyla Arslanian to further improve the aesthetics of our class website to make it more welcoming and inviting for use by classmates.

Memorialist's Report

Harris McKee, Class Memorialist, reported that during the past month he had reported that 2 classmates had passed away during the past month (Neal Davis and Steve Cohn) and that 4 other classmates had passed away prior to 2020 but had not been reported to the College until recently (Scott Piper, John Hancock, John Zulick and Fred Bauman).

Newsletter Editor's Report

Tom Conger, Class Newsletter Editor, reported that he was planning to issue at least three newsletters, and possibly four because of our upcoming 60th Reunion, during the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The first three class newsletters only are subsidized by the College.

Bartlett Tower Society (BTS) Report

Dave Armstrong, Class BTS chair, reported that he had prepared a "solicitation to join BTS and why" letter to go out to selected classmates based on a pre-established list of criteria; the letter should go out in July or possibly in early August at the latest due to some changes in the College's BTS administrative personnel. During the past month one additional classmate had joined the Bartlett Tower Society.

Women's Initiative Committee (WIC) Report

Nyla Arslanian and Patti Rich, WIC co-chairs, reported that they were continuing to communicate, orally and/or in writing, with the recent widows of deceased classmates during the past month. In addition, at the request of Don O'Neill, they were exploring what other classes had done with respect to implementing a "compassion committee" in one form or another, and would report back to everyone, hopefully by next month.

D'61 Special Classmate Awards Committee

Dave Prewitt, Awards Committee chair, stated that Harris, as Class Webmaster, would be sending out this month another solicitation notice to the Class requesting names of potential honorees for the '61 Class award. As a result of the anticipated cancellation of a live Fall mini-reunion in 2020, Dave reported that other committee members had suggested that the committee concentrate on selecting one or more award recipients for our 60th Reunion and to bypass a Fall presentation. Since 2016, when the '61 Special Classmate Awards Committee was first established, the Class has granted this award to only seven classmates to date.

Class and Classmate Alumni Awards Archive Report

Denny Denniston, chair of this historical perspective of the Class, reported that primarily because of the need to concentrate on the end-of-year Class DCF efforts, there was no update to report at this time.

Nominating Committee Report

Dave Prewitt, chair, and his committee (consisting of Rog McArt, Oscar Arslanian and Art Kelton) reported that they are working to develop a new slate of key class officers and executive committee members to lead the Class from June 2021 through June 2026. Several classmates currently were being discussed for various key officer positions. However, the committee had no comment at this time.

New Business

- Annual Class Activity Report (CAR) - Don and Denny requested that all class officers complete their respective sections of the annual CAR as soon as possible so that Denny, Harris and Vic can review and edit same before the due date for all CAR reports on July 30th. Denny will oversee the submission of the final completed product. Don emphasized that because of the coronavirus pandemic, the “Class of the Year” and “Reunion Class of the Year” awards competition for this past fiscal year was cancelled unexpectedly by the Class Activities division of Alumni Services. He emphasized, however, that because the Class of '61 had performed so well in so many areas, completing the “optional” CAR this year should not be an option for the Class of 1961.
- It was announced that there would be an informal teleconference for the '61 DCF “SWAT team” members following this class officers telecon.
- On June 2, the Class received a “Thank You” note from the Director of the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, thanking the Class of 1961 for its original endowment contributed as the *Class of '61 Legacy of the Arts* and the many years since of continuing contributions to this endowment by both the Class and by various individual classmates. The *'61 Legacy* has made it possible for the College to present annually live arts performances and significant support to selected performing artists year after year, in spite of the arts throughout the United States having drifted into a general state of crisis.

The next class officers telecon will be on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at noon EDT.

Don adjourned the meeting at 1:05PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Vic Rich, '61 Class Secretary