

July 8, 2009

To my fellow NDSA Board Members:

I'm honored as well as challenged to have the opportunity to serve as Board Chair of the NDSA Executive Committee for the July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 Term. I am equally honored to be serving on the Executive Committee with Vice Chair Mike Squyres, Immediate Past Chair Bill Kreps, and Tom Loosbrock the NDSA representative who serves on the NDAA Board. This experience is further enhanced by our association and partnership with you...the NDSA Regional Directors...and the unparalleled support group from the Alumni Office...particularly, Tom Monaghan and Melonie Rhodes. NDSA is truly blessed to have such a professional and dedicated team that performs so tirelessly, and shares our love and affection for Notre Dame and our revered Senior Alumni Family!!!

You are NDSA and **YOU** make it all happen...in your particular Region...through your efforts and the close relationship you develop with your AA Board counterpart, the Club Presidents, and the Clubs Senior Alumni Coordinators. Keep up your good work...it is your interaction with the clubs and their members...young and old...that is so very important and key to our success, and in perpetuating the great reputation NDSA is achieving in the Alumni Association and at Notre Dame.

To assist you in your mission, you will receive periodic E-Mails with information that will be useful to you in your regional activities. Examples will include advance notice of the dates of your AA Board counterpart's regional meetings. Hopefully you will be able to attend these scheduled meetings and participate in a substantial way in communicating the NDSA message and motivating our Seniors to fuller participation in Club "give back" Projects and NDSA Initiatives. While everyone would agree...this is not a substitute for actual club visits, however it does give you...the NDSA Regional Director...an opportunity to become better known and appreciated by the various clubs you serve.

Regional Directors will shortly be receiving an E-Mail package of information regarding the new simplified Regional Reporting prior to each of the three Board Meetings. The reporting process has been greatly improved, and abbreviated, with the report format changed so as to be very user friendly.

On another very Important subject: this Summer, your Executive Committee has been working closely with Tom Monaghan to restate the Bylaws and realign the Committee Structure to better accomplish the mission of NDSA. The completed product will make the Mission of NDSA much easier to accomplish. The final blueprint will involve changes in committee assignments that will challenge and motivate each of us as we move forward with the opportunities that serving on the NDSA Board entails. Previously, NDSA was trapped with a committee structure that mirrored the AA Board's committee assignments which were designed for different functions than NDSA performs. You will be receiving detailed information on the new Committee structure

prior to the Fall meeting and the X/Committee knows you will find these revisions will work well for all of us.

With everything that is happening this Summer, we are working on our Goals and Objectives for the 2009/2010 year. Your contribution and thoughts on this subject would be well received. Please E-Mail to me any thoughts that we might incorporate into the final draft. I will need your suggestions by July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, we have been working with Tom Monaghan and Melonie Rhodes on the agenda and events for the Fall Board Meeting. Shortly, you will be receiving an enrollment kit from Melonie outlining the events and activities surrounding the meeting and the weekend. This schedule is very exciting and it will include activities that will have a great appeal to all. A special "Hotel Deal" was negotiated by Melonie that includes the football weekend. Hopefully our past Directors who are attending the Fall Meeting will be able to participate in some of the benefits on a first come basis!

Prior to the Nevada Game on Saturday there will be a Senior Tail-Gate party and other activities that we hope you will share with your Spouse. Directors are always encouraged to include their Spouses as they add so much to our social events and the other NDSA functions!!!

In closing...You will note the changes to the "Message Center" on the NDSA Web-Site...NDSA Board Resources Page...that give me the "Tab" entitled "Captain's Log Book". Thanks to Mike Squyres for this "special title", as Mike knows I love boating and in fact have an active Coast Guard Captain's License. Please don't call me "Captain"...it's just Jim!!! I'll be posting info under this tab on the web-site as well as through E-Mail throughout the year.

I am joined by the entire Executive Committee in letting you know how much we look forward to being associated with you in accomplishing the goals and commitments of NDSA for the good of our Senior Alumni. On a separate page I am including some of my personal thoughts on our ND Senior Alumni and the important work to be accomplished in each region. I trust you agree!!!

Remember...**YOU** and your dedication and your good works are the Life Blood of NDSA

Thanks again for all you do for Notre Dame, our Alumni, and the privilege of serving with you!

*Jim Gibbons*

NDSA Board Chair

## **Notre Dame Senior Alumni**

**Senior Alumni:** Alumni and Sub-Way Alumni who have reached age 55

This extremely important asset of the University encompasses a very select, complex, successful, talented, and dedicated group of the alumni whose love of Our Lady's University grows with each passing year. They make up approximately 35% of all Alumni, and are growing. Their contribution to Notre Dame is enormous, not only financially, but also through the favorable example they display by serving their communities, their fellow alumni, and the many charitable activities they pursue.

Notre Dame urges each Club to engage and involve this most important group of talented alumni not only in the set "Senior Alumni Initiatives", but also in any community or charitable activity that fulfills a need and will reflect favorably on the particular Notre Dame Club and the University.

Many Notre Dame Alumni in this group are at a point in their careers and state in life where they "want to give back" to their community, church, the less fortunate, and those in need, as a way of expressing thanksgiving and appreciation for all the blessings they have experienced in their own lifetime. It is important for each ND Club to seize this opportunity to provide the framework for our Senior Alumni to accomplish their mission and goals. Additionally, as this group ages, there is an even greater tendency to seek camaraderie among their fellow Alumni and to relive those "great moments" they experienced together at ND.

It is most important for each Club to have a very pro-active and dedicated Senior Alumni Coordinator who will develop the club's Senior Committee, and encourage the Club's other officers to sponsor activities and initiatives that will attract, interest, fulfill and challenge our Senior Alumni. Utilizing this great talent pool will not only fortify the membership and leadership of each Club, but also magnify the prominence and reputation of the Notre Dame Club in the community.

Jim Gibbons  
NDSA Board Chair  
2009/2010