

March 3, 2022

Dear Fellow Carlisle Alumni Association Members,

It is my great privilege to be writing to you, my fellow Carlisle High School Alumni, as I'm in my first year serving as the Carlisle Alumni Association board president. I would like to share some thoughts about what has led to my acceptance of this responsibility as well as some insight into what I feel are unique opportunities our Alumni Association can explore.

First, I believe the education, guidance and friendships I was fortunate to experience through my upbringing in the Carlisle Schools community significantly shaped and continues to shape the life I've lived. I believe this sense of the importance of our school experiences in our lives is a common perception. Alumni Association involvement is a way to honor what we alumni have as a common heritage, renew or build on relationships from school years and as way to participate in building the Carlisle School experience for future alumni.

The Carlisle Alumni Association (CAA) maintains a robust scholarship program for new CHS graduates and sponsors numerous activities as noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Judy Bruce Russell ('71) has served as president of the CAA for many years, stepping down this year to serve as treasurer after more than 17 years as president of the CAA. Under Judy's guidance, the CAA has become a vibrant engaged organization. This is an organization you all can be proud to be a member of, as all of these programs are known to be quality endeavors that add to the experience of education in the Carlisle Schools and life in the greater alumni community.

My vision of possibilities to explore in the future for the Alumni Association are, in addition to building on the current successful activities, to explore activities that would offer enhancement to the educational experience of all students in the Carlisle School District. I would see this as a unique program or programs which a wide range of Carlisle students might take advantage. The scholarship program the CAA has administered since its inception has been valuable over the years. However, the utilization of available scholarships has been somewhat underwhelming, despite attempts by our scholarship committee to correct this situation. As surprising as this phenomenon is, this is the reality with which the scholarship committee and the CAA board are faced. I feel we should continue to explore ways to be more successful in getting our funds donated to enhance the education of more students. To that end, one change we have recently adopted is giving assistance to other educational choices beyond the four-year college/university path such as trade school training. Another possible approach for Alumni Association involvement in the education of students would be in the development of unique educational experiences above and beyond the standard public-school curriculum. The possibility of innovative educational enhancement is motivating as we move the CAA forward. We continue to pursue making our scholarships meet the expectations of those who donate so generously.

Additionally, I would like the Alumni Association to sponsor adult education tailored for Alumni Association members, perhaps in conjunction with the Carlisle School District, to explore practical subjects such as gardening, basic computer/smart phone utilization, culinary arts, or other daily living

learning many of us would enjoy. It would be my hope we can use our collective talents to add these types of programs to the growing list of benefits being an active CAA member brings.

Finally, as we all know (we are Carlisle High School graduates after all) the management of finances of a successful organization require close attention. This entails prudent trusteeship of the funds we currently have and the ability to raise funds for the benefit of the CAA. On the management side this year the board has moved our funds from Certificates of Deposit, which were bringing in less than 1% interest income per year, to managed funds at Edward Jones and The Greater Des Moines Foundation. Both of these entities are investing our funds in a conservative manner under CAA board guidance. Both have experience in managing funds for non-profit 501(c)3 organizations such as ours. On the fund-raising side, I would hope you can see how your support and participation can directly enhance fulfilling our organization's mission. I would ask you to consider giving generously of your time and/or money to the Carlisle Alumni Association.

Thank you to all you who are active in the Carlisle Alumni Association. Welcome to those of you who are looking to get active in the Carlisle Alumni Association.

Collegially yours,

Dr. Mark Randleman, D.O. ('71)

President, Carlisle Alumni Association

*"Semel a Felis Silvestris, Semper a Felis Silvestris"* (Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat)