



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

**June 21, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**President Tom Gavin and Chairman Bill Kushner Called the Meeting to Order at 7:04 PM**

*John Knoebel, Derek Lott, John Franklin, Kelvin Lovely, Mike Dreznes, Pat Regan, Tom Gavin, Andy Youpel, Bob Fioretti, Eric Rouse, John Quattrocki, Mike Foley, Rich Williams, and Bill Kushner were present. Rich Zarr attended as an observer.*

*Dennis Heitzmann, Ron Dubin, Larry Bliss, John Wilson, Curtis Rempson notified the Board that they would not be able to attend the meeting prior to the start of the meeting.*

*Gene Rouse, Danny Randall (4<sup>th</sup> miss in a row), Ron Smith, Nolan Lane, Billy Hilbring, David Ireland, Jim Weber, Jamie Mayes, and John Fanning were Missing With No Explanation*

*Rick Zarr attended as an observer.*

**Opening Prayer**

Andy Youpel opened the meeting with a prayer asking that St Augustine inspire us to have a productive meeting and to allow us to make good decisions.

**Minutes from May 9, 2023 BOD ZOOM Call Meeting Mike Dreznes**

Mike Dreznes presented the Minutes from the November 2, 2022 Board Meeting. No one had any questions or comments regarding the May 9, 2023 ZOOM Call Minutes.

John Knoebel made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Pat Regan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report: Finance Committee Pat Regan**

Pat Regan reported the Hall of Fame event that was held on Sunday May 27, 2023 was a net cost to the Association of \$1,618. This is compared to an estimated outlay of \$2,710. The results were benefited by contributions of \$2,345 from the attendees. In addition, seventeen T-shirts were sold for \$250 and seven hats for \$200.

To date, the Alumni Association Golf Outing that will be held on July 12, 2023 has fifty-five registered and paid golfers and an additional twenty-two people who have said they would attend but have yet to register and pay.

The current cash book balance stands at \$20,923. The increase from the May 9, 2023 report is primarily from Golf Outing payments.

The check for our Scholarship payment of \$2,000 to St. Rita is still not cashed but is deducted from our cash book balance.



Tom Gavin asked that the website be modified to add a July 6, 2023 deadline for registrations for dinner and golf, as well as sponsor hole signs.

**ACTION ITEMS: John Dreznes to Update Website with July 6, 2023 Deadline.**

Using the Alumni Association Golf Outing as a “Mini-Informal Class Reunion” for classes celebrating their “5” Anniversaries.

John Knoebel suggested that the Golf Outing, as well as every other Mendel Alumni Association event be used as a “mini, informal Class Reunion” especially for classes celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, etc. anniversaries.

### Chairman’s Report- Hall of Fame Committee-Tom Gavin

#### 2023 HOF Induction Ceremony

Tom Gavin reported that the 2023 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was a tremendous success. All of the inductees were extremely appreciative of the effort by the HOF Committee to make this a memorable event.

Tom Gavin was asked to send a letter to Tom McCarthy thanking St. Rita for the use of their facility for the GOF Induction Ceremony. Tom Gavin agreed to send the letter. **ACTION ITEMS: Tom Gavin to send Tom McCarthy a thank you note.**

#### HOF Committee Restructure

Ben McCall has stepped down as the Chairman of the HOF Committee.

Tom Gavin is working with John Farris to restructure the HOF Committee. Every HOF Member will be approached to see if they want to be on the Committee and if they want to be the Chairman of the HOF Committee. The cutoff date for the restructure will be December 24, 2023.

John Knoebel expressed an interest in working with Tom Gavin and the HOF Committee over the next two months.

The HOF induction will be held every two years, with the next induction being in 2025.

### Chairman’s Report- Website Committee- Rick Zarr

#### Policy Regarding Website Content

Rick Zarr explained that the Mendel Website needs policy guidelines. He emphasized that the website should only be used for Mendel Alumni Association purposes. John Knoebel suggested that the Website Committee present proposed policy guidelines to the Board of Directors for their approval.

**ACTION ITEMS: Rick Zarr and the Website Committee to present Website Policy Guidelines to the Board of Directors for their approval at the next Board of Directors Meeting.**

#### Alumni Products and Services on Mendel Website

John Mikenis ('73) suggested that the Mendel Website include an “Alumni Product & Services” tab that Alumni could use to post a link to their product or service. Such a tab could open a lane for other Alumni to reach out to an affinity base too - insurance, financial advisory services, and legal could be logical candidates. This would only be offered to Mendel Alumni.

The website would list the Products and Services and show the Alumni person’s name, email address, website (if applicable) and phone number. The Alumni Association WILL NOT endorse any Product nor

Service. John Knoebel emphasized that a disclaimer should be prominently displayed on the “Alumni Product and Services” tab to hold the Alumni Association harmless regarding the Products and/or Services shown on the website.

Pat Regan noted that charging a fee to be listed on the “Alumni Product and Services” tab could create an issue regarding our Social Organization tax status. It would be possible to offer this service at no cost to Alumni. Alumni would be encouraged to sponsor a golf hole or purchase an ad in the Mendel Hall of Fame program, or the Veterans Day Mass Program, etc. All agreed that this would be the preferred approach for this concept.

The BOD asked the Website Committee to prepare a proposal for approval at the next Board Meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS: Rick Zarr and the Website Committee to present guidelines for an “Alumni Product & Services” tab to the Board of Directors for their approval at the next Board of Directors Meeting.**

#### Number of Visitors to Mendelchs.org Website

Rick Zarr noted that we do not have a method to record the number of visitors to the website. However, John Dreznes added a Visitor’s Count button to the website on June 21. This was not an easy task because the mendelchs.org website has three websites: HOF, Library and Main Home.

Rick Zarr also noted that John Fanning has moved Fanning Communications to the basement of his home and that Jamal no longer works at Fanning Communications.

#### Chairman’s Report-Membership Committee-Ron Dubin

##### Plans to Increase Number of Emails for Alumni Database

Ron Dubin was unable to attend the meeting. Mike Dreznes emphasized how critical it is to locate Email addresses for Alumni since much of the correspondence and promotional materials for Alumni Events are sent through email. We have a potential audience of 7,900 Alumni for our Events. However, we only have about 1,800 Email addresses. If we do not have their Email addresses, those Alumni will be unaware of the Events This can be a recipe for failure. Everyone understood the need for the updated email contact details.

Mike Dreznes also explained that the number of deceased Alumni is most likely significantly underreported. Mike Dreznes presented the following chart that shows that the Alumni Association has valid email addresses for only about 23% of the living Alumni. Some classes have emails for fewer than 20% of the class. The classes that have higher numbers of email addresses have a Champion in their class who are looking for email addresses. Examples would be Rich Williams for the Class of 1962, John Farris for the Class of 1968, Mike Foley for the Class of 1971, and Arthur Santoya for the Class of 1973 (50 Year Reunion Organizer). Mike Dreznes asked each BOD Member to be the Champion for his class.

MENDEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 6/20/2023					
CLASS	NAMES	DECEASED	LIVING	EMAIL ADDRESSES	%
1955	293	74	219	31	34.16%
1956	274	88	191	28	34.66%
1957	250	51	199	27	33.57%
1958	325	48	276	54	38.57%
1959	377	52	325	71	21.88%
1960	413	67	346	53	15.32%
1961	366	35	311	59	18.07%
1962	318	121	197	140	71.07%
1963	376	57	319	60	18.83%
1964	440	45	395	80	20.25%
1965	488	62	426	55	12.01%
1966	487	59	428	83	19.19%
1967	389	32	357	70	19.63%
1968	354	70	284	252	67.81%
1969	362	39	323	79	24.46%
1970	294	18	276	63	22.83%
1971	327	30	297	98	33.00%
1972	264	25	239	72	30.13%
1973	258	23	235	110	46.81%
1974	229	16	213	32	15.02%
1975	168	12	156	45	28.85%
1976	140	5	135	23	17.04%
1977	75	5	70	20	28.57%
1978	136	9	127	36	28.35%
1979	176	13	163	33	20.25%
1980	111	7	104	17	16.15%
1981	116	7	109	21	19.27%
1982	96	3	93	21	22.58%
1983	120	4	116	12	10.34%
1984	141	2	139	24	17.27%
1985	135	5	130	22	16.52%
1986	128	4	124	21	16.56%
1987	137	4	133	30	22.56%
1988	99	2	97	16	16.49%
1989 MDP	111	3	108	2	1.8%
1990 MDP	88	0	88	1	1.14%
1991 MDP	90	1	89	0	0.00%
UNK CLASS	61	1	60	13	21.67%
ALUMNI	9012	1115	7897	1814	22.97%
TEACHER	23	8	15	6	40.00%
TOTAL	9035	1123	7912	1820	23.00%



Mike Dreznes offered to send all Board of Directors the current database for Alumni. He asked that the BOD Members check the list and send Mike Dreznes any missing contact details that they may have for Classmates, Friends, and Relatives. Kelvin Lovely and Derek Lott agreed to send their contact lists to Mike Dreznes. **UPDATE: The Alumni Roster Database was sent to all BOD Members on June 21, 2023. Rich Williams has done a great job updating the Class of 1955. He uses Ancestors.com, MyLife, White Pages, and other search sites. ACTION ITEMS: All BOD Members are to review the Alumni Roster Database and try to locate as many missing Classmates as possible.**

#### Addition of 1989, 1990 and 1991 Classes to the Mendel Alumni Database.

Recently on Facebook, individuals who were Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors at Mendel in 1988, asked to be included in the Mendel Alumni Association. Since by definition, an Alum is someone who attended Mendel and did not necessarily graduate from Mendel, they were told that they would be included in the Database. The trick now is to get contact information for these individuals.

#### Chairman's Report-Veterans Committee-Andy Youpel

Andy Youpel announced that he would be donating the Banner from the Vietnam Veterans Day Mass to the American Legion.

#### Chairman's Report-Scholarship Committee-Ron Smith

Ron Smith was not at the Meeting. Mike Dreznes reported that the Scholarship Committee discussed having a raffle to raise funds for the Alumni Legacy Scholarship Program. Pat Regan explained that receiving donations from anyone other than an Alumni could create issues due to our 501c7 status. The Board discussed the merits of creating a separate 501c3 Organization to solicit scholarship funds. This

was deemed to be complicated and too difficult. The decision was made to solicit Alumni directly for donations to the Mendel Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship Fund.

John Knoebel emphasized the need to have all costs funded before announcing the 2024 Legacy Scholarship Program.

Pat Regan advised that St. Rita has not cashed the \$2,000 check the Alumni Association gave them for their Legacy Scholarship. Andy Youpel asked for the check number to give to St. Rita. **ACTION ITEMS: Board of Director Members to send Mike Dreznes suggestions for Legacy Scholarship Fund Raising.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Board of Directors Rotation**

The terms for the following Board Members will expire on July 31, 2023:

Eric Rouse, Gene Rouse, Jamie Mayes, Jim Weber, Larry Bliss, Mike Foley, Ron Dubin and John Knoebel. (John Knoebel joined the Board to complete the term for a Director who resigned. It was understood that he would be asked to continue his term on August, 1, 2023 for an additional three years. John Knoebel has accepted.)

All of the BOD Members with expiring terms were thanked for their service.

The Nominating Committee, which is made up of the Officers of the Board is responsible for filling the empty Board Seats.

The Board had extensive discussions regarding an existing Board Member's eligibility for an additional term. It was determined that unless it was shown that the Board Member missed three Board Meetings in a row, or if the Board Member partook in actions not in compliance with the Associations Articles or if the Board Member engaged in inappropriate business or personal activities, the Board Member would be eligible to be included in the slate that the Nominating Committee would present to the Board for Approval.

The existing Board Members whose terms are expiring (shown above) were asked to notify Mike Dreznes in writing by July 15, 2023 of their desire to be included on the Ballot for the 2023-2026 Term.

All of the Board of Directors were asked to solicit names for new Board Members and to send them to Mike Dreznes by July 15, 2023.

**ACTION ITEMS: BOD Members whose terms are expiring are to notify Mike Dreznes in writing if they want to continue their terms. All Board of Directors are encouraged to submit names for the next class of BOD Members.**

### **2023 All-Class Picnic on June 24, 2023**

Derek Lott announced that the Mendel All-Class Picnic would be held on Saturday June 24, 2023 at Wampum Lake Lot 5, 598 Thornton Lansing Road in Thornton, Illinois from Noon to 7:30 PM. Alumni from some of Mendel High School's Sister Schools, including Aquinas, Longwood, Mother Seton, and Unity High Schools also will be invited.

Derek explained that families were welcome for a full day of live entertainment, games for children, food, and music. One of the highlights of the picnic will be a balloon release in honor of our departed Monarch brothers. Mendel Alumni would be eligible for discounted admissions.

Derek emphasized that capacity is limited to 200 attendees for this picnic, so it is important to purchase tickets in advance. All BOD Members were encouraged to attend the picnic. Tom Gavin, Andy Youpel, Mike Foley, and Kelvin Lovely expressed their plans to attend.

Pat Regan and Andy Youpel will be selling Mendel hats and shirts at the Picnic.

Derek Lott was thanked for his efforts to make this Mendel Picnic a success.

### Visit to Augustinian Retirement Facility in Crown Point Facility on May 17, 2023.

Mike Dreznes showed photos of the visit by Members of the Board of Directors to the Augustinian Retirement Facility in Crown Point, Indiana. The Augustinians greatly appreciated the visit, and all Alumni are encouraged to visit whenever possible.

### Mendel Morning of Reflection Retreat and Rededication of Mendel Hall on Wednesday August 2, 2023.

Andy Youpel reported that Fr. Tom McCarthy would be conducting a morning retreat for Mendel Alumni, families, and friends on Wednesday August 2, 2023.



MENDEL CATHOLIC PREP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#### "MENDEL MORNING OF REFLECTION"

Mendel Alumni Association Retreat  
St Rita High School Chapel  
7740 South Western Chicago, IL  
Wednesday August 2, 2023  
Moderated by Fr. Tom McCarthy O.S.A.

Spouses, Family & Friends Are Welcome To Attend

- 8:30 AM Registration
- 9:00 AM *The Restless Journey of Life: Are You Embracing It or Running Away?*  
Fr. Tom McCarthy O.S.A.
- 10:00 AM Holy Hour of Reflection  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Praying the Holy Rosary  
Tour of 28 Holy Shrines  
Sacrament of Confession
- 11:15 AM Celebration of the Mass
- 12:00 PM Final Blessing



COST: \$50 PER PERSON IN ADVANCE \$60 AT THE DOOR  
INCLUDES CATERED LUNCH FROM BARRACOS  
ADVANCED PAYMENT CAN BE MADE AT  
[Donations | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](https://mendelchs.org)  
PLEASE ENTER THROUGH DOOR #14 IN THE WEST LOT

**The Spirit of Life**  
A Catholic Retreat with the Holy Spirit

After the Retreat, Mendel Hall will be rededicated with Mendel Trophies, the Gregor Mendel Portrait, a background story on Gregor Mendel as well as a background story on Mendel High School and photos of the Mendel Men killed in Vietnam.

All Mendel Alumni, especially BOD Members are strongly encouraged to attend this Retreat and Rededication.

### Southwest Suburbs May 15, 2023 R-O-M-E-O Recap

Mike Dreznes reported that approximately 60 Alumni attended the R-O-M-E-O Event at the Original Pancake House in Orland Park, which is owned by the family of Mendel Alumni Don Laroche ('64)

Mike Dreznes presented a series of photos from the Event.

### Class of 1973 Fiftieth Reunion on Thursday August 3, 2023

The Mendel Alumni

Association will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to honor the 1973 Class and the 1974 Class at the All-Class Reunion next Spring of 2024. However, the Members of the 1973 Class wanted to have their own celebration this year, in addition to the All-Class Reunion next year.

Therefore, on Thursday August 3, 2023, the Class of 1973 will have the chance to get together as a Class, in some cases for the first time in fifty years, to reminisce and share some Mendel stories and to create some new memories. The location for the Reunion is Two Brothers Roundhouse Brewery 205 N Broadway in Aurora, IL, and the Reunion will be from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM The Cost is \$55 / per person, which includes dinner. There will be a cash bar. Spouses/significant others are encouraged to attend.

Art Santoyo ('73) who lives in the Aurora area, is coordinating the reunion effort.



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

MENDEL CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1973



Thursday August 3, 2023 5 PM to 8 PM

Two Brothers Roundhouse Brewery

205 N Broadway, Aurora, IL 60505

Cost \$55/per person. Cash Bar

RSVP Arthur Santoyo (773) 322-5775

[cmsantoyo@comcast.net](mailto:cmsantoyo@comcast.net)

### Mr. M Reintroduction

The concept of reintroducing the “Mr. M” was presented at the last Board Meeting. It was decided that Candidates would be nominated based on their achievements in their careers and their contributions to society. The Candidates can be living or dead. “Mr. M” will be announced about every two months. The Board of Directors will vote to determine “Mr. M” and “Mr. M” will not compete with the Hall of Fame.

Mike Dreznes asked for a Board Member willing to coordinate this concept. To date, no one has volunteered to take the lead to reintroduce Mr. M.

**ACTION ITEMS: Any BOD Member who is willing to act as Mr. M Coordinator should contact Mike Dreznes ASAP**

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Mendel Shop Competition

The Mendelchs.org website includes a section titled “Mendel Shop” that sells Mendel Shirts, Hats and Car Decals.





# MENDEL SHOP



\$5

Alumni Decal



\$25

Mendel Hat



\$15

Mendel T-Shirt

Two Mendel Alumni are selling Mendel gear on Facebook. The Board agreed that having the Mendel gear available would increase the exposure of the Mendel name and the Mendel legacy. Therefore, the sales of these items should be encouraged.

Chris Dansby ('90) has these shirts for sale:

3 different designs to chose from..... Shirt will be navy blue.. \$30 s -3x.. 4x-5x \$40/45  
Thank you. Blue Smoke. Chris Dansby ('90)




Eric Rouse ('75) has introduced "HerMendelman.com" line of clothes and he is selling these on Facebook:

Stock up on your Monarch gear!

hermendelman.com

# ERIC ROUSE



HER MENDEL MAN

5% of proceeds goes to Mendel Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship Fund



1951 Mendel Legacy Blue  
From \$25.99 USD



1951 Mendel Legacy White  
From \$25.99 USD



Blue Smoke  
From \$25.99 USD



Her Mendel Man Crew Neck  
From \$25.99 USD



Her Mendel Man Relaxed V-Neck  
From \$18.50 USD



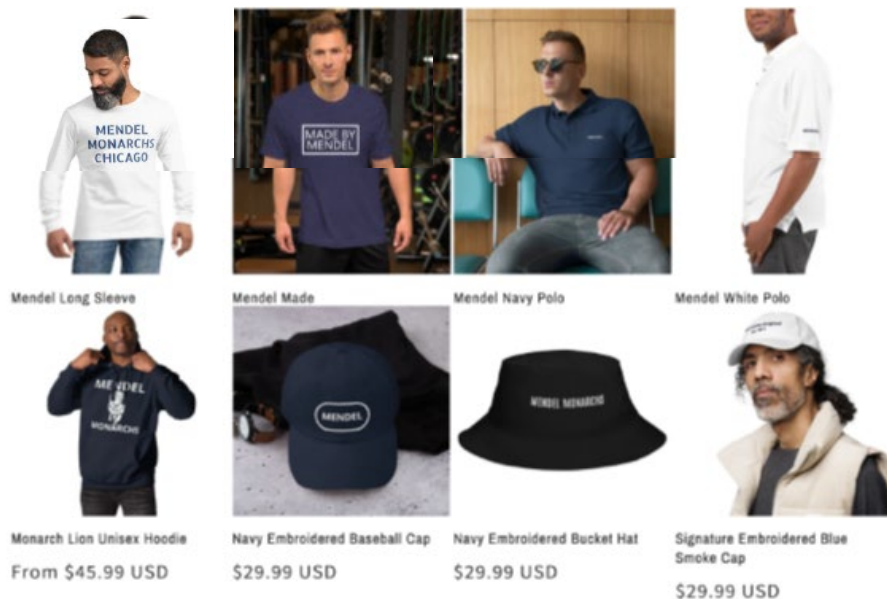
Mendel Basketball  
From \$24.99 USD



Mendel Football  
From \$24.99 USD



Mendel Lion Unisex Tee  
From \$19.99 USD



Mendel Long Sleeve

Mendel Made

Mendel Navy Polo

Mendel White Polo

Monarch Lion Unisex Hoodie  
From \$45.99 USD

Navy Embroidered Baseball Cap  
\$29.99 USD

Navy Embroidered Bucket Hat  
\$29.99 USD

Signature Embroidered Blue  
Smoke Cap  
\$29.99 USD

Mike Foley made a proposal that, provided a proper disclaimer was included on the Mendelchs.org website, and provided Eric Rouse donated 5% of gross sales to the Mendel Legacy Scholarship Fund, then a link should be made to the hermendelman.com website from the Mendelchs.org website. Pat Regan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Next R-O-M-E-O Location?

Mike Dreznes asked for hosts for the next Random Old Monarchs Eating Out (R-O-M-E-O) Event. Northwest Indiana, the North Suburbs and West Suburbs have been mentioned as possible sites.

The host needs to locate the restaurant and coordinate logistics. The Alumni Association will publicize the event.

**ACTION ITEMS: BOD Members are encouraged to volunteer to host the next R-O-M-E-O Event**

### 2024 All-Class Reunion

Mike Dreznes for suggested dates for the 2024 All-Class Reunion. He asked for volunteers to coordinate a planning committee for the Reunion. Mike Dreznes suggested Friday May 3, 2024 for the Reunion. Based on previous reunions, Mike Dreznes recommended that Gaelic Park be considered for the reunion. Pat Regan suggested we contact Hickory Hills as an alternate site.

**ACTION ITEMS: BOD Members are encouraged to solicit volunteers for the 2024 All-Class Reunion Planning Committee.**

### NEXT MEETING

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

### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM