



**IHS Alumni Association**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, March 9, 2020**

**Educator of Excellence Award:** Dale Veverka called the group to order at 11:45 am and introduced Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz. Mayor Kurtz presented Bill McGuinness with a Proclamation from the City of Independence honoring Bill as the Recipient of this year's Educator of Excellence Award. Dale Veverka then presented Mr. McGuinness the Educator of Excellence Plaque displaying Bill's picture. Dale also presented Bill with a gift basket. Bill was then honored with congratulatory messages from Lynne Laski, Karl Schuld, Gretchen Vencel Obrovac, Amanda Jaronowski, Ed Vittardi, Beth Haas, Dana Yuro-Lendeman, Jim Riley, Bob Wagner, Brad Borowy and Rhonee Trakas Iula. Bill thanked everyone for their kind words. School Superintendent, Ben Hegedish, offered his congratulations and closing remarks. The presentation concluded at 12.25 pm.

**Meeting Called to Order:** The regular meeting began at 12:40 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Introduction of Board Members:** President Dale Veverka (70) introduced board members: President - Dale Veverka, Corresponding Secretary – Elaine (Wisnieski 57) Kukawka, Recording Secretary – Sue Sledz (70), and Treasurer – Bob Wagner (66). Don Krolkowski (77) is Webmaster. Wendy (Schmidt 68) Manfredi is Communication Director. Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula handles New Membership. Amber (Veverka 07) Axner authors the Alumni Spectator newsletter.

Vice President - Chris Zamborsky (78) was not present. Pat (Czarniak 60) Stephan, who oversees Hospitality, was also absent. Dale Veverka thanked Joan Mencl (70) for covering hospitality in Pat's absence.

**Principal's Report & School Levy:** Bill McGuinness reported that they are now preparing for a second attempt at a school bond issue later this year. He also reported that the Boys and Girls Basketball teams and the Wrestling team have done very well this past season. He proudly stated that two seniors have qualified as National Merit Finalists.

**Minutes of November Quarterly Alumni Meeting:** Elaine Wisnieski Kukawka motioned to waive the reading of and to approve the November meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Rhonee Trakas Iula. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bob Wagner reported that the Association's 2019 Annual Income was \$4,816.00, Expenses were \$4,575.51 and the end of year balance was \$12,396.16. Income included: 28% from membership dues, 33% from donations and 39% from Home Days fund raisers. Expenses included: 24% for student awards, 40% for gifts to school, 24% for the newsletter, and 6% for Alumni of Excellence and Distinguished Alumni recognition. Bonnie (Jorash 69) Pandin motioned to approve the reports. Don Krolkowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The following motions were also passed as part of the Treasurer's Report:

- Rhonee Trakas Iula motioned to approve a gift up to \$1200 to be made to the high school in Jack Katzenmeyer's name. Don Krolkowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Principal Bill McGuinness will talk to his team about the appropriate gift.
- Rhonee Trakas Iula motioned to approve a \$200 budget expense line item to serve as seed money for the Home Day gift baskets. Bonnie Jorash Pandin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Kelly Hatfield asked the group to help her in soliciting donations. She said that gift cards, the money tree and lottery board were especially popular.

- Don Krolkowski motioned to approve the annual purchase of a yearbook for the Alumni Association to retain in its archive. Rhonee Trakas Iula seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Athletic Hall of Fame (represented by an individual, Tim Skoczen) is looking for an organization to serve as a fiduciary custodian of his funds. The Athletic Booster Association once served that function, but has since declined any further responsibility. Will the Alumni Association be willing to serve in this capacity? The group felt that there was not enough information to make this decision. Dale Veverka, Bob Wagner and Don Krolkowski will meet separately with Tim Skoczen, the Athletic Booster Association and the school administration to gather more information and report back to the Alumni Association.

**Alumni Spectator:** Dale Veverka asked members to send their articles to Amber Veverka Axner as soon as possible. The next newsletter is due out the end of May.

**Home Days Brunch:** Rhonee Trakas Iula confirmed that the Class of 1975 will cook breakfast again.

**Home Days Booth:** Don Krolkowski reported that he will need help around noon on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> to set up the booth. Volunteer shifts will be set up again. He will collect volunteer names at the June meeting.

**Website:** No action at this time.

**Alumni Award Winners:** Dale Veverka stated that the Alumni Association will award two \$500 financial awards to graduating seniors. Bonnie Jorash Pandin and Joanie Mencl volunteered to serve as Readers.

Elaine Wisnieski Kukawka stated that she will donate \$500 in Jack Katzenmeyer's name to the Alumni Association to present a \$500 award to a graduating senior in the Arts program. Principal Guinness will assist Elaine in naming the recipient of this award.

**Graduation Escorts:** Dale Veverka asked for volunteers to escort graduating seniors down the graduation aisle.

**Correspondence:** Elaine Wisnieski Kukawka reported that she submitted the Alumni Association's event dates to "Independence Today." She also reported three new members joined. Our current member count is 136. Elaine sent 90 honorary memberships for the upcoming graduating class.

**New Membership:** Rhonee Trakas Iula reported that we will be launching a Facebook campaign to recruit new members.

#### **Calendar of Events:**

- IHS Award Selection – April/May
- General Meeting – June 8, 2020
- Home Days Booth – August 7-8, 2020
- Breakfast in the Park – August 9, 2020

**Adjournment:** Don Krolkowski motioned to adjourn. Rhonee Trakas Iula seconded the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Sledz  
Recording Secretary