



**Mendel Alumni Association Board of Director's Meeting**

**February 7, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**President Tom Gavin Called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 PM**

*Derek Lott, Jamie Mayes Alan Stahl, Dennis Heitzmann, Kelvin Lovely, Mike Dreznes, Pat Regan, Tom Gavin, Andy Youpel Eric Rouse, Gene Rouse, John Quattrocki, Larry Bliss, Mike Foley, John Wilson, John Knoebel, David Ireland and Bill Kushner were present. John Dreznes was present as an observer.*

*Ron Smith, Rich Williams, Bob Fioretti, and Ron Dubin notified the Board that they would not be able to attend the meeting prior to the start of the meeting.*

*Nolan Lane, Billy Hilbring, Curtis Rempson, Jim Weber, Danny Randall, and John Fanning (2<sup>nd</sup> Missed Meeting) were Missing With No Explanation*

**Opening Prayer**

Andy Youpel opened the meeting with a prayer asking that the meeting be productive and that good decisions be made.

**Kirkland Townsend Resignation and Replacement**

Tom Gavin explained that Kirkland Townsend had resigned from the Board of Directors for personal reasons. The Alumni Association sent a letter to Kirkland Townsend by Certified Mail to accept his resignation.

The Officers of the Board of Directors, acting as the Nominating Committee per the Articles of Association, discussed replacement candidates for the Chairman position. They proposed Bill Kushner as the Chairman and John Knoebel as the replacement for Kirkland Townsend's seat on the Board of Directors.

John Knoebel and Bill Kushner presented their credentials and their desires to serve to the Board. They were asked to leave the meeting so their nominations could be discussed.

Everyone welcomed John Knoebel to the Board. However, Mike Foley and Alan Stahl questioned if the nominating process had been appropriately followed and if a sufficient number of nominations had been considered for the Chairman's position. Mike Dreznes explained that per Article Five of the Articles of Association "Board Members, Officers and Committee Chairs Paragraph C," which reads, "*The Board shall solicit nominations for open Board positions. The Association Officers shall serve as the Nominating Committee. Board vacancies shall be filled by majority vote of the Board present at such time.*" the process had been followed as prescribed. The Officers, serving as the Nominating Committee had done their due diligence on the candidates considered, and they determined that Bill Kushner was the best candidate for the Chairman position and the John Knoebel was the best candidate for the Open Board Member position.

John Knoebel and Bill Kushner were placed in nomination and the vote was nine “YES” votes and four “NO” votes. Three other “YES” proxy votes were not allowed. John Knoebel and Bill Kushner returned to the meeting and were welcomed as the new Chairman and the new Board Member.

Bill Kushner promised to do his best to change the opinions of the four Board Members who voted against his nomination. John Knoebel said he looked forward the challenges and opportunities ahead.

At the close of this segment of the meeting, Kelvin Lovely made a very profound statement, “*We can all agree to disagree, but we cannot be disagreeable.*”

#### **Minutes from December 6, 2022 ZOOM Call Meeting Mike Dreznes**

Mike Dreznes presented the Minutes from the December 6, 2022 Board Meeting. No one had any questions or comments regarding the December 6, 2022 ZOOM Call Minutes.

Bill Kushner made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. John Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Treasurer’s Report: Finance Committee Pat Regan**

Pat Regan reported that there was minor change in the 2022 results since the 12/6/2022 Board Meeting-our ending Cash Balance was \$22,416 and our Running Cash Balance stood at \$19,706.

One major expense reversal for the previous 2022 results is that the IRS has told Pat on January 31, 2023 that they accepted our Request to Extend the filing of our 12/31/2021 tax return, As a result, they will be refunding the \$1,630.45 penalty they assessed and we paid in November 2022. There is a letter in the mail supporting this matter and we should expect payment in two weeks or so.

**Year To Date Summary  
2023 Budget/Projection**

	All Class Reunion #	\$	Golf Outing	Xmas Party	HOF	Veterans Day	Total	Corporate	Donations	\$
Beginning Cash Balances 12/31/2022		20,334.12	8,996.29	599.03	(450.00)	1,955.45	31,434.89	(2,018.95)	(7,000.00)	
<b>Total Revenue 2023: (b)</b>										
Paid										
Unpaid			15,550.00				15,550.00			
	-	-	15,550.00	-	-	-	15,550.00	-		
<b>Expenses 2023:</b>										
Paid			400.00				400.00	199.56		
Paid Other										
Unpaid Hickory Hills			7,750.00				7,750.00			
Unpaid Other			2,912.80		2,710.00		5,622.80	5,648.00		
	-	-	11,062.80	-	2,710.00	-	13,772.80	5,648.00		
<b>Net Results 2021-2023</b>	-	20,334.12	13,483.49	599.03	(2,710.00)	-	33,212.09	(7,666.95)	(7,000.00)	
<b>Cash Results for 2023</b>			4,487.20				4,487.20	(5,648.00)		

Chase Bank Balance  
Cash to be deposited  
Less: O/S Checks  
Less: O/S Checks  
  
1/31/2023

**In 2022 Spending for 2023 Golf Outing:**

Rich Williams Fund for Golf Prizes 500.00  
Deposit for Hickory Hills 1,000.00  
Scholarships 6,000.00 TED Proposed by Scholarship Co

**Corporate Cost:**

	2023	2022
Mendel PC & Software	-	-
D&O Insurance	1,650.00	1,615.00
Web Fees	1,125.00	1,595.00
IRS Filing Fees	350.00	600.00
Mendel Picnic Donation	500.00	-
	<u>5,648.00</u>	<u>3,810.00</u>

**Other Items In 2022**

Foley Award		240.00
Ad Book For Augustinian Event		400.00
Gift Cards for Reunion Support		760.00
Other		28.00
	<u>5,648.00</u>	<u>5,258.00</u>

HOF 2022 Budget Carryover 2,710.00

There has been limited financial activity in 2023. We made a \$400 deposit for the purchase of embroidered golf totes for the 2023 Golf Outing.

Pat Regan presented the Budget for the 2023 Golf Outing.

Mendel 2023 Golf Outing Budget						
	Budget 2023	Actual YTD 2023	Actual YTD 2023	Total 2022	Budget Variance	TY vs LY Variance
		Paid	Unpaid			
<b>Revenue</b>						
Golf fee per person	150.00			151.81		
golfers	80			83		
Total Golf Revenue	12,000.00		12,000.00	12,600.00		
Dinner only per person	50.00			-		
diners	15			10		
Total Dinner	750.00		750.00	320.00		
<b>Total Revenue for use of Golf Course</b>	12,750.00		12,750.00	12,920.00		
Recovery from PayPal for 2021 Outing	-		-	185.59		
Hole Sponsorships	1,500.00		1,500.00	2,150.00		
Donations	500.00		500.00	610.00		
Split the pot/ Raffle	800.00		800.00	770.00		
T-Shirts, Towels, Hawaiian Shirts	-		-	1,094.00		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	15,550.00		15,550.00	17,729.59		
Total Per Person Revenue w/o dinners				-		
<b>Expense</b>						
Golf Fee Only- Potential Sunk Cost (\$1k Deposit in 2022)	3,000.00		3,000.00	5,100.00		
Per Person Cost	50.00			-		
On Course Fees	-		-	365.00		
Total Golf Fees	3,000.00		3,000.00	5,465.00		
				-		
Dinner & Open Bar \$50 per person				4,584.50		
Service Fee and Tax				1,032.94		
Total Dinner	4,750.00		4,750.00	5,617.44		
Total Costs	7,750.00		7,750.00	11,082.44		
<b>Per Person</b>						
Mailings: postage						
Marathon: hats or golf towels	-			877.40		
Tee Gift-Tote Bags (100@\$20/ea.)	2,182.80	400.00	1,782.80			
Golf balls	-		-	325.00		
Door prizes (\$500 2023 paid in 2022, 2021 paid in 2020)	200.00		200.00	650.00		
Competition prizes (Cash)	350.00		350.00	350.00		
Tips	160.00		160.00	160.00		
Office Supplies				-		
Photo				-		
Tshirts	-		-	397.48		
CC Charges	250.00		250.00	237.12		
Sponsor signs	50.00		50.00	50.00		
Postage	120.00		120.00	120.00		
<b>Sub Total</b>	3,312.80	400.00	2,912.80	3,167.00		
				-		
Total Cost	11,062.80	400.00	10,662.80	14,249.44		
Net ( \$1k deposit made in 2022)	4,487.20	(400.00)	4,887.20	3,480.15		
Objective	5,000.00					
Difference	(512.80)					

Pat Regan earmarked a suggested outlay of \$6,000 for funding of the Inaugural Mendel Scholarship Program.

Pat Regan presented a "No Charge" invoice from Fanning Communications that showed that Fanning Communications wrote off \$464.40 for services for the Mendel Alumni Association. This is an example of the work done by John Fanning's (Class of 1968) company has done for the Association over the past 2 plus years. We are very fortunate and blessed to have support like this from a fellow Alumni!

Larry Bliss made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mike Foley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

## Review of BOD Rotation

The Articles of Association require one third of the Board of Directors be rotated off the Board every year. The current BOD roster showing the Directors' terms was presented:



# Mendel High School Alumni Association Board of Directors February 7, 2023

CHAIRMAN  
CHAIRMAN  
VICE PRESIDENT  
TREASURER  
SECRETARY

BOD	Eric Rouse	8/1/20-7/31/23
BOD	Gene Rouse	8/1/20-7/31/23
BOD	Jamie Mayes	8/1/20-7/31/23
BOD	Jim Weber	8/1/20-7/31/23
BOD	Larry Bliss	8/1/20-7/31/23
BOD	Mike Foley	8/1/20-7/31/23
BOD	Ron Dubin	8/1/20-7/31/23
BOD	John Knoebel	2/7/23-7/31/23
BOD	Bob Fioretti	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	Daniel Randall	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	David Ireland	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	John Fanning	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	John Quattrochi	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	Rich Williams	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	Andy Youpel	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	Allen Stahl	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Billy Hilbring	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Curtis Rempson	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Dennis Heitzmann	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Derek Lotte	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	John Wilson	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Nolan Lane	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Ron Smith	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	William Kushner	8/1/21-7/31/24
BOD	Tom Gavin	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Kelvin Lovely	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Pat Regan	8/1/22-7/31/25
BOD	Mike Dreznes	8/1/22-7/31/25

The Chairman and the Board of Directors Officers will determine if a rotated BOD Member will be asked to return for an additional three-year term.

## 2023 Golf Outing

Tom Gavin asked that the Golf Outing be posted on the Mendel Website. He thanked John Farris for his involvement with this year's Golf Outing.

Tom Gavin announced that the Mendel Alumni Association 2023 Golf Outing will be held at Hickory Hills Golf Course on Wednesday July 12, 2023. The price will be \$150 for eighteen holes of golf, dinner, and two hours of open bar. The Association's cost will be \$100 for golf and dinner and \$50 for dinner only.

**ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to send John Dreznes a flyer for the Golf Outing to be placed on the website no later than February 15, 2023. (UPDATE: FLYER SENT ON FEBRUARY 12)**

## 2023 All-Class Picnic Update

Derek Lott announced that the All-Class Picnic would be held on Saturday June 24, 2023 at a location to be determined. The site being considered is between 95<sup>th</sup> and 103<sup>rd</sup> Streets close to Lake Michigan (Calumet Park.)

Derek Lott explained that the Class of 1984 had organized this Picnic for the past "number of years." The Class of 1984 has a dues structure. People pay a "nominal fee" to attend the picnic. Everyone is encouraged to bring food, tents, and grills. Food is available for purchase. Music and games (tug of war, etc.) are provided.

Typically the picnic has a cash deficit of \$500 to \$1,000. Derek Lott asked the Board to consider subsidizing the picnic since it is an "All-Class Picnic." Pat Regan noted that the Articles of Association state that the purpose of the Association is to "...advance the ties of friendship which unite the Brotherhood of Mendel Monarchs' faculty, family and friends..." Based on this statement, the Board of Directors should approve some level of funding for this All-Class Picnic.

Tom Gavin proposed that Derek Lott prepares a formal proposal with a financial request that outlines the items to be covered by the subsidy from the Alumni Association, and that he presents this to the full Board at the next Board Meeting. Derek Lott agreed to prepare this proposal.

**ACTION STEPS: Derek Lott to submit a budgetary proposal that outlines the funds requested as well as how the funds will be used to Tom Gavin no later than February 27, 2023. This proposal is to be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting.**

### **Mendel Tabernacle Status**

Andy Youpel reported that the Mendel Chapel tabernacle was taken by Father Condi who was the pastor at St. James parish when Mendel closed. He took the tabernacle to St. James Parish in Lansing. St. Ann and St. James have merged to create All Souls Parish in Lansing. St. James is only used for weddings and funerals.

Andy Youpel sent the following formal letter to determine the steps to be taken to move the tabernacle to St. Rita after St. James closes. Once St. James closes, efforts will be made to move the tabernacle to the St. Rita Chapel.

*Rev. Mark Kalema  
Pastor  
Saint Anne Parish  
Lansing, Illinois*

*Subject: St James Parish, Tabernacle*

*Dear Father Mark,*

*I am writing to you today regarding the tabernacle at St. James Parish in Saul Village, Illinois. We have been informed that the tabernacle at St James Parish once was located at the Mendel Catholic High School Chapel, located at 211 East 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois in the Roseland/Pullman community. We believe when the school closed and was sold to the Chicago Public School system, many items and artifacts, such as vestments, etc., were moved throughout the archdiocese to other worship parishes, and the Tabernacle was sent to Saint James Parish.*

*I am of the understanding that Saint James Parish has been joined with Saint Anne Parish in Lansing, Illinois, and will be permanently closed in the near future.*

*We, the Mendel Catholic High School Alumni Association, are requesting that, upon the permanent closing of Saint James Parish Church, the Tabernacle at Saint James be transferred to Saint Rita of Cascia Shrine, located at Saint Rita of Cascia High School at 7720 South Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. I will be honored to actually bring the Tabernacle from Saint James to Saint Rita if you find our request favorable.*

*The Mendel Alumni Association is attempting to gather and bring home as many artifacts from our Mendel CHS as possible. We have secured the portrait painting of Reverend Gregor Mendel that was displayed in the Main Hall, as well as other items.*

*The Augustinian Priests at Saint Rita of Cascia Shrine have agreed to accept the Tabernacle and place it in the Shrine where it will be safe and honored.*

*If you have any questions regarding our request, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience at my cell # 312-287-8913.*

*Regards,*

*Andy Youpel  
Mendel Alumni Association/Board Member*

Andy Youpel reached out to Fr. Tom McCarthy at St. Rita who said St. Rita would love to have the Mendel Tabernacle in their Chapel if they could get it at no charge.

### **Mendel Alumni Association Scholarship**

Mike Dreznes announced that the Scholarship Committee that consisted of Chairman Ron Smith, Danny Randall, Allen Stahl, Mike Dreznes, Kelvin Lovely, Bob Fioretti, Dennis Heitzmann, Pat Regan, and Eric Rouse did an excellent job preparing the Mendel Alumni Association Scholarship.

### **Mendel Alumni Association Scholarship in 2023**

The Mendel Alumni Association Scholarship in 2023 will be available for a Mendel Legacy child (Child, Grandchild or Great Grandchild of Mendel Alumni "Mendel Alumni" does not require graduation) who is a Class of 2023 senior at Providence High School or St Rita High School. Each school will be eligible for up to two \$1,000 scholarships. In addition two seniors at Gwendolyn Brooks High School will be eligible for two \$500 Scholarships. If the Gwendolyn Brooks winners are Mendel Legacy, the scholarship award will increase to \$1,000.

The requirements for the 2023 Mendel Alumni Association Scholarship are as follows:

Minimum 21 ACT Score or 1100-SAT Score with a Minimum 2.8 GPA

Proof of Acceptance to a two- or four-year Institution of Higher Education (College, University or Trade School)

Proof of Community/School Involvement

Written Essay Describing: "How I Am Becoming a Person for Others." (MAXIMUM 1000 WORDS)

High Schools will judge winners from their schools.

Mendel Alumni Association will make donations to the High School. The High School will pay the winning students.

The Maximum Outlay for 2023 is St. Rita High School \$2000, Providence High School \$2,000 and Gwendolyn Brooks High School \$2,000 with a TOTAL of \$6,000.

The Minimum Outlay for 2023 is St. Rita High School \$0, Providence High School \$0 and Gwendolyn Brooks High School \$1,000 with a TOTAL of \$1,000.

Mike Dreznes presented the personalized flyers, letter and applications for St. Rita High School, Providence High School and Gwendolyn Brooks High School. Mike Foley offered to send Mike Dreznes a contact at Gwendolyn Brooks High School so he can send them their letters on the Scholarship.

*Mike Dreznes will send the following letter to all Alumni using Constant Contact to make them aware of the Scholarship Program and to ask for donations:*

The Mendel Alumni Association is pleased to announce the launch of the Inaugural Mendel High School Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship. The ultimate purpose of this Scholarship is to memorialize Mendel High School and to foster Augustinian ideals of uniting people in the communion of mind and heart and the service of God's people. The Mendel High School Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship will be implemented in two phases:

For Phase One; two (2) \$1,000 Scholarships will be available for Seniors of the 2023 Class who attend Providence or St Rita High Schools, (Total of 4 Scholarships)

To be eligible, the Senior must be a Descendant of a Mendel Alumnus. "Descendant" is defined as; a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, or great, great-grandchild of a Mendel Alumnus. "Mendel Alumnus" means any student who attended Mendel Catholic High School, Graduation from Mendel is not a requirement.

In Phase One, two (2) Gwendolyn Brooks Seniors also will be eligible for a \$500 Scholarship. These Seniors do not have to be a descendant of a Mendel Alumnus. This Scholarship will increase to \$1,000 if the winner is a Mendel Descendant.

The Mendel Alumni Association will use Stage One as a learning experience, and plan to implement a larger scale Scholarship program in Phase Two starting in 2024.

For Phase One, the qualifications for a Scholarship will be:

- 1) A Minimum 21 ACT or 1100 SAT score.
- 2) A Minimum of 2.8 GPA.
- 3) Proof of acceptance to College, University or Trade School for the 2023/2024 school year.
- 4) Proof of Community/School Involvement. (Can be highlighted in Essay)
- 5) Submittal of an Essay titled "How I Am Becoming a Person for Others." (Max 1000 Words)

For Phase Two, the value of the scholarship and the number of scholarships will be determined based on the Financial Status of the Mendel Alumni Association when the Announcement is made. Please visit the Mendel website at [www.mendelchs.org](http://www.mendelchs.org) for additional details.

The Alumni Association will include a percentage of the net proceeds raised at every fundraising event (Golf Outings, Reunions, etc.) for this Scholarship Program. You can help make this dream a reality by donating to the Scholarship Fund at the Mendel Alumni Association website [www.mendelchs.org](http://www.mendelchs.org) or by calling Mike Dreznes at (707) 344-5878. Any donation from you would greatly help as we try to build up an endowment that can carry this Scholarship Program into the future.

We are excited about this concept, and we appreciate your help by spreading the word to your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If they are Seniors attending Providence High School, St Rita High or Gwendolyn Brooks High School, tell them to talk to their Guidance Counselor to get the application for 2023.

An Announcement for Phase Two will be forthcoming once Phase one is completed. if you have any questions regarding this Program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mike Dreznes ('68)  
Mendel Alumni Association Secretary  
(707) 344-5878



**ACTION STEPS: Mike Foley to send Mike Dreznes contact details for the right person at Gwendolyn Brooks no later than February 15, 2023. Mike Dreznes to send out personalized letters, applications, and flyers no later than February 15, 2023. Mike Dreznes to send the Announcement for the 2023 Scholarship to the Alumni no later than March 1, 2023. (UPDATE: PERSONALIZED LETTERS FLYER AND APPLICATIONS SENT TO ST. RITA AND PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 10, 2023) AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WAS SENT TO ALL ALUMNI ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2023. ST. RITA HAS IDENTIFIED THREE LEGACY CANDIDATES IN THE CLASS OF 2023.)**

### Mendel Alumni Association Scholarship in 2024 and beyond

The Mendel Alumni Association Scholarship in 2024 and beyond will be available for a Mendel Legacy child (Child, Grandchild, or Great Grandchild of Mendel Alumni "Mendel Alumni" does not require graduation) who is a senior at any high school in the world.

Minimum 21 ACT Score or 1100-SAT Score with a Minimum 2.8 GPA

Proof of Acceptance to a two- or four-year Institution of Higher Education (College, University or Trade School)

Proof of Community/School Involvement

Written Essay on a topic to be determined (MAXIMUM 500 WORDS)

An Independent Body will be appointed to judge applications.

The Mendel Alumni Association will make donations to the High School. The High School will pay the winning students. The number of scholarships and the value of the scholarships will be determined based on the Mendel Alumni Association financial situation at the time.

Dennis Heitzmann asked that the Mendel Alumni Association have an opportunity to publicly recognize the winners to increase Mendel Alumni awareness and sense of purpose.

A motion was made by Andy Youpel to make the Scholarship Committee a standing committee and that the proposal submitted by the Scholarship Committee be accepted as presented. David Ireland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### HOF Status Update

Tom Gavin reported that Ben McCall handed off the leadership for the Hall of Fame to John Farris. Tom Gavin explained that sixteen Mendel Alumni are to be inducted on a Saturday in May 2023. He asked that \$2,700 be earmarked for this activity.

Tom Gavin recommended that the inductions to the Hall of Fame be held every two years instead of every year. Andy Youpel proposed that St. Rita be asked to introduce the Mendel HOF inductees at a St. Rita football game.

**ACTION STEPS: Tom Gavin to collaborate with John Farris to finalize plans for the May 2023 induction and to announce the event to the Alumni no later than March 1, 2023. (UPDATE: THE HOF INDUCTION WILL BE ON SATURDAY MAY 27, 2023 AT ST.RITA)**

### Articles of Association

The revised Articles of Association were presented. Pat Regan asked that the Articles be reformatted to include the signatures of the Chairman, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mike Foley made a motion to accept the revised Articles of Association. Bill Kushner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION STEPS: Pat Regan to get the Articles of Association signed by all Officers and the Chairman no later than March 1, 2023i. (UPDATE: ALL OFFICERS AND THE CHAIRMAN SIGNED THE UPDATED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION ON FEBRUART 15, 2023)**

### Mendel Showcase at Gwendolyn Brooks/Pullman Foundation

Mike Foley reported that he will meet with his contacts at Gwendolyn Brooks regarding the Mendel Showcase at Gwendolyn Brooks and he will report back to the Board at the next Board of Directors' meeting.

**ACTION STEPS: Mike Foley to meet with his contacts at Gwendolyn Brooks to understand what needs to determine if it makes sense to create the Mendel Bookcase at Gwendolyn Brooks.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Andy Youpel reported that the Mendel Alumni Association could march in the St. Patrick's Day Southside Parade on Sunday March 12, 2023. The cost will be \$300.

Mike Foley made a motion to approve the \$300 allocation. John Quattrocki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to prepare a parade flyer for the website and he will announce the parade to the Alumni using Constant Contact. .**

### Mendel Monarch Cookbook

Rich Williams proposed that the Alumni be approached to get their family recipes that could be published in a Cook Book.

Mike Dreznes mentioned that while he was not a cook, Mendel does have an Alumnus , Chef Richard James from the Mendel Class of 1985. He is the Executive Chef of Rick Bayless's Frontera Grill. Chef Richard James has been cooking for 30 years and has been with Chef Rick Bayless for 20 of those years. He started as the grill cook in Frontera and was promoted to sous chef a year and a half later. He eventually became managing sous chef of Frontera Grill and Topolobampo. In 2007, he became chef de cuisine of Frontera and two years ago he became managing chef of Frontera Grill, Topolobampo, and Xoco. Out of the two African Americans that hold leading positions at top restaurants in Chicago, the Chicago Tribune notes Chef Richard James as one of them.

Rich Williams has reached out to Richard James to see if he would participate in this project.

Rich Williams suggested that rather than a formal cookbook that the Alumni Association create a section of the webpage called "What's Cooking" where Alumni could post their favorite recipes.

The Board proposed that Rich Williams pursue this venture and report back to the Board at the next Board meeting.

**ACTION STEPS: Rich Williams to create a feasibility study on the "What's Cooking?" Concept. He will report back to the Board at the next Board meeting.**

### "R-O-M-E-O"

A few months ago, Any Youpel suggested that the Alumni Association institute an event where Mendel guys can meet for breakfast in different locations every three or four months just to catch up.

Mike Dreznes reported that he, Giacomo Mancuso ('66), Nick Ahrens ('65) and John Knoebel ('75) all live close to each other in the South Loop. They started meeting in a very informal manner at a local restaurant a few months ago. At a recent gathering, a guy walked up to their table and said, "You guys remind me of my old man. He and his friends get together every once in a while for breakfast. They call themselves, "R-O-M-E-O, which stands for " Random Old Men Eating Out!"

The Mendel guys stole the "R-O-M-E-O mantra and changed the meaning to be "Random Old Monarchs Eating Out!" Andy Youpel' s concept became a reality!

The first R-O-M-E-O event will happen on Wednesday February 15 from 10 AM to 2 PM at Lumes Pancake House 11201 South Western in Chicago. This will be an opportunity to meet the new Chairman Bill Kushner.

Depending on the outcome of the first R-O-M-E-O, a decision will be made regarding the date and location for the next R-O-M-E-O.

**ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes will send an announcement to the Alumni database no later than Friday February 10, 2023. (UPDATE: ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER SENT TO ALL MENDEL ALUMNI BY CONSTANT CONTACT ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2023)**

### Visit to Augustinian Facility in Crown Pointe, Indiana

Andy Youpel said that the retired Augustinians in Crown Pointe, Indiana really appreciate visits by Mendel Alumni. He suggested that an outing be organized that could include lunch. He will work with Fr Mike O'Connor to get a convenient date and time.

**ACTION STEPS: Andy Youpel to contact Mike O'Connor and present some good visit dates to the Board before the next Board meeting.**

### Attendance at Augustinian Gala

The Midwest Augustinians Gala is scheduled for Friday April 21, 2023 at the Drake Hotel. Tickets cost \$350 each. This is a major fundraiser for the Midwest Augustinians, and a recommendation was made to have the Mendel Alumni Association support this fundraising effort. Mike Foley made the motion to have Chairman Bill Kushner and President Tom Gavin attend the Gala and to have the Alumni Association pay for their tickets. Derek Lott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION STEPS: Bill Kushner and Tom Gavin to order their tickets and attend the Gala. The Alumni Association will reimburse Bill Kushner and Tom Gavin.**

### Mendel Inventory Items

John Farris reported that he has the following items in his garage that he wants removed:

Two large tubs containing two (2) large tubs, two (2) large Mendel Banners, two (2) Easels, twenty (20) Clipboards with Pens, three (3) Rolls of Raffle Tickets, four (4) split the pot buckets, seven (7) Plastic Sign Holders, 1968 New World Trophy, 1982 IHSA Basketball Trophy and all Golf Sponsor Signs.

Ed Bohan has two City Football Championship Trophies, Andy Youpel has the Mendel Letters and the Mendel Banner. Mike Foley has some trophies in this basement, but he said they are too dilapidated to be displayed.

Andy Youpel offered to pick up the items at John Farris' house. Mike Dreznes offered to talk to Ed Bohan regarding the trophies.

Many other trophies are missing.

The goal at this meeting was to identify the inventory, St. Rita, (Andy Youpel) Gwendolyn Brooks (Mike Foley) and the Pullman Foundation (Bob Fioretti) are potential display sites.

**ACTION STEPS: Andy Youpel offered to pick up the items at John Farris' house by Friday February 10, 2023. Mike Dreznes agreed to call Ed Bohan to determine the disposition of the trophies that he has by Wednesday February 15, 2023. Tom Gavin to talk to (UPDATE: ANDY YOUPEL PICKED UP THE ITEMS, EXCEPT THE GOLF SPONSOR SIGNS FROM JOHN FARRIS ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2023. HE TOOK THE TROPHY TO GET AN ESTIMATE TO HAVE IT REPAIRED. MIKE DREZNES TALKED TO ED BOHAN AND HE WILL PICK UP THE TROPHIES FROM ED IN DOWNERS GROVE BY MARCH 4, 2023.**

### Mendelchs.org Update

Under the leadership of Website Committee Chairman Rich Zarr and John Farris, John Dreznes has done some excellent work updating and upgrading the mendelchs.org website. John Dreznes was thanked for his work to date. All Board Members were encouraged to visit the updated website and to send comments to Rich Zarr, [rzarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rzarr@sbcglobal.net) John Farris [mendelhof@gmail.com](mailto:mendelhof@gmail.com) and John [Dreznesjohn.dreznes@gmail.com](mailto:Dreznesjohn.dreznes@gmail.com) .

### Damone Bester Reading of His Book "Mendel"

Damone Bester ('88) sent an invitation to the Board welcoming all Fellow Monarchs to join him at this complimentary event to discuss his book "Mendel" from 12-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 25 at: Sip & Savor, 528 East 43rd Street, Chicago.

Advanced online registration is required by 4:30 PM Thursday February 16 or by calling Alumni Engagement at (309) 438-2588. Space is limited, so Board of Director Members are encouraged to register now.

Mike Dreznes encouraged all Board Members to read "Mendel." The book can be ordered on line at Amazon [Amazon.com : Mendel by Damone Bester](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B098888888)

### Vice-President Kelvin Lovely African American Male Image Award

Vice-President Kelvin Lovely was named a winner of the 29th Archbishop James P. Lyke African American Male Image Awards The award ceremony will be Sunday February 26, 2023 at Georgios Banquets, Quality Inn & Suites Conference 8800 W 159th St, Orland Park, IL 60462. Tickets are \$60 and must be ordered by Sunday February 12, 2023. Kelvin was congratulated on his award and all Board Members were encouraged to attend the Award Ceremony.

### Archbishop Robert Prevost (O.S.A.) Appointed Prefect of the Directory for Bishops and President of Pontifical Commission for Latin America

Andy Youpel reported that Archbishop Thomas Prevost was Appointed Prefect of the Directory for Bishops and President of Pontifical Commission for Latin America. The Prefect of the Directory for Bishops is an extremely high Vatican position responsible for nominations for the next Pope. More information is available here: [Bishop Prevost named new head of Dicastery of Bishops \(angelusnews.com\)](https://www.angelusnews.com)

Fr. Tom McCarthy asked the Mendel Alumni Association to send a letter of congratulations that will be presented to Archbishop Prevost. Mike Dreznes suggested sending the following letter, which all Board Members agreed was appropriate.



Archbishop Robert Prevost O.S.A.

February 10, 2023

The Mendel Catholic High School Alumni Association congratulates you on your appointment as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

As a young man from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Riverdale, Illinois, you are an inspiration to everyone, especially those of us who were educated by the Augustinians. You have proven that good luck is what happens when hard work bumps into an opportunity.

We wish you good health and good fortune as you tackle the tasks ahead of you. Surely your south suburban Chicago upbringing has prepared you for the many challenges ahead of you. As we say in our Mendel Fight Song:

***“...we’ve got to reach our goal. We’ll fight and fight and fight until the battle is won. We’ll show them who the winner is because we’ve only begun!...”***

Go out and *“reach your goals, and show them who the winner is”* in your new position.

Congratulations on your new position and the adventure you are about to undertake. Best of luck with your new job and your new journey. We are so proud of you!

The Mendel Catholic High School Alumni Association

<https://mendelchs.org/>

President Tom Gavin [gavin\\_thomas@att.net](mailto:gavin_thomas@att.net)

**ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to send letter of congratulations to Fr. Tom McCarthy (UPDATE: MIKE DREZNES EMAILED THE LETTER TO FR. TOM ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2023).**

### **White Sox or Cub Outing**

Andy Youpel proposed that the Alumni Association Board of Directors consider a Cubs or White Sox outing this summer. He agreed to get additional information to present to the Board at the next Board Meeting.

### **Allen Stahl Resignation**

After the meeting ended, Bill Kushner received a letter from Allen Stahl with his resignation from the Board of Directors. Members of the Board are asked to submit possible replacement candidates to Mike Dreznes by March 1, 2023.

**ACTION STEPS: All Board Members to submit possible replacement candidates for Allen Stahl's Board of Directors' seat.**

### **Next Meeting**

The next BOD ZOOM meeting will be held on Wednesday March 8, 2023 at 7 PM Chicago time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM