



MENDEL CATHOLIC PREP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mendel Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

May 13, 2025

MINUTES

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

David Ireland, Don Triveline, David Milton, Bob Fioretti, Bob Lopez, Pat Regan, Bill Duffy, Eric Rouse, Mike Frigo, Fr. Tom Griffin, Craig Larson, Dennis Heitzmann, Durell James, Dan Rowan, Terry Gainer, Billy Hilbring, John Mikenis, Kelvin Lovely, Mike Dreznes, Rick Zarr, Tom Gavin, and Art Gillespie were present.

John Wilson notified the Board that he would not be able to attend the meeting prior to the meeting.

Ron Dubin (2nd Consecutive Miss With No Explanation), John Fanning (10th Consecutive Miss With No Explanation) John Franklin, Mark Hubbard, and Derek Lott were 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.

Minutes from February 25, 2025 BOD ZOOM Call Meeting Mike Dreznes

Mike Dreznes presented the Minutes from the February 25, 2025, Board Meeting. No one had any questions or comments regarding the ZOOM Call Minutes.

Don Triveline made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Bob Fioretti seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Finance Committee Pat Regan

Pat Regan noted that the Alumni Association had raised \$215,000 in the past four years.

Our total Book Cash Balance stands at \$34,518 of which \$5,354 is in our Chase Bank Account and \$29,163 is in our new Stifel Money Market Account (MMA). We opened the MMA in early January 2025 with a beginning investment balance of \$40,000. To date, we have earned \$513 of

Using funds from the MMA we disbursed \$9,350 for 11 Legacy Awards in April. There are still eight checks totaling \$6,600, which are still un-cashed. We should be very pleased with such Outstanding Results!

The Costs and Expenses highlighted in Yellow are to be paid in the future. These include \$2,000 for the 5/24/2025 HOF Event and Corporate Costs of \$3,018 for Insurance, Web Site fees and Storage. This brings our Projected Running Cash Balance to \$29,455. Kelvin Lovely asked that the All-Class Picnic costs be included in the next report.

Our HOF donations have been slow totaling only \$438 to date.

TREASURER'S REPORT

5/13/25

ROMEOS & All Class Reunion											
#	\$	Golf Outing	Mendel Science Hall	Donation Gifts	BB game	Veterans Day	Events	Corporate	Donations	Legacy Awards	Cash Basis
Beginning Cash Balances 12/31/2024	38,428.44	26,022.98	(4,867.43)	1,914.38	(1,499.81)	3,725.19	66,724.55	(11,543.73)	(12,859.41)	10,095.16	52,416.57
2025 Activity											
Receipts 2025:											
Paid		290.00		260.00	358.00	700.00	1,608.00	-	1,280.00	625.00	3,513.00
In Process		425.00			80.00	-	505.00	-	-	-	505.00
Interest Income/ Money Market Acct.								513.52	-	-	513.52
Rumors											
Total	-	-	715.00	-	260.00	438.00	700.00	2,113.00	513.52	1,280.00	4,531.52
Expenses 2025:											
Paid				1,264.68	2,390.08	1,000.00	4,654.76	2,189.51	2,923.26	11,625.82	21,393.35
Rumors											
Paid Hickory Hills deposit 2025		1,000.00					1,000.00			1,000.00	1,000.00
Paid expenses for 2005											
Hickory Hills											
Veterans								0			
Other											
CC Fees		9.02		8.59	11.28		28.89		20.06	32.84	81.79
Unpaid					2,000.00		2,000.00	3,017.80			5,917.80
Total	-	1,009.02	-	1,273.27	4,401.36	1,000.00	7,683.65	5,207.31	2,943.32	11,658.66	22,475.14
Net Cash Results for 2025	-	-	(284.02)	-	(1,013.27)	(3,963.36)	(300.00)	(5,707.05)	(4,663.56)	(11,033.86)	(17,943.62)
Net Cash Results 2021-2025	38,428.44	26,728.96	(4,867.43)	901.11	(5,462.37)	3,425.19	61,153.90	(16,237.32)	(14,522.73)	(938.50)	34,472.95

5/13/25

Chase Bank Balance											
5/11/2025											
4,974.83											
Chase Bank Account Book Basis											
5/11/2025											
35,763.62											
Money Market Account of Bidel											
Legacy Award Checks OIS											
5/11/2025											
35,763.62											
Net Money Market Account Book Basis											
5/11/2025											
25,163.52											
Total Cash											
34,577.63											
Corporate Operating Reserve											
(10,000.00)											
Current Net Available Funds for Association Activities											
24,577.63											
Legacy Funds Balance											
(1,275.00)											
23,302.63											
Prior year spending for Golf Outings:											
2025 2024 2023											
Rach Williams Fund for Golf Prizes											
300.00 300.00 300.00											
Deposit for Hickory Hills											
300.00 1,000.00 1,000.00											
Other Golf Prizes											
Corporate Cost:											
2024 2025											
D&O Insurance											
1,000.00 - 309.20 259.20 259.20 827.80 Paid Q1 starting March											
Velo Press											
900.00 - 100.00 225.00 225.00 600.00 275/Anniversary											
Web Site Registration Fees											
150.00 300.00 - 300.00 75.00 75.00 450.00 275/Ann											
RIS Filing Fees											
100.00 - 100.00 - 240.00 240.00 640.00											
Storage Space											
800.00 - 500.00 - 500.00											
Mendel Picnic Donation											
150.00 4,310.00 - 1,419.20 799.20 799.20 3,071.80											
Liab & DAO											
Premiums 1,271.00 305.00 1,026.00											
Broker Fee 150.00 50.00 200.00											
Investment Fees 15.00 15.00											
Endowment Fee 50.00 50.00											
1,486.00 405.00 1,891.00 1,906.00											
Liab & DAO											
608.40 405.00 1,063.40 Due 3/15/2025											
309.20 Due 6/20/2025											
259.20 Due 10/20/2025											
259.20 Due 11/20/2025											
1,891.00											
Donation Items:											
2025											
Augmented Data											
2,150.00											

TREASURER'S REPORT

5/13/25

Year to Date Summary 2025 Actual											
ROMEOS & All Class Reunion											
#	\$	Golf Outing	Mendel Science Hall	Donation Gifts	BB game	Veterans Day	Events	Corporate	Donations	Legacy Awards	Cash Basis
Beginning Cash Balances 12/31/2024	38,428.44	26,022.98	(4,867.43)	1,914.38	(1,499.81)	3,725.19	66,724.55	(11,543.73)	(12,859.41)	10,095.16	52,416.57
2025 Activity											
Receipts 2025:											
Paid		290.00		260.00	358.00	700.00	1,608.00	-	1,280.00	625.00	3,513.00
In Process		425.00			80.00	-	505.00	-	-	-	505.00
Interest Income/ Money Market Acct.								513.52	-	-	513.52
Rumors											
Total	-	-	715.00	-	260.00	438.00	700.00	2,113.00	513.52	1,280.00	4,531.52
Expenses 2025:											
Paid				1,264.68	2,390.08	1,000.00	4,654.76	2,189.51	2,923.26	11,625.82	21,393.35
Rumors											
Paid Hickory Hills deposit 2025		1,000.00					1,000.00			1,000.00	1,000.00
Paid expenses for 2005											
Hickory Hills											
Veterans								0			
Other											
CC Fees		9.02		8.59	11.28		28.89		20.06	32.84	81.79
Unpaid					2,000.00		2,000.00	3,017.80			5,917.80
Total	-	1,009.02	-	1,273.27	4,401.36	1,000.00	7,683.65	5,207.31	2,943.32	11,658.66	22,475.14
Net Cash Results for 2025	-	-	(284.02)	-	(1,013.27)	(3,963.36)	(300.00)	(5,707.05)	(4,663.56)	(11,033.86)	(17,943.62)
Net Cash Results 2021-2025	38,428.44	26,728.96	(4,867.43)	901.11	(5,462.37)	3,425.19	61,153.90	(16,237.32)	(14,522.73)	(938.50)	34,472.95

John Mikenis made a motion to approve the report as submitted. Bob Lopez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Pat Regan announced that he would not be renewing his Treasurer BOD position after July 31, 2025. Pat was thanked for his incredible dedication and service to the Alumni Association.

Locating Alumni Status-Mike Dreznes

Mike Dreznes presented the following chart that showed the progress that has been made over the past twenty-three months to locate missing Alumni. We cannot expect Alumni to participate in the Mendel Alumni activities if they are not aware of them.

MENDEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 6/20/2023						YEAR	NAMES	UNSUBSCRIBE	DECEASED	LIVING	EMAIL	5/13/25		
CLASS	NAMES	DECEASED	LIVING	EMAIL ADDRESSES	%									
1955	293	74	219	31	14.16%	SINCE START OF CAMPAIGN IN JUNE 2023	1955	287	2	176	109	51	47.73%	
1956	274	83	191	28	14.66%		1956	275	1	143	132	59	44.70%	
1957	250	51	199	27	13.57%		1957	252	0	120	132	56	42.42%	
1958	325	49	276	54	19.57%		1958	322	0	152	170	89	52.35%	
1959	377	52	325	71	21.85%		1959	396	4	182	214	113	52.67%	
1960	413	67	346	53	15.32%		1960	409	1	211	198	124	62.63%	
1961	366	55	311	59	18.97%		1961	365	4	153	212	130	61.32%	
1962	318	121	197	140	71.07%		1962	323	4	137	186	153	82.26%	
1963	376	57	319	60	18.81%		1963	374	0	160	214	132	61.68%	
1964	440	45	395	80	20.25%		1964	436	4	134	302	218	72.19%	
1965	488	62	426	55	12.91%	1560	1965	478	6	167	311	220	70.74%	
1966	487	59	428	83	19.39%	More	1966	487	7	167	320	240	75.00%	
1967	389	32	357	70	19.61%	Deceased	1967	387	5	102	285	192	67.37%	
1968	354	70	284	192	67.61%		1968	354	6	93	261	213	81.61%	
1969	362	39	323	79	24.46%		1969	362	4	77	285	210	73.68%	
1970	294	18	276	63	22.83%		1970	294	7	61	233	163	69.96%	
1971	327	30	297	98	33.00%		1971	326	1	57	269	156	57.99%	
1972	264	25	239	72	30.13%		1972	262	5	44	218	106	48.62%	
1973	258	23	235	110	46.81%		1973	256	5	49	207	175	84.54%	
1974	229	16	213	32	15.02%		2014	1974	227	0	47	180	138	76.67%
1975	168	12	156	45	28.85%		More	1975	168	0	26	142	69	48.59%
1976	140	5	135	23	17.04%		2014	1976	140	1	20	120	52	43.33%
1977	75	5	70	20	28.57%	EMails	1977	76	0	11	65	47	72.31%	
1978	136	9	127	36	28.35%		1978	136	0	11	125	67	53.60%	
1979	176	13	163	33	20.25%		1979	176	0	30	146	55	37.67%	
1980	111	7	104	17	16.35%		1980	111	0	16	95	55	57.89%	
1981	116	7	109	21	19.27%		1981	115	0	16	99	56	56.57%	
1982	96	3	93	21	22.58%		1982	96	1	9	87	46	52.87%	
1983	120	4	116	12	10.34%		1983	120	1	9	111	59	53.15%	
1984	141	2	139	24	17.27%		1984	142	1	10	132	81	61.36%	
1985	135	5	130	22	16.52%		1985	134	0	15	119	76	63.87%	
1986	128	4	124	21	16.94%		1986	128	1	19	109	65	59.63%	
1987	137	4	133	30	22.56%	1987	138	0	8	130	82	63.06%		
1988	99	2	97	16	16.49%		1988	99	0	11	88	54	61.36%	
1989 MDP	111	3	108	2	1.85%		1989	112	0	4	108	3	2.78%	
1990 MDP	88	0	88	1	1.14%		1990	88	0	0	88	4	4.55%	
1991 MDP	90	1	89	0	0.00%		1991	90	0	2	88	0	0.00%	
UNK CLASS	61	1	60	13	21.67%		UNK CLASS	61	0	5	56	16	28.57%	
ALUMNI	9012	1115	7897	1814	22.97%		ALUMNI	9002	71	2654	6346	3825	60.27%	
TEACHER	23	8	15	6	40.00%		TEACHERS	47	0	29	18	9	50.00%	
TOTAL	9035	1123	7912	1820	23.00%		TOTAL	9049	71	2683	6364	3834	60.25%	

Some classes are doing very well (green highlighted classes), and some classes need a “Champion” to locate missing Classmates (red highlighted classes). Mike Dreznes called out the 1979 Class, who have email addresses for less than 38% of the living Classmates. Mike Dreznes promised to send out the All-Class Master Roster to all Board Members.

Mike thanked Rich Williams, Derek Lott and Ron Dubin for their efforts to find missing Alumni.

Mike Dreznes offered 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. **UPDATE: THE MASTER ROSTER WAS SENT OUT ON MAY 14, 2025.**

The goal is to have good email addresses for 65% of the living Alumni. We are currently at 60.3%. When the campaign started in June of 2023, we only had 23% of the email addresses for living Alumni.

UPDATE: CRAIG LARSON SENT MIKE DREZNES 4 NEW SITES TO USE TO LOCATE ALUMNI.

Joe Magee Catholic League HOF Induction on May 1, 2025 Summary Report

Coach Joe Magee’s family joined twelve Mendel Monarchs at the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 1, 2025 at Crystal Sky Ballroom. Jim Vlazny (’59) gave a wonderful speech to introduce Coach Magee.



Mike Dreznes asked for 2026 HOF nominations. Don Ledin was mentioned as a possible candidate.

2025 Mendel Legacy Awards Final Report- Eric Rouse/Craig Larson

Craig Larson and Eric Rouse did a wonderful job coordinating the 2025 Legacy Award Program. Eleven scholarships totaling \$9,350 were awarded to Mendel Men’s grandchildren, and in one case, children.

This year the Legacy Committee decided to have the Mendel Men present the check and certificate to their child or grandchild. This was very well received by both the Mendel Man and their offspring. This will continue again next year.

<div>  LEGACY AWARD </div>			
NAME	MENDEL LEGACY	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
IMOGEN DUFFY	BILL DUFFY ('64)	BENET ACADEMY	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
ABIGAIL BILSKY	JACK VLADNY ('61)	NORTH PORT HIGH SCHOOL	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
EMILY BLOCK	JOHN BLOCK ('64)	PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
MARTIN RADGOWSKI	BILL DUFFY ('64)	BENET ACADEMY	UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
RYAN LOEHR	DON LARISEY ('65)	ST RITA HIGH SCHOOL	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
JOSEPH GAINER	TERRY GAINER ('65)	ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL	MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
HENRY WILLIAMS	RICH WILLIAMS ('62)	WHEATON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL	VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
	JOHN GIBLIN ('59)		
XAVIER SELLERS	BILL MCCULLOUGH (71)	VALPARAISO HIGH SCHOOL	PURDUE UNIVERSITY
DECLAN DUFFY	THOMAS DUFFY ('63)	HOPEWELL HIGH SCHOOL	LIMESTONE UNIVERSITY
MADISON HEITZMANN	DENNIS HEITZMANN ('64)	RICHARD MONTGOMERY HS	PENN STATE
THOMAS LOSH	THOMAS LOSH ('73)	HOMEWOOD FLOSSMOOR HS	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
<div> CLASS OF 2025 </div>			

Hall of Fame Committee Update/ HOF Induction May 24, 2025– J.C. Crane

Twelve Monarchs will be inducted into the Mendel Hall of Fame on Saturday, May 24, 2025. The ceremony will be held at St. Rita High School.

Volunteers are needed for the Ceremony. Volunteers should arrive by 9:30 AM. BOD Members were encouraged to contact JC Crane if they were able to help.



MENDEL CATHOLIC PREP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

CLASS OF 2025

NAME	GRAD YEAR	NAME	GRAD YEAR
Andre Banks	'82	Tony Daniel	'87
Mike O'Hare (RIP)	'70	Nolan Lane	'86
Gene Rouse (RIP)	'72	Patrick Regan	'68
Michael F Anthony (RIP)	'68	Michael Dreznes	'68
Kelvin Lovely	'78	William Hilbring	'81
James Nollinger	'67	Michael Hogan (RIP)	'66

All new inductees were congratulated and welcomed into the Mendel Hall of Fame.

The Induction Ceremony will be Saturday May 24, 2025, at St. Rita. The time is to be determined,

Brother Nic0ilas Malarky will say grace.

Pat Regan and Andy Youpel will bring Mendel hats to the Ceremony for the inductees.

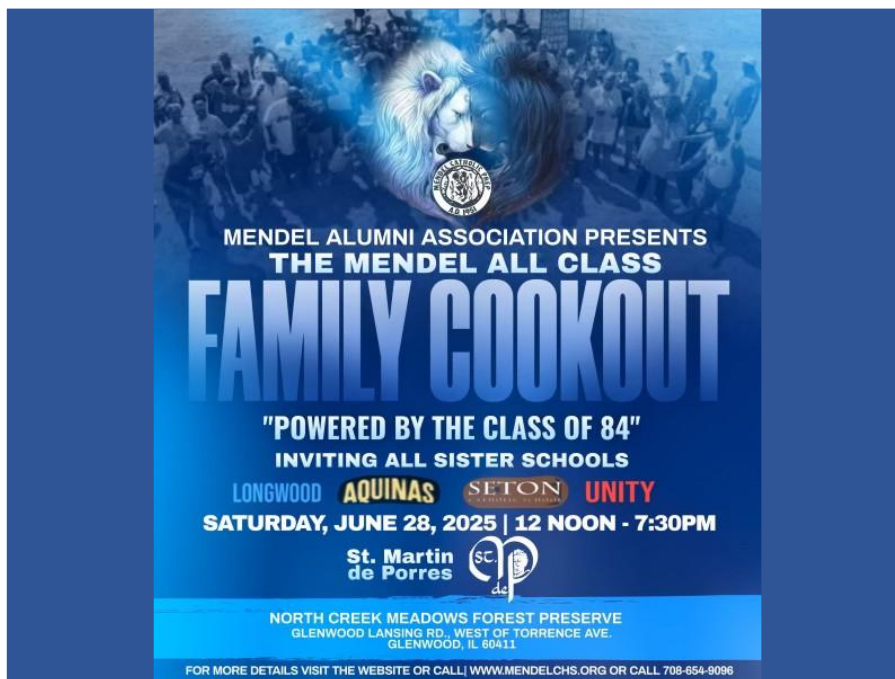
Website Committee Report-Rick Zarr

John Dreznes and Rick Zarr were congratulated for their excellent work on the Mendelchs.org Website. Rick Zarr announced that visits to the Mendelchs.org website increased by 800 percent when the story regarding the Pope's Mendel connections was added to the website!

Mendel All-Class Picnic June 28, 2025, Update-Derek Lott

Kelvin Ireland and David Ireland announced that The 2025 All-Class Picnic has been rebranded as "ALL CLASS FAMILY COOKOUT" sponsored by the Class of 1984.

The Event will be held on Saturday June 28 at North Creek Meadows Forest Preserve in Glenwood, Illinois. All Mendel BOD Members are strongly encouraged to attend the event and to bring a friend, .



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

Bill Johnson was not able to attend the BOD Meeting. Mike Dreznes encouraged all BOD Members to get involved with the Golf Outing by either playing golf, enjoying dinner, purchasing a Hole Sign or donating items for the Raffle/ Silent Auction.

All agreed that the Golf Outing should be combined with the All-Class Reunion in 2026.

The Golf Committee has a ZOOM Meeting scheduled for Thursday May 15, 2025.

8AM Check-in/9AM Shotgun Start

This Golf Outing is for Mendel Alumni & Families & all Friends of Mendel.

A portion of the proceeds from this Event will be used to support retired Augustinians, the Mendel Legacy Award Program, and the Mendel HOF.

The \$175 fee includes green fees, golf cart, dinner, open bar and door prizes. DON'T GOLF? Cocktails & Dinner begin at 3:30 PM for \$75.

Register and/or Pay Online www.mendelchs.org or send checks to Pat Regan 1s510 Bayberry Lane Wheaton, Illinois 60189

QUESTIONS? Bill Johnson (708) 710-6823 bjmjtaz@att.net

Pat Regan (630) 408-1447 pjr1249@aol.com

RAINOUT DATE IS MONDAY JULY 28, 2025

ENTRY PACKAGES

GOLF & DINNER \$175

(EARLY BIRD \$165 UNTIL JUNE 1, 2025)

DINNER ONLY \$75

(EARLY BIRD \$65 UNTIL JUNE 1, 2025)

HOLE SPONSOR SIGNS \$125





MEDEL CATHOLIC PREP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



FRIDAY JULY 25, 2025
Hickory Hills Country Club

GO, YOU MEN OF MENDEL!

<https://mendelchs.org/>

Bill's biggest need right now are more volunteers.

**Bill Johnson
will Chair this
Golf Outing.
We need lots
of Volunteers
to help.**

8AM Check-in/9AM Shotgun Start

This Golf Outing is for Mendel Alumni & Families & all Friends of Mendel.

A portion of the proceeds from this Event will be used to support retired Augustinians, the Mendel Legacy Award Program, and the Mendel HOF.

The \$175 fee includes green fees, golf cart, dinner, open bar and door prizes. **DON'T GOLF?** Cocktails & Dinner begin at 3:30 PM for \$70.

Register and/or Pay Online www.mendelchs.org or send checks to Pat Regan 1s510 Bayberry Lane Wheaton, Illinois 60189

QUESTIONS? Bill Johnson (708) 710-6823 bjmjtaz@att.net

Pat Regan (630) 408-1447 pjr1249@aol.com

RAINOUT DATE IS MONDAY JULY 28, 2025

ENTRY PACKAGES

GOLF & DINNER \$175

(EARLY BIRD \$165 UNTIL MAY 1, 2025)

DINNER ONLY \$70

(EARLY BIRD \$60 UNTIL MAY 1, 2025)

HOLE SPONSOR SIGNS \$125



Art Gillespie offered to help at the Golf Outing. Bill Johnson was thanked for his enthusiastic outstanding leadership. This promises to be an excellent outing. The Golf Committee has scheduled a ZOOM Call Meeting for Thursday May 15, 2025. All BOD Members were encouraged to attend this Meeting.

Music “Jam Session” with Mendel Alumni-David Ireland

David Ireland explained that the tentative plan was to conduct a music concert in the Fall with many of the talented musicians who graduated from Mendel. Rick Zarr suggested that the Oak Brook Terrace or Farris View Park be considered as a venue for this “jam session.”



The initial “trial jam session” will be conducted during the ALL CLASS FAMILY COOKOUT on Saturday June 28, 2025. The flyer below was sent to all Mendel Alumni.



MENDEL CATHOLIC PREP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Mendel Alumni,

May 15, 2025

We are excited to announce that the Mendel Alumni Association is planning a special Fall Concert, celebrating the amazing talent within our Alumni community. As part of the lead-up to this event, we are putting together a preview performance to be showcased at our Annual Summer Cookout on Saturday June 28th—and we want you to be part of it!

We are currently looking for Alumni performers—whether you sing, play an instrument, dance, perform spoken word, or have another creative talent you'd like to share. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, showcase your gifts, and help us create a memorable experience for the entire Mendel community.

If you are interested in performing at the Summer Cookout Preview and/or the Fall Concert, please fill out the attached sign-up form and return it to me by June 6th.

We look forward to hearing from you and making this event a true celebration of Mendel pride and talent.

Warm regards,

David Ireland ('78)

Mendel Alumni Association

david_ireland@att.net

GO, YOU MEN OF MENDEL!

[Mendel C.H.S. | Mendel Catholic Prep Alumni Association \(mendelchs.org\)](https://mendelchs.org/)

PROUD TO BE A MENDEL MAN!

<https://mendelchs.org/>

President Tom Gavin gavin_thomas@att.net
Chairman Kelvin Lovely lovelykelvin@msn.com



MENDEL CATHOLIC PREP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mendel Alumni Association – Talent Sign-Up Form

For Fall Concert & Summer Cookout Preview

We are inviting Mendel Alumni to participate in a special concert this Fall—and to give a sneak preview of the show at our annual Summer Cookout on June 28, 2025

If you'd like to perform, please complete this form and return it by June 6, 2025].

Full Name: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Type of Talent (e.g., singing, dance, instrumental, spoken word, etc.): _____

Brief Description of Your Act: _____

Are you available to perform at the Summer Cookout on Saturday, June 28th (Preview Show)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure yet

Are you available to perform at the Fall Concert? (Date To Be Determined)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure yet

Additional Notes or Special Requests: _____

Return this completed form to David Ireland david_ireland@att.net by June 6, 2025






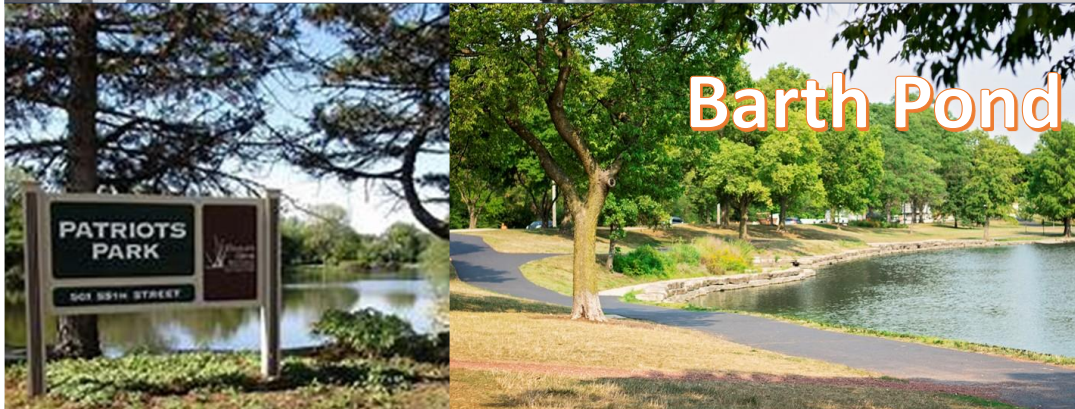
<https://mendelchs.org/>

President Tom Gavin gavin_thomas@att.net
Chairman Kelvin Lovely lovelykelvin@msn.com

Plans to Recognize First Responder Richard Barth ('67) Killed in Line of Duty-Mike Dreznes

Richard Barth ('67) was a Downers Grove Patrolman. He was killed in the line of duty on March 18, 1974 after only two years on the force. Barth Pond in Patriots Park in Downers Grove is named after him. Every year the Downers Grove Police Department honors the memory of Officer Barth in Patriots Park on May 17.

MEN OF MENDEL WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

		
	<p>PATROLMAN RICHARD BARTH DOWNERS GROVE BADGE 11 MENDEL CLASS OF 1967 END OF WATCH MARCH 18, 1974</p>	 <p>Agency: Downers Grove Police Department Served: 2 years Unit of Assignment/Detail Patrolman Cause of Death: Gunfire-Enemy</p>
		

The Downers Grove police were not receptive to a ceremony to honor Richard Barth that included the Mendel Alumni Association. The family of Richard Barth also would prefer not to have a memorial service for Richard Barth.

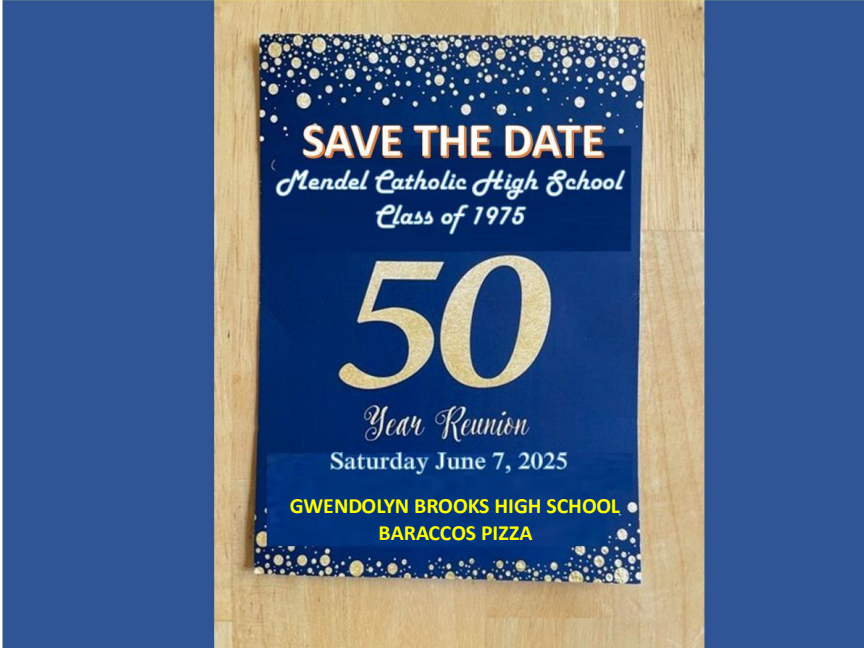
The Board of Directors will present a \$500 check to each of the two Catholic Grammar Schools located in Downers Grove, St Josephs and Saint Mary Of Gostyn School in the name of the Mendel Alumni Association in honor of Richard Barth. The presentations will be made on May 15, 2025 prior to the R.O.M.E.O. at Ballydoyle Irish Pub. All BOD Members were encouraged to join the presentation ceremonies.

On a side note, the Principal of the Saint Mary of Gostyn is the daughter of Russ DeBruin ('62).

Rick Zarr will check with the Downers Grove Park District to ask if the Alumni Association could donate funds next year to help with the upkeep of Barth Pond instead of the Catholic schools.

“Off-Year 1975 50th Anniversary” Plans-Eric Rouse

The 1975 Class will celebrate their 50th Anniversary with a Reunion starting at Gwendolyn Brooks High School in the morning of on Saturday June 7, 2025 from 10 AM to 1PM. The celebration will then go to Baraccos Restaurant on 95th Street in the evening. Additional details are on the Mendelchs.org website.



Eric Rouse is looking for contact information on the teachers at Mendel in the mid 1970's.

13th Annual Augustinian Gala Report-Tom Gavin

Chairman Kelvin Lovely and President Tom Gavin and their wives attended the 2025 Augustinian Gala at the Drake Hotel.s

13th Annual Augustinian Gala

The Mendel Alumni Association did purchase a \$500 Half Page ad plus four dinners for \$1400, plus the \$250 donation for Brother Jack for a total of a \$2,150 donation to the Augustinians



Augustinian Gala 2025 April 25, 2025 Drake Hotel



Catholic League HOF Monarch Nominations Status-Mike Dreznes

The Mendel Alumni Association needs to submit more applications for the 2026 Catholic League Hall of Fame Class. All BOD Members were encouraged to submit possible candidates. t. Don Ledin was suggested as a possible candidate. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 6, 2026.



Chicago Catholic League est. 1912

Hall of Fame Nomination Form

We invite you to nominate individuals for induction into the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame – Class of 2026. Nominations are open to all athletes across all categories who have made significant contributions to the legacy and tradition of the Catholic League.

Nomination Deadline: Friday, February 6, 2026

Please submit this completed form by mail or email to:

Marmion Academy
Attn: Paul Chabura
1000 Butterfield Road
Aurora, IL 60618

Or via email to: pchabura@marmion.org

Nomination Information – Please Include All of the Following:

1. Nominator Information

- Full Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address (optional but encouraged)

2. Nominee Information

- Full Name
- High School Attended
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number and/or Email Address (Current contact information is essential so we can reach the nominee)
- Summary of Achievements in the Chicago Catholic League
- Other Noteworthy Accomplishments (e.g., coaching, community impact, professional achievements)

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Paul Chabura at pchabura@marmion.org.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize a Catholic Leaguer who has contributed to one of the most respected and historic athletic conferences in the country.

Combining academic and athletic excellence for over a century

**We need
more
nominations
for the
CCLHOF
Class of
2026**

NEW BUSINESS

Pope Leo XIV Update

BOD Members were encouraged to view the story on Pope Leo on the MendelCHS.org website and to refer people to the site if they want the official story on the connection between Mendel High School and Pope Leo XIV.

JOHN DREZNES CREATED THIS
EXCELLENT STORY ON THE POPE

**A Moment of Pride: St. Rita, Mendel, Celebrate Pope Leo XIV's
Augustinian Roots and Chicago Legacy**

May 8, 2025



Dear Mendel Catholic High School Alumni and Friends,

With hearts full of joy, we join the global Catholic community in celebrating the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as Pope Leo XIV on May 8, 2025. As the first American pope, his historic ascent to the papacy is a moment of immense pride for Chicago's South Side and the Augustinian family that shaped our beloved Mendel Catholic High School. While not a Mendel alumnus, Pope Leo XIV's deep Augustinian roots, upbringing in Dolton, early ministry at St. Rita of Cascia High School, and familial ties to Mendel through his brothers, Louis Prevost (Class of '69) and John Prevost (Class of '72), resonate profoundly with our community, reflecting the values that defined our school's legacy.

The visits to the Mendelchs.org website increased by 800% when this story was published.

Due to the close connections between Pope Leo XIV and Mendel (Two brothers attended Mendel, Mother was the librarian and President of the Mother's Club, plus Pope Leo is an Augustinian,) it was proposed that Pope Leo XIV be named an Honorary Mendel Alumnus. Kelvin Lovely read the proclamation. Terry Gainer made the motion to name Pope Leo as an Honorary Mendel Alumnus. David Ireland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.





Mike Dreznes suggested that the Mendel Alumni Association considers being involved in efforts to turn St Mary of the Assumption Church into a shrine for Pope Leo XIV. This was Pope Leo XIV's church when he was growing up in Dolton, Illinois. Father Tom Griffin offered to notify the Augustinian Provincial of the Alumni Association's interest in the development of this shrine.

John Mikenis suggested that the Pope would prefer the money to be given to the poor rather than be spent to create the shrine. Mike Dreznes emphasized that the Alumni Association may have a leadership role, but would not have a financial interest. **SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS SHOWED MORE INTEREST IN A SHRINE AT MENDEL HALL AT ST. RITA. MORE DISCUSSIONS TO FOLLOW.**

Downers Grove R.O.M.E.O. May 15, 2025 Mike Dreznes

The Mendel Alumni Association will host a R.O.M.E.O. (Random Old Monarchs Eating Out) at Ballydoyle in Downers Grove, Illinois. Twenty to thirty Monarchs are expected to attend.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The next "R.O.M.E.O." (Random Old Monarchs Eating Out) will be at noon Thursday May 15, 2025 at Ballydoyle Irish Pub 5157 Main Street in Downers Grove, IL www.ballydoylepub.com

Come out to share some memories and to celebrate the start of Spring with your Mendel Brothers. Bring a friend to join you!

Please bring one or more unopened bottles of liquor that can be used as Silent Auction/Raffle prizes at the Golf Outing on July 25.

For Planning Purposes, please tell me if you will be able to join us on May 15 at noon.



Las Vegas R.O.M.E.O. May 20, 2025 Mike Dreznes

Mike Dreznes announced that a R.O.M.E.O. would be held in Las Vegas on Tuesday May 20. All Mendel Men were invited to attend.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The next "R.O.M.E.O." (Random Old Monarchs Eating Out) will be at 10 AM on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at the Overlook Grill in The Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas Nevada

Come out to share some memories and to celebrate the start of Spring with your Mendel Brothers. Bring a friend to join you!

For Planning Purposes, please tell me if you will be able to join us.



Blue Smoke House Party May 30, 2025 Kelvin Lovely

Kelvin Lovely encouraged all BOD Members to attend the "House Party" sponsored by the Mendel 1984 Class on May 30, 2025.t



Jack Vlazny Resolution- Mike Dreznes

Kelvin Lovely read the following Resolution regarding Jack Vlazny:



RESOLUTION OF RESPECT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JACK VLAZNY

Though your days among us were too brief and our grief at your loss is never ending, we draw comfort from the knowledge that you have found safe refuge in the Lord and in our hearts, where no darkness or pain can touch you now. We bless you with love, light, and our gratitude.

Whereas, Jack Vlazny passed from this life on March 14, 2025, and

Whereas, Jack Vlazny's death of does not diminish the profound benediction of a life lived in such Godly service, nor our admiration of and affection for you, and

Whereas, Jack's Vlazny's dedication and commitment to Mendel Catholic High School for fifty-five plus years was second to none earning him the affectionate title "Mr. Mendel," and

Whereas, Jack Vlazny worked tirelessly for the Mendel High School Alumni Association to create Mendel Pride resulting in a legacy that includes the First All-Class Reunion in 1998, the First Golf Outing, Class Reunions for the Mendel High School Class of 1961, the creation of the Mendel High School Hall of Fame, and numerous Christmas and "R.O.M.E.O." (Random Old Monarchs Eating Out Events, and

Whereas, Jack Vlazny served as the first Chairman of the Mendel Alumni Association, a position he held for nineteen years, and that Jack Vlazny was named the "2000-2010 Man of the Decade by the Mendel High School Alumni Association and,

Whereas, Jack Vlazny joined the Board of Directors of the Men of Tolentine and served as its President from 1999 to 2012, and Jack Vlazny was honored as the "Friends of Tolentine Man of the Year in 2012", and

Whereas, the Augustinian Order named Jack Vlazny an Affiliate "Filius Ordinis" (Latin for "Son of the Order") on October 18, 2012, and

Whereas, in recognition of Jack Vlazny's willingness to always step up to do whatever he could for the Augustinians and for Mendel High School Alumni Association, the Jack Vlazny Lifetime Achievement Award was created in 2024 and

Whereas, the family and acquaintances of Jack Vlazny are deeply saddened at departure, as are all who were touched by generous spirit and kindnesses, and

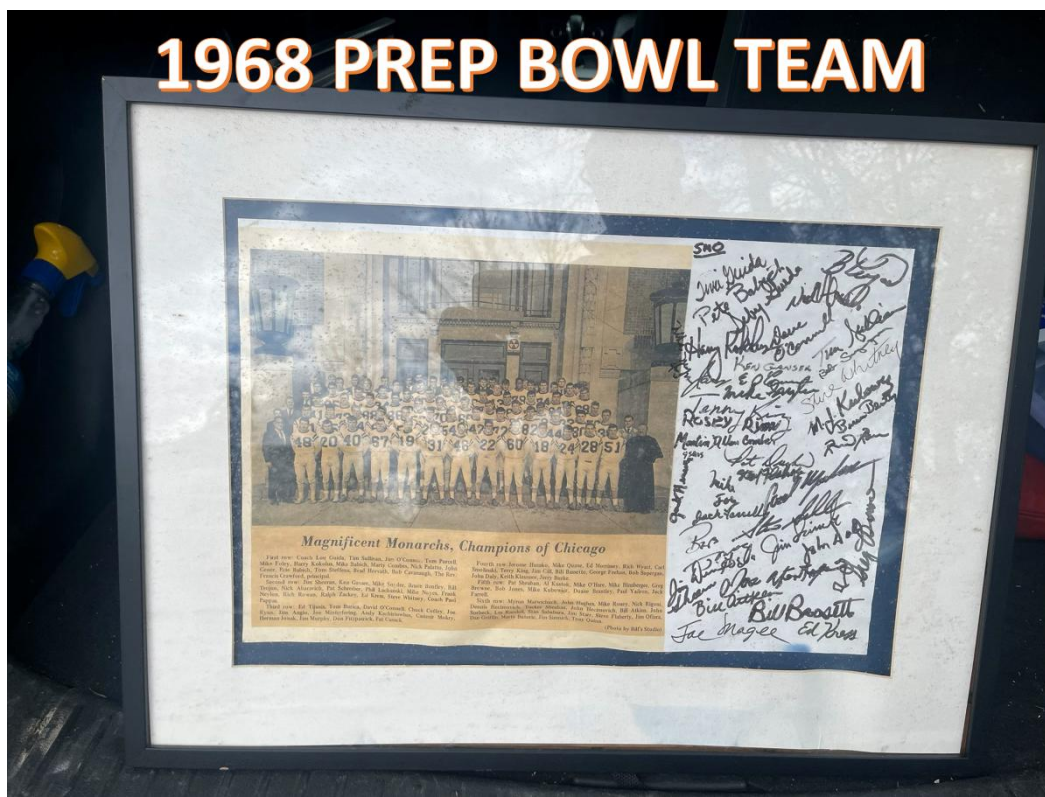
Whereas, Jack Vlazny's legacy of faith and service will continue to inspire loved ones and every member of the Mendel High School Alumni Association.

Now therefore, be it resolved that we bow to a greater Will than our own and rest in the knowledge that one day we will be united with our Monarch Brother Jack Vlazny again, in joy and in the fullness of God's mercy.

Humbly submitted in Faith and Appreciation for the gift of our time with Jack Vlazny,

March 20, 2025, by the Mendel High School Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Mike Dreznes noted that Jack Vlazny's widow, Patti donated much of Jack's Mendel Memorabilia to the Alumni Association, including this poster signed by the 1968 Prep Bowl Championship team:



Articles of Association Addendum- John Mikenis

John Mikenis noted that the Mendel Alumni Association Articles of Association needed clarification regarding the functions of the Executive Board.. He proposed that the following Addendum be added to the Mendel Alumni Association Articles of Association:

The Board shall set policy for the Association. The Board Chair shall be empowered to set policy agenda for the Officers between meetings to then be submitted to the Board for ratification. The Board of Directors shall consist of 1) The President , who shall execute policy. 2) The Vice President shall act in the President's absence and shall replace the President if he leaves during his term of office. 3) The Secretary shall take minutes of Board meetings, and distribute same. 4) The Treasurer shall be in-charge of the Association's fiscal affairs, and may make expenditures consistent with the Approved Budget.

The Executive Board/Committee shall be composed of the Board Chair, the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Executive Board shall have the power to exercise all the powers of the Board between Board meetings in conjunction and with Board review and approval. Further they shall cause strategic, long -range planning to be done; shall request preparation of an annual budget for approval by the full Board and other duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe from time to time. Action may be taken by an affirmative vote of a majority of Executive Board/Committee members, provide a quorum is present. Executive Board/Committee actions shall be reported in full to the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting.

Mike Frigo made a motion to add this addendum. Bill Duffy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RING OF HONOR Proposal-Mike Dreznes

The Mendel Veterans and First Responders who died in the Line of Duty deserve to be recognized for their valor and commitment. Therefore, the Mendel Alumni Association Veterans and First Responder Committee announced the creation of the "Ring of Honor" to remember Mendel Men who gave up their lives in Military Service or as First Responders.

This "Ring of Honor" will be introduced at the Mendel Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 24, 2024. A more detailed explanation of the concept will happen at the Mendel Alumni Association Golf outing on July 25, 2025.

Pat Regan made a motion to approve the Veterans and First Responder Committee's request to create the Ring of Honor. Tom Gavin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



RING OF HONOR



Mendel Alumni Association BOD Turnover July 2025

Mike Dreznes announced that the terms for the following Directors will end on July 31, 2025:

DIRECTORS' ROTATION

	BOD	Billy Hilbring	8/1/22-7/31/25
	BOD	Bob Lopez	8/1/22-7/31/25
	BOD	Dennis Heitzmann	8/1/22-7/31/25
	BOD	Terry Gainer	8/1/23-7/31/25
	BOD	Derek Lott	8/1/22-7/31/25
	BOD	John Wilson	8/1/22-7/31/25
	BOD	Jerome (J.C). Crane	8/1/22-7/31/25
	BOD	Bill Duffy	8/1/22-7/31/25
CHAIRMAN	BOD	Kelvin Lovely	8/1/22-7/31/25
PRESIDENT	BOD	Tom Gavin	8/1/22-7/31/25
TREASURER	BOD	Pat Regan	8/1/22-7/31/25
SECRETARY	BOD	Mike Dreznes	8/1/22-7/31/25

Each of these Directors is in good standing and would be encouraged to serve another three-year term on the Board.

Mike Dreznes asked that these individuals notify him ASAP if they wanted to serve another three year term, or if they did not want to serve another three-year term.

He also asked for recommendations for new Board Members.

Pat Regan announced that he would not seek another three-year term on the Board. Pat was thanked by all for his exemplary service to the Mendel Alumni Association.

Bill Duffy noted that he would be willing to help with the merchandising of Mendel items in the future.

Plans for 2026 All-Class Reunion

The 2026 All-Class Reunion will feature the fifty-year Anniversary of the 1975 and the 1976 Classes. Now is the time to prepare for the Reunion.

Traditionally the reunion was held in early May. Is this the right time for the Reunion?

Where should the Reunion be Held?

A Committee needs to be created. The 1975 and 1976 Classes need to be leaders on this Committee.

All agreed that the 2026 Reunion should be the same weekend as the Golf Outing.

Upcoming Mendel Alumni Events

Mike Dreznes presented to following calendar and asked all Board of Directors to mark their calendars and to save the dates for these Events.

The Mendelian



May 2025

Upcoming Mendel Alumni Association Events

- 5/15/25 R.O.M.E.O. at Ballydoyle Restaurant Downers Grove, IL
- 5/15/25 Richard Barth ('67) Memorial Downers Grove, IL
- 5/15/25 Golf Committee ZOOM Meeting
- 5/20/25 Mendel R.O.M.E.O. in Las Vegas at Cosmopolitan Hotel
- 5/24/25 Mendel Hall of Fame Induction St Rita High School
- 5/30/25 Class of 1984 BLUE SMOKE HOUSE PARTY Atrium Event Space
- 6/7/25 50th Anniversary Class of 1975 Gwendolyn Brooks HS/Barracos
- 6/28/25 All-Class Picnic North Creek Meadows Forest Preserve
- 7/17/25 R.O.M.E.O. at FFSGSGSGSSS Lynwood, IL
- 7/20/25 Gregor Mendel Birthday
- 7/25/25 Mendel Alumni Association Golf Outing Hickory Hills CC
- 11/11/25 Veterans Day
- 11/13/25 Start of Second Gregor Mendel Annual Appeal

Free Publicity for Mendel Alumni Associations

Mike Dreznes showed the picture of a still-shot from ABC News in Chicago that was shown on Record Store Day April 12, 2025. The Mendel shirt was proudly shown at Beverly Records..



Closing Prayer

Fr. Tom closed the meeting by thanking God for the productive meeting and for the participation by the Committee Members. He mentioned the Mendel Alumni who had died since the last meeting. and asked for a moment of silence for these Monarchs.

Next Meeting

The next BOD ZOOM meeting will be held on Tuesday June 24, 2025, at 7 PM Chicago time.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.

