

## **CAPTAIN'S LOG BOOK**

### **December 2009**

As the NDSA Board prepares to draw this exciting and productive year to a close, we look forward to the Winter Meeting on campus. All of our Directors recognize that much work is still to be completed prior to year's end. From the response I am seeing, most of our 18 Directors have already contacted the Clubs in their region to secure the details of the many Mini-Initiatives and Best Practices our Alumni are performing to benefit the unfortunate, their Church, or their communities. Keep this information coming as it will be included in the new NDSA Newsletter so other ND Alumni in other parts of the world can emulate. Please include this information in your regional pre-winter meeting report!

This month will be the start of the Executive Committee's joint conference calls with each of the four NDSA Committees. Starting with the Initiatives Committee, this new practice will give NDSA an opportunity to concentrate on the activities of each committee. We are proud of the good work being completed by each of our current Board members, not only in their respective regions, but also on the committees on which they serve. At this time of year, as Chairman of the Board, I am regrettably aware that five of my fellow Board members (and friends) will be leaving the Board on July 1. To assure a smooth transition and the accomplishment of NDSA's mission in the future, they must be replaced by well-qualified and talented Alumni.

The task of identifying eligible and qualified prospects for the NDSA Board should be a year round project that each Director includes in his/her list of duties. As a Director, you realize serving on the NDSA Board is a position that requires both the time and the resources to visit with your clubs and travel to regional and national meetings. Attending the required three annual Board meetings is a substantial expense for the member and spouse that should not be ignored.

At this time, the Executive Committee joins me in requesting your assistance in locating qualified Board Members for Regions 10, 13, 14, 15, and 18. Current Directors in each of these regions have a good knowledge of the outstanding, qualified Alumni in their regions, but we ask that all Directors consider nominating friends and classmates who would be capable candidates. We will use all available electronic and print media to publicize the search for candidates.

The Director Selection task this year is of utmost importance because the Board will lose three Committee Chairs which will result in major changes in committee assignments. The selection process is further complicated by the need to identify computer and internet skills to manage our NDSA website. Also needed are financial software skills to manage the NDSA budget and a "journalist" willing to be the editor of our rejuvenated NDSA newsletter.

As you can see, the task of finding qualified Regional Directors will be a challenge, and selections will be made based on candidates' qualifications, proven skills, and their total

relationship to Notre Dame. Ideally we will have more than one candidate for each of the five positions. Please have prospective candidates complete all parts of the application contained on the NDSA website along with the requisite recommendation letter(s). Your research is important in the selection process. The more information we have on each candidate, the better will be the presentation of the Executive Committee and its Chair in making its recommendation to the Alumni Office for final approval. The schedule for new member orientation will be on the agenda for our winter meeting.

We have a challenging agenda prepared for the Winter Meeting, and we look forward to being with all of you on campus in January. Melonie will have the on-line reservation forms on line next week, and we will E-Mail you a preliminary agenda in the near future.

The entire Executive Committee joins me in wishing you a Merry and Holy Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!!!

Thanks again for all you do for Notre Dame,

*Jim*