

CHATTER FROM THE CHAIR
MONTHS: January – February 2009
February 16, 2009

These notes are intended to provide useful information between NDSA Board meetings.

BOARD CHANGES

The new Vice Chair and Chairman-Elect for NDSA is Jim Gibbons, '55. Jim was elected at the Winter Meeting in January to succeed Phil Roehrig, '51, who resigned in December for health considerations. Jim's stint as Vice Chair began with the announcement of the election results. He will become Chairman on July 1, 2009. Congratulations, Jim!

New Board Members Jim Crowe '70 (Region 5) and Bob Meuleman '61 (Region 6) participated in the Winter Meeting. Welcome, Jim and Bob!

Nominations have been received for Regional Directors to replace those whose terms expire on or before this June 30 (two are open now) – Regions 1, 3, 9, 11, 12, and 17. After selection, these Directors will be invited to the Spring Board Meeting in April.

HOSPITAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

We have just received word from the Alumni Office that the Summer 2009 issue of **Notre Dame Magazine** will feature the NDSA Hospital Support Program, focusing on success stories since its creation a few years ago. This should be a huge boost to the awareness of the ND alumni community of what this program can mean to them, both giving and receiving help in times of need.

“BAT FOR THE CURE”

“Bat for the Cure”, a key element of the NDSA PACE initiative, in which ND Clubs across the country participate with minor league baseball to promote prostate cancer awareness and education at selected games, continues to grow. We expect close to 100 such opportunities (i.e., scheduled games) in 2009. NDSA Regional Directors play an important role in communicating with their clubs, and encouraging their participation. Paul Scagliarini coordinates this initiative for NDSA.

WINTER MEETING 2009 – SAN DIEGO

The NDSA Winter Board Meeting was held January 15-17, 2009, in San Diego. Holly Colman, President-Elect of NDAA, was our guest at the welcoming dinner. Dolly Duffy, Associate Alumni Director, had to cancel due to family priorities. Former Board members Jim Barry and John Hargrove participated fully. Jim presented a plaque to Tom Loosbrock, acknowledging his special

contributions to NDSA over the years, including serving as Chairman. Well deserved, Tom. Tom is now the NDSA Liaison on the NDAA Board.

Following the close of business midday Saturday, the group visited wounded service personnel at the US Navy Medical Center, and then toured the USS Ronald Reagan, CVN-76, a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier (the world's largest). Onboard are special tributes to President Reagan, including his portrayal of "The Gipper". See the NDSA web site for more highlights and photos, under [NDSA News](#), San Diego lead-in.

All who participated appreciated the hard work of Frank Whitton, who coordinated the San Diego arrangements. Kudos were also given to Pete Litrenta, ND '64, who was the driving force in obtaining our hotel, the Manchester Grand Hyatt, a first-class facility, at very attractive rates. Ditto the ND Club of San Diego, whose members provided transportation to the hospital and carrier.

NDSA WEB SITE

For more enlightenment on what's going on in NDSA, check the web site, which is under the outstanding management of Mike Squyres. It is current and full of interesting stuff.

[Click here: Notre Dame Senior Alumni](http://www.ndsenioralumni.org/) or cut and paste:
<http://www.ndsenioralumni.org/>

On the home page, catch the new slide show of campus scenes. And access "Pray at ND" to start your day off right.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Spring Board meeting is integrated with the Alumni Senate, April 22 – 25. Most meetings will be held in McKenna.

NDSA will make a presentation on the Reunion weekend, June 4 – 6, focusing on the PACE initiative. Paul Scagliarini is coordinating this, with presentations by Peter Lombardo, Dick Griffin, and Chris Vulin, MD, ND '94 (Jim Barry's son-in-law).

The Fall Meeting this year will be just *before* the Senior Alumni game, Nevada, It will begin Wednesday evening, September 2, and close at midday Friday. Then comes Labor Day weekend, which is what prompted the schedule variation. Since the NDSA Board has opted to hold the next Winter Meeting on campus in January 2010, a proposal will be offered at the 2009 Spring Meeting to change the bylaws ***to invite all former NDSA Board members to the Fall Meeting this year***, instead of the Winter Meeting. We will keep you posted on this.

“COMING HOME” - CEDAR GROVE CEMETERY

Former Board Chairman Dick Griffin recently suggested that NDSA get familiar with UND's "Coming Home" Mission at Cedar Grove Cemetery on campus. This provides the opportunity for above-ground burial for alums and their families. A presentation to the NDSA Board is tentatively scheduled for the Spring Meeting. We will keep you posted, but anyone who wants information can contact Karmin Meade, Services Coordinator at the cemetery, at 574-631-5660.

Bill Kreps
NDSA Chair