

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee

Minutes from Meeting of January 24, 2009

Zimmerman Lounge, Blount Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

In attendance: Ron Weiss, Bill Rich, John Everett, John Engelman, Greg Marshall, Mike Lenahan, Dennis Donahue and David Peck; Jim Lawrie and Mark Waterhouse by phone.

1. President Ron Weiss called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Lawrie, by conference call, reviewed handout material distributed by Ron Weiss. For the last 6 months of 2008, total income was \$26,358.49, and expenses \$21,528.59, for a net income of \$4,829.90. During the same period, an additional \$5,260 was donated to the 50th Reunion Fund.

Current investments stand at \$47,252.52, and have sustained a loss of \$11,026, or 24.44% during the year. Checkbook balance is \$27,253.

There was discussion about whether to use Pay Pal or some other type of electronic dues and gift payments, a process undertaken by the Class of 2007. Discussion points included:

- would this effect multiyear gifts?
- is there a fee (it was noted credit card payments, now used by some, do involve a fee)

It was agreed that the Treasurer should do research and put an electronic payment option into place, as soon as possible, so that it can be used for this dues and fundraising cycle. It was also agreed that the Treasurer should let the President, Secretary, Web Master (note: also Jim Lawrie!) and Newsletter Editor the details so they may be broadcast as widely as possible.

3. **50th Reunion Gift:** Bill Rich reported that the need to fully fund the balance of the Gift equates to dinner for two, once a year, for ten years, for all classmates. Put this way, it is clearly an obtainable goal. But much work remains. He offered a variety of ideas
 - Ask all DCF solicitors to mention the gift during their annual solicitations
 - Make more prominent in the annual dues notice, either by reformatting the notice itself or including a separate letter in the mailing, or both. **Bill Rich and Jim Lawrie to work on this idea**
 - Create a constant reminder box in every newsletter, alerting all classmates on status.
 - Ask 2 to 3 classmates to write reminiscences about Freshman Trips in each newsletter.
 - Invite or assign people to work on arranging mini-reunions in their region (ie Jeff Welborn in Denver). San Francisco, Washington,

New York City, and Boston also mentioned. Groups could be small to large, and could include other interested classes.

- Mini-reunion leader would need to arrange venue, mail and/or call nearby classmates.
- Mini-reunions would need to well publicized, using listserve, website, magazine column, newsletter.
- **It was agreed to try to arrange one mini-reunion between this meeting and next meeting (late April), as a proto-type from which to take lessons for future events.**
- **Mike Lenahan and Bear Everett to work on mini-reunion locations and potential leaders.**
- Other ideas included doing an outdoor event, on the same day around the country, such as a hike, or getting donations per hiked mile .
- Bill also suggested considering internet sites such as Utube, Facebook and Plaxo. Let's use every tool at our disposal!
- Bill also suggested that each Executive Committee member come up with one new idea to consider at the next Executive Committee meeting.

4. Head Agent Report: Dennis Donohue supported that inclusion of the 50th Reunion gift in the annual fund solicitation

The goal for this year is \$448,000 and 62% participation. To date, \$155,404 is in hand, from 131 donors (21% of the class). Overall, cash in hand is a little ahead of last year, but number of donors behind the 154 of last year, which was a reunion year. It is recognized that given the economy, this will be a difficult year for fundraising, and so we should work particularly hard on raising participation.

Dennis distributed an organization chart used by the Class of 1974, showing a leadership and volunteer structure that raised participation to 75%. He is working to get new solicitation leaders. Dick Olsen has declined, but Dave Walden and Joe Wright have agreed, and he plan to contact Pete Wonson.

Dennis also reported that he participates in monthly conference calls with the Development Office (Janet Rosa), which have followup emails

- 5. Secretary's Report:** David Peck presented the minutes of the October 11, 2008 meeting, which had been distributed in advance. They were approved as submitted. Otherwise, no major newson the Secretarial front.
- 6. Newsletter:** Greg Marshall, Newsletter editor, noted that the recent edition has several guest writers, including Pete Wonson, Dan Butterworth, and Ed Heald. Next deadlines are March 3 and June 3. At present, he plans four issues per year, and notes they are running about three weeks after his submission to delivery in the mail.

7. **Mini Reunions:** Mike Lenahan and John Engelman reported.
 - a. **Class Ski Trip** will be at Steamboat, February 28 through March 7, 2009. A good sized house has already been reserved. Gerry Bell, unable to attend, noted in an email report that this may be the largest ever, with 18 classmates and a total of 25 now tentatively signed up.
 - b. See discussion above of having focused mini-reunions around the country: Boston, Los Angeles, Washington, New York City, San Francisco and Denver. These would be partly social and partly as platforms for advocacy for the 50th Reunion gift.
 - c. John Everett suggested the Mobile Alabama area for a future golf mini-reunion.
 - d. **Fall Mini-Reunion** was set for the Homecoming weekend of October 23-24 (Columbia). John Everett will work on venue, with Queechee Club suggested. The group noted that last fall's Dowd's Inn ended up in very cold tent, to much dismay.

8. **President's Report:** Ron Weiss reported that the College has prepared a grid analyzing all classes performance; the class of 68 is doing "satisfactory" and has no deficiencies. He did ask every officer to send a brief report of the year's activities to him for inclusion in the Class Annual Report, for which he is responsible.

It was noted that the Listserv appears to be inconsistently delivering emails to all. John Engleman noted the College is getting new software. **John and Jim were asked to look into improving Listserv performance.**

9. Next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Hanover, tentatively on April 25, 2009., Location and details to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Peck
Secretary