

Alumni letter

By

John Hall

October 2018

The weekend of June 23, 2018 was a busy one on the Hill at Boys Home. For those of us who got there early there was a beautiful dedication and blessing of the gym lobby and the viewing and dedication of the new classrooms. A portrait was hung of Mrs. Signe (Sig) Langschultz whose generosity made the classrooms possible.

The bulk of the alumni started arriving Saturday morning for a social in the museum and more viewing of old pictures made possible by Ina Henderson of the Alleghany Genealogy Society. Mrs. Henderson presented to Boys Home two books of pictures (approximately 600) prior to the meeting. These pics were put on disks and are available for only \$15.00. The books were accepted by Donnie Wheatley. If you want one of the disks, please contact Donnie.

Alum president John Hall started the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance followed by the opening prayer by Karen Moore. Old minutes were approved and a treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Rick Turner. Bobby Trice updated the Alumni on the Outdoor Club activities. Several good things were happening on Lick Mountain. The lodge is scheduled to be painted inside and out, trails cleared, wood shed repaired and a paint ball course formed. Bobby will be giving a list of expenditures to the alumni meeting in December. Hopefully we will be able to incorporate this into our budget. Bobby is also incorporating the paint ball program as a competitive and education tool.

Bobby Mills, BHAA trustee, reported and commented on the fact that Boys Home is now a private school. He also reported that the trustees were concerned about the amount of money withdrawn from the endowment for operational expenses. A Development Director has been hired to raise funds to meet the ever increasing operational expenses of the Hill.

Donnie Wheatley gave his Executive Director's report. He commented on the fact that boys are here for a much shorter time than in past decades and the need to more quickly form bonds. To accomplish this Bobby Trice has developed a Senior Challenge. The fact that Boys Home is now a private school and there may be less community contact, transition period from the Hill to jobs and living on their own, a different approach to outside sports contact and many other changes like the "Wilson Reading Program". He commented on the trade program that will be on video. This program trains boys on how to responsibly care for their family, gain and hold jobs, and be what Boys Home desires every boy to be; A GOOD CITIZEN. Donnie also gave us a quick update on the renovation of the dining hall.

We had a total of 55 alumni and guests at the meeting. This was a few more than we have had in the past but Doyet Moore suggested that each person be responsible for bringing five new people to the next meeting which will be December 8, 2018. Bob Mills suggested that we use Facebook as a tool to promote the alumni meetings. Doyet Moore will be hosting the meeting.

New business included nominations for new alumni officers to be elected next year at the June 2019 meeting. A nomination committee of Bobby Trice and Doyet Moore was formed to help find alumni to fill these positions. John Hall also discussed the black powder weapons that were given to Boys Home and suggested that Boys Home use these weapons in whatever way they wished. John also discussed the Hall of Fame nominations and suggested that all information be given to Mr. Wheatley.

All motions were seconded and passed.

Martha Terry took notes and provided the minutes.

It was really good to see and visit briefly with everyone. Since our meeting this December 8th is a social meeting, maybe we will all get a chance to do more visitation and meet families which is so important. As each of you know "FEW HAVE LIVED AS WE". Many thanks were given to Randy Powell and his band for last December and maybe we can get something like this again this coming December 8th. Maybe the weather will be kinder to us all this next meeting. I unfortunately will not be able to attend but things will be in Doyet's hands and I am confident he will take care of everything.

I encourage each of you to keep in touch with your brothers and their families as much as you can. Remember your brothers and their families in your daily prayers. Jimmy Miller has been ill and needs all our prayers. If you have contact with a brother that needs prayers please, please pass this information on.

Once again, thanks to each of you for your support and thanks to each of you that were there. Remember start working on the five people that you are going to bring to the next meeting.

Until then,

John R. Hall

President, BHAA

Please fill in and mail to Boys Home, 414 Boys Home Road, Covington VA 24426

_____ Yes, I will attend BHAA meeting at Boys Home on Saturday, December 8, 2018.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I will have _____ guests with me

_____ Sorry, I cannot attend, but would like to contribute \$ _____ to help with the work of BHAA

Make your checks payable to Boys Home Alumni Association and mail to Boys Home.

_____ Sorry I will be unable to attend the BHAA meeting on December 8th but would like to update my phone number and address – and E-mail address – so that I will be kept informed on BHAA news.

Please contact Boys Home at 540-965-7700 or 540-965-7715.