



Grinnell High School ALUMNI NEWS

Vol. I, Issue I • November 2001 • Grinnell High School Alumni Association

Class of '44 Organizes GHS Alumni Association

When the Class of 1944 held its 50th reunion in Grinnell, the topic of an all-school reunion and an alumni association were discussed.

The Class of 1944 believed Grinnell would benefit from both, according to class member Bob Smith of Grinnell.

It was decided to organize the classes of the 1940s to hold a reunion during the Grinnell millennium in 2000. All of the classes of Grinnell High School were to be invited to this reunion.

The organizational meeting of the Alumni Association was held November 19, 1997, and called to order by Smith. Those on the Board of Directors and the classes they represented were: Robert and Mim Peters, 1940; Lucille Morrison Anderson and Isadore Berman, 1941; Leona Shedenhelm Strovers and Elaine Lidtka Heishman, 1942; Paul Decatur and Doris Whitaker Lowry, 1943.

Twylamae Gross McAtee and William A. Bryan, 1944; Robert Kaloupek and Charles Manly, 1945; Mary Lou Goff Herbert-Dixon and Wanda Mackin Hunt, 1946; Maynard Raffety and Ruth Bohstedt Palmer, 1947; Robert Dimit and Wayne Hendrickson, 1948; and Donna Maron Puls and Michael Hotchkin, 1949.

The group crafted bylaws, notified the Secretary of State for Iowa and the Internal Revenue Service that the Alumni Association was a viable organization, and met with the Grinnell-Newburg School District, the Grinnell Chamber, and the Hotel-Motel Tax Commission. A post office box was obtained, and newsletters were sent to approximately 1,000 alumni of the 1940s.

Aims and purposes

Aims and purposes of the Alumni Association were established, as follows:

(1) To organize a computer data base at the central school office, consisting of those students who attended Grinnell-Newburg High School,

(2) To assist all of the classes in planning their individual reunions every five years from the date their class graduated,

(3) To establish a tax deductible foundation to assist graduating students in furthering their life goals,

(4) To assist the Grinnell-Newburg Schools in attaining their aims in education



Alumni Association organizer Bob Smith, right, discusses business with new board member Rick Ramsey.

through an alumni network, and

(5) To publish a news sheet of alumni interests.

The efforts resulted in a millennium reunion held July 14-16, 2000, attended by some 700. The classes of the '40s met at various locations Friday evening, followed by all classes meeting at the Poweshiek County Fairgrounds on Saturday. A breakfast and general meeting at the high school Sunday morning closed the event and elected Jerry Hagen of the Class of 1951 to head and carry forward the Association.

'Come Join Us!'

Greetings from your new Grinnell Alumni President and Board. This is our first attempt at an alumni newsletter, which we hope will be at least a yearly publication. *We welcome your membership dues to assist us in this!*

Following the July 2000 reunion a new board was formed, consisting mostly of 1950s members. It was the plan to hold a reunion every five years and include all GHS alumni. However, since the town of Grinnell will be celebrating its 150th birthday in 2004, we decided that's the time to hold the alumni reunion. Therefore, the next all alumni reunion will be July 3-5, 2004.

Please plan to join us at that time for a really big celebration. We will keep you informed.

*Jerry Hagen '51
Your GHS Alumni
Association President*



GHS Alumni Association Board Members: (front row, from left) Maynard Raffety, '47; Lucille Anderson, '41; Jerry Hagen, '51 and Bob Kaloupek, '45. Back row, from left: Rick Ramsey, '56, Esther Bethel, '50, Frank Shults, '65, Jim Gault, '50 and Betty Gerber, '53. Not pictured: Gordon Canfield, '57; Larry German, '52; Carolyn Grosenbach, '54; Mike Hotchkin, '49; Bill Molison, '77; Dick Ritter, '52; and Bob Smith, '44.