

Valley Stream South High School Alumni Association, Inc.  
Incorporated in 1995, Reactivated in 2005



**Scholarship • Ongoing • Unity • Tradition • Heritage**

Emily Kleinman Schreiber, President  
Paul DeMartino, Vice-President  
Dennis Shapiro, Treasurer

Roberta Brill Birnel, Secretary  
Eileen Howell, Historian

**Minutes**

November 6, 2008

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 4 AT 7:15**

President Emily Kleinman Schreiber called tonight's meeting of the Valley Stream South High School Alumni Association (in the library at South High) to order at 7:25 p.m.

The following members were present at the meeting: Roberta Brill Birnel, Booker T. Gibson, Karen Grimm, Eileen Howell, Arlene Ainbinder Lynn, Enid Koss Parness, Claire Brush Reinhardt, Ray Richford, Emily Kleinman Schreiber, Eric Spinner, and Irene Sundal.

Regrets were received from Irwin Kotcher, Linda Tobin Kettering, and Dennis Shapiro.

Before the formalities of the meeting, the group learned of and discussed the planned demolition of the Cloverfield Pedestrian Bridge, which links the school to the Mill Brook (Green Acres) neighborhood. The commission of a serious crime, & the poor condition of the bridge have resulted in the decision to eliminate it.

**Minutes:**

- ‡ A motion to accept the minutes without change was made by Eileen Howell and seconded by Ray Richford and they were so voted.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- ‡ Emily Kleinman Schreiber presented the Treasurer's report, which is on file. For those who are already members and have not yet sent in their dues for this year, please do so as soon as possible. Remember that a lifetime membership is \$100 and checks are tax-deductible.

**Homecoming:**

- ‡ Just under 50 alumni attended Homecoming.
- ‡ The Fall Festival in South Hall was well attended by South families.
- ‡ The Association thanks Claire Brush Reinhardt, Terry Gunderson Kaiser, and Roberta Brill Birnel for attending Homecoming-planning meetings at the school.
- ‡ Thank you to all attendees who made the day so special.
- ‡ The set up in the library was perfect: decorations, food (lots of bagels!).
- ‡ Thanks to the student who conducted a tour through the building. Many alumni had not been to the school since they graduated.
- ‡ We decided that we'd like to make Homecoming an annual event for alumni. The tentative date for next year is October 17, 2009. (That is tentative – don't make plane reservations yet!)
- ‡ Photos from Homecoming will be posted on our website: <<http://www.vsshs-alumni.org>>

**Scholarship Committee:**

- ‡ Chairman Eileen Howell and 7 other members of the Scholarship Committee met before tonight's meeting to discuss the criteria, rubric, and application form for this year's scholarship. Eileen will work with the committee's suggestions and put it together before the December 4th meeting.

### Acts of Kindness:

- ↳ There were several suggestions for this year's Act of Kindness. Among them were: adopt a family from Newsday (Claire Brush Reinhardt), entertain at or donate to a senior home (Enid Koss Parness), conduct a clean-up - beautification project in Valley Stream, donate plants and/or bulbs, contribute to Fletcher House -- the Valley Stream Historical Society.
- ↳ Arlene Ainbinder Lynn and Karen Grimm are the co-chairs for the beautification project. They will research where the needs are and report to us at the next meeting.
- ↳ Ms. Henry informed (see below) us that the daughter of one of South's teachers is a soldier and might enjoy receiving a care package. We will consider this as our Act of Kindness for this year.

### Old business:

- ↳ The Alumni Association encourages people to check out our new website, which is up and running thanks to the work of Eric Spinner. Eric reported tonight that modifications have been made to the site. The URL is < <http://www.vsshs-alumni.org> >.
- ↳ Modifications have been made to our application form, including the fact that all dues/donations are tax exempt as per 501(C)(3). You can also check off your desire to be an officer or trustee.
- ↳ A donor form has been added to our web site.
- ↳ The Association will send a formal acknowledgment of donations made for \$250 and up.
- ↳ Arlene Ainbinder Lynn will check with a CPA about the need to register with the Charities Bureau of New York.

Ms. Maureen Henry joined the meeting, and we asked her several questions regarding our scholarship award:

- ☞ What is the earliest date that applications for scholarship can be submitted by students? *Ms. Henry will check on this and get back to us.*
- ☞ How are our applications distributed? *An announcement is made that they are available from the Guidance Teaching Assistant, Miss Gaeta.*
- ☞ Can we meet with the academic committee or get the applicants GPAs? *No. Students can get their GPA and put it on their applications.*
- ☞ Can we place an article in the Observer about the scholarship? *There was no objection to this idea.*

Ms. Henry told us that the school's Character Action Team would be helping Hewlett House with financial contributions in the fight against Breast Cancer.

### Events:

- ↳ South High is already planning Career Day for March 24, 2009. Please let the school know if you would like to participate.
- ↳ South's Junior High plays are this weekend.
- ↳ A Health Fair, which will bridge activities between departments, is planned for next spring.
- ↳ South's students have been participating in Presidential Election activities: debates, examination of the electoral process, and a student vote (Obama – 922, McCain – 227.)

**MEETINGS FOR THIS YEAR:** Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Your participation is needed!! Our next meeting is on: **December 4**. Meetings thereafter will be held on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of next January's meeting, which will be on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ray Richford and seconded by Claire Brush Reinhardt. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Brill Birnel