

MINUTES

Penn Manor Alumni Association
November 11, 2008

The Penn Manor Alumni Association met on the above-cited date in the Alumni Room in the Library at Penn Manor High School. The meeting was called to order by Frank Geist at 6:34 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jim Lawrence, Judy Duke, Linda Millard, Frank Geist, Carol Diller, Nancy Smith and Dolores Warfel.

Frank updated those in attendance with regard to the following items relating to veterans:

- Tracings, from the Viet Name War Memorial, of the names of the seven Penn Manor graduates who lost their lives in that war were presented to Penn Manor by Ron Atwell, Class of 1966, and now hang in the High School.
- An article regarding the LINK program appeared in the Above and Beyond. LINK is a program established by PMAA where Penn Manor veterans are linked with current Penn Manor graduates serving in the armed services in either Afghanistan or Iraq. Several veterans have been linked with current soldiers and will serve as their mentor. Heidi Long, a teacher at Marticville Middle School, has a list of students serving in the armed services and is willing to share the information with PMAA.

The Minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting were approved on a motion by Judy Duke, a second by Carol Diller and a unanimous voice vote of those in attendance. It was decided that future minutes will be posted on the PMAA website so they can be reviewed prior to their approval at upcoming board meetings.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Judy Duke. She stated that \$10,218.47 has been transferred to the PMAA Certificate of Deposit bringing its total to \$75,000. A total of \$212.50 has been received in dues and memberships since the last meeting. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Carol Diller, a second by Linda Millard and a unanimous voice vote of those in attendance.

Frank Geist circulated a sign-up sheet for PMAA Standing Committees for 2008-2009. The sign-up sheet indicated the Chairman of each committee and a partial list of members already assigned to the following committees.

- Finance - Judy Duke, Chair
- Marketing/Public Relations - Cindy Rhoades, Chair
- Membership - Frank Geist, Chair
- Banquet - Dolores Warfel, Chair
- Armed Services Committee - Frank Geist, Chair
- Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee - Jan Mindish, Chair
- Archives Committee - Chair to be determined
- Volunteer Committee - Nancy Smith, Chair

Individuals in attendance were asked to add their names to any committee(s) they wish to serve on. They were also asked to encourage any interested alumni they might be aware of to attend the meetings and serve on a committee.

The following “Good News Items” were discussed.

- The “Welcome” pencils presented to incoming kindergarten students were once again distributed and well received.
- The Old-Timers Athletic Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony was held on October 10. It was a great success and received wonderful press coverage.
- Nancy Smith, Volunteer Committee Chairperson, reported that PMAA volunteers helped with report cards at Manor Middle School and progress reports at the High School.
- Sue Hostetter, High School Librarian, gave the Alumni Association two locking file cabinets for use in the storing of their archives. In exchange, she was presented with new bookcases for the library which were paid for and/or built by Dave Neff, Bob Aument and Bill Kreider. A most deserving thank you was extended to Dave, Bob, and Bill for their generous donation and hard work. A thank you was sent by the association to Sue Hostetter for her donation of the file cabinets.
- Frank Geist reviewed a previous donation made by Ann Werner Van Dyke to the Memorial Walk area in memory of her mother. He informed those in attendance that a call was received from Mrs. Van Dyke stating that she will be sending another donation to be used for the same purpose.
- At the last meeting of the association those in attendance agreed to purchase a \$100 brick in the Memorial Courtyard in honor of Cindy LaMaster in recognition of her outstanding dedication to the Alumni Association. Frank Geist stated that two anonymous donors have each contributed \$50 to fund the purchase of this brick.
- Shelley Hodson sent letters to the members of the Class of 1953 and the Class of 1958. The letters were a way of updating class members on the association and inviting them to become involved. Class of 1958 members were informed that two members from their class, Clair Jenkins and Harry Frey, were being inducted into the Old-Timers Athletic Wall of Honor. An invitation for them to attend the Awards Ceremony and share this event with their classmates was included in the letter.
- Two Penn Manor related newsletters - the Above and Beyond and the PMAA Foundation Focus - are being sent to all out-of-town PMAA members. Thank you Cindy Rhoades for making this possible.
- Jim Lawrence stated that an alumni reunion of Penn Manor wrestlers is being planned. He stated that Doug Shuttey realized that 2008-2009 is the 50th school year for wrestling at Penn Manor. It was determined that this momentous occasion should be recognized. Jim stated that he met several times with a group of individuals who are planning a social gathering for past wrestlers in recognition of this milestone. The event will be held on January 21, 2009 from 5:00-5:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria between matches with Hempfield. Hempfield agreed to change what was to have been an away match to a home match at Penn Manor so this event could take place. Jim said there is discussion about possibly introducing members from the original 1958-1959 team, anyone in attendance who ever placed in state finals, and other past wrestlers. Frank Geist said the Alumni Association would be willing to assist in any way they could. He stated that a sheet was available for past wrestlers to sign up

for attendance at this event when the Class of 1963 held their reunion.

- The Alumni Banquet is returning to the high school. It will be held in the cafeteria on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The goal is to make the banquet affordable to everyone and increase attendance.
- Progress on design and creation of a new logo for the association for use on letterhead, etc. was reviewed. Originally a student from the PA College of Art and Design worked on the project. The student's efforts were truly appreciated, however, a design selection could not be reached from the artwork presented. Steve Wilson, a Penn Manor resident artist, then reviewed our request for an updated logo and expressed his willingness to submit ideas pro bono. However, he indicated he would like us to place orders for any materials for new letterhead, etc. with him. Judy Duke asked if Steve Wilson was given any guidelines. Frank said he shared the sketches he had of logo suggestions. Steve Wilson indicated he would submit four to five ideas to the association within a month.

The following "Still Needs Work" items were discussed.

- PMAA Mission Statement - The current Mission Statement was reviewed and it was agreed that it could use updating. Frank Geist stated that this is an item that association members will be looking at in the future.
- Membership Levels - The number of new memberships, both yearly and lifetime, have increased. Efforts will continue to increase membership via letters to various classes and verbal encouragement of current alumni members.
- Communication to Our Alumni - Discussion ensued regarding the necessity to increase and maintain frequent communications with our alumni. Consistent communication will help hold the alumni together as a group and maintain our tie to the school district. Ways suggested to raise recognition of the Alumni Association were: (1) having the association play a bigger role in homecoming and (2) the possible participation, via a float, in the Millersville Parade.
- Wish List Requests - Nancy Smith questioned what the association was going to do with regard to Wish List requests. Frank Geist asked what those in attendance thought of not giving Wish List money. He reviewed the history of Wish List requests and the association's desire to have more communication with alumni. He suggested using money previously given to Wish List requests for mailing and printing costs of communications with the alumni in the form of letters and the publication and mailing of a PMAA newsletter. After discussion, it was the consensus of those members in attendance that the association not make Wish List money available to teachers this year. The Venture Grant program run by the Education Foundation was reviewed. It was decided these grants would be an excellent replacement vehicle for Wish List requests. A letter will be sent to principals asking them to let their teachers know to send their requests to the Education Foundation for consideration as a Venture Grant.

The following "Hoped for Projects" were discussed.

- Communication to Penn Manor Employees Who Are Also Alumni - There are quite a few employees who are also alumni. Frank Geist suggested communicating with this specific group of alumni and making them an active part of the association.
- Reaching out to Impoverished Alumni - A very important role of the Alumni Association

should be supporting our alumni. One example of this support could be to do something small for alumni who are facing difficult times at the holidays.

- PMAA Newsletter - Publication of a PMAA newsletter, which will hopefully be available for mailing this year.
- Distinguished Alumni Recognized at This Year's Annual Banquet - Since the Distinguished Alumni Awards will be combined with the banquet this year, it was determined that there is no need for a speaker at the banquet because of time constraints.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. on a motion by Nancy Smith, a second by Carol Diller and a unanimous voice vote of those in attendance.

Next Meeting
March 3, 2009
6:30 p.m.