

Members Meeting
July 9, 2011

Camp Ridgecrest Alumni and Friends

Chairman Steven LaSota called the members meeting to order at 1:25pm, and Ron Springs led in prayer. Introductions were made as we had 24 members in attendance. Motion to accept members' minutes from last summer by Steven LaSota and seconded by Ernie Roberts. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

The first order of business was presentation of the Frank Johnson Service Award. Ron Springs introduced this year's recipient, Dr. Richard C. (Dick) Burts. He is married to Anna Marie Burts, and his hometown is Rock Hill, South Carolina, currently living in Greenville, South Carolina. Dr. Burts came to camp June 12, 1933 to attend a wedding of a cousin, then became camp director ten years later and was also a little chief. He received his master's and doctorate degrees in education. He has been full of wisdom and advice for the Alumni Board over the years. His name will be added to the plaque in the auditorium.

In memoriam, we remembered Bob Strunk's father and former staffer, counselor and tribal leader Darryl Andrews. Both passed away since the last summer meeting. Chairman LaSota also expressed gratitude for our President Jimmie Holland for his service in Iraq and as our President of the Board. Commitment to the cabin programs was still emphasized once again.

Treasurer Adam Hewitt delivered profit and loss information and total income so far in 2011 was \$15,000 and total cabin money raised so far about \$32,000. We look to give \$11,000 in scholarships this year and Echo is a major expense which requires money to continue to communicate information to our alumni. Money is a necessary commodity to keep these things going efficiently. Outgoing Alumni Secretary Ernie Roberts thanked everyone for their efforts in making the alumni association grow and develop its mission during his term of office. Jimmie Holland said he is looking forward to two more years in service to the board and alumni association as President.

Committee reports included the cabin committee. Steven LaSota reported that our strategy is to raise \$60,000 a year with a final goal of \$175,000 allowing us to renovate two cabins a year. This money would be paid to camp as a reimbursement to free up funds for the camp staff to use in operations and maintenance as they see fit. As mentioned earlier, we have raised around \$32,000 for this project since the campaign inception. Scott Luna is the new chairperson of this committee to raise the needed funds.

The scholarship funds are looking to be raised. Kenny Byrd will be on this action to move forward in raising money more aggressively. We really want to beat Crestridge in our contributions to bringing kids to camp who do not have the financial means. There was no report from the finance committee, and the communications committee reported progress towards our first Communications Director who would be paid hopefully a small stipend.

Ron Springs made report that cabins, porches, new feel, more spacious, ventilation are great additions to the camp experience for the staff and campers. Next year Shawnee and Choctaw will be finished, and the Arapaho cabins would be slated for completion the following year. Crestridge Alumni raised over \$20,000 to develop their museum this summer. Ron thanked us for all we do to contribute to camp.

Old business included our helping out camp on opening days. Formalize opening days to greet cars and parents at 7:00 am, and gates open at 11:00 am. Tasks include introducing parents to alumni, handing out fliers, and helping in the registration process. Financially we would like to see a 10% increase in unique first time donors over last year's base. There would also be buttons for alumni to wear as identification for openings and closings.

The current committee chairs are as follows.

Camp Reunion Frank Johnson
Cabin Fund raising Scott Luna
Finance Chris Maslin
Scholarships Kenny Byrd
Communications Will Henderson

In the category of new business, nominations for the Frank Johnson Service Award will be made up to the Winter Board meeting which will be deadline. The award itself will be presented at the members' summer meeting to the winning recipient.

Dr. Dick Burts related a personal incident which he called the biggest challenge ever at Camp Ridgecrest when two young men (not campers) were canoeing in the lake 1938. The word was out that two were in the lake. One was holding on to the canoe and the other was underwater. Medical Doctor Hatcher did all he could to do to revive the young man after the body was dragged. He did not survive. The young man holding on to the canoe could not swim, but he survived. The one who drowned was a swimmer. The following fall, the legal battle lines were drawn against the Baptist convention and named Dick Burts a defendant. The trial drug out due to clerical errors, and the case never came up. A judge dismissed the case, and there has never been an incident with the lake since 1938.

Recognition was paid to those whose three year term of service to the board was completed. Those rolling off the board are Phil Brown, Hewlitt Sullivan, Miriam Zimmerman, Alan Sanders, Mike Giusti, Steve Cothran and Ernie Roberts. The new nominees to present to the membership for board positions are Jackson Norton, Matthew Fowler, Scott Young, Jay Pichard, Ashley Olson, Doug Trotter, and Caleb McClain. Motion made by Steven LaSota and seconded by Beth Olson with no further additions to the list. Unanimously passed in vote by membership. Chris Maslin encouraged all to email the camp database for updates and get others to join the association at the end of each two-week session. Steven LaSota closed the meeting in prayer at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Roberts