



Minutes – May 22, 2019
Northwestern College Alumni Society
Annual Meeting
held at
Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.



Welcome

The 141st annual meeting of the Northwestern College Alumni Society was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the society's chairman, **Rev. Prof. Alan Siggelkow** (NWC Class of 1965). Attendance was in the 80's, counting non-members; 48 ballots were cast in voting procedures.

President Matthew Crass of LPS welcomed the alumni society members to the LPS campus—the former NWC campus. He spoke of some of the past buildings on the campus and then briefly explained the future plan (as the Lord wills) to have an auditorium built on campus with the current auditorium (the Old Gym) reverting back to a gym for intramurals and other uses as needed.

Membership/Chronicler's Report

Rev. Prof. John Brenner presented the Chronicler's report for 2019 (attached to these minutes); 32 names were listed, including 1 "associate alumnus" (NPS grad.)

Kudos of thanks were given to **Rev. David Plocher** for his outstanding work in producing a new *Northwestern College Alumni Society* booklet with all the names of all alumni from 1872-1995 and noting those who have gone on to heavenly glory. A motion was made and unanimously passed in thanks to him. Plocher briefly spoke and thanked his wife, Naomi, for her dedicated labors in proofreading the booklet that lists the names of about 3000 graduates, whose names needed to be spelled correctly! Plocher also thanked Prof. Brenner for his help and input. Lastly, he commented at how much fun he actually had in pursuing this project. Every alumni at the meeting was welcomed to take a free booklet. Further copies of the booklet are available for \$5.00 each.

Elections

Rev. Edward Lindemann, chairman of the Elections Committee (with members **Rev. Bruce McKenney** and **Rev. David Nottling**), presented the ballot for the 3 offices up for election this year, each being a 2-year term:

1st Vice President nominees: Rev. James Janke, Rev. Harlyn Kuschel*, Rev. Daniel Sims

Chronicler: Prof. John Brenner*, Rev. William Runke, Rev. Don Scheuerlein

Secretary: Rev. Peter Kiecker, Rev. Luke Werre, Rev. Richard Lehmann*(elected last year to complete an unfinished term)

The motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the ballot as presented. Voting then took place.

Due to a miscue last year in neglecting to thank some outgoing officers, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to thank Rev. John Gawrisch and Rev. Martin Schulz for their past service to the Alumni Society as 2nd Vice President and Secretary, respectively.

Roll Call of the Classes

At this point President Siggelkow proceeded with a popular portion of the Alumni meeting—calling the roll by class years, particularly highlighting anniversary classes – 25th (1994), 30th (1989), 40th (1979), 50th (1969), and 60th (1959). Some photos of the roll call and classes are attached to these minutes. The oldest in attendance was Rev. Carl Voss (NWC '51).

Reports

1. **Minutes** of the 140th Annual Meeting (held May 23, 2018)

Rev. Richard Lehmann slightly revised the minutes which were recorded well by Harlyn Kuschel as Secretary Pro-Tem at the meeting. Digital copies of the revised minutes were sent out and hard copies were available at this 141st Annual Meeting. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes from the 140th Annual Meeting.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Rev. Timothy Spaude presented the Treasurer's report, which is attached with these minutes. The report included a simple numerical report and a narrative. As of *March 31, 2019*, our **Operating Fund** balance was **\$7,321** (last year 3-31-18 it was \$6,481). **The Presidents' Fund** balance on that same date was **\$222,151** (last year \$219,219). For the fourth year in a row, the Society's income was greater than its expenses. Cost savings have resulted from ¹⁾ one of

our two mailings being sent electronically, ²⁾ holding our annual meeting at LPS, and ³⁾ benefiting from volunteers of the Adult Bible Class of *St. Jacobi*-Greenfield (WI) for preparing the paper mailing.

Rev. Spaude encouraged everyone to keep remembering the NWC Alumni Society in their giving. Especially if the Presidents' Fund can keep growing, the Executive Committee would be able to raise the amount of each scholarship to encourage young men in their preparation for the ministry. This year each of the 10 grants was for \$1000.

The audit of the Treasurer's books will be done by the firm which will audit the books of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary this summer. (The Business Manager's Office of W.L.S. serves as our accountant firm.)

Finally, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Treasurer's 2018-2019 report pending the audit.

3. *The Presidents' Fund*

President *Siggelkow* introduced Martin Luther College President **Rev. Mark Zarling** who shared the report prepared by **Prof. Ross Stelljes** of Martin Luther College. President Zarling introduced the assembly to the 10 young men (Pre-Seminary Ministry Students at MLC) who had been recommended by the *Studies in Pastoral Ministry* faculty at MLC (chaired by Prof. John Schmidt) to be the recipients of the 2019 NWC Alumni Society Presidents' Fund grants (\$1000 each). The recipients' photos were introduced via power point slides along with brief comments by Pres. Zarling about their talents and endeavors. Thank-you letters from each of them were also shared with the Society. The following are the recipients of the 2019 Presidents' Fund awards:

| <u>RECIPIENT</u> | <u>NWC PRESIDENT and AREA OF AWARD</u> |
|------------------------|--|
| Backhaus, Duane | Pres. Robert Voss award in the area of student government |
| Dose, Silas | Pres. John Braun award in the area of English |
| Duff, Isaiah | Pres. August Ernst award in the area of confessional languages (German & Latin) |
| Fury, C.J. | Pres. Adam Martin award in the area of living languages |
| Gurgel, Ryan | Pres. Robert Voss award in the area of student life (activities) |
| Henning, Ryan | Pres. E. E. Kowalke award in the area of Biblical languages |
| Koelpin, Caleb | Pres. Carleton Toppe award in the area of G.P.A. and religion |
| Lyneis, Jed | Pres. John Braun award in the area of leadership |
| Melso, Jacob | Pres. Lewis Thompson award in the area of worship and music |
| Read, Robert | Pres. August Ernst award in the area of confessional languages (German or <u>Latin</u>) |



A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the action of the Alumni Praesidium in authorizing these awards.

Matters of Business

1. **Praesidium recommendations ratified:**

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that we raise \$5000 towards the Bell Tower restoration which had been discussed last year. The \$5000 which we borrowed initially from *The Presidents' Fund* will be returned to it this summer. The thought of raising the tower in height was tempered by the cost of such a project being over \$100,000 (which would, in fact, necessitate demolishing the current tower to rebuild the entire structure). So, we are satisfied simply to revitalize the tower.
- A sign is being planned for commemorating the NWC Alumni Society's gift to the LPS campus of the Bell Tower (back in 1979). The sign, which would cost about \$4000, would provide some historical background, meaning and purpose of the Tower.
- The Alumni Society authorized the officers to organize fund raising efforts to cover other project costs.

2. **Election results by Rev. Edward Lindemann**

Rev. Harlyn Kuschel was re-elected as 1st vice-president (2-year term).

Rev. Richard Lehmann was re-elected as secretary (2-year term).

Rev. Prof. John Brenner was re-elected as Chronicler (2-year term).

Other Alumni Society officers now entering their 2nd year of a 2-year term are:

President: **Rev. Prof. Alan Siggelkow**

2nd vice-president: **Rev. Prof. Joel Otto**

Treasurer: **Rev. Timothy Spaude**

3. **Historical Display Case Project**

Pres. Siggelkow reported that, in exploring the construction of an NWC/NPS Historical Display Case, it would cost around \$2000 and would be located somewhere in the gymnasium's lobby.

4. **Tontine Committee**, headed by **Rev. Alan Gumm**.

- a. The Committee continues to request any meaningful items to be sent them for placement in the Tontine or even in the Synod archives.
- b. The Committee is ordering etched Alumni Society Glasses that will be for sale.

5. **The matter of the Presidential Scholarships**

- a. Treasurer Spaude encouraged everyone present to give towards the scholarship more than to the Society's projects so that we might reach the \$2000 level, much less to maintain any \$1500 level.
- b. This brought further discussion beginning with **Dr. John Lawrenz**. He suggested, and moved, that our Society provide separate grants for Greek and for Hebrew, not merely one grant for both (currently called "Biblical Languages" and named in honor of Pres. Kowalke). After all, Greek and Hebrew are highly important in what we expect our pastors to learn and study. Many agreed with Lawrenz, though we would not have the wherewithal to accomplish the motion at this meeting.
- c. **Prof. Thomas Nass** (MLC) further discussed a scholarship for "sports" via a "leadership" category (such as the one which honors Pres. John Braun).
- d. This fostered a discussion on whether the Society should expand its scholarships to a number of 12.
- e. The extended discussion led to a motion (from **Rev. Edward Lindemann**) that our Society, with the Praesidium's input and leadership, study and review our whole system of scholarship-grant awards and evaluate how they are serving our upcoming pastoral students. The motion was carried.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

On behalf of the Praesidium and the Society, **President Siggelkow** issued the appropriate thank-you's for those who have helped carry out our Society's business in the past year:

- **Mary Siggelkow** – serves as the Society's office secretary, keeps records of both NWC and NWPS graduates, and receives and records all gifts and dues payments.
- All committee chairmen and other Alumni who served on projects and committees during the past year.
- The Business Office of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, including business manager **Brian Treichel** and, especially, **Lori Guse** and **Carol Puglisi**.
- The administration, faculty, and staff of Luther Preparatory School, especially **Sue Boulden**, **Tracy Schmidt**, and **Fran Brickner** and his staff.
- The **Senior Bible Class** of St. Jacobi Ev. Lutheran Church-Greenfield, WI, for their help with the mailing

Being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the business meeting at **5:15 p.m.**

A buffet dinner was served to the attendees by the food service staff of Luther Preparatory School that included sliced roast beef, grilled chicken breast, roasted potatoes, vegetables, salads, cheese cake, and coffee/tea/milk. After-dinner speakers from anniversary classes included:

Rev. Prof. Harold Schewe, Northwestern College 1959 – NWC 60th Anniversary Class

Rev. James Naumann, Northwestern College 1969 – NWC 50th Anniversary Class

Rev. David Huebner, Northwestern College 1979 – NWC 40th Anniversary Class

Rev. Mark Schewe, Northwestern College 1989 – NWC 30th Anniversary Class (son of Harold Schewe)

The evening closed with the singing of the "Alma Mater" and the school "fight song," *Hail To Thee Northwestern!*

--- Respectfully submitted, **Richard Lehmann** (NWPS '68, NWC '72), secretary

N.B. To order a copy of the brand new *NWC Alumni Booklet* (1872-1995), send \$5 to

Rev. David Plocher

1040 Goehl Road

Waterloo, WI 53594-2303

To order *etched glasses* of the Alumni Society, contact **Rev. Alan Gumm** at revagumm@hotmail.com or at his church office at 239-995-0988 (Bethany Lutheran and Christ the King Lutheran, North Ft. Meyers, Fla. 33903)

Memories from the 2019 NWC Alumni Society Meeting



Some of the speakers during the course of the meeting and banquet (L-R): President Alan Siggelkow ('65), Rev. Prof. Harold Schewe ('59), Rev. Jim Naumann ('69), Rev. Dave Huebner ('79), Rev. Mark Schewe ('89), and Rev. David Plocher ('56) brandishing the new Alumni booklet of names (and photos) that he meticulously worked on over the last year.



To the left are some of our most "senior" grads with their wives still here in the Church Militant: Rev. Carl Voss ('51), Rev. Herb Lichtenberg ('52), and Rev. Ervine Vomhof ('54). Below are members of the class of '62; the **large group is the class of '69**. The bottom row has men from the middle 1960's.



If you don't see yourself in the photos on these 2 pages, come again to the meeting next year! Maybe we'll catch you then!



Left: Jim Haag ('69; facing us) did not go on to seminary but has done extensive lay work for WELS missions throughout his adult life.



You might recognize different classes on this page. *The top photo* shows graduates from the 1980's. *Middle row left* shows Chronicler Brenner giving his report; *Middle right* are some of the class of '69. *Bottom left* are members of the class of '73 (Jaeger, Rath, Wilsman, Brenner, Kutz; D. Thompson also present). *Bottom right* shows our Treasurer Spaude providing special brews and wines at a modest suggested donation for Alumni present to purchase and enjoy during the opening fellowship (prior to the meeting) and after/during the banquet. He also provides "munchies" for free. The donations go into the Alumni Society treasury. Studying the choices is Rev. Ed Lindemann, former NWC Dean. To the right are two members of the class of '65, Rev. Ray Ziebell and Dr. Erhard Opsahl, former professor at LPS.

photos by Rev. Richard Lehmann, sec'y