

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee

Minutes from Meeting of October 10, 2015

Zimmerman Lounge, Blunt Alumni Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

In attendance: Peter Fahey, Bill Rich, Dave Gang, David Walden, John Everett, Joe Nathan Wright, Ben Johnson, Jim Lawrie, Tom Laughlin, Jack Hopke, Peter Wonson (by phone) and David Peck in person; Mia Laughlin, Barbara Siede, and Janet Rosa, guests.

1. President Peter Fahey opened the meeting, and welcomed those attending in person and by conference call.
2. Follow up Items from last meeting:
 - a. Peter Fahey provided an update on the renovation/reconstruction of Memorial Field/Stadium, now completed, and the associated war memorial. The College did follow through with our requested condition of acknowledging the class as a supporting donor. Therefore, our donation was \$2,000, as approved at the May meeting
 - b. David Gang, Newsletter Editor, reported he had been disappointed in the quality of reproduction of photographs in the Newsletter. After research, he proposed and the Executive Committee supported moving the printing to the College, which has recently acquired a 4 color printer. Costs might be slightly higher, but the improved quality will be worth it.
 - c. Peter Fahey opened discussion of a “Prodigal Son” or “We Want You Back” approach to classmates who have been uninvolved with the College or class, with a goal to get them to consider attending our 50th Reunion and participate in the Annual Dartmouth College Fund. He distributed a list of classmates who have not paid dues nor attended any class event, for editing (adding or subtracting names).

Peter then circulated a draft letter, for discussion, to be sent to our unengaged classmates. The concept: include a \$10 bill, and invite their response, to indicate they will consider attending the reunion, and if they return the \$10, an anonymous classmate will donate \$90 (plus the requested \$10) to the College Fund in their name. After discussion, the **Executive Committee supported the concept, with the letter to be sent out in January 2016.**
3. Recurring Officer Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer/Webmaster:** Jim Lawrie reported that, as of September 30, 2015, the Class has \$23,118.14 in our checking account, and \$161,025.25 in investment assets. Bond fund is slightly down, at \$37,256.49; equities are at \$123,768.76. Income for the period totaled \$18,560.25, and included \$4,760 toward the

Reunion gift, and \$13,800 in dues (better than last year). Dues participation is approximately 40%. Expenses totaled \$4,450.89, consisting of class projects of \$5,000, bank charges of \$372.30 and other miscellaneous expenses, offset by late Mini-Reunion income of \$2,000.

Jim noted he is planning filing tax returns for the Class by November 15.

Discussion included review of bank charges for processing credit card payments; the charges are running at \$15 per month, whether there are credit card charges to process or not. After discussion, it was decided to make no changes at this point.

Website use is stable, with approximately 1400 to 2500 site visits per month.

- b. **Mini-Reunions:** Peter shared a report from Gerry Bell, who could not attend.
- Napa Valley 70th Birthday party, in September 2016, already has 38 classmates and guests signed up.
 - Okemo skiing in January 2016 has 13 signed up.
 - A potential hike to the base of the Grand Canyon in October 2016 looks to be postponed to Spring of 2017 since space at the Phantom Ranch was unavailable in October 2016.
 - 9 couples are already signed up for the April 2016 Passau to Budapest river cruise and City visit; 20 cabins are still available
 - The Virgin Islands Flotilla 4 in May 2016 already has signups to fill four yachts and an extra qualified captain and thus a potential for five yachts. This may be the last year for Admiral Gerry Hills, who is thinking of returning to Hawaii.
 - Jack Hopke suggested a possible mini-reunion: Invite all ROTC graduate classmates, and perhaps all veterans, to a gathering in Washington DC. He will develop more detail on this potential idea.
- b. **Class Agent:** Joe Nathan Wright reported the 2015 Dartmouth College Fund raised \$615,536, a dramatic improvement over the \$359,914 raised in 2014. 333 classmates participated, or 48%, against our goal of 50% and 346 classmates. He noted that our base is 692 classmates. Both he, and Peter Wonson by phone, were proud of the Setting the Record Straight (or “Stars”) program, where classmates with near perfect giving since graduation could make up the several year difference and become “Exemplars.” So far, 87 classmates have achieved this level, of the 110 eligible.

The 2016 dollar goal is not yet set, but will be developed by January. Participation goal will remain at 50%.

The Executive Committee expressed thanks to Joe, Peter and the entire DCF crew for all of their work.

- c. **50th Reunion Gift:** Bill Rich reported that we have \$1,149,409 as of the end of August 2015, of which \$770,621 were direct gifts and the balance investment income. A new “virtual” letter is coming out shortly, with links. A hard copy letter will follow, with testimonials. Bill suggested, and requested, that Executive Committee members, and indeed all classmates, be encouraged to write about their own Freshman Trip experiences, and how the Trips, and Dartmouth, changed their lives.

He noted that Bruce Senn recently emailed a suggestion that, as part of our 50th Reunion set of activities, that classmates hike the trails they hiked in 1964, and see how they (the trails or the people) may have changed.

- d. **Secretary:** David Peck reported no major updates. No recent classmate deaths have been reported, and that he is always on the lookout for news for future Alumni Magazine columns. One recent trend in the news is new book releases by classmates, including Bob Reich, Jeff Garten and Hank Paulson. Tom Laughlin noted that he had just self published a new book as well: “Absence of Intent”.
- e. **Newsletter:** David Gang noted that 30% of our classmates do not have email accounts, and some that do don’t open email from the class or College. Therefore, hard copy communication (newsletter, magazine etc) remains important. He also reported that he had attended Class Officers Weekend, where he served on a panel of Best Practices. One trend is Virtual Reunions: an example, on the 68th day of the year, classmates gather as they can, take pictures etc to share with classmates via the newsletter. He also asked for more pictures, of high quality (jpegs, not pdfs). Dave currently plans 3 newsletters a year, with the next due in February 2016.
- f. **Class Connections:** John Engelman, who was unable to attend, shared an email with current ideas for shared activities between the Class of 1968 and 2018. Ideas included helping prepare the ‘18s for job interviews, hosting an etiquette meeting, serving dinner during a Sophomore Summer at Mooselauke, hosting a summer barbeque on campus during the summer Family Weekend. Other ideas include classmates hosting events in their home cities during semesters when ‘18s are doing internships in that city, sharing our ‘60s music with them, and inviting the ‘18 Executive Committee to a future ‘68 Executive Committee meeting.

Bill Rich suggested a question to be posed to the '18s (or in the future, to study their actual responses): does attendance at Dartmouth home football games affect their future participation in the Dartmouth College Fund

- g. **Vox 8:** Dave Walden reported on this program, which connects classes whose graduation year ends in 8. He first noted that the Alumni Office has established Vox 9 and Vox 10 for those classes. During the year, there are 4 conference calls plus a meeting over Class Officers Weekend. Topics of discussion include sharing class observations of three strengths and three weaknesses. Our strengths included Mini reunions, Communications, Treasury, DCF work; our weaknesses (where we need help and suggestions) include improving classmate reengagement and participation. It was noted that the Class of 1988 got 80% participation during their 25th Reunion.
- h. **50th Reunion Ideas:** Peter led the Committee through discussion of current ideas to enrich the Reunion, some based on other class experience in their reunions:
- Start the Reunion on Thursday, perhaps at Mooselauke (to be rebuilt but should be done by 2018)
 - Add Monday and perhaps Tuesday morning, at the end of the Reunion, to give more time for activities.
 - The Executive Committee supported both suggestions, meaning our Reunion will now be June 7 through 12th, 2018.
 - Panel discussions on topics of class interest. One topic of key interest: Vietnam and its Impact on the Class. Other panel discussion topics welcome!
 - Faculty talks, such as Don Pease talking about Dr. Seuss or Norman McClean.
 - Side trips and nearby activities, including the St. Gauden's studio, Woodstock, Simon Pearce glass factory, Lake Sunapee cruise.
 - The Class will probably not do a hard copy 50th Reunion Book, primarily since our 40th Reunion Book was such a success. However, there is interest in doing an electronic version, perhaps with interviews/messages/notes by classmates assembled. Peter to investigate.
 - David Peck offered to investigate Survey Monkey, an online tool, that could both assess classmate ideas for programs and activities that would attract them to our Reunion, and perhaps develop an overview demographic of our Class of 1968.

4. It was agreed the next Executive Committee meeting would be held 10 am Saturday February 13, 2016 (Winter Carnival Weekend); location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

David Peck
Secretary