



Mendel Alumni Association Board of Director's Meeting

March 8, 2023

MINUTES

Ron Smith, Ron Dubin, Derek Lott, Dennis Heitzmann, Kelvin Lovely, Mike Dreznes, Pat Regan, Tom Gavin, Andy Youpel Gene Rouse, John Knoebel, and Bill Kushner were present. Rich Zarr attended as an observer. Dr. Bill Cruikshank was invited to audit the meeting.

Larry Bliss, Mike Foley, John Wilson, Curtis Rempson, Jim Weber, Jamie Mayes, Nolan Lane, Rich Williams, Bob Fioretti, and John Quattrocki notified the Board that they would not be able to attend the meeting prior to the start of the meeting.

David Ireland, Eric Rouse, Billy Hilbring (2nd Missed Meeting in a row), Danny Randall (2nd Missed Meeting in a row), and John Fanning (3rd Missed Meeting in a row) were Missing With No Explanation

President Tom Gavin and Chairman Bill Kushner Called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 PM

Dr. Bill Cruikshank asked to audit the meeting to determine if he would fill the open Board seat. **(UPDATE: Dr. Bill Cruikshank told Mike Foley that he would not be attending the call because he would not be joining the Board.**

Opening Prayer

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

Minutes from February 7, 2023 ZOOM Call Meeting Mike Dreznes

Mike Dreznes presented the Minutes from the December 6, 2022 Board Meeting. One correction was requested to show that Ben McCall is the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee and not John Farris.

John Knoebel noted that the approval of the minutes should be based on the accuracy of the information presented. No one had any other questions or comments regarding the February 7, 2023 ZOOM Call Minutes.

John Knoebel made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Derek Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Finance Committee Pat Regan

1)Pat Regan reported that we received the refund of the IRS penalty that was assessed and paid last year for the late filing of the IRS Tax Form 990-EZ for 2021. The refund included a \$25 credit for interest. This is shown as an offset to Corporate Expense.

2)Pat Regan set up a separate Column (account) labeled Scholarships. Here we will track any specific Scholarship Donations, as well as outlays for funding of the individual Scholarships. To date, we have one direct Scholarship donation for \$250. that was received at the R-O-M-E-O event., as well as a second \$500 donation that is not shown on the report.

activities still needed to be done at an expense to the Association, they would be recognized as expenses in the projected budget, and not be an unanticipated surprise.

Ron Dubin made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bill Kushner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

2023 Golf Outing

Tom Gavin reported that the Golf Outing is now live on the Mendel Website. [2023 Golf Outing | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

Tom Gavin confirmed 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.

To date, one \$100 Hole Sponsorship has been sold. Tom Gavin asked that every Board Member continues to promote the Golf Outing to create more interest and more golfers and more hole sponsorships.

ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to develop a series of Email, Instagram, Classmates and Facebook announcements to generate publicity for the Golf Outing.

2023 All-Class Picnic Update

Derek Lott announced that the All-Class Picnic would be held on Saturday June 24, 2023 from noon to 7 PM at Wampum Lake Nature Preserve in Thornton. Members of the Class of 1984 have created a company that charges dues and, has sponsored this picnic for the past six or seven years. [All Class Picnic | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

Derek Lott explained that the cost to put on this picnic is about \$6,000. The expenses budgeted for the picnic include:

Advertising	\$900
*Contract Labor	\$2,450
Legal 7 Professional Fees	\$300
Venue Rental	\$200
Equipment Rental	\$1,000
Food Expenses	\$1,000
Charitable Contributions	\$150

*Include seven hours DJ Services, Photographer, and a Streaming Service

Derek Lott did not have the previous years' expenses to use for comparison. However, in recent years, the attendance has been 150 to 200 people. The picnic typically has a \$500 to \$1,500 deficit. The Class of 1984 "pass the hat" to offset these losses.

Tickets are sold site for the picnic. Everyone is welcome to attend. Typical prices are \$10 or \$15. Dues paying Members of the 1984 Class have a reduced ticket price. People are welcome to bring their own food and drink and tents. Food is also sold at the Picnic.

John Knoebel recommended that the Augustinians be invited to attend at no charge. The Thornton location is not far from Crown Pointe. Someone suggested renting a bus to bring the Augustinians to the picnic. All agreed that this was a promising idea. The Alumni Association would pay the costs for the Augustinians to attend the picnic.

Mike Dreznes made a motion as follows:

The Mendel Alumni Association will donate \$500 for the 2023 All-Class Picnic. Up to an additional \$500 would be donated if a tiered ticket structure is used that would allow Mendel Alumni and their families to attend the picnic at a favorable price that was between the Class of 1984 price and the General Public price. One suggestion was \$10 for the Class of 1984 and their families, \$15 for Mendel Alumni and their families and \$20 for the General Public and their families. This additional \$500 donation will be made after the Mendel Alumni Association's review of the Financial Report from the 2023 All-Class Picnic to verify the deficit.

Pat Regan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION STEPS: Derek Lott will report back to the Class of 1984 Picnic Organizing Committee and will provide the Mendel Alumni Association with their decision no later than May 1.

Mendel Tabernacle Status

Andy Youpel is communicating through emails and formal letters to Fr. Mark Kalema to get the Mendel Chapel tabernacle from St. James Parish in Lansing to the St. Rita Chapel. Andy Youpel will keep the Board advised of developments.

ACTION STEPS: Andy Youpel to tell the Board when he hears from Fr. Mark Kalema regarding the disposition of the tabernacle.

Mendel Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

Ron Smith announced that St. Rita has three eligible Mendel Legacy Seniors. Providence has not identified any Legacy Seniors to date. The deadline for applications and essays is March 15, 2023. [Mendel Scholarships to Award Alumni Descendants | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

Neither Mike Foley nor Billy Hilbring have submitted the promised contact information for Gwendolyn Brooks High School. Andy Youpel agreed to get a contact name at Gwendolyn Brooks.

To date, the Scholarship Fund has \$750. Ron Smith made a recommendation that the Alumni website be re-worked to make it more efficient for a donor to give to the Scholarship Program. **UPDATE: The website has been updated to allow for \$500, \$100, \$50, \$25 and \$10 donations.**

If no one applies for the Scholarship this year, the Board of Directors will determine how to reallocate the unused funds.

ACTION STEPS: Andy Youpel to give Mike Dreznes a contact name at Gwendolyn Brooks. Mike Dreznes to send Mendel Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship information to Gwendolyn Brooks by March 20, 2023. John Dreznes to implement improvements to the Scholarship Section on the website. UPDATE: The website has been updated to allow for \$500, \$100, \$50, \$25 and \$10 donations.

HOF Status Update

Mike Dreznes explained that Ben McCall is still the Chairman of the HOF Committee until the 2023 Induction Ceremony at St. Rita on Saturday May 27, 2023. [2023 HOF Induction | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#) Check-in starts at 11:00 AM, refreshments will be available at 11:30 AM. The induction Program will start at Noon and will be completed by 2:30 PM. A RSVP will be required for attendance.

The 2023 Mendel Hall of Fame Committee includes John Farris ('68), Bob Napoli ('58), Fr. Bill Sullivan ('59), Jack Gavin ('74), Jim Riordan ('62), Art Moreno ('59), Dorran Stewart ('85) and Rodney Chambers ('86).

The 2023 Mendel Hall of Fame Inductees are:

	Grad Year		Grad Year
Dr. Dan Rowan	74	Russ Petrizzo	68
David Slawkowski [RIP]	68	Richard Williams	62
James Debardelaban	87	Richard Zarr	71
Lester McCarroll	79	William Callahan	74
Ronald Crieger [RIP]	Coach	Michael Hampton	82
Dr. Thomas King, Jr	62	William Reynolds	59
John Mikenis	73	Steven Smith	71

There was no discussion regarding Tom Gavin's recommendation that the inductions to the Hall of Fame be held every two years instead of every year. Nor was there any discussion regarding Andy Youpel suggestion that St. Rita be asked to introduce the Mendel HOF inductees at a St. Rita football game.

Mendel Showcase at Gwendolyn Brooks/Pullman Foundation

Mike Foley, who was to present an update on this topic, was not present at the meeting. The Board agreed that a preferred alternative for the showcase would be Mendel Hall at St. Rita High School since St. Rita has indicated that they want Mendel's presence again. One consideration was to recreate the HOF plaques in plastic to hang them on the walls in Mendel Hall.

Andy Youpel picked up trophies from Mike Foley and John Farris. He is getting estimates to have them repaired so they can be displayed. Mike Dreznes talked to Ed Bohan regarding the trophies that Ed has. Mike Dreznes will pick them up from Ed Bohan the next time Mike Dreznes goes to Downers Grove to visit his daughter.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Mendel Alumni Association will be marching in the St Patrick's Day Southside Irish Parade on Sunday March 12, 2023. [South Side Irish Parade | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](https://www.southsideirishparade.com/)

Bill Kushner will use his pickup truck to pick up the trailer on Saturday morning March 11, 2023. He will drive the trailer to Andy Youpel's house to be decorated. All Board of Directors were encouraged to go to Andy Youpel's house at 2 PM on Saturday March 11 to help with the decorating.

The Mendel Position is #84, and the staging area for Mendel will be on the east side of Western Avenue at 100th Street across from Town Liquors.

Everyone is to meet at the staging area on Sunday at 11 AM or at Beverly Records no later than 11 AM. There is a vacant lot just south of Beverly Records 11612 South Western where cars can park. Mike Dreznes and Ron Dubin will use their vans to move marchers from the Record Store to the staging area. The last van will leave the Record Store at 11 AM. Vans will be available to shuttle marchers back to their cars after the parade.

Andy Youpel will meet with Jack Dreznes to determine how to use Andy Youpel's amplifier to play the Mendel Fight Song at the reviewing stand. Mike Dreznes will order 20 Kazoos for use by the marchers.

Mike Dreznes will order a lion's costume to march in the parade. He asked for volunteers to wear the costume. There were no takers.

Mike Dreznes will send another notification to Mendel Alumni to encourage them to march and to bring their families and friends.

Mendel Monarch Cookbook

Rich Williams had suggested that the Mendel website include a section titled, "What's Cookin,' Monarchs?" where Alumni could post their favorite recipes. John Dreznes did a great job designing a Mr. M figure for the site. So far eight recipes have been posted. [Recipes | Mendel Library \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

All Board of Directors were encouraged to submit recipes in WORD format, and they would be put on the website.

"R-O-M-E-O" (Random-Old-Monarchs-Eating-Out)

The first R-O-M-E-O event occurred on Wednesday February 15, 2023 at Lumes Pancake House 11201 South Western in Chicago. About 25 Monarchs showed up for the event. [Inaugural ROMEO Breakfast brings Alumni Together from Across Chicagoland | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

This was an opportunity for Alumni to meet the new Chairman Bill Kushner and to learn about upcoming Mendel Alumni Association activities. Many of those who attended said they had an enjoyable time.

Mike Dreznes asked for volunteers to find a restaurant in a different part of town for the next R-O-M-E-O. He said that if a location is found that the Association will publicize the event to the Alumni. No decision yet regarding the date and location for the next R-O-M-E-O.

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 in the near future. He talked to Fr Mike O'Connor to get a convenient date and time. Fr. Mike O'Connor asked that the Mendel Alumni Association gives him a few dates, and he will verify the best dates for the Augustinians.

Mike Dreznes agreed to send a note to the Board of Directors to determine the best date for all involved.

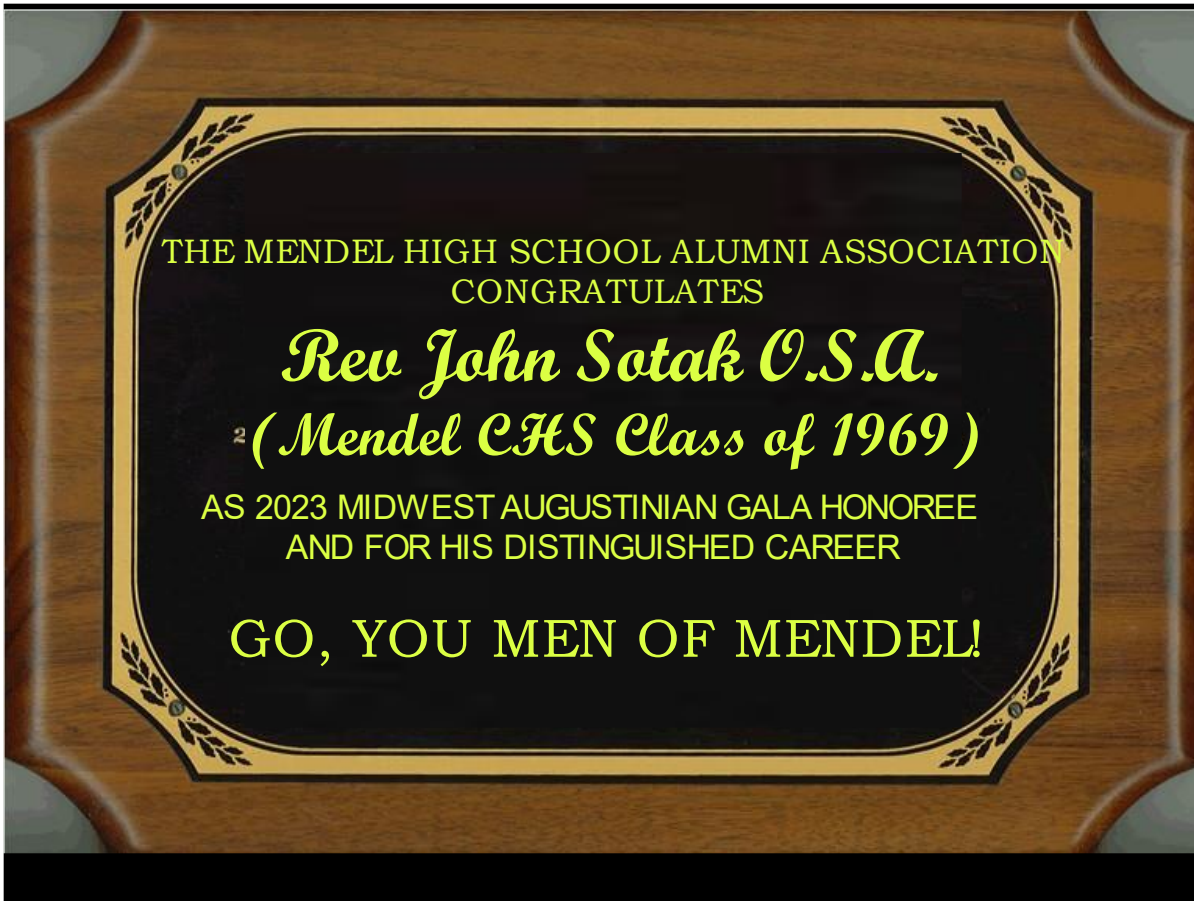
ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to send the Board of Directors a message to determine the best dates for the visit to Crown Pointe.

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. The Board asked Tom Gavin and Bill Kushner to attend the event with their wives. [Annual Augustian Gala | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

One of the major honorees is Father Bill Sotak ('69). Andy Youpel talked to Fr. Pizzo to have Tom Gavin and Bill Kushner present a check and a plaque to Fr. Sotak from the Alumni Association. The check would specify "for personal use only." Mike Dreznes presented concepts for plaques.

The Board suggested a 12" X 15" plaque with the following words, which would cost about \$100:



Andy Youpel made a motion to authorize \$1,400 for Bill Kushner and Tom Gavin to purchase tickets to attend the Augustinian Gala. They will be reimbursed. Andy Youpel will order a plaque costing about \$100. The plaque and the check for \$250 will be given to Fr. Bill Sotak from the Mendel Alumni Association. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION STEPS: Bill Kushner and Tom Gavin will order their tickets for the Gala. Andy Youpel will order the plaque and Pat Regan will give Tom Gavin the \$250 check for Fr. Sotak.

Mendelchs.org Update

Mike Dreznes commended Website Committee Chairman Rich Zarr for the job he and John Dreznes and John Farris are doing with the Mendelchs.org website. Many Alumni have sent messages thanking the Alumni Association for the excellent work on the website.

Mike Dreznes noted that the following Mendelians had been scanned and posted by Rick Zarr and John



<u>FALL 1956</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
<u>1959</u>	MAY	MARCH	FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY
JUNE	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	MARCH	MARCH	MARCH
NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	OCTOBER	APRIL	APRIL	MAY
DECEMBER	<u>1962</u>	NOVEMBER	MAY	MAY	
<u>1960</u>	MARCH		SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	
JANUARY	<u>1967</u>		OCTOBER	OCTOBER	
MARCH	OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	
MAY	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	DECEMBER	
Dreznes: NOVEMBER	DECEMBER				

John Knoebel asked if the Mendelchs.org website could be vulnerable to Web Scraping. Rich Zarr agreed to contact Jamal to verify if the Mendelchs.org website is vulnerable. John Knoebel asked if anyone could post information on the Mendelchs.org website. Rich Zarr said only Fanning Communications, John Dreznes or John Farris could post material to the website.

Mike Dreznes encouraged all Board of Directors to visit the website to see the progress and to send congratulations to Chairman Rich Zarr. He also asked all Members of the Board of Directors to send Rick Zarr any Mendelians or newspaper articles to be scanned for the website.

ACTION STEPS: All BOD Members are to look for Mendelians to send to Rich Zarr. Rich Zarr to ask Jamal if the Mendelchs.org website is vulnerable to Web Scraping.

Damone Bester Reading of His Book “Mendel”

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, Damone Bester ('88) was invited by his Alma Mater, Illinois State University to discuss his award winning book “Mendel” at Sip & Savor, at 528 South 43rd Street, in Chicago. Mike Dreznes attended to represent the Mendel Alumni Association.

Mike Dreznes encouraged everyone on the Board to purchase Damone’s book. It can be ordered online for \$15.99 on Amazon [Amazon.com : mendel by damone](https://www.amazon.com/mendel-by-damone)

Board Members were also encouraged to purchase “Men of Mendel” by Lauren Chouinard ('70) . It is sure to bring back some memories.

It can be ordered online for \$9.95 at [Men of Mendel: Tales From Chicago's South Side and the Catholic School System of the 1960s: Lauren D. Chouinard: Trade Paperback: 9798577999032: Powell's Books \(powells.com\)](#)

Vice-President Kelvin Lovely African American Male Image Award

On Sunday February 26, 2023, Vice-President Kelvin Lovely was presented with the prestigious Archbishop James P. Lyke African American Male Image Award. Tom Gavin, David Ireland, Pat Regan and Mike Dreznes attended the award ceremony to represent the Mendel Alumni Association. [Kelvin Lovely \('78\) Presented With Prestigious Award | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

Congratulations to Kelvin Lovely!

White Sox or Cub Outing

Andy Youpel suggested that the Alumni Association host an outing at a White Sox or Cubs game. There was little if any support for this outing and the suggestion was shelved.

Vietnam War Veterans Day Mass

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, St Cajetan's Parish asked Andy Youpel if the Mendel Alumni Association would help to conduct a Mass and Pinning Ceremony for the Veterans on March 29, 2023.

Andy Youpel asked the Veterans Day Committee to help, and everyone said yes. Kevin Lovell will make the Veterans' Address. The Mass will start at 7 PM and the Pin Ceremony will follow thereafter. All Alumni and their friends and family were encouraged to join.



**WELCOME FROM THE MENDEL HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & ST. CAJETAN PARISH**

There are certain people who react well in life-threatening situations, and our Military Veterans tend to be those kinds of people. When everyone else is running away from danger, they run into it.

The Mendel Alumni Association and St. Cajetan Parish salute all Military Veterans who served so gallantly. Today, we especially remember and honor the Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam, while they were protecting all of us.

Thank you for your service. You are the real heroes who protect our world and make it a better place, and we all owe you a huge debt of gratitude.

Mass

- 6:45 PM **Assemble**
- 7:00 PM **Present Colors**
- 7:05 PM **Processional**
- Readings**
- Homily**
- Father Ken Budzikowski
- Veterans Welcome**
- Petitions**
- Gift Presentation**
- End of Mass**

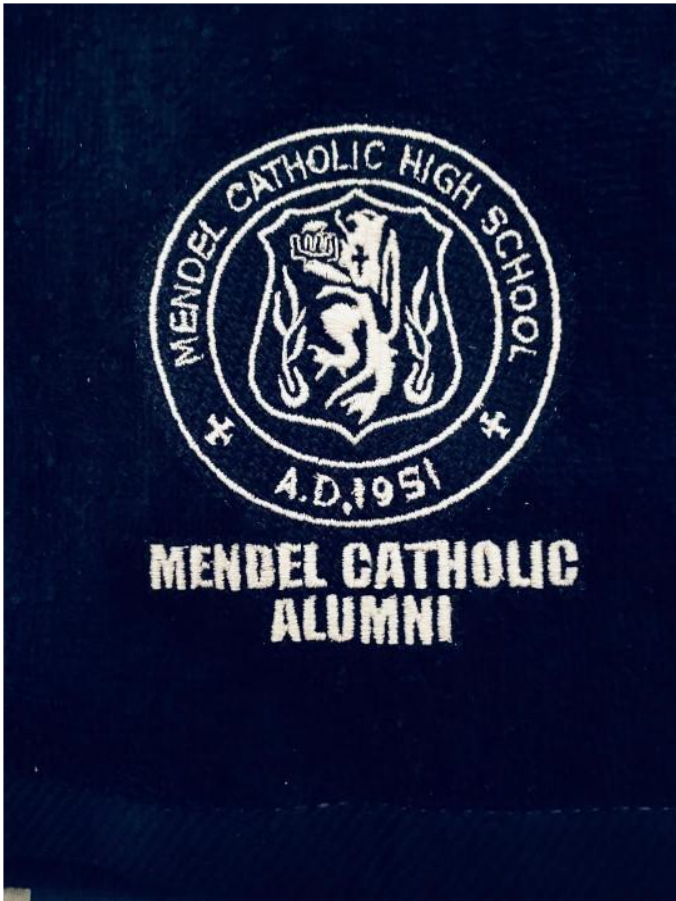
Vietnam Veterans Pin Ceremony

- 7:50 PM **Welcome**
Mike Dreznes Mendel Alumni Association Secretary
- 8:00 PM **Address to Veterans**
- 8:20 PM **Presentation of 50th Anniversary Vietnam War
Commemorative Pins to Veterans**
- 8:45 PM **TAPS**
- 8:50 PM **Retire Colors**
- 9:00 PM **Dismissal**

ACTION STEPS: All BOD Members are encouraged to attend the Vietnam Veterans Day Mass and Pinning Ceremony.

Mendel Alumni Car Stickers

Bill Duffy suggested the development of a Mendel Alumni Association car sticker. These decals would be sold at the Golf Outing and the Reunions.



4' X 4" Decal would be on clear vinyl and be displayed on the outside of your vehicle's rear window.

Bill Duffy was authorized to make the purchase of 50 decals at \$2.00 each.

ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to tell Bill Duffy to purchase the decals.

Mendel Hats

Pat Regan presented the Mendel hat that was purchased for resale at the Golf Outing and other Mendel events. Pat Regan purchased 120 hats at \$11.95 each. These hats will be sold for \$25 each or two for \$40.

Mr. M

Mike Dreznes presented an idea to reintroduce "Mr. M." This award would be presented to Alumni based on their lifetime career achievements and their contributions to society. The Board of Directors would submit nominations for Alumni who could be living or dead. The Board of Directors would vote to determine "Mr. M."



"Mr. M" will not compete with the Hall of Fame. "Mr. M" could be a Hall of Fame Member. One of the goals of this concept would be to make Alumni aware of some of the famous Mendel Alumni. No one on the Board expressed any objections to the "Mr. M" concept. Mike Dreznes will move forward with this project.

ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to send an announcement to all BOD Members to introduce the “Mr. M” concept and to ask for nominations for the first “Mr. M.”

Mendel (ZOOM) Assembly

Mike Dreznes suggested that an open ZOOM call be conducted about once a quarter to allow all Alumni to connect and to learn about upcoming Mendel Alumni Association Events and Activities. This would be referred to as an “Assembly” in deference to the Assemblies that would be held in the Mendel Gym. No one expressed any objections to this concept, and Mike Dreznes will propose the next step at the next Board meeting. John Knoebel recommended that the Assembly be on a Saturday morning for two hours. Alumni could come and go at their leisure.

ACTION STEPS: At the next BOD Meeting, Mike Dreznes to prepare a proposal with dates for the first Mendel Assembly.

Mendel Monarch One Day Retreat

Andy Youpel announced that Fr. Tom McCarthy conducts one day retreats. Andy Youpel proposed that the Mendel Alumni Association consider hosting a one day retreat led by Fr. McCarthy. No one on the Board had any strong opposition. John Knoebel suggested that the retreat include some kind of competition, such as a touch football game.

Andy Youpel will reach out to Fr. McCarthy to develop a proposal for a one day Mendel Alumni Association Retreat to be presented at the next BOD Meeting.

ACTION STEPS: Andy Youpel to reach out to Fr. Tom McCarthy to develop a proposal for a one day Mendel Alumni Association Retreat to be presented to the BOD at the next Board Meeting.

Catholic League Hall of Fame Update

Mike Dreznes announced that the Catholic League Hall of Fame accepted Mark O’Hare’s application for induction. The induction date has not been announced. Mike Dreznes asked Bill Kushner and Tom Gavin to tell Mark O’Hare the good news.

ACTION STEPS: Bill Kushner and Tom Gavin to tell Mark O’Hare about his acceptance into the Catholic League Hall of Fame.

Committee Chairman Reports (Starting With Next Meeting)

Mike Dreznes suggested that the Committee Chairmen present updates on their Committees at each Board of Directors Meeting. The Committees and the Chairmen are:

Finance	Pat Regan
Golf Outing	Tom Gavin
Hall of Fame	Ben McCall
Website	Rich Zarr
Scholarship	Ron Smith
Reunion	Open Alumni

ACTION STEPS: Mike Dreznes to notify Chairmen to make a presentation with an update on their Committees activities starting with the next Board of Directors Meeting. (UPDATE: THE ASSOCIATION HAS TWO ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES: THE VETERANS COMMITTEE WITH ANDY YOUPEL AS CHAIRMAN AND THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE THAT IS CHAIRED BY RON DUBIN. THEY WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE COMMITTEE UPDATES PRESENTATIONS AT THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

Next Meeting

The next BOD ZOOM meeting will be held on Tuesday May 9, 2023 at 7 PM Chicago time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM