

NDSA Board News

A productive NDSA Winter Board Meeting was held in St. Augustine, Florida on January 18 – 20, 2007. (NDSA Regional Directors pay their own travel, meals and accommodation expenses to attend the Winter Board Meetings.) Some highlights of the meeting include

- **Marty Gleason '55** - Region 16 – asked for all senior alumni to help in distributing the newly published biography on the life of Rev. Louis J. Putz, C.S.C. entitled “**You Are Church**” by Bob Ghelardi. Father Putz introduced Notre Dame’s **FIRST** (Fighting Irish service Team) initiative which grew into **Community Service**, one of the 6 C’s. Next time you visit the campus stop by the “Father Putz Bench” immediately north of the Alumni Association office, say a prayer, and reflect on this great man’s visionary contribution to the Church.
- **Tom Monaghan '88** – NDAA Administrative Staff – reported that a new computer program to enhance the features of **IRISH ON LINE** will be up and running by May. The program will be introduced at the 2007 Alumni Senate.
- The NDSA Executive Committee – **Jim Barry '67, Paul Scagliarini '60, and Dick Griffin '60** - approved the **Catholic Diocesan Professional Assistance Program**, the most recent senior Alumni Board Initiative. More information about the program is given in the “What’s New?” section of the newsletter.
- A **Hospitality Tent**, staffed by NDSA Regional Directors, will be set up on campus at every home football game this fall to publicize NDSA and promote its initiatives. A new brochure describing NDSA is being prepared for distribution at the Hospitality Tent.
- **Pete Campbell '56** – Region 15 - reported that 31 Clubs in 16 states now have a Hospital Ministry Program, and have assisted 7 patients. A goal was set to have 90 Clubs participating in Hospital Ministry by May as a 90th birthday gift to Father Hesburgh. An 800 number Help Line that would be available 24-7 is being considered as a way for alumni needing help to connect with the program.
- The Board voted unanimously to compliment and thank the **Alumni Association Staff** people for the support and encouragement they give to NDSA and its Board members. They are appreciated.
- An interesting and informative presentation by **Dr. Elizabeth Johnson MD**, a Mayo Clinic physician, explained the biology of stem cell research and other embryo-related issues, and then discussed the morality involved from a Catholic perspective. It was especially interesting to learn that **not a single** experiment using stem cells from a fetus has been successful; advances are being made in research using stem cells from adult donors.

What’s New?

NDSA is rolling out a new initiative titled **Catholic Diocesan Professional Assistance Program** to provide professional guidance and expertise on a no-charge basis to areas of identified Diocesan need initially, and then at a later time to offer the service to other not-for-profit organizations in the community.

It has been determined, after discussions with a number of community service organizations, that there is a more pressing need for professional guidance than there is for hands-on volunteer assistance. Both are equally important, but there are any number of groups that volunteer in soup kitchens, clothing drives, and so forth. However, rarely are business skills available on a voluntary basis.

It was also determined through discussions with a cross section of Notre Dame alumni that there is a strong desire on the part of alumni, particularly retirees, to utilize the business and professional skills that they have developed over the years through education and experience.

The **Catholic Diocesan Professional Assistance Program** is unique in an almost ideal sort of way: it matches needs expressed by the receiving community with the desires of the giving alumni. The program offers unique advantages, too. To the Club it offers the potential of increased membership involvement, favorable publicity in the community, and more active participation by senior alumni who often are less involved as years go by. To the Diocese the program offers answers to specific needs they have identified, and has the potential of reducing their costs by not having to hire outside professionals.

There are essentially two ways to go about installing the program. One of them is to assemble a team of volunteers for the program, prepare an inventory of the skills they have available, and then offer these skills to assist the Diocese. The second approach begins with meeting with Diocesan officials to explain the program, and if they have needs then assemble a team with the requisite skills.

More information about the **Catholic Diocesan Professional Assistance Program**, organization and implementation guidance, and examples of typical assignments can be found on the NDSA website at www.ndsenioralumni.org by clicking on "NDSA Initiatives" and then on "Diocesan Program" or contact **George Koch '54** by phone at **248-623-0973** or by e-mail at wanderers1@juno.com.

An NDSA Initiative: Hospital Ministry

Hospital Ministry is a NDSA Initiative that provides comfort, assistance in time of need, and fellowship to alumni, students, faculty, and friends of Notre Dame and their loved ones when they are hospitalized while away from home. Hospitalization can be **unplanned** – for example, injury in an accident or a serious illness such as a stroke or heart attack – or it can be **planned**, such as surgery that can't be performed in their local hospital.

The Notre Dame Clubs participating in Hospital Ministry first organize a **Hospital Support Team** of club-member volunteers. Spouses are most welcome to participate, as are alumni of all ages. Those who serve on the Support Team are not medical professionals nor are they professional counselors. They are folks who live in the local area and want to help make members of the Notre Dame Family more comfortable during their stay.

The Hospital Support Team provides information about hotels and restaurants in the vicinity of the hospital, and point out local stores selling food, clothing and a variety of other goods. They are also available to sit with a patient for short periods, enabling family members to leave the hospital for meals, a rest, or just to get some 'fresh air'.

Typically the support provided includes spending time with a patient and family, sometimes just listening, freeing the family so they can leave the hospital as needed, running simple errands, arranging visits by a priest or lay minister, recommending local hotels and restaurants, advising where necessities can be purchased, and pointing out to the family places of local interest. Hospital support **does not** include providing medical advice, administering medications, financial assistance, transporting patients, staying in an Intensive care unit, or involvement with hospital or insurance administrative problems.

The Rockford, Illinois ND Club asked **Linda Roehrig**, wife of Club president **Phil Roehrig '51**, to chair the Hospital Ministry Team. Linda, in turn, phoned five wives of active club members, asking if they would volunteer as a couple. Five 'yeses' and Hospital Ministry was under way. Next, a simple brochure was prepared describing the Hospital Ministry program. The final step was talking to the chaplains in Rockford's three hospitals. All three agreed to support the program. Federal HIPPA regulations do not allow the chaplains to disclose the names of patients. However, the chaplains offered to give the brochure to anyone coming into their Emergency Department with some connection to Notre Dame along with a recommendation that they phone a Hospital Support team member.

Since many people in outlying communities come to Rockford hospitals for medical procedures, the program is being publicized through the Club's newsletter.

For more information about starting a Hospital Ministry Program in your Club Area log on to the NDSA website at www.ndsenioralumni.org and click on "NDSA Initiatives", and then on "Hospital Ministry", or contact **Pete Campbell '56** by phone at **919-782-1283** or e-mail Pete at pcampbell12@nc.it.com.

Hospital Ministry Case Histories

- The **San Diego Club** has initiated Service Programs at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, and Balboa Hospital. Although still in their infancy, efforts are being made to expand the program and to solicit donations of golf carts, modeling kits, video games, clothing, and other items.
- **George Koch '54**, NDSA Region 7 Director, received a phone call from **Jim Gibbons '55**, NDSA Region 9 Director, telling George that a Notre Dame graduate living in the Cincinnati, Ohio area had a major stroke and had been sent to the hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he expected to be hospitalized for a considerable period of time. George called **John Freitas**, Senior Coordinator for the Ann Arbor Club and an MD on the hospital's staff, who personally visited with the stroke victim and his family, offering the Club's support.
- **Dave Schrage**, Notre Dame's baseball coach, and his wife **Jody** traveled to Houston, Texas where Jody would undergo surgery for cancer. The Houston branch of the Notre Dame family responded to the Schrage's needs - - - and then some. **Cathy Connors '95**, Houston Club president coordinated the club's resources and hospital visits. Tom **Callahan '66** housed Dave in his home and offered to arrange for the Rice University baseball coach to "talk a little baseball" with Dave during his stay. **Steve '89** and **Moria '89 Tomaso** arranged for a car from the Nissan dealership for Dave's use. Transportation was provided, and visits were made on various occasions, by **John Polking '56**, **Jerry Toomey '54** and **Jim Garrity '59**. **Bob Marco '57** arranged a meeting with the Houston Astro's management. **John Sweeney '83**, Chief of Surgery at Baylor School of Medicine offered assistance in navigating through the hospital. And these are but a few of the over 32 members of the **Houston Club** who pitched in to help. Jody died not long after her surgery and was interred at Notre Dame's Cedar Grove Cemetery. At their Winter Meeting during January the Notre Dame Alumni Board gave special recognition to the Hospital Ministry Program of the ND Club of Houston for "Exceptional and Distinguished Service] to the family of Coach David Schrage".

Let's Take a Break

The pastor was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved away from the pulpit and briskly paced back and forth in front of the congregation, jerking the mike cord as he went. At one point in his homily he spun around, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

From Around the Country

The items presented below, grouped by the 6 C's, are taken from reports of successes, best practices and newsworthy items prepared by the Regional NDSA Directors for the Winter NDSA Meeting.

CAMARADERIE

- The Senior Alumni Coordinator for the **Phoenix, Arizona Club** schedules six breakfasts each year for Senior Alumni, which feature a guest speaker. An annual Senior Alumni luncheon in the West Valley, also featuring a guest speaker, is attended by about 50 alums. Monthly luncheons for all alumni are well attended by Seniors. An evening dinner in the West Valley area is being considered as a way to reach out to alumni living in that area.
- Senior members of the **Palm Spring, California Club** hold an annual 'Desert Fling' or mini-reunion for the Class of '56 and others living in that area. The event draws alumni from Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and other locales.
- The **San Diego, California Club** held a luncheon for Senior Alumni in North San Diego County. The 20 alumni who attended, and several others who were unable to be present, expressed an interest in having quarterly luncheons. In San Diego, a small but ever expanding group of Seniors meet for breakfast on a quarterly basis.
- Retired members of the **Rockford, Illinois Club** meet daily at McDonald's for coffee and an hour or so of camaraderie following the 8:30am Mass at Holy Family Parish. Attendance varies between 2 and 8 senior alumni and friends of Notre Dame on any given day.
- About 40 members participate in the **Lake County, Illinois Club's** monthly senior breakfast that meets on the same day of the week for two months, and then advances to a different day for the

next two months. This enables persons who are only able to attend on a certain day of the week to be involved. Attendance averages 10 seniors in any given week.

- The **Boston, Massachusetts Club** combined a planning session with a Game Watch for the Georgia Tech game.
- Well-attended and acclaimed luncheons have been held twice by the **Washington, DC Club** and once by the **Baltimore, Maryland Club**.
- **EDITOR'S NOTE:** It appears that one of the best ways to get Senior Alumni involved in club activities is through their stomachs.

GOD, COUNTRY and NOTRE DAME

- The **Chicago, Illinois Club** provides *pro bono* legal work to the families of men and women on active military duty.
- Judge **John Hargrove '64, '67** presented Credit card Abuse classes to wounded Marines and Navy Staff at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Balboa, California. This program is part of the **San Diego, California Club's** God, Country and Notre Dame initiative.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 'The Networking Project' is a new initiative of the **Greater DuPage County, Illinois Club** for persons who are between careers. The first meeting of the group attracted 25 people and was very well received by those in attendance.
- \$6000 was raised by the **Starved Rock, Illinois Club's** 'Play Day and Picnic' for Horizon House, a home for the mentally and physically handicapped.
- **Neil Hitz '58, Lou Basso '53, '55, Don Bridenstine '65 and Hank DeCaluwe '58** are working with the Archdiocese of Detroit to develop a Transition Support System to assist in the selection and then education of new pastors in assuming their new responsibilities as part of the **Detroit, Michigan Club's** involvement with newly announced the **Catholic Diocesan Professional Assistance Program (CDPAP) initiative**.
- As part of the **Detroit Club's CDPAP** involvement with the Archdiocese, **Don Condit '60,** conducted a seminar on Decision Making, Communications and Effective Meeting Techniques, and **Chris Walsh '59** one on "How to Develop Leadership and How to Maintain Ethical Leadership" at Sacred Heart Seminary.
- **Charlie Kitz '58, Steve Harvath '59, Ron Wagner '59 and Pete Higgins '54** are developing a Business Plan at Everest Academy in Clarkston, Michigan to promote the existing elementary school and the feasibility of expanding the Academy to include a high school as another part of the **Detroit Club's CDPAP** program.
- **Pat Callahan '61** is chairing the **Detroit Club's TAP** program at two inner-city Detroit parishes. Both senior and younger club members are involved, with the seniors taking the lead and providing training. In 2206 the program resulted in refunds of \$80,070 for 59 clients. In the last 4 TAP has resulted in refunds totaling \$242,714
- The **Rockford, Illinois Club** is beginning a TAP program this year in cooperation with St. Elizabeth's Social Center, a Catholic Diocesan outreach to inner city residents.
- The **Indianapolis, Indiana Club** is expanding its TAP program, and has established a Senior Alumni Committee to explore other opportunities to serve the community.
- Two clubs in **Region 8** (Indiana and Kentucky) are involved with Habitat for Humanity projects. One of them (**Tri-state**) is a D-size club; the other (**Kokomo**) is E-size.
- Members of the **Tucson, Arizona Club** are involved with "Sun Sounds", a radio program for the hearing impaired. Volunteers from the Club read the daily newspaper and classified ads, as well as novels, to listeners of Sun Sounds.
- Seniors and younger members of the **Phoenix, Arizona Club** work at Maggie's Place in Tempe, a home which serves expectant mothers who are alone on the streets. Their involvement consists of house cleaning, yard work, washing cars, food preparation, babysitting and other 'spring cleaning' tasks. The Phoenix Club also sponsors three 'Notre Dame Nights' at Andre House, a ministry for the poor and homeless founded by the Holy Cross priests in 1984.
- "The Breakfast Club" is a group of **Orange County, California** people, including senior alumni, who get together at the Southwest Community Center to help serve breakfast to the needy and homeless on the first Sunday of each month.

- A group of Senior and younger Alumni from the **San Diego, California Club** serve dinner once each month to the homeless at Father Joe's St Vincent DePaul parish.

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

- The **Las Vegas, Nevada Club** attended a Mass offered at Immaculate Conception parish for deceased members of the Notre Dame Family. Blankets and clothing for the homeless were donated by Mass attendees.
- Approximately 50 Senior Alumni of the **San Diego, California Club**, including many new faces, gathered to attend Mass in Poway, California on September 30th. After Mass everyone attended a brunch followed by a game watch
- The **San Francisco, California Club** is exploring the possibility of sending a team of medical doctors to a hospital in rural Guatemala for 10 days to perform surgery and dispense other medical care to natives who travel mostly on foot from neighboring hamlets. The hospital is part of a hospital-orphanage-school complex founded and maintained by "The Family", a San Francisco organization. A number of alumni have expressed interest in the project.

COMMUNICATION

- The Senior Alumni group in the **Birmingham, Alabama Club** is sending out a survey to all senior alumni in the area in an effort to increase the number of participants in club activities. The last survey was done three years ago.
- The **Orange County, California Club** published an article in the Club Newsletter describing the purpose of a senior alumni organization and, as a result, has been able to establish a Service Team to serve the needs of the community and to enrich the lives of club members who are 55 and older.
- At the Region 14 meeting during November **George and Jo Ann Harvey**, Region 14 NDSA Directors, gave a presentation on NDSA and its initiatives.
- The **Orange County, California Club** includes a note, authored by a Senior Alum, inviting members to notify him if they know of any local community service programs the Club should consider supporting.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- 65 people attended a Freshmen Sendoff hosted by **Bob and Ellen King** of Salem, New Hampshire. It was the largest Notre Dame Club event in New Hampshire during 2006.
- The **Rockford, Illinois Club's** second annual Golf Outing raised over \$5000 for the Club's Endowed Scholarship Fund at the University, now in its second year. A dinner following the day on the links was attended by 104 persons including Bishop Thomas Doran of Rockford. Club president **Bob Meuleman '61** described the day as a "friend raiser."
- **Russ Hopkins** works with **Chicago Club's** Student Mentoring Program.
- The **Phoenix, Arizona Club** sponsors St. Matthew's Interactive Learning Experience, known as "Smile", a program that provides a weekly opportunity for enriching community-based activities for grade school students. ND students and Club members mentor and serve as positive role models to the students, and provide them an opportunity to participate in activities to which they might not otherwise be exposed, such as trips to the Zoo and Science Museum, bowling, miniature golf, arts and crafts, and other sundry activities.
- The **Tucson, Arizona Club** provides educational assistance to high school students in the Tucson area, including mentoring and tutoring.
- The **Phoenix, Arizona Club's** annual Dan Devine Golf Tournament raised over \$20,000 to fund scholarships for Arizona students.
- The **Las Vegas, Nevada Club** has a committee that collects funds to provide tuition assistance to local Catholic grade schools through the JMJ Foundation. The committee does not provide scholarships, but does provide a month or two of tuition relief to families in great need due to sickness, loss of employment, etc. The committee meets each month with the principals of seven local Catholic grade schools to identify families in need.

Senior Moments

During our senior year in Dillon Hall two of us became interested in hypnotism. One Sunday afternoon as we read a book on the subject my friend's roommate fell asleep. "Listen to this," my friend remarked, "It tells here how to hypnotize a person who is sleeping." "Let's try it," I replied. To make a long story short it

worked! My friend's roommate was on his feet in a trance-like state following my every suggestion. I instructed him to walk down the hall to the priest's room on our floor, Father Lochner. Next we had him open the door slightly, and on the count of three, slam it shut. This guy was a weight lifter and the door closed with a loud bang. The noise woke our hypnotized subject who had no idea where he was or how he got there as Father Lochner opened his door, saying "What's going on here?" The rest isn't pretty.

If you have a story about your student days at Notre Dame that still gives you a chuckle when you recall it, please send it to NDSAClubNotes@aol.com so that we can all have a laugh.

On The Horizon

The Spring Meeting of the NDSA Board will be held at Notre Dame on May 2 – 5. The Notre Dame Alumni Senate will also be held at Notre Dame during that time.

For up-to-the-minute news of the NDSA please log onto our website at www.ndsenioralumni.org. New features are being added continually. You can even listen to Notre Dame music while you explore the sight. It don't get no better than this!!

A Final Touch of Humor

A young priest, less than a year out of the seminary, worked for days preparing his homily for Ash Wednesday. He particularly wanted to stress the significance of receiving ashes to begin this time of repentance. About midway through his homily the priest said, "and remember man, you are but dust ...", pausing to let the words sink in. During the silence a little girl asked in her shrill 4-year-old voice that carried throughout the church, "Mommy, what's 'butt dust'?" The homily was over.

A Parting Thought

May Our Lord Jesus the Christ, through the intercession of our beloved Blessed Mother, watch over and protect you and your families and loved ones from evil and harm, and grant you abundant blessings during Lent and at Easter.