

Downingtown Area High School

Alumni Association

History as Written in about 1909

The Alumni Association of Downingtown High School was organized on the evening of April 20, 1884 at the home of Miss Hattie Miller (Stout), Washington Avenue, Downingtown, Penna.

The purpose of the organization was the promotion of the cause of education in the interests of our Alma Mater and to excite and keep alive those interests in the same, to strengthen the bonds uniting us by social friendship and intercourse to do all in our power to make our Alma Mater the one that we may all feel proud of and glad to say that from its' walls the foundation of what we are or what we hope to be has been gathered.

The first officers of the Alumni were as follows:

John M. Patton, President; William Johnson, Vice President; Allice M. Gibson, Secretary-Treasurer; Paul Cobb, Orator; Hattie Miller (Stout), Historian and Ella P. Smith, Essayist.

The first meeting took place in the high school building the Saturday afternoon before Commencement at 2:30 o'clock in April of 1884. Since this time meetings have been held annually and a great deal of pleasantry and good fellowship is always with us on these occasions.

Every member of the Downingtown High School is entitled to active membership and if one of our fair Alumni is so fortunate as to indulge in the rights of matrimony, his or her partner becomes an honorary member of the association.

On the occasion of our banquets we have with us as invited guests, our Board of Directors, faculty of the high school and the Clergy of our town. The present active membership consists of 173 graduates. Of this number all are living with the exception of nine.

The deceased members and reticence at the time of death are as follows: Mrs. Hattie Miller Stout – California, Mrs. Willmara A. Kline - Philadelphia, Pa., Miss Elizabeth G. Haley – Downingtown, Pa., Mr. Richard Silvis – Philadelphia, Pa., Mrs. Eleanor Ash Perry – Downingtown, Pa., Mrs. Anna M. Morgan Stout – Thorndale, Pa., Miss Mable A. Davis – Downingtown, Pa., Miss Eva E. Cox – Downingtown, Pa and Miss Mary E. Moore – Downingtown, Pa.

We have in addition our honorary membership which numbers 57, this making a total membership of 235. With our large graduating class each year our number is rapidly advancing.

The 25th Annual Banquet was served by the ladies of Central Presbyterian Church in their lecture room on Friday evening, April 16, 1909 with the largest attendance in the history of the Alumni.

The officers of the association for the year 1909 were: Dr. West Barrett, President; Charles F. McFadden, Vice President; Miss Elizabeth D. Wilson, Secretary; Mrs. .Frank Simmons, Treasurer; Dr. D. Edgar Hutchinson, chairman of arrangement committee and E. I. Griffith, chairman of program committee.

Written sometime after 1909 and before 1960

Necrology – a list of deceased members of the alumni Association who have passed away in the last year, or since we last met.

Distinguished Service Award – An honorary award to be presented to an alumni member who has made outstanding contributions to the Alumni Association. There would be a maximum of two recipients the first year, followed by one recipient in subsequent years. The Award Committee is to consist of the President and ex-officio member plus the award recipients up to five members including the President. Annual recipients are selected. The senior member of the committee automatically retires. Embossed certificate, a pin, a key, a badge and a plaque. Persons receiving: Marian V. Philips – 1952, Emily J. Lewis – 1952, Jesse L. Rodgers – 1953, Thomas M. Pollock (posthumously) – 1954, Charles J. Ax – 1954, Paul B. Dague – 1955, Helen L. Eachus – 1956, Thomas Brookover – 1957, Hazel L. Miller – 1958, Stella Balentine – 1959 and Joseph E. Miller - 1960

Written sometime in 1975

The alumni Association of Downingtown high School was organized on April 20, 1884 at the home of Miss Hattie Miller, Washington Avenue, Downingtown. Minutes of the meetings have been kept since then. From these minutes we have been able to trace the history of the Alumni Association. The Downingtown High School Alumni holds their honor and distinction of being the oldest active Alumni Association in Chester Count, being 91 years old this year. The first banquet and reunion was held in 1887 and this will be our 88th annual banquet and reunion. The banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn at Lionville on April 19, 1975.

The alumni Association presents the following awards and scholarship each year.

DOWNTOWN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

This award is given each year to a member of the graduating class of the Downingtown Area High School to be used in furthering the recipient's education. The scholarship presentation was started in 1968 and is given at Commencement exercises.

HOECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

The sale of programs at this game is used to raise funds for the alumni Scholarship. Started in 1964.

DISTINQUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This is an honorary award to be presented to an Alumni member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Alumni Association. Started in 1964, presented annually at Alumni Banquet. (**note – this award was actually started in 1952)

SENIOR AWARD

This is an honorary cash award for excellence in scholarship, extracurricular actives and outstanding character traits. This award was started in 1922. From 1926 to 1935 discontinued due to difficulty in raising funds. In 1936 it was resumed until today. This award is presented annually at the Alumni Banquet.

HONORED GUESTS

This award was started in 1963 to honor an individual who has outstandingly contributed to the athletic program at Downingtown High School. This award is presented annually at the Homecoming Game.