

**Minutes of the October 15, 2005, Meeting
of the Board of Directors of
Camp Ridgecrest Alumni & Friends, Inc.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am, October 15, 2005, at the Ridgecrest Conference Center by Matthew Brown, Chairman, who presided. Matthew Fowler, Secretary, called roll. Those in attendance were: Jim Berry, Martha Jo Berry, Matthew Brown, Matthew Fowler, Dr. Michael Guisti, Adam Hewitt, Hal Hill, Frank Johnson, Dr. Alan Sanders, Ron Springs, Hewlett Sullivan, Ben Talbert, and Todd Young. Dr. Dick Burts and Ernie Roberts were late arrivals. Jackson Norton attended as President and CEO. Matthew Fowler presented the minutes of the first and second Board of Directors meetings held on July, 16, 2005, which were approved.

Officer Reports

There was no Chairman's report except to encourage everyone to enjoy and participate in the activities being held today.

There was no Vice-Chairman's report.

Jackson Norton presented a brief Treasurer's report in Jacob Drigger's absence. Jackson stated it has been an excellent year for fundraising so far. To date, almost forty-two thousand dollars have been raised. This number does not account for monies that may be received during the month of December, which has traditionally been the Association's largest month for donations received. At this time last year, sixteen thousand dollars had been raised. Alan Sanders inquired as to the timeline for receiving outstanding Ridgecrest Chapel pledges and bond maturation dates. Jackson indicated pledges are scheduled to be received by the end of 2007. However, several pledges have been received early. The majority of our bonds will mature by the end of 2007 or earlier. We will have one bond to mature on May 1, 2008.

There was no Secretary's report.

Jackson Norton presented the President and CEO's report. Jackson stated that the latest edition of the *ECHO* had been prepared by Adam Underwood and was mailed to Alumni a few weeks ago. Jackson indicated a large crowd was expected this evening for the Ridgecrest Chapel fundraising banquet. Around sixty-five or seventy alumni are expected to attend the celebration. The Alumni Association is excited about this opportunity to thank those who have participated in and contributed to the Ridgecrest Chapel campaign. Jackson stated that the Alumni Association has been busy this fall. He reminded the Board that approximately three thousand postcards were created and mailed to "lost" Ridgecrest Alumni trying to make contact with these Alumni updating them on the happenings of Ridgecrest and the Alumni Association. Hopefully these

types of contacts will get more Alumni interested and active in the fundraising projects and other various activities of the Alumni Association.

Committee Reports

Adam Hewitt presented the Fundraising Committee Report. Adam indicated that tonight's banquet will "officially" end the active solicitation of funds for the Ridgecrest Chapel; however, additional funds will certainly be welcomed and are encouraged. Adam indicated he hoped some of the Alumni who received the update postcards will make a donation to the Ridgecrest Chapel. Adam stated the Fundraising Committee had hoped to have heard from the Chatlos Foundation by today's meeting concerning the Foundation's financial contribution amount to the Chapel. The Chatlos Foundation board was scheduled to meet in early October to consider our proposal; however, that meeting has been rescheduled for mid November. Jackson and Adam both indicated they are optimistic the Chatlos Foundation will approve some amount of funds for the Chapel project. They may not approve the entire four hundred thousand as originally requested, but any amount will certainly be welcomed. Jackson stated that he and staff members of the Chatlos Foundation are in contact on a semi-weekly basis with requests for additional information about the Chapel project and the Alumni Association. Jackson also indicated that he and the Fundraising Committee has contacted the Cathy Foundation (WinShape Foundation) and has requested funds. These conversations are on-going and no decisions have been made. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Fundraising Committee for their efforts and look forward to hearing from the various Foundations about possible contributions to the Chapel Fund.

Alan Sanders presented the Ridgecrest Chapel Committee report. Alan indicated the Chapel Committee met last evening (October 14, 2005). The committee is currently working on two designs based on the total number of funds raised for the project. One design will be based on the original goal of almost seven hundred thousand and the second design will be focused on an amount around half the original goal. Alan presented to the Board its recommendations for the Chapel including: seating capacity, configuration, ceiling, exterior, interior, stage, fireplace, basement, theatrics, prayer room, pastor's study, restrooms, handicap accessibility, and overall design and final location. Alan indicated that Ridgecrest Alumni member Craig Orange will assist the Chapel Committee as they work to design the Chapel to fit the finalized construction budget. Alan indicated that many of the recommendations such as lighting, sound and projection capabilities may actually be installed at a later time as monies become available but we should design the Chapel for those capabilities during the initial build. This will prove to be easier and more cost effective than trying to "retro-fit" the Chapel at some point in the future. The Board agreed that these were all important recommendations that should be considered as we move forward with the process of finalizing the Chapel design over the next several months.

Frank Johnson presented the Special Events Committee report. Frank indicated the cruise line has released their travel dates for the Caribbean cruise during the New Year's holiday of 2006-2007. The cruise line has changed the destination from Cozumel

to the Bahamas. The cruise will take place from December 29, 2006 through January 2, 2007. The cruise departure site will be Port Canaveral, Florida. The travel agent is currently holding a variety of rooms from which Alumni family and friends can choose. The travel agent can hold these rooms only through November 1, 2005. A deposit of two hundred dollars is required to reserve room(s) and may be refunded at a later time if necessary. Room rates start at around six hundred twenty seven dollars and increase based on the size and number of rooms reserved. Frank indicated the travel agent has prepared a personalized promotional brochure with a detailed description of the cruise information outlined. The Special Events Committee has also considered “padding” the price of the trip. This “padded amount” of anywhere from twenty-five to fifty dollars would be presented to the Alumni Association as a donation to the general fund. The Board agreed to consider the “padding fundraising” idea. The Board also agreed to continue to spread the cruise information to other Ridgecrest Alumni and friends of Camp.

There was no Webmaster’s Report due to Robert Suggs being unable to attend.

Ron Springs presented the Camp Ridgecrest Report. Ron indicated that this had been a very good summer for Camp. Enrollment was the second highest in history since those types of statistics have been recorded. Ron stated there had been an excellent group of staffers at both Camps. Ron reported that the Ridgecrest Staff had conducted a planning meeting a couple of weeks ago. Over twenty-six hours were spent over a period of a few days talking about the past summer and preparing for the summer of 2006. Ron reported of a few changes upcoming at Ridgecrest. The Arapaho tribe will be receiving a new Egypt (bathhouse) in time for 2006 summer. The “Starter Camp” idea first presented at the summer Board of Directors meeting will be held the first week in August. This “Starter Camp” will be open to “new” campers, first through fifth grades. This week of camp, Sunday through Friday, will introduce new campers to the Ridgecrest experience. During the week, the campers would be exposed to some of the activities and traditions of Ridgecrest. The goal would be for these campers to enjoy their experience and return to Ridgecrest for a full two-week session the following summer. Ron also updated the Board on the service and leadership training (SALT) program. This program will be used to develop young men into productive staffers at Ridgecrest. The program is designed for young men who have finished the eleventh grade. Participants in this program will not be paid for their work but will receive free training and room/board. Participants will live in a cabin together for four weeks and be led by a director who will organize their daily schedule and facilitate their staff development program. The Board expressed its’ support for these new programs.

There were no other reports presented.

Old Business

Jackson reminded the Board that the Alumni Association had received funds earmarked for the construction of a pavilion on Lake Ridgecrest. Jackson indicated the

amount donated is not enough to construct the pavilion. Jackson and the Camp Ridgecrest's Administrative staff have worked to find volunteer labor and other remedies, but to date, are not able to move forward with this project. Based on today's escalating construction and labor costs, it will cost approximately thirty-six thousand dollars to construct the pavilion. The family donating the money has agreed to give an additional ten thousand this year leaving around sixteen thousand dollars left to raise. The Board felt once the Chapel fundraising is complete we would certainly want to move forward with fundraising efforts for the additional money needed to construct the pavilion. However, at present, we should not "divide" our fundraising efforts until the Chapel construction gets underway. At that time the Alumni Association will be better equipped to move forward with fundraising efforts to support the pavilion and other projects needed at Ridgecrest. Jackson and the Ridgecrest staff agreed to continue to explore alternatives for labor. Jackson also indicated that he remains in contact with the family who donated the original funds and they may be willing to use that money for other projects if the need arises. Jackson agreed to keep the Board informed as to the progress of this proposed project. The Board agreed that a pavilion would be a great addition to Camp and hopes this project can become a reality in the near future.

The idea of creating lifetime members on the Board of Directors was raised at the July Board of Directors meeting. Matthew Fowler made a motion, seconded by Todd Young, that this issue be tabled until the February 2006 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Hal Hill discussed the idea of replacing the cabins at Ridgecrest over the next few years. This idea was originally presented at the July Board of Directors meeting. Hal indicated, in today's environment, materials for a new cabin will cost around ten thousand dollars. If labor is factored in the cost of one cabin will rise to around twenty to twenty-two thousand dollars. Ridgecrest is interested in finding volunteer labor groups to come in and rebuild one cabin at a time. Hal reiterated the idea of having local churches, civic groups, and other organizations come in and participate in the rebuilding of a cabin. These groups could provide money for materials, volunteer labor, or both. A plaque would be placed on the outside of each cabin recognizing the efforts each group made in building the cabin. Jim Berry inquired as to the time involved and numbers of volunteers needed to construct one cabin. Hal indicated he has researched and concluded that it will take eight men (two of these men having carpentry skills) six working days to complete construction on one cabin. Hal indicated that the cabins will have the same "rustic" look as our current cabin facilities. Hal stated it has been approved for Ridgecrest to hire a maintenance manager who will begin work this January. Hal envisions this person will help organize and facilitate the construction process for the cabins. Hal stated he hopes by October of 2006, Ridgecrest will have some money set aside in its budget that would enable volunteer groups who did not have financial resources, but do have manpower, to participate in the construction of the cabins. The overall goal is to get groups involved in the process. Some of these groups will be able to raise funds and provide the labor needed to construct the cabin. Other groups may only be able to raise money while other groups may only be able to provide volunteer labor. The goal of this project is to utilize each of those gifts and resources in an organized effort to provide cabins to the next

generation of campers at Ridgecrest. Matthew Brown inquired as to any liability Ridgecrest or the Alumni Association would have in using volunteer labor. Hal indicated that Lifeway is experienced with using volunteer labor and liability would fall under current Lifeway policies. Hal agreed to prepare a list of “talking points” for Board members and other members of the Alumni Association to take back to their organizations to try to line up groups willing to participate in this project. Jim Berry made a motion, seconded, by Hewlett Sullivan, for the Board to endorse the Ridgecrest cabin reconstruction project and for Board members and other Alumni to present this idea in their home churches and other civic organizations to try to line up volunteer groups who are willing to participate by the giving of money, volunteer labor, or both. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no other old business.

New Business

There were no items of new business to discuss.

Discussion for the Betterment of the Association

Jackson reminded everyone that the Ridgecrest Chapel banquet will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. The banquet will be held in the Mountain Laurel Hotel at the Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Closing Prayer

There being no other issues to discuss, it was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn. The motion for adjournment passed unanimously. Todd Young closed the meeting in prayer.