

**SEDRO-WOOLLEY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Membership meeting**

**September 26, 2012, 12:30 P.M.**

**Sedro-Woolley Senior Center**

Pat Hyatt opened the meeting

11 Members present.

Pat introduced Brock Stiles to say a few words about the Foundation.

Pam Beard Russel and Cindy \_\_\_\_\_ also attended.

Pat stated they are going to give a little “pitch” on merging with them. In the email she wanted us to be very positive... we are in 2012 and soon to be 2013.... times change... people change... we need to listen.

Brock Stiles began. He was the first President of the Sedro-Woolley Schools Foundation that started in 1999. This was in conjunction with Mike Casey who was the Superintendent at that time. He had been connected with other foundations that helped raise money to help within the schools for things that teachers need and do not get paid for. Teachers are sometimes forking out money out to their pockets in order to get things for the kids. That was one of the things as to why this thing was started. We help primarily to get things to help the kids learn better. Your organization was started back in 1994. You took on the mission to raise money for scholarships. You now have a balance of over \$255,000 dollars and look at what you have paid out in scholarships over this time. Scholarships have gone towards students to have vocational scholarships. We also have Class of '71 that issues academic scholarships. The two groups have similar missions in that we are there to help kids. The foundation has also received money for scholarships that have been set up after some people have passed on. The Foundation also has funds that go toward scholarships. They have money set aside that has been given by people to be used by students to attend college. They have a grants committee where any teacher or employee within the school district has a project, they can fill out an application for different grant cycles.

He passed out a listing of the grants that have been given out over the last 10 years. The grand total over these years is over \$192,000. The grant cycle is the main mission of the Foundation.

Brock, his Dad and others came to one of our meetings to investigate the possibility of the two organizations merging together and at that time it was decided that was not the way the Alumni intended to go. The organizations are similar in that we are there to help kids, we are out raising money. Sometimes people get confused and possibly there is an overlap. He gets calls from people that after talking to them they really want the Alumni Association.

He thought at some point it would be great if the two groups would consider merging to form one larger organization that would be from both groups and oversee the missions of both of the groups. There would be no change with the different funds that were set aside with specific rules. There would be committees that will follow how that money is dispersed with whatever rules that are set up.

The School Foundation has a separate mission but they have different funds within their organization.

There would not be any change with the money that you have already raised would be spent. I would hope that most of the members that you have on the current Board would become Board members of the Global umbrella organization and we could mix up the names.

Pat asked, how much money does the Foundation have? He thought it would be about \$160,000 right now. The most money that we raised at the Auctions every other year, the goal was to spend that right out again. They have some funds that they have set aside that they hope in time will bring interest.

If the two groups were to merge together and it was called The Sedro-Woolley Alumni and Schools Foundation, there would be one joint board and new By-laws set up stating how the groups are consisted of and the various types of funds would be completely separated by line item. The money is not going to be used for anything else than for which it was put there. There would be committees that would basically control those funds.

There could be fund raisers that the money would go directly into that account. If the money was designated to a grant from the Auction, that is where the money would go.

He thought there would be a good chance if the two groups came together, there would be an overlap of people helping out here and people helping there. There would be no obligation that you have to do anything that the Foundation is doing if you want to focus directly on the scholarships that you are already doing. There would be an overseeing board that would basically manage everything that is under the umbrella.

Someone asked if the decision would be by the Board. Brock replied that all they have is the Board that would make the decision. In the SWHSAA by-laws we may have something different in that the membership must approve. He stated that our membership is basically a fund raising tool.

Pat inserted that it is basically the Board and a few members that make our decisions.

Jerry Jewett....Basically with the membership the dues that we receive are to pay the expenses of the Alumni.

In the fellowship Board.... nothing would be changing as to how we would go about the business.

There would be a couple of advantages. The Foundation has a really good connection with the School District now and the Alumni Association may be able to build up a more extensive connection with the people that are within the school district. (THAT IS NOT ONE OF OUR PROBLEMS. WE HAVE A WONDERFUL CONNECTION TO THOSE THAT THE ALUMNI NEEDS TO WORK WITH AT THIS TIME.) Brock stated that they have access to the newsletters that the school sends out. (WE HAVE THE SAME ACCESS) BROCK... The Alumni may be able to get the same letters that goes out to all in the school district. (WE CAN HAVE ACCESS TO THAT NOW.)

Brock.... As with any organization, the joining might give continuity within the next ten years. The Foundation's goal at this time is to see if there is a possibility of the Alumni even being interested in having a bit of time to sit down and work out a new set of By-laws to bind the two organizations together. Observe how the committee structure is set up. But, typically the action plan is probably going to be similar as when this organization was set up in the first place. Would have to set up a structure. At this point, if both groups are interested is just to be able to probably set up a committee between the two groups to start work flowing with the president. Question... Where is the president

located? He is in Sedro-Woolley.

The treasurer of the Foundation is Pam Russell. Secretary is Catherine Olson. It used to be Robyn Miller. She is retiring.

The new Board would have an office of the two groups together because we would then have one organization. Under the Alumni we would have Chairs and those that operate that. The governing board would be One Board.

Pam said she appreciated having someone else that looks over the books. The Foundation has an outside auditor that is paid. Brock thought \$40 per hour. Their bills are reviewed by the President.

They meet every other month at 11:00 a.m. They have Harvest Happening every other year, the Auction and Fourth of July breakfast.

Brock and the two others had never attended our picnic. Both groups have done a good job. Pam said their group needs more young people, too.

Shirley Arthur asked, "What would the Alumni gain in the merger? Brock did not have a good answer for that. They are coming to us requesting that we consider the merger. Why do we need to merge?"

The Foundation took more than 15 minutes to present their thoughts. We need to discuss this at length before we make decisions.

Pat thanked them for coming to our meeting

We continued on with the **9-26-12 Membership meeting.**

Lola read the minutes of the August meeting.

Bonna reported she had received one \$100 life membership this month.

Jerry mentioned that Lola had not presented her bill to the treasurer since he did not see it on the treasurer's report.

Pat... We have had a lot of discussion on our meeting time. She knows it is hard for Joanna to get to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday... 12:00 meeting. Lola checked with Ellen at the Senior Center. We can meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. all 12 months. We cannot change the meetings for one person but this schedule would be consistent. It was thrown out for discussion.

Mike Martin.... If we are serious about attracting younger working people, we should consider meeting part time in the evening. Pat responded with several reasons why she would not attend evening meetings.

Mike... should finish his statement. He understands that there are a lot of different views but if we are to reach young people we need to give them a chance to express their ideas for the times that they can attend the meetings. A letter should be sent out to members.

Jerry ... Kiwanis evening meetings have folded. People don't attend.

Darrel Jones. Does not go out at night

Gene....American Legion ... no evening meetings.

Mike ... Could use the Website as an option. Put a piece of paper in the newsletter. Ask them what meeting time would they prefer?

Jerry ... Would need form with a few options so we would not have numerous answers and people could pick one of three options.

Mike would be willing to draft a letter. He thought he could do this. Should be done in time for the Newsletter. Deadline has not yet been set. Mike said PayPal is up to date. Obituaries and Memorial pay form will be next.

Bonna is still worried how she will get information from PayPal. We will need to wait until someone sends in money to see how it works. Lola has not had time to put money into PayPal but will try to do it soon. Bonna wants to know when she will get the PayPal information. Joanna will see to it that Bonna has the information that she needs for her records. There has not been action with the PayPal account according to the bank statement that Lola had just received.

We don't know the Newsletter deadline. Probably the first of November.

Pat will e-mail Joanna telling her the Board decision about her request for \$100 payment for each issue.

Financial Committee report: They reviewed the December 2011 motion that was made, seconded and carried that the yearly dues would be raised to \$20.00 and the Lifetime membership to \$300.00. The Finance Committee reviewed the \$20.00 dues information and now recommends not to raise the dues effective January 1, 2013. Pat stated.... In December 2011, the motion to increase the dues had carried and now we need to go back to revisit that motion. She asked Gene if he would like to put that in the form of a motion that we keep our dues at \$10.00 and the Lifetime at \$100.00. Jerry stated they did not discuss the Lifetime dues. Pat... Since the \$300.00 per year was not discussed and the yearly dues of \$20.00 was the only thing discussed, then the \$300.00 would stay in effect unless we choose to override that today. Gene Johnson made the motion to keep the Dues at \$10.00 and Darrel Jones seconded the motion. Carried.

The \$100. Lifetime membership had not been discussed by the Finance Committee. People felt that not many would pay the December 2011 decision to raise the Lifetime dues to \$300. Gene Johnson mentioned that long ago he felt we should not have the lifetime memberships because we would lose money. Ed Hoyt's graph showed the possibility of it being a good benefit. Jerry Jewett stated if it started early at a higher interest than we receive now, we might make money but not at the interest rate now.

Bonna mentioned that we have 312 members and 202 Lifetime members. The Lifetime memberships have given us a little cushion for the expenses. The Newsletter costs us about \$4,000 per year. Other expenses probably just barely are covered by the dues.

Bonna made a motion that we go back to the \$100 Lifetime membership dues. Mike seconded it.

Discussions... Someone stated we should put the dues at \$200.00. Jerry suggested we split the difference... make it \$250.00. There was an amendment to make the dues at \$200.00 and then Mike Martin made a motion to amend the amendment and make it \$150.00 . Pat asked for a show of hands..Two people raised their hands. Those in favor of making dues \$200.00 ... Two hands were raised. Those against \$150.00... Six people raised their hand... Those against \$200.00 dues... Six people raised their hands. The vote put us back to \$100.00 dues again on January 1, 2013.

A letter will go out to the Board Members asking if they desire to stay on the Board. Lola will need an answer of yes or no. If she does not get yes answer on all Board members, then we will entertain nominations for Board Members.

Darrel... Would like to address the Foundation. He suggested that we contact those members that are ordinarily here with the Foundation information. We need a Board decision or recommendation.

Mike Martin thought we should take a long term look at the situation with analyzing and measured judgment and not make a snap decision. Mike felt we need a detailed action plan as to how they see the two organizations merging. It could be a big change for SWHSAA and it should be a long-term decision. We need to know how activities would continue in the future.

Pat... She did not think the Foundation is in any more of a hurry than we are. The Foundation made it clear today that our funds would not be co-mingled unless we chose to do a big fund raiser. Someone asked where would the money go... Pat replied probably 50/50.

October meeting will be 4th Wednesday at 12:00 noon. November December will be the third Wednesday as we have it now.

Mike brought boxes for Lola from Joanna ... cups and old Newsletters. Joanna cannot come to the meetings at this time slot. Lola asked if she was quitting as she mentioned in an email. Mike was not aware that Joanna was going to quit. Lola said she would like to know. Mike asked, What do you want to know. Lola just said we need to know her plans.

Barbara Thompson... Joanna needs to decide what she is planning and let us know.

Pat told Mike that we had a Board meeting prior to this meeting about Joanna's request to be paid \$100.00 for doing the Newsletter. The Board decided it would jeopardize our nonprofit status if we paid a Board member. Her information was from Jerry Jewett's friend that is an attorney attending the Kiwanis Club. Mike disagreed. Lola agreed to write to the Everett office of IRS if someone would tell her the questions they want answered.

Mike asked if we pay for this room for the day meetings. No... we give a donation.. The last three years we have donated \$200.00. That is whether we meet days or night. Evening meetings are an additional \$25.00 per session.

Meeting adjourned.

Lola Ellestad Secretary