

From the MHS Alumni Association-

Once again, the Mayville High School Alumni Association is finding itself in a position to update our alumni members because of a recent incident that took place. Our Board members have reviewed the situation and agreed on a course of action, to the best of our ability. We felt that we needed to share some of the details, to avoid any misunderstandings.

An alumni member sent a check, along with a letter explaining how the funds were to be used, along with other “suggestions” for the Alumni Association. However, while we ask everyone making donations to designate a fund or funds for their donation, this donation came with some strongly worded criticism and demands for how the donation was to be used.

After careful consideration from our Board of Directors, the decision was made to return the funds with some explanations as to why we were unable to meet the requirements given for the use of the donation.

We are aware that not everyone supports the idea that the Alumni Association has set up funds to help purchase classroom supplies and that we have chosen to award teachers funds for buying items for their classrooms. Several of our Alumni have chosen to support the scholarship fund, while others chose to donate to Cash for Class or the Supply Closet fund. We appreciate all the donations, large and small, and once we accept the money, according to Michigan laws for 501(c)3 organizations, it must be used as directed by the donor. Just this year the Class of 1975 donated a sizeable sum of money to the Cash for Class and Supply Closet funds, along with starting a new fund to help the 8th grade History classes take an educational trip to Lansing to tour the state capital along with a visit to the Michigan museum. In keeping with our original mission to *“Promote education through an active association of Alumni of Mayville Community Schools”*, we feel our alumni members are helping us do just that.

The Alumni Association does publish a quarterly finance report, and it can be found on our website: www.mayvillewildcatalumni.com. This report is included in our monthly emails every quarter, which are sent around the beginning of each month. This report shows the credits and debits to each of the funds and the balance of the Scholarship funds as well as the checking account.

We have not, now or in the past, used donations to support any of these projects with money that has been designated for an Alumni Banquet, as has been stated- this is misinformation. In fact, we have not received any such donations designated for a Banquet

dinner. General Fund donations help to pay for postage, printing and office supplies and ARE NOT intended to cover the cost of a banquet dinner.

As for the Banquet itself, circumstances required us to seek an alternative to a sit-down, catered dinner and that is why for the past two years we have held a potluck meal at the Veteran's Pavilion on the grounds of the museum. It is a nice location, with comfortable tables and chairs, restrooms, and plenty of room to socialize. The responses have been incredibly positive, and the 2026 Alumni potluck is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2026, at the same location.

It has also been brought to our attention that not everyone is happy with the fact that the Alumni Association no longer sends out mailings through the post office to each alumni on a yearly basis, to update them on Alumni Association business. There are two very good reasons for that – cost and postal addresses. Using our database of graduates from the class of 1956 through the class of 2025 and allowing for recorded deaths and unknown deaths, the number is approximately 4000 individuals. We do not keep a database of postal addresses, which became impossible to keep up to date, but if we did, the cost of mailing that many postcards at .61 cents postage, and the additional cost for printing and labels, would be somewhere around \$2500.

We do understand that not all our older Alumni members have email or internet, but most of them have family and friends that can share valuable information and Alumni news with them. We do also try to have announcements published in the Mayville Monitor of upcoming events.

In a perfect world we would be able to continue doing everything the same as it was done for the past 75+ years, but times have changed and circumstances have changed, and so we must change and adapt the best we can. The Alumni Association regrets the fact that we cannot please everyone, however we are doing our absolute best to be good stewards of our responsibilities and making the best decisions that will benefit the goal of promoting education. Returning a donation was not an easy choice, but it was, as the Board agreed, the right choice.

The Mayville High School Alumni Association

Board of Directors