

TAA 44th Annual Reunion

Bringing Friends Back Together

A larger than average turnout of Thorp High School alumni attended the 44th edition of the annual reunion held at the Quonset Hall east of Thorp. The annual meeting started off the celebration at 10 a.m. at the Quonset for the first time. The memorabilia display was open at 1 p.m. along with the opportunity for early registration. The social hour began at 4 p.m. followed by a traditional family style dinner at 5 p.m. with the program following.

The annual meeting of the Thorp Alumni Association was held on Saturday morning, June 30, 2018 at 10 a.m. at the Quonset Hall for the first time. Officers for the 2018-2019 year elected at the meeting are: President – Paula Teclaw Paskert '68; Vice President – Brian Hendricks '58; Secretary – Bettie Butek Valek '61; Treasurer – J. Peter Bartl '61. Gerri Dudansky '58 was appointed as assistant secretary. The Newsletter contributors will be the officers and Jacqueline Glasshof '81. Paula announced that Bettie will serve for the 2018-2019 year but then will step down.

Brian Hendricks outlined the TAA program of sponsoring “structured class trips” for the 7th grade, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in addition to the five \$1,000 scholarships. His assessment of the class trips was positive, and he has asked the school administrators to track the impact these class trips have had on the students when they graduate from THS and make plans for their futures. The TAA's goal is to encourage Thorp students to consider future education.

Paula reported that the TAA has set up a Facebook page in addition to their website. All members are encouraged to watch both or either sites for TAA updates as well as The Thorp Courier.

This year the Class of 1943 celebrated the 75th anniversary of their graduation. None of the class members were able to attend the event, however, 14 of them were interviewed and most doing well. Tosh Stuesser did pass away two days after her interview in February. Each of them will receive a 2018 Newsletter as well as contact and other information about their classmates.

Other classes celebrating their reunions were: 1948 – 70 years; 1953 – 65 years; 1958 – 60 years; 1963 – 55 years, 1968 – 50 years, 1973 – 45 years, 1978 – 40 years, and 1983 – 35 years. The class of 1958 had the largest attendance with 16 members plus their guests and had their own reunion on Friday night. Other classes are having their reunions throughout the summer.

Shortly after master of ceremonies, Paula Teclaw Paskert, began the program following dinner, a loud clap of thunder signaled the loss of electricity. The result – no lights or AC. And, it wasn't just the Quonset and would take longer to fix than five minutes! As a result, the program was modified and reduced to introducing District Administrator John Humphries, the scholarship recipients, and the guest speaker.

Guest speaker Kathleen Kaz Ferrel '84 put on her game face and with the light from her cell phone proceeded with her planned presentation. She touched on the guidance she received from her family as well as her teachers in both elementary and high school. Those lessons learned have led her to many interesting and important jobs throughout her career. Currently she is the Executive Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs at Nicolet College in Rhinelander, WI and recently visited China on behalf of her college.

With the heat building, President Paula Teclaw Paskert reminded the alumni that Country Fest in Cadott, WI will be held on the same weekend as our reunion next year. Motel space will be at a premium so if you need a room, make your reservations now.

Reunions are held to reconnect with old friends and enjoy each other's company. Plan now to attend the 45th annual TAA reunion to be held on Saturday, June 29, 2019.