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2001

*Memories to last a lifetime . . .*



**75 YEAR CLASS OF 1926**



**50 YEAR CLASS OF 1951**

**SANDY CREEK HIGH AND CENTRAL SCHOOL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

- Honorary Co-President-Margaret Hollis Kastler, '51
- Honorary Co-President-Norman Widrig, '51
- President-Dale Reid, '76
- Recording Secretary-Laura Weaver, '83
- Corresponding Secretary-Mary Laveck Hicks, '68
- Treasurer-Susan Crandall, '67
- Executive Chairwoman-Sue Bitz, '70
- Chairwoman A.Elmo Cole Memorial Fund  
-Peggy Potish Manchester, '70
- Historian-Margaret Hollis Kastler, '51
- Executive Secretary-Nancy Potish Ridgeway, '63



**25 YEAR CLASS OF 1976**

Name on Diploma \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. Grad. \_\_\_\_\_

Present Name \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Banquet \_\_\_\_\_

Non-refundable dinner reservations @\$14.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: SCHCS Alumni Association

Mail to: Mary Laveck Hicks

240 Miller Road, Lacona, NY 13083-3144

Cole Memorial Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni Assoc. Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

History Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## The 2001 Alumni Banquet

The 109th annual Alumni Banquet and Meeting of the Sandy Creek High and Central School will be held on Friday, June 22nd, 2001 at the River Valley Inn. Appetizers will be available at 6:00. A roast beef and baked ham buffet will be served at 7 P.M. at a cost of \$14.00 per person (this includes meal, drink, gratuity and Alumni expenses).

Prepaid reservations should be returned to the secretary no later than June 15, 2001. We will be specifically honoring the classes of 1951 and 1976 as well as this year's graduating class. We will be looking forward to an evening of Alumni fellowship and reminiscences.

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### SANDY CREEK HIGH & CENTRAL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 23, 2000-April 1, 2001

#### RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand	\$6013.91
2000 Interest	61.69
Deposits after Banquet	373.89
Total Receipts	\$6449.49

#### EXPENSES:

Dinners, RVI	\$1851.50
Newsletters	465.00
Programs	145.00
Postage	650.00
Flowers	23.95
Cole Memorial Transfer	506.00
History Fund Transfer	123.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** \$3764.45

**BALANCE ON HAND  
APRIL 1, 2001** \$2685.04

### A.ELMO COLE MEMORIAL FUND

Four borrowers are repaying their loans each month. One student paid off her loan this year in full. We do have money available this spring if anyone is interested.

We now require payments of \$25 per month per loan. We feel this is still a very reasonable pay-back plan and yet will shorten the time of turnover on our money.

We did not have anyone come forward to offer their help with the filling out of the necessary IRS forms for 501-C3 status. You will recall from last year's newsletter that we were turned down for a large donation due to the fact that we are not IRS qualified. Anyone interested in this further, call me.

We received memorial donations this year in memory of Ron Dealing, Eva Yerdon, JoAnn Meister Beaumont, Evelyn Weaver and Ellerd Kastler. Acknowledgment cards were sent to the proper family members. Donations should be made out to: A.Elmo Cole Memorial Fund, c/o Peggy Manchester, PO Box 98, Lacona, NY 13083.

For those that remember Prof. Cole and his wife, Hazel Cole Curtiss, she is a resident of the Samaritan Keep Home in Watertown, N.Y.

## MINUTES OF THE 2000 ALUMNI MEETING

The 108th Annual Banquet of the Sandy Creek High and Central School Alumni Association was held at the River Valley Inn in Mannsville, New York on Friday, June 23, 2000. Chef/owner David Haynes (83) served a roast beef and baked ham buffet to the 161 members and guests, following the invocation by Lewis Griffis (50).

During the dinner the Sandy Creek Central School show choir under the direction of Lori Hajdasz performed a choral revue, entitled "Song of America". The audience enjoyed their entertaining performance.

Toastmistress, Diane Porter Archibee (75) welcomed everyone and thanked Cheryl Yerdon (74), Mary Hicks (68) and Nancy Ridgeway (63) for all their help.

A motion was made from the floor to dispense with the reading of the minutes since everyone receives them in the annual newsletter. The motion was seconded. Motion was carried and the minutes were dispensed with.

The treasurer's report was read by Susan Crandall (67). The balance on hand was \$4,603.91 with dinners to be paid and transfers to the Cole Memorial Fund and the History fund.

The Cole Memorial Fund report was given by Nancy Potish Ridgeway (63) for Peggy Potish Manchester (70) who was absent due to surgery. It was reported that the balance on hand at 1999's banquet was \$660.50. There are 5 alumni making regular payments and there are 3 alumni that are now delinquent. A \$250 donation was received in memory of Duane Fraser (66) by his brother Bruce Fraser (64). There was also a donation in memory of Duane Blodgett (48) by his daughter Judy Blodgett Campbell (73). A donation was given in memory of Maurice "Bud" Weaver. The balance as of June 23rd, 2000, is \$1,832.84.

It was also mentioned again that we missed out on a chance to receive some funds because we are not legally a non-profit organization. We are looking for any alumni who would be willing to help fill out the necessary paperwork.

Sue Bitz (70) asked for nominations for association offices. With no nominations from the floor, the Executive Chairwoman cast one ballot for the following slate of officers: Honorary Co-Presidents Margaret Hollis Kastler (51) and Norman Widrig (51); President Dale Reid (76); Recording Secretary Laura Weaver (83); Corresponding Secretary Mary Laveck Hicks (68); Treasurer Susan Crandall (67); Executive Chairwoman Sue Bitz (70); Historian Margaret Hollis Kastler (51); Chairwoman of the A.Elmo Cole Memorial Fund Peggy Potish Manchester (70); and Executive Secretary Nancy Potish Ridgeway (63).

Mary Laveck Hicks (68) conducted the roll of classes. The oldest alumnus was from the class of 1929, Bertha Stevenson Archer. Correspondences were received from Peter and Mary Sprague; Larry Percival; Morgan McNeilly; Marilyn Weston Wheeler and Charlotte Ferguson King.

Margaret Hollis Kastler (51) gave the Historian's report. A moment of silence was observed for those alumni who passed away during the past year.

Flowers were then given to our older alumni. Bertha Stevenson Archer (29) from Jessica McCluskey (00); Floyd Hagan (30) from Bradley Armstrong (00) and our oldest teacher present, Isabelle Chrisman Ballou (32) from her great nephew Erik Robbins (00). Tricia Peter (00) presented Nellie Nemier Whiting (34) with flowers.

Margaret gave the 60 year Class of 1940 yearbooks made from glass plates.

The following families were represented by either three or four generations: the Porter family with 6 members present; the Hazards with 4; the Peters with 10; the Remington family with 4; and the Smith family with 3.

Andrew Porter spoke for his sixty-five year class of 1935. He reminisced about former teachers and Principal A.Elmo Cole.

Then the school had only one bus and had the largest graduating class with forty members. There were three of the class members present: Walter Cobb, Dorothy Hughes Miles and Andrew Porter.

Honorary President Myron Lewis (50) welcomed his class to the banquet and turned the reminiscences over to Thomas Haresign (50). He spoke of the many teachers including Mabel Carnrite and her fine penmanship; putting a snake in the desk of Mrs. Thompson and having to diagram sentences and draw free hand maps of New York State. Mr. John Long was remembered as a great teacher.

Mr. Haresign thanked SCCS for the tremendous education he received and being able to see again so many of his classmates.

Daniel Sievers (75) welcomed his class, the 25-year class. He thanked Diane Porter Archibee (75) for all her hard work and remembered those classmates who were present, not present or deceased. He then turned the program over to Brian Killiam (75) who gave the reminiscences for his class.

Brian spoke of attending the banquet 25 years earlier filling in for his Mother who was then the recording secretary. He spoke of the class trip to Boston and how there was little security and the current senior trips involve security only slightly less stringent than those found in maximum-security prisons.

He spoke of when his class entered Kindergarten in 1962, America was involved in the Cold War with the Soviet Union and there was an increased involvement in Vietnam. The Vietnam War ended two months before graduation in June of 1975. The cold War ended in 1980 just like Mr. Stagnitti, Mrs. Bond and Mr. Schug said it would.

Brian also mentioned the many traditions that hold the past and the future together. The Alma Mater; the Spade passed from class to class; the yearbook and the fight to keep flower children at graduation. Also the painting of the sidewalk in front of the school.

Brain concluded by telling his classmates the journey from childhood to adulthood is fraught with difficulty in the best of circumstances and he could not think of anyone he would rather have taken the journey with.

Mr. Vito Testone, Superintendent of SCCS, welcomed the Honor Class of 2000.

Tricia Peter (00) spoke and welcomed again her Grandmother Virginia Chrisman Peter, 50 year Honor Class. Tricia spoke of the 86 students in the class of 2000, of them 42% were going to a two-year college and 24% were going to a four-year college. She mentioned that 40 students attended the senior trip to Florida. She concluded by thanking her Grandmother and her Great Aunt Isabell Chrisman Ballou (32) for helping her prepare for the banquet.

Executive Secretary Nancy Potish Ridgeway (63) stated that we now send out over 3100 newsletters. Nancy asked for any suggestions for next year's newsletter. She thanked everyone for coming.

Harvey Odell (50) gave the benediction. The evening concluded with the singing of the Alma Mater.

### PHOTOGRAPHER AVAILABLE

Creative Images photographer Dave Lyga will be taking pictures at the banquet. We may purchase reprints from him at a nominal fee. At the banquet of 2000, we lost our second roll of film due to poor processing and we felt terrible. Dave will be able to better provide all of us with quality photos.

## COMMENCEMENTS—THEN AND NOW

In 1878, the first high school class graduated. They held ceremonies on Friday evening, June 21, 1878 at the Congregational Church (Masonic Temple) with five members. Graduation evolved into a week-long event with Baccalaureate, Class Night, Prom, Senior Picnic, Graduation and the Alumni Banquet. Most graduation exercises were held in the Methodist Church until 1930 when the new auditorium was first used.

The idea of flower presentation was carried out with the Class of 1888, composed of William Canough and LeRoy Hollis. They selected Julia Widrig (Wart) and Florence Tiff (Hollis) as their flower girls. The next class to follow this custom was the Class of 1905, with smaller children selected for the honor of delivering gifts and flowers to the graduates. At first, the custom was not followed continuously, but for many, many years there has been no break in this colorful tradition.

In 1896, there was a 15 cent admission charge to the Class Day Exercises.

The Class of 1930 members were the first to wear caps and gowns which were made of grey gaberdine and were extremely hot. The first to wear the blue and white cap and gowns were the members of the Class of 1940. The school motto, "Carpe Diem", (Seize the Day) which is carved above the front entrance, was selected by the Class of 1930.

Our honored class of 1951 were the first to be graduated from the present day auditorium. They graduated on a Monday night and were the last class to graduate under Prof. Cole.

The Class of 1967 were the first to graduate on a Sunday and the Class of 1968 were the first to graduate on the front lawn of the school. The Class of 1970 began the popular tradition of painting the front sidewalk for graduation. The class of 1983 graduated on a Saturday afternoon for the first time.

The Class of 2001 has 63 candidates for graduation. The exercises will be held on the front lawn of the school, Saturday afternoon, June 23, 2001.

## WEBSITE

*SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL  
HAS ITS OWN WEBSITE.*

TO VISIT IT, GO TO <http://www.sccs.cnyric.org>

**DO YOU REMEMBER....**the big oak tree at school that stood by the sandbox...when teachers dressed like teachers...there was a dress code...Mr. Schug smoking his pipe...the trophy case by the front entrance...Mr. Wydysh being the only person able to set the clock...George Slater delivering the teacher's paychecks...having Spanish rice three times a week for lunch...the sports eligibility sheets on Friday afternoons...when the older kids decorated the auditorium stage on Halloween...sports bonfires...the prom was at school and affordable...there was a Junior Senior Banquet and a Prophecy and a Class will? We welcome all ideas and memories for this column. Thank you in advance.

## *Deceased Alumni*

*From June 2000-April 2001*

Ellen Corse Potter, 1923  
Eva Randall Yerdon, 1925  
Ethel Syfert Hilton, 1934  
Darcy Jones Furlong, 1936  
Clarence Stafford, 1938  
Ruby Quackenbush Pasco, 1939  
Floyd McDougal, 1940  
Ernest "Toby" Dana, 1946  
Dora Graham Archibee, 1946  
Benajean Wilcox McDowell, 1953  
Cynthia Bond Bates, 1957  
Joann Meister Beaumont, 1963  
Peter Thompson, 1965  
Catherine Cavellier Wilder, 1968  
John Seweyneuk, 1970  
Robert Howe, 1983  
Dawn Greenfield, 1985  
Gaylee Killough Bork, 1989