



Mendel Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

December 10, 2024

MINUTES

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

Bill Duffy, Fr. Tom Griffin, Bob Lopez, Craig Larson, David Ireland, David Milton, Derek Lott, Don Triveline, Durell James, Eric Rouse, Dan Rowan, John Franklin, John Mikenis, John Wilson, Kelvin Lovely, Mike Dreznes, Mark Hubbard, Pat Regan, Rick Zarr, Tom Gavin, Bill Johnson, and Art Gillespie were present.

Billy Hilbring, Bob Fioretti, Dennis Heitzmann, Mike Frigo, Ron Dubin, and Terry Gainer notified the Board that they would not be able to attend the meeting prior to the meeting.

John Fanning (8th Consecutive Miss With No Explanation) was Missing With No Explanation.

Opening Prayer

Fr. Tom Griffin, O.S.A. opened the meeting with a prayer asking for God's blessings and guidance. Fr. Tom also asked for a moment of silence all Monarchs who passed away since the last Board Meeting.

Induction of Dan Rowan as Member of Board of Directors-Kelvin Lovely

Dan Rowan expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Board. He looked forward to being a productive Member of the Board in recognition of the positive effect his Mendel education had on his personal and professional career.

Kelvin Lovely made a motion to approve Dan Rowan as a Mendel Alumni Association Board Member. Tom Gavin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes from October 8, 2024, BOD ZOOM Call Meeting Mike Dreznes

Mike Dreznes presented the Minutes from October 8, 2024, Board Meeting. No one had any questions or comments regarding the ZOOM Call Minutes.

Rick Zarr made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. John Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Finance Committee Pat Regan

Pat Regan was not able to attend the meeting due to personal reasons. Mike Dreznes presented the Financial Report as of December 10, 2024, on Pat's behalf.

Mike presented two exhibits that Pat had prepared. Mike noted that our Bank Cash Balance stands at \$45,924 and our Projected 12/31/2024 Running Cash Balance stands at \$43,070- which is a significant increase from our last projections of \$35,388. In large part, this increase is due to major contributions to the Legacy Awards from the Gregor Mendel Annual Giving Program which has garnered \$6,465 to date. This, combined with monthly donations and those received during the 2024 Reunion brings the total donations to the Legacy Award program to \$8,720.

3. Given the excellent receipts from the Gregor Mendel Annual Appeal we are well situated to execute many wonderful programs in 2025. Pat noted the \$8,720 generated for the Legacy Award Program, which he suggests be the minimum to be awarded to deserving applicants.

Most of the Projected 2025 Costs were based on 2024 actual results and adjusted for known possible increases such as:

1. We plan to move the Golf Outing to a Friday in Jul, which will bump the golf course fee a bit.
2. Pat assumed an increase in D & O and General Liability Insurance.
3. Storage Costs increased in October 2024 and on into next year.

In Summary, Pat Regan noted that we should be in very good financial position to execute our Operating Plans for 2025.

John Wilson made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. John Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Locating Alumni Status-Mike Dreznes

Mike Dreznes emphasized the need to have good contact details, especially email addresses for missing Alumni. We cannot expect Alumni to participate in the Mendel Alumni activities if they are not aware of them. He promised to send an updated roster to all Board Members, and he asked all Board Members to review the contact details for themselves, as well as friends, family, and other Classmates, and to notify Mike Dreznes of any necessary changes.

The goal is to have good email addresses for 65% of the living Alumni. We are currently at 58.2%. When the campaign started in June of 2023, we only had 23% of the email addresses for living Alumni.

Some classes are doing very well (green highlighted classes), and some classes need a “Champion” to locate missing Classmates (red highlighted classes).

Mike thanked Rich Williams and Ron Dubin for their efforts to find missing Alumni. Mike presented the following comparison chart:

MENDEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 6/20/2023						MENDEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 12/10/2024					
CLASS	NAMES	DECEASED	LIVING	EMAIL ADDRESSES	%	CLASS	NAMES	DECEASED	LIVING	EMAIL ADDRESSES	%
1955	293	74	219	31	14.16%	1955	288	170	118	58	49.15%
1956	274	83	191	28	14.66%	1956	276	142	134	59	44.03%
1957	250	51	199	27	13.57%	1957	251	120	131	54	41.22%
1958	325	49	276	54	19.52%	1958	323	147	176	94	53.41%
1959	377	52	325	71	21.85%	1959	376	178	198	111	56.06%
1960	413	67	346	53	15.32%	1960	408	206	202	124	61.99%
1961	366	55	311	59	18.97%	1961	363	144	219	127	37.99%
1962	318	121	197	140	71.07%	1962	319	134	185	157	80.51%
1963	376	57	319	60	18.81%	1963	376	156	220	136	61.82%
1964	440	45	395	80	20.25%	1964	440	127	313	210	67.09%
1965	488	62	426	55	12.91%	1965	482	164	318	211	66.35%
1966	487	59	428	83	19.39%	1966	485	161	324	238	73.46%
1967	389	32	357	70	19.61%	1967	386	101	285	194	68.07%
1968	354	70	284	192	67.61%	1968	354	89	265	215	81.13%
1969	362	39	323	79	24.46%	1969	361	74	287	208	72.47%
1970	294	18	276	63	22.83%	1970	292	57	235	157	66.81%
1971	327	30	297	98	32.00%	1971	325	46	279	147	32.69%
1972	264	25	239	72	30.13%	1972	260	33	227	99	43.61%
1973	258	23	235	110	46.81%	1973	257	47	210	173	82.38%
1974	229	16	213	32	15.02%	1974	227	44	183	139	75.96%
1975	168	12	156	45	28.85%	1975	166	22	144	65	45.14%
1976	140	5	135	23	17.04%	1976	140	10	130	48	36.81%
1977	75	5	70	20	28.57%	1977	75	9	66	32	48.48%
1978	136	9	127	36	28.35%	1978	138	12	126	66	52.38%
1979	176	13	163	33	20.25%	1979	175	26	149	54	36.24%
1980	111	7	104	17	16.35%	1980	111	15	96	55	37.29%
1981	116	7	109	21	19.27%	1981	115	15	100	55	55.00%
1982	96	3	93	21	22.58%	1982	96	9	87	45	51.72%
1983	120	4	116	12	10.34%	1983	120	9	111	61	54.95%
1984	141	2	139	24	17.27%	1984	141	11	130	82	63.08%
1985	135	5	130	22	16.92%	1985	134	15	119	75	63.03%
1986	128	4	124	21	16.94%	1986	128	19	109	64	58.72%
1987	137	4	133	30	22.56%	1987	138	8	130	83	63.85%
1988	99	2	97	16	16.36%	1988	99	11	88	53	60.23%
1989 MDP	111	3	108	2	1.85%	1989 MDP	111	4	107	3	2.80%
1990 MDP	88	0	88	1	1.14%	1990 MDP	88	0	88	4	4.55%
1991 MDP	90	1	89	0	0.00%	1991 MDP	90	1	89	0	0.00%
UNK CLASS	61	1	60	13	21.67%	UNK CLASS	61	6	55	16	28.09%
ALUMNI	9012	1115	7897	1814	22.97%	ALUMNI	8985	2542	6443	3772	58.54%
TEACHER	23	8	15	6	40.00%	TEACHER	47	26	21	9	42.86%
TOTAL	9035	1123	7912	1820	23.00%	TOTAL	9032	2568	6464	3781	58.49%

SINCE START OF CAMPAIGN

1445 More Deceased

1961 More EMails

Craig Larson suggested the Association uses “Perplexity” to locate missing Alumni. Craig will test it out and report results at the next Board Meeting. Email Hunter, RocketReach or BeenVerified can also be used to locate missing Alumni and their email addresses.

Gregor Mendel Annual Appeal Status- Pat Regan

Pat Regan was not able to attend the meeting. Mike Dreznes explained that the 2024 Gregor Mendel Annual Appeal started on the birthday of St. Augustine, which is November 13, and will run for thirty-seven days until December 19 in honor of Mendel Catholic High School’s thirty-seven-year history.

Mike presented the following slide, which shows that \$7,459 of the \$15,000 target has been reached. (UPDATE: As of December 13, 2024, we have received \$8,040 for the Appeal.)



Remembering the competitive spirit among Classes that was prevalent when we were selling Chance (Raffle) books when we were at Mendel, Mike also presented the following slide:

**Congratulations to the TOP 10 Classes for
Donations to the 2024 Gregor Mendel Appeal!
We Only Have 10 Days Remaining for the 2024
Gregor Mendel Appeal!**

Here are the Top Ten Contributing Classes to date:	1964 \$1,710
	1968 \$950
	1965 \$710
	1967 \$525
(This is like the Class Competition When We Were Selling Raffle Books! At Mendel!)	1978 \$500
	1962 \$420
	1966 \$300
	1973 \$300
Who Will Get Bragging Rights?!?!	1984 \$300
	1958 \$250

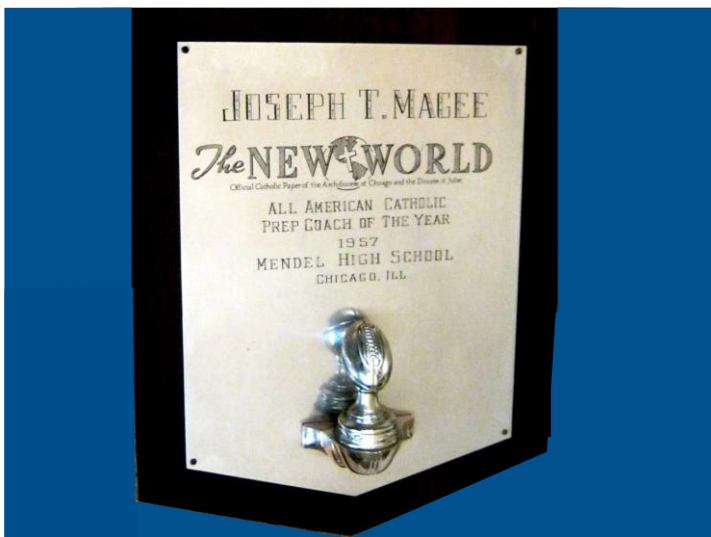
The Class of 1964 was congratulated for their performance to date. Board Members were strongly encouraged to take the lead and donate to the Gregor Mendel Appeal at this site: <https://mendelchs.org/product-category/mendel-appeal/>

Coach Joe Magee Induction Into the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame

Tom Gavin explained that the Catholic League Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony would be held on May 1, 2025. An Application for Coach Joe Magee has been submitted.

All Monarchs, especially Monarchs who played for Coach Magee, will be invited to make the induction dinner an incredibly special night in Mendel Lore. The goal is to fill at least four tables (forty attendees) at the induction.

Mike Dreznes showed a plaque from the New World in 1957 naming Coach Magee the All-American Catholic Prep Coach of the Year in 1957. John Mikenis found this plaque on eBay! This plaque also will be displayed in the Mendel Hall of Fame at St. Rita.



At the Induction Ceremony, Coach Magee's wife Maureen, will donate the game ball from the 1957 Prep Bowl Game that Mendel won 6-0 over Calumet High School. The ball will be put into the Mendel HOF case at St. Rita High School.

Mike Dreznes asked Board Members to send him nominations for other Monarchs to be inducted into the Catholic League HOF. He presented the list below to show the Mendel Monarchs in the Catholic League Hall of Fame.



MENDEL MEN IN CATHOLIC LEAGUE HALL OF FAME 8/14/2024

NAME	CLASS YEAR	CATEGORY	INDUCTION	PHONE	EMAIL	MENDEL HOF
Adams, Ed	N/A	Coach Track & Field	1989	UNKNOWN	leotrack@aol.com	YES
Banks, Andre	1982	Athlete Basketball	2004	UNKNOWN	andrew.banks@gmail.com	NO
Bohan, Eddie	1958	Athlete Football	2014	(630) 779-4078	BROBOHAN@yahoo.com	YES
Burke, Ed	1959	Athlete Football	2005	(707) 937-1293	edburke@mcn.org	YES
Callahan, Bill	1974	Athlete/Coach Football	2022		callahan.willame@gmail.com	YES
Campbell, Tracy	1972	Athlete Football	2014	(404) 798-8034	campbell-tracy@comcast.net	YES
Chambers, Rodney	1986	Athlete/Coach Track & Field/Cross Country	2016	(708) 828-9676	rodchambers@sbcgbbal.net	YES
Curtin, Mike	N/A	Coach/Administrator Basketball	1995	(630) 334-3594	micurtin6190@gmail.com	YES
Daniel, Tony	1987	Athlete Track & Field/Cross Country	2024	(217) 638-2987	tdaniel@sps186.org	NO
Farrell, Joe	1960	Athlete Football	1998	DECEASED		YES
Flaherty, Mike	N/A	Coach Basketball	2000	(312) 502-4567	sydmike2009@gmail.com	YES
Gavin, Rev. Jack, O.S.A.	N/A	Coach/Clergy	UK	DECEASED		YES
Goberville, Tom	1960	Athlete Football	2017	(954) 942-9868	thomasgmd93@aol.com	YES
Guida, Lou	N/A	Coach Football	UK	DECEASED		YES
Hampton, Mike	1982	Athlete Basketball	2023	(651) 587-2481	michaeldhampton1982@gmail.	YES
Hogan, Mike	1966	Athlete Football	2015	DECEASED		NO
Knoebel, John	1975	Athlete Football/Baseball/Wrestling	2024	(312) 685-5353	jknoebel53@msn.com	YES
Manderino, Mike	1970	Athlete/Coach Basketball	1996	(708) 705 5511	coachmanderino@gmail.com	YES
O'Hare, Mark	1972	Athlete Football/Wrestling	2023	(949) 713-3685	mshoare@cox.net	YES
Reilly, Ben	N/A	Coach Basketball	1986	DECEASED		YES
Rouse, Eric	1975	Athlete Football	2004	(480) 607-0093	ROUSE.ERIC.V@GMAIL.COM	YES
Sabaal, Al	1956	Athlete Football	2011	DECEASED		YES
Sheahan, Mike	1961	Athlete/Coach/Official	1995	(312) 217-8161	nshahan6@aol.com	YES
Richard Stelmaszek	1967	Athlete/Coach Baseball	2018	DECEASED		YES
Triplet, Tyron	N/A	Athlete St. Martin de Porres	2020	UNKNOWN		N/A
Windauer, Bill	1968	Athlete Football/Wrestling	2020	(319) 530-3344	windauer65@mchsi.com	YES
Woulfe, Mike	1958	Athlete/Coach Football	2003	DECEASED		YES
Young, Ernie	1987	Athlete/Coach	2010	(602) 790-5047	ernestyong3@hotmail.com	YES

Chairman's Report-Legacy Award Committee-Eric Rouse

2025 High School Seniors Legacy Awards Update- Eric Rouse/Craig Larson

The Legacy Award Committee plans to make a formal announcement on the 2025 Legacy Awards before the end of 2024.

The Mendel Legacy Award Committee is comprised of Chairman Eric Rouse, Craig Larson, David Milton, John Wilson, Dennis Heitzmann, Don Triveline, Pat Regan, Andy Youpel, Tom Gavin, Ron Smith, Kelvin Lovely, Bob Fioretti, Danny Randall, John Franklin, and Mike Dreznes.

Eric Rouse and Craig Larson will coordinate the 2025 Legacy Award Campaign. Craig Larson offered to be the contact person to receive all the Applications and Essays. He will then distribute them to the Legacy Award Committee for judging.

Pat Regan noted that we will be able to present up to \$8,500 in Scholarships in 2025, compared to \$6,000 in 2024.

The Committee needs to finalize a topic for the 2025 Legacy Award Essay. It is currently considering, *"What lessons have you learned over the last four years that have made you better prepared for your academic and professional career in the future?"* Board Members were asked to send any comments to Eric Rouse or Craig Larsen.

Mendel High School Alumni Association
 Legacy Essay Academic Award
 Open to Immediate Descendants of
 Mendel Catholic High School Alumni



2025 REQUIREMENTS

- Child, Grandchild or Great Grandchild of Mendel Alumni
- Current High School Senior – 2025 Graduation Class
- Minimum ACT Score-21 or 1100-SAT Score
- Minimum 2.8 GPA
- Proof of Acceptance to a 2 or 4 Year, Institution of Higher Education (College, University or Trade School)
- Proof of Community/School Involvement
- Current Headshot Photo
- Written Essay Topic:
- ***In 300 Words or Less, Other Than a Family Member, Who is The One Individual That You Admire the Most. Explain Why"***

"Remember That Goals Without Plans Are Just wishes"

**Mendel Alumni Association
 Legacy Academic Award
 Application**

Please print legibly: _____ Date: _____
 Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 High School _____
 Name of Related Mendel Alumnus _____

Mendel Class Year _____ Relationship to Applicant _____
 ACT or SAT Score _____ Grade Point Average _____

School You Will Attend in Fall 2025 _____

Required Documentation with Submission:

- Copy of SAT or ACT Score
- Proof of 2.8 GPA
- Copy of College or Trade School Acceptance Letter
- Proof of Mendel Alumni Legacy
- Current Headshot Photo
- ***Essay In 300 Words or Less, Other Than a Family Member, Who is The One Individual That You Admire the Most. Explain Why***

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION & ESSAY SUBMITTAL MARCH 15, 2025

I verify that the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



 APPLICANT SIGNATURE



Mike Dreznes reminded everyone that the 2025 Mendel Legacy Award is open to any child, grandchild or great grandchild of a Mendel High School Alumni who is a senior in high school (2025 Graduating Class.) The submittal deadline is March 15, 2025.

Chairman’s Report-Hall of Fame Committee-J.C. Crane

J.C. Crane was not able to attend the meeting. Based on discussions with J.C. Crane, Mike Dreznes made the presentation on behalf of J.C.

Mike encouraged Board Members to submit applications for the 2025 HOF Class. The deadline is December 31, 2024. The HOF Induction Ceremony will be Saturday May 24, 2025, at 10:30 AM at St. Rita.

The H.O.F. Committee previously announced its plans to introduce “Mendel Den of Honor” as a subset of the Mendel H.O.F. The sole criterion for recognition in “The Den” would be for the team to have won a minimum of a League Championship.

However, at the Board Meeting the H.O.F. Committee recommended that the Den of Honor be managed by the Mendel Alumni Association, and not be under the guidance of the Hall of Fame Committee.

Since the Mendel Alumni Association nominated Coach Joe MaGee for induction to the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame, the Board agreed that it would be appropriate to recognize Mendel’s 1957 City of Chicago Football Champion as the Inaugural Member of the “Monarchs Den of Honor.”



A couple of Board Members suggested that other Mendel High School organizations, such as the Band or the Debate Team be considered for the “Den of Honor.” All agreed that this was logical and made sense. Mike Dreznes suggested that a maximum of four teams be inducted into the Den of Honor at the Mendel Bi-Annual All-Class Reunions starting in 2026. This should help to increase participation and attendance at the Bi-Annual All Class Reunions.

After further discussion, all agreed that it may be necessary to create a “Den of Honor” Committee, similar to, but separate from the H.O.F. Committee to nominate and award induction into the “Den of Honor.”

The “Den of Honor” concept is very fluid, and its structure is expected to be finalized by the next Board Meeting.

The Board previously had asked the H.O.F. Committee to consider a new subset for the HOF that would automatically include Veterans and First Responders killed in the Line of Duty. The H.O.F. Committee and report back at the next Board Meeting.

The HOF Committee announced that it is creating a subset of the Hall of Fame that would include Mendel Veterans and First Responders who are killed in the Line of Duty.

The Mendel Hall of Fame Committee will determine a name for this subset The Board suggested “The Hall of Heroes.” The plan is to formally announce this concept at the HOF Induction Ceremony in May 2025.

Chairman’s Report: Veterans Committee-Andy Youpel

Southside Catholic HS Veterans 1st Responders Mass Recap-Andy Youpel

Andy Youpel was not able to attend the BOD Meeting. Mike Dreznes announced that on November 14, 2024, Mendel High School Alumni Association hosted the First Mass at St Cajetan Honoring Southside Chicago Catholic High School Veterans & First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty.

The moving service was concelebrated by Father Ken Budzikowski, Pastor of St. Cajetan; Fr. Don Lewandowski, O.S.A. (‘61); and Deacon Joe Roccasalva. The procession, led by Bagpipe

Major Matt McKee, included the Color Guard from American Legion Post #854, as well as representatives from Southside Catholic high schools, including Mendel, St. Rita, Brother Rice, Little Flower, Leo, Marist, St. Ignatius, and Mt. Carmel. Alumni from each school carried posters listing the names of their fallen heroes.



The Mass featured heartfelt moments, including readings by CPD Officer Kurrin Beamon and CFD Firefighter Rich O'Connor. Marty Gainer ('70) offered a poignant reflection on the sacrifices of these "High School Heroes," while Lt. Col. Kevin Lovell, US Army (Ret.), delivered an inspiring keynote address, reminding attendees of the daily sacrifices made by Veterans and First Responders.

Mike Dreznes showed a story from the Beverly Review.

**First Mass For Chicago Southside Catholic
High School Veterans & First Responders Who
Died in the Line of Duty
Thursday November 14, 2024**



All Veterans and First Responder Committee Members were thanked for their efforts to make this Mass a memorable event.

Membership Committee Report-Ron Dubin

Ron Dubin was unable to attend the meeting. Mike Dreznes said that he covered Ron's desired message in his "Locating Missing Alumni" presentation.

Mike Dreznes offered to send all Board Members a copy of the Master Alumni Roster. Board Members were asked to review the database roster to see if they are aware of any deaths, change of contact details or email addresses.

Website Committee-Rick Zarr

The Mendelchs.org website experienced some technical difficulties in November and December. Rick Zarr, Mike Dreznes and John Dreznes worked with Mike Z to correct the issues. Today the website is working well.

Ron Dubin will work with John Dreznes to automatically forward visitors to mendelchs.com directly to mendelchs.org.

The Mendel Alumni Association continues to get rave reviews for its website. Rick Zarr, John Fanning and John Dreznes were thanked for their efforts.

BOD Members Financial and Personal Commitment

Kelvin Lovely explained that many Board Members have made financial commitments on the website. Some of the Directors have pledged monthly donations on the Mendel website.

Kelvin said that a recurring monthly donation of at least \$4 a month would help to keep the Alumni Association vibrant, strong, and fiscally sound. Donations can be made at this site: [Legacy Award | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

The following language has been added to the Mendel Alumni Association Articles of Association:

All Mendel Alumni Association Board of Directors understand that their active attendance, participation, and personal volunteering in logistical support of Alumni Events are key components of a Board Member's role in the Mendel Alumni Association. The Board is only as strong as the active commitment by each Board Member, and cannot rely solely on a few individuals to do all the work.

Fundraising is a major component of a Mendel Alumni Association Board Member's responsibilities. Financial support, either through giving or through solicitation of other Alumni to give to the Annual Appeal and special events is an essential element of that duty.

Board Members are requested to make an annual financial contribution according to their personal means and to the best of their ability to do so. No minimum dollar amount is associated with this Resolution. The only necessity is that each Board Member participate financially.

Board Members can make Donations on a reoccurring monthly basis at this site: [Legacy Award | Mendel C.H.S. \(mendelchs.org\)](#)

Board Members also are encouraged to add a legacy gift to the Mendel Alumni Association to their wills.

Managing Sign -Up Sheets for Activities and Events-John Mikenis

John Mikenis showed the following page that has been added to the mendelchs.org website.

MENDEL CATHOLIC PREP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FAITH HONOR DISCOVER CONNECT GIVE DONATION GIFTS

Volunteer Sign Up

Current Volunteer Sign-up Sheets

Title	Start Date	End Date	Open Spots	
Volunteer to help	November 5, 2025	November 5, 2025	10	View & sign-up »

Please login to view and edit your volunteer sign ups.

Official Alumni YouTube

Mendel C.H.S.
12900 S. 79th Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463-1907

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- Logon Web Development
- Fanning Communications
- Calumet Marketing Initiatives
- Beverly Records

John Dreznes explained that it was impossible to use this software until the website was upgraded. It now is possible to use these sign-up sheets. John Dreznes has added the necessary software to the Mendelchs.org website.

Event organizers are encouraged to use this Software to coordinate volunteer sign-ups and assignments. The 2025 Golf Outing would be the most logical event to use this software first.

Gregor Mendel Science & Technology Award at St Rita Recap-Andy Youpel

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, on behalf of the Mendel Alumni Association, Andy Youpel presented two \$500 Gregor Mendel Science Awards to two St Rita High School Juniors, Thomas Healy and Joseph Katalinic for their Science and Technology accomplishments.



The names of Thomas Healy and Joseph Katalinic were added to the Gregor Mendel Science & Technology plaque that will be displayed in the Mendel Hall of Fame at St. Rita High School.



New Business

Christmas R.O.M.E.O. Thursday December 12, 2024, Update– Mike Dreznes

The Mendel Alumni Association will be hosting the Christmas Gathering at The Original Pancake House in Orland Park on December 12, 2024. The Original Pancake House is owned by the family of Don LaRoche ('64).



Attendees are encouraged to bring a bottle of liquor that can be used in the Silent Auction at the Golf Outing in July. Attendees also are asked to bring hats or gloves that can be donated to the needy. Bob Fioretti will deliver the hats and gloves on behalf of the Mendel Alumni Association.

Mendel Picnic June 28, 2025, Update-Derek Lott

Mark Hubbard announced that the Mendel Alumni Association All-Class Picnic will be held on June 28, 2025, at North Creek Meadows in Lansing, Illinois. Mark asked that Alumni who wish to volunteer contact Derek Lott or him. Mark and Derek Lott also asked that the name for the picnic be changed from the "1984 Class Picnic" to the "All-Class Picnic."

July 25, 2025, Mendel Alumni Association Golf Outing Update-Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson announced that the 2025 Alumni Golf Outing will be held on Friday July 25, 2025, at Hickory Hills Country Club. Bill asked volunteers to help organize the golf outing. Bill Duffy offered to help.

Music "Jam Session" with Mendel Alumni-David Ireland

There are a multitude of talented musicians who graduated from Mendel. David Ireland suggested that the Mendel Alumni Association organize an event that would feature the musical talents of Mendel Alumni. Rick Zarr suggested that the Oak Brook Terrace be considered as a venue for this “jam session.” David Ireland asked for volunteers to coordinate this activity.

“Off-Year Anniversary” Plans-Mike Dreznes

Because the next All-Class Reunion will be held in 2026, the Classes of 1985 (40 years), 1975 (50 years), 1965 (60 years) and 1955 (70 years) are encouraged to conduct their own reunions in 2025. The Alumni Association will help with organization and communications. However, the individual Class must provide leadership and the initiative to make their Class Reunion a reality.

Since the 1955 Class is our first 70 Year Class, the Board agreed that something special should be done for this Class. Options discussed included Lake Michigan Fireworks Cruises, brewery visits or dinner reservations. Other Board Members suggested that a commemorative gift could be appropriate. All agreed that additional discussion is necessary to determine the best way to go forward to do something special for the Class of 1970. This will be discussed at the next Board Meeting and a Committee will need to be organized for the special 70th Anniversary for our “Premier” Class.

CLOSING PRAYER

Fr. Tom closed the meeting by thanking God for the productive meeting and for the participation by the Committee Members.

NEXT MEETING

The next BOD ZOOM meeting will be held on Tuesday February 25, 2024, at 7 PM Chicago time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.