

THIRD ANNUAL STUMPTOWN ORANGE BUSINESS MEETING

MAY 21, 2009

Meeting minutes (with a few after-the-fact additions)

Club president Ken Kane called the meeting to order at a few minutes past 7pm.

YEAR-IN-REVIEW REPORT (Ken Kane, President)

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

The club's database – local alumni who have some connection (even if slight) to the club – grew from the time of our last annual business meeting (July 31, 2008) by 21 people, for a total of 108 people.

Active members increased from July 2008 to May 2009 by 15, for a total of 45 people. (“Active” is roughly defined as someone who has attended at least one club event in the past 12 months.) Breakdown of active alumni by decade:

Classes of 1950s: 3
1960s: 6
1970s: 8
1980s: 4
1990s: 8
2000s: 16

And, where the rubber meets the road: we had 20 dues/annual membership paying members in July 2008. After the 2009 annual meeting we have 11 folks who are paid up through mid-2010. Come join their ranks!

Why pay your \$20 membership? Were glad you asked! The *tax-deductible** contribution you make to the club treasury through your annual membership...

- helps offset the club's event costs, particularly those involving our Student Send-off and other outdoor events;
- helps support the club which is a good source of networking and job-hunting information for you;
- provides seed money for our scholarship fund;
- entitles you to discounts on tickets to club happenings such as sporting and theatrical events.

So, please renew your annual membership! You'll be glad you did ... and so will we!

* The club, as a chartered subsidiary of the Syracuse University Alumni Association, is a non-profit, tax-exempt entity under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

EVENTS/PARTICIPATION

The club has sponsored 22 events since our last annual meeting in July. These covered a variety of interests including: a movie, a play, a couple of museums, a winery, a distillery, community service projects, Syracuse sports viewing, local sports in person, and a historical tour of the south part of downtown.

Average attendance at these events was 10 alumni with a high of 27 (Sweet 16 basketball game) and a low of 2 on two occasions. Twenty-four people attended this annual meeting.

We did three community service projects:

Habitat for Humanity build day in September.

A Toys for Tots collection in December.

A volunteer shift at the Title Wave Used Bookstore in March.

Each attracted at least a dozen alumni.

It was a year of experimentation for the Program & Events Committee. The club's schedule of events is still evolving, but we think we're beginning to "get it." In the future we expect to schedule one or two "official" events a month. Some will be sports-based, others culturally based, others community-service oriented. These will be publicized through the club's Website and on our Facebook page.

In addition, other events (typically smaller and/or more spontaneous) may occur. Those will be promoted through member posts on the Facebook page.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Club's Student Grant initiative:

An interim committee was formed this winter. See below for a committee report and action item.

Alumni Representative activity:

Alumni Reps assist the Admissions Office by interviewing prospective students who have requested such a local, face-to-face interview. The Rep then evaluates those students and sends the assessments into the Admissions Office. The evaluations are considered along with the student's transcript, application, SAT/ACT scores and essay, in determining whether the student should be accepted.

Ken is only Alumni Rep currently. Shane Ratigan's paperwork is pending – that will give us an interviewer in the Salem area. Last fall and winter Ken interviewed 11 prospective applicants who had requested a face-to-face Admissions interview in Portland. A handful more Reps would make the admissions season a little more manageable. If you would like to become an Alumni Rep, please contact Ken for more information.

College fairs:

For the first time in several years, the Admissions office did not send a staffer to the large college fair at the Oregon Convention Center last October. Nor did any Admissions

person visit area high schools. (Some club members may remember David West's visit for the fair and school visits in the fall of 2007.)

From our club, Allison Park and Erika Kirkland staffed the Asian-American Youth Leadership Conference college fair at PCC on May 1, 2009. They engaged many students during the fair and did a great job promoting S.U. Thanks so much Erika and Allison!

Class of 2013:

Nine Oregon students will head to S.U. in August as part of the Class of 2013. This is fewer students than in 2007 (13) and 2008 (12) ... probably in part attributable to the lack of high school visits and participation in the OCC fair in Oct.

Six of those incoming freshmen are local: one each from Lincoln and Cleveland High Schools in Portland, Westview and Tualatin, and two kids from Beaverton. (The three others are from Corvallis, Pendleton and Ashland.) It appears there are no incoming freshmen from Vancouver/SW Washington.

Three of the 11 kids Ken interviewed as an Alumni Rep will be attending. More were accepted but chose to go elsewhere.

All of the local incoming freshmen and returning students will be invited to the Student Send-off on July 25.

ON-CAMPUS NEWS

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend is Oct. 1 – 4. (South Florida is the football opponent that weekend.) There are some new events planned, though at this point, the organizers aren't tipping their hand.

VP Joe Biden was the Commencement speaker on May 10. It was a homecoming for the Vice-President, who graduated from S.U. Law School in the awful, turbulent spring of 1968. Then, as now, Biden was upbeat despite political upheaval at home and war abroad. Here's a little of what he told the graduates two Sundays ago...

"I was optimistic when I walked off this field into an uncertain world in 1968. But I must admit, if anyone had told me then, that I'd be more optimistic and more idealistic in the year 2009 than I was then, I would have told them they were crazy. But it's the God's honest truth. I am more optimistic today than I have ever been in my life because of you ... It's not only what I know you can do, but what you've already done." A transcript of his commencement speech can be found on the University's Website.

The Syracuse Responds campaign this winter raised over \$1 million for additional financial aid to current students.

The ongoing Campaign for Syracuse University has raised \$55 million in the past six months, bringing its total to nearly \$650 million dollars.

This is particularly important since the University is freezing many staff and administrator salaries and departmental budgets.

However, the University is increasing its budget for institutional aid to students by 11% for the coming school year

The Office of Alumni Relations is undergoing changes based on retirements, budgeting and restructuring. Basically, on-campus alumni event planning will remain within the Office of Alumni Relations. But liaison with off-campus alumni groups (like ours) has moved to a new office called Regional Advancement. The name of the group has changed, but the three staffers in Syracuse with whom our club interacts remain the same.

WEST COAST STUDENT AND ALUMNI EFFORTS GROW

As part of the restructuring of alumni relations, Susan Filkins will begin full-time duties as the Northern California/Northwest alumni liaison in July. She is the Director of West Coast Development. We will see her at the Student Send-off BBQ on July 25. (She was also present at last year's Send-off).

The University is opening a satellite campus in Los Angeles in the fall. Semester-long educational opportunities will be offered there, primarily for students studying in the fields of performance or entertainment. The program will involve many S.U. alumni who work in the entertainment industry, including the Emmy-winning producer Aaron Sorkin. The first group of students this fall will include 28 juniors from the Newhouse School (TV majors, primarily) and from the School of Visual and Performing Arts.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Shane Ratigan, outgoing Treasurer)

Bank balance as of last reporting date, 4/30/09:	\$965.76
Income since...	
July meeting raffle proceeds	41.00
Dues paid	356.00
Event ticket monies collected	364.00
TOTAL INCOME	761.00
Expenses since...	
July meeting space rental	(100.00)
Student Send-off food/supplies	(59.84)
Postage	(1.51)
Event tickets purchased	(344.90)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(506.25)
Balance as of 4/30/09:	1,220.51

NEW BUSINESS

Consolidation of the Communications/Public Relations Committee and the Membership Committee (Ken Kane)

These committees are usually employed to do phone calling to the membership alerting it to the upcoming annual meeting. Since their functions are similar, the motion was made (and carried by acclimation) to merge the two committees into the Membership & Communications Committee.

Creation of a Student Grant Fund and permanent Student Grant Committee (Ted Bunga, committee chair)

Earlier this spring, an interim committee was formed to research the possibility of the club creating a fund from which grants would be made to incoming freshmen on a competitive basis. Ted Bunga, Howard Groopman and Ken Kane were the members of the committee.

The committee researched how other S.U. Alumni Clubs run their scholarship funds. Officers of the Rochester and Philadelphia clubs were specifically contacted and interviewed about their clubs' scholarship programs. The committee also consulted with S.U.'s West Coast Development Director, Susan Filkins, for input from within the campus administration. Ultimately, the committee decided to recommend a Student Grant Fund program modeled after that of the Philadelphia Alumni Club which offers local incoming freshmen the opportunity to compete for a gift card to the S.U. Bookstore in the amount of several hundred dollars. The gift card recipients are chosen through an essay contest which is administered by the Philadelphia club's scholarship committee.

Using this as the outline of a program, the membership voted by acclimation to establish a Student Grant Fund and to make the interim committee permanent. (The fund, program and committee will not be referred to by the word "scholarship" since grades are not a criteria in awarding the gift cards.) Ted (chair), Howard and Ken remain as members of the permanent committee. If you would like to join this committee, please contact Ted at tbtedco@aol.com. Though modest \$25 gift cards will likely be awarded at the July 25, 2009 Student Send-off to incoming local members of the class of 2013, it is anticipated that over the course of the next year the committee will work out the specifics and logistics of the Student Grant Fund and essay competition.

Tax-deductible contributions to the fund are being solicited. Within a week of the meeting the fund had already collected over \$700. To contribute to the fund, you can bring a check made out to "Stumptown Orange" to a club event and give it to a club officer, or send it to our club treasurer:

Howard Groopman
5831 SW Taylors Ferry Road
Portland, OR 97219

Election of officers for the May 2009 through May 2011 term (Ken Kane)

Over the winter a Nominating Committee was formed (Ken Kane, Ron Mittelstaedt and Ted Bunga) to solicit interest and recruit nominees for the club's slate of officers. After some good-natured cajoling, the following slate of nominees was assembled and presented to the general membership...

President: Ken Kane*

Vice-president for Programs & Events: Allison Park

Vice-president for Membership & Communications: Erika Kirkland*

Vice-president for Student Involvement: John Rudoff*

Treasurer: Howard Groopman

Nominations were opened to the floor. There were no additional nominations. The slate was elected by acclamation.

* This officer is entering his/her second consecutive term and, per the club's by-laws, cannot remain in the position after 2011.

Preview of Coming Events (Ken Kane, Ron Mittelstaedt & Jim Friscia)

The Program & Events Committee meets semi-annually to plan activities. Its next meeting will occur in the September/October timeframe. Between now and then, here is what is planned for the club...

June 25: Portland Beavers Happy Hour at PGE Park*

July 15: AAA All-Star Baseball Game at PGE Park*

July 25: Annual Student Send-off BBQ at Ted & Linda Bunga's house

Aug. 13: Free Washington Park concert featuring local jazz phenom Kate Davis, Tom Grant and Ron Steen

Aug. 22: Club picnic at Ron Mittelstaedt's house – a particularly good opportunity for alumni with children to participate in an event

A couple of other events in the planning stages, but not yet confirmed, are a Portland State Viking football game* in September or October and a Portland Timbers soccer game* in September, both at PGE Park.

* Discounted tickets to these events will be made available through the club to members who have paid their annual membership.

An opportunity was offered to entertain additional new business from the floor. There was none.

The meeting was adjourned about 8pm at which time our Success in the City networking event for new graduates commenced. We had two 2009 alumni in attendance, Mike Schaefer (A&S) and Carl Braestrop (ENG), and we welcomed them to the club!

End of minutes.