

CAPTAIN'S LOG BOOK

June 30, 2010



Our Retirement Home

Summer is here, and the big news on the Ohio River is the excitement created by the lady who swam the entire length of the river...from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi. It was a first time ever, and she will no doubt go into the book of World Records!

As of June 30th, my term as Chair of the NDSA Board will come to an end. I will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chair for another year. I'm proud of the NDSA's accomplishments during my term as Chair...and appreciate the support and guidance of Vice Chair Mike Squyres, Immediate Past Chair Bill Kreps, Tom Loosbrock our AA Board Representative, the Committee Chairs, the NDSA Regional Directors, and the Alumni Office Staff...we did set some records (outside of the Ohio River) as we advanced the Mission of NDSA. Among our more Notable Accomplishments: the realignment of the NDSA Board Committees, the revision of the bylaws, the development of more efficient meeting agendas, the introduction of the Reconnect Seniors to Notre Dame Initiative, and NDSA's very visible participation in this year's Class Reunion directed by chair Emil Herkert. The past year brought about a substantial increase in the number of Senior Alumni Coordinators (SAC'S) working with our Seniors in the Clubs, as we developed closer ties with the AA Board Leadership and the Board's Regional Directors, with whom we share many common goals. There were many other accomplishments in the past year, but now it's time to look forward to the future!!!

The stewardship of NDSA will remain in good hands under the leadership of Mike Squyres, along with the support of our newly elected Vice Chair, John Hoffman, and with Tom Loosbrock, NDSA's AA Board member who will continue to serve on the Executive Committee. My role on the Executive Committee will be to support the new Board. However, in addition, I would like to pursue four projects that I consider unfinished business:

- While we have improved the number of Senior Coordinators in the Clubs, we must continue our work in this important area until every Club in each of the eighteen regions has a Senior Alumni Coordinator. The following activity will be for the NDSA Directors to work with the Club Presidents and the AA Board's Regional Directors to improve the effectiveness of the SAC'S in each Club. The SAC's are our lifeline, and nothing happens that will inspire, challenge, motivate or involve our 44,000 Senior Alumni, unless it is initiated and/or supported by a SAC at the Club Level.
- Coordinate with the Committee Chairs, the Executive Committee, and the Alumni Association to build on NDSA's very prominent participation in the Class Reunions. As a starter, I will be developing a list into the next five years of current and former NDSA Board members by class year who will be eligible to attend these annual Reunions. This information will provide valuable information for future staffing and leadership, and allow ample time for NDSA preparation.

- From our experience at this year's reunion, it was noted that the favorable responses to the "Green Shirt" and the conversations that followed, usually did not provide sufficient time to tell an adequate "NDSA STORY". In this regard, I would like to prepare a business size card, with pertinent information that can be given to anyone interested in NDSA, and along with printed directions to the NDSA Web-Site for a more detailed description of our mission and activities. This card will also serve NDSA during the Senior Football Weekend, at Senate, or at any event where NDSA Directors are in attendance.
- Lastly, I would like to work with our NDSA Regional Directors in the preparation of an NDSA column or news release for the Clubs in their regions to use in their periodic publications for their members.

Again, I want to express my appreciation to everyone for their support and encouragement during my term as NDSA Chair. Without "YOU" our many successes would not have been possible. Thanks for all you do for NDSA and Notre Dame!

Jim Gibbons, NDSA Chair