

TAA 45th Annual Reunion

Bringing Friends Back Together

A larger than average turnout of Thorp High School alumni attended the 45th 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. 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 29, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Quonset Hall. Officers for the 2019-2020 year elected at the meeting are: President – Paula Teclaw Paskert '68; Vice President – Brian Hendricks '58; Secretary – Gerri Dudansky '58; Treasurer – Ardis Schmidt '68. The Newsletter contributors will be the officers and Jacqueline Glasshof '81. Both Bettie Butek Valek '61 and J. Peter Bartl '61 are stepping down after serving for five years and seven years respectively. Paula again put out a plea for more help from local alumni in the surrounding area. Our officers need help. Even handling a small piece of the work would be greatly appreciated to make the workload lighter.

After a wonderful dinner, master of ceremonies, Paula Teclaw Paskert '68, touched on the scholarship program available to the graduating seniors. She then called on Cora Luzinski, scholarship winner and graduating class salutatorian who expressed her gratitude for receiving one of the five \$1,000 TAA scholarships. She will make us proud!

Paula also described the TAA program of sponsoring “structured class trips” for the 7th grade, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in addition to the five \$1,000 scholarships. Brian Hendricks stands by his assessment of the class trips and 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 1944 celebrated the 75th anniversary of their graduation. Three of the class members were able to attend the event, while 15 of them were interviewed and most doing well. Each of them will receive a 2019 Newsletter as well as contact and other information about their classmates.

Other classes celebrating their reunions were: 1949 – 70 years; 1954 – 65 years; 1959 – 60 years; 1964 – 55 years, 1969 – 50 years, 1974 – 45 years, 1979 – 40 years, and 1984 – 35 years. The class of 1959 had the largest attendance and had their own reunion on Friday night. Also well represented were the classes of 1954 and 1964. After a lot of last minute scrambling, the class of 1984 had a good and lively showing! Other classes are having their reunions throughout the summer.

After some silent prayers offered by a few people asking for better weather than last year, Paula introduced alumnus Roger Turenne '54 as the guest speaker. Roger began his work career as a social worker and has ended it as an owner of nursing homes and related health industry businesses. Life has been good and he shares by having created a preserve in Northern Wisconsin for family to enjoy. It was well known as the Turenne hunting shack.

Paula mentioned again that the officers need help and asked local alumni to step forward. We can work something out. Remember that Country Fest in Cadott will be held on the same weekend as our reunion again 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 46th annual TAA reunion to be held on Saturday, June 27, 2020.