

135 In Attendance At 2004 Clay Center High School Alumni Banquet

The Clay Center High School Alumni Banquet was held on Saturday, May 29, 2004 in the high school gymnasium with 135 past graduates and guests present. President Jeremy Anderson gave the welcome and recognized the graduating class of 2004. President Anderson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the invocation given by John Green, Senior Minister of the Clay Center Christian Church. The banquet was catered by the Sutton American Legion and dinner music was provided by Ben Northrop, Class of 1999. Following the meal CCHS Music Director Ralph Southern accompanied Katie Scoville who provided the evening's entertainment.

President Anderson introduced Principal Jim Bovee, who gave an update of the school's progress in the past year. He recognized the deep history and roots that the alumni association has in the school and all the memories they have provided for today's students. He shared his thoughts about the future of our school and reminded all in attendance that, "We must educate our students for their future, not our past." He stressed the importance of reading, foreign language, technology, problem solving and the ability of our graduates to function in today's society. He recognized retiring staff member Cliff Heftie for his 40 years of dedicated teaching in the school's science program. He then introduced Steven Shackelford who thanked the assembly for their generous support of the Clay Center Public School Endowment, which continues to strive to assist the school district in meeting the needs of all students. Members of the Endowment Committee will continue to communicate with alumni members in an effort to reach out to everyone who has an interest in the school's future.

Cliff Heftie, senior class sponsor, introduced the Class of 2004, which had 3 of the 24 members present. He shared stories of his 40-year teaching experience and also gave recognition to President Anderson for his recent graduation, with honors, from Hastings College.

The business meeting was called to order and minutes were read by Vice President/Secretary Stacey Repp Godtel. Fae Unterseher gave the Permanent Treasurer's report and thanked members for making it another successful year. She also reported that expenses are still exceeding the income generated from dues and that the officers will continue to work on this problem. Income from the fall concession stands has offset some of the expenses and it is hoped that the association will continue to sponsor the stands.

Old business consisted of a report from President Anderson regarding the CCHS Alumni Basketball Tournament. The possibility of organizing the event depends upon whether or not interest is shown. Please contact Jeremy Anderson if you would like to see this happen.

New business consisted of a short discussion of the alumni dues. It was decided to leave them at \$5.00 for the time being.

Permanent Corresponding Secretary, Sandy Northrop Overturf, reported that of nearly 1,200 invitations sent out this year, only 40 had been undeliverable. She now keeps a book of "lost/status unknown alumni" and would appreciate any help finding information on these members. The book is located at the public library if you would like to help with the search. She reported that interest had been shown in beginning a CCHS Alumni Hall of Fame and that anyone with information as to where to start with this project should contact her.

At this time it will not be possible to publish a new alumni directory, but the association will continue to raise the needed funds to do so and explore various options. She brought to attention the upcoming celebration of the 125th birthday of Clay Center and encouraged those in attendance to share a favorite memory of their days in Clay Center by filling out the form provided by the Fourth of July Committee. The memories will be on display, along with cards of congratulations, at the celebration this coming July 4th.

Sandy continued with an update on the Wish List Project. 4 new gold bars were added to the plaque in the high school hallway following last year's banquet and 5 more will be added this year. With the 2003 donations the association purchased a new 50-cup coffeemaker, 3 banquet tables, another page in the graduation picture display rack and a Quiz Bowl Tournament System for the Elementary, Jr. High and High School teams. Quiz Bowl sponsor, Jeremy Heneger, sent his thanks for the gift, which made such a difference in this year's academic competitions. Sandy reported that the fall Jr. High and Junior Varsity Concession Stands made a profit of \$560.00, which was enough to cover the cost of this year's first class mailings. She thanked the local members for their donations toward inventory for the stands and gave special recognition to the members in attendance that helped run the stands.

Fae returned to the podium to announce this year's scholarship winners, but before doing so made the announcement that the association has received a special legacy for the scholarship program from the Royce and Marie Deines Estate. Royce (Class of 1933) and his wife Marie donated \$10,000 to the program, which will be used for many generations to come. Fae went over the history of the scholarship program since its inception in 1996, the eligibility criteria and application process, plus she stressed the

importance of the applicant's research into their family member's history in the community, school and alumni association. Fae announced that the first Royce and Marie Deines Memorial CCHS Alumni Association Scholarship was being awarded to Zachary Tessman. Zach is from a 4-generation CCHS graduate family and plans to attend Concordia University this fall where he plans to study toward his goal of becoming a physical therapist. Adam Green, and Carissa Hagemeyer, both second-generation graduates, also received alumni scholarships. Carissa plans to attend CCCC in the fall where she will pursue a career in elementary education and Adam will attend Ozark Christian College where he will pursue a Bachelor of Music and Worship degree.

The Honor Classes were introduced as follows:

The Class of 1934 was represented by Glenn Nabb and Lois Williamson Swanson, who were the only 2 members of the original 25 present.

The Class of 1939 was represented by C. Dale Thomas, who was the only member of the original 29 present. Dale shared many memories of "The Dirty 30's Kids" and also discussed the Clay Center Community Foundation, Inc. of which the alumni association is a member.

The Class of 1944 was represented by Dale Livgren, with 6 of the original 15 members present.

The Class of 1949 was represented by Jerry Northrop, with 5 of the original 18 members present. Also recognized as guests of the Class of 1949 were Elizabeth Richert Merrill and Helyne Crawford.

The Class of 1954 was represented by Eugene Anthes, with 10 of the original 14 members present.

The Class of 1959 was represented by Anna Witte Lusk, who was the only member of the original class of 6 present.

The Class of 1964 was represented by Paul Trout Jr., with 9 of the original 21 members present.

The Class of 1969 was represented by Dan Thomas, with 3 of the original 25 members present.

The Class of 1974 was represented by John Sampson, with 4 of the original 22 members present. Also recognized as guests of the Class of 1974 were Ray and Marilyn Sampson and Lamont and Barb Larson.

The Class of 1979 was represented by LuAnn Larson Womach, with 6 of the original 23 members present. LuAnn noted that the class had their Kindergarten teacher, English teacher and both class sponsors in attendance.

The Class of 1984 was represented by Donald Nelson, who was the only member of the original class of 18 present.

There were no members present from the Class of 1989.

The Class of 1994 was represented by Matt Peterson, with 6 of the original 14 members present.

Class of 1999 was represented by Ben Northrop who was the only member of the original class of 18 present.

**President Anderson announced the election results as follows:
President for 2005 – Stacey Repp Godtel**

Vice President/Secretary for 2005 – Bob Swanson

These officers, as well as the permanent corresponding secretary and permanent treasurer will convene next spring to plan the 2005 banquet.

The evening ended with the singing of the school song.