

Association's Future

The 2021 St. Mary of the Plains Alumni Association's Future survey results have been tabulated and we thought you'd like to know the end results of what 44 participants' opinions regarding the association's coming years might hold. In short, the status quo (Friday night social, Saturday luncheon and banquet, golf tournament) remains the most popular of choices with the added event of an on-site Saturday Mass before the banquet.

There seems to be a pervasive desire to tour Hennessey Hall. Since we no longer own the building, the chapel's been dismantled, equipment and other property have been cleared out and a real hesitancy of the City of Dodge City to grant access (overtime and liability), that will probably prohibit that from happening.

Attendance to reunions was addressed several times with participants dismayed at the lack of locals (Dodge City and surrounding areas) showing up for events along with the small representation from the 80s. The majority still prefer getting their alumni news from the mass email mailings but understood the necessity of Facebook representation.

Few had issue with the amount charged for yearly dues and a significant number believe we should move to a "Pay as You Go" for meals and activities rather than an all-inclusive fee adjusted for inflation.

So with that, let's move on to the percentages and comments. The number in parentheses after each question reflects how many answered that particular question.

1. I attended (42)

High School	14.3%
College	76.2%
Both	7.1%
Other	2.4%

There were no responses from Academy or Faculty

2. We currently gather every three years for an "All Schools" reunion, usually the second weekend in June. Would you prefer: (41)

Keep the second June weekend	63.4%
Meet in early spring (April/May)	2.4%
Meet in late summer (July/August)	12.2%
Meet in early fall (September/October)	22.0%

3. Currently, yearly dues are \$25. Would you prefer it to: (41)

Remain the same	92.7%
Be reduced to \$10	2.4%
No dues at all	4.9%

4. Usually reunion fees run \$100 per person and includes dues, registration and all meals. Going forward would you

Continue with the all-inclusive fee adjusted for inflation	70.7%
Pay as you go for meals and activities	29.3%

5. What activities would you like to see included during the 2024 reunion (i.e., Friday Social, Saturday Luncheon, Saturday Banquet, golf, softball, card tournaments, tours, more free time, Saturday Mass option, other)? (28)

- Plan accordingly—Marlene Schlereth (1963)
- Friday Social, Saturday Banquet—Mark Vossmer (C76)
- Golf, more social times with friends, more time spent on the campus-- Michael Kelly Joyce (C88)
- Any/all listed above—Blair Quinn (C75)
- Saturday Banquet & Mass—Evelyn Stegman (1969)
- Friday Social, Saturday Luncheon, Saturday Banquet, softball—Drew Naccarato (1969)
- Friday Social, Saturday Luncheon, Saturday Banquet—Gregory Lix (1969)
- Saturday Mass option—Eric Flax (C87)
- Pickleball-- if there are any courts that are marked for it would be nice—Ricardo Vieyra (C72)
- Rehearsal with College music majors that sang with the Campanile Singers. A Memorial Mass dedicated to past SMP teachers, i.e., Sister Christian Rosner, Gordon Corwin, Sister MelEsa, Sister Agnes Theresa, etc. A musical reunion of the Missa Bossa Nova and play/sing for Mass—Lewis Cisto (1969)
- Friday social, Saturday lunch & banquet, dance following with a quieter space close by for more socializing, open time scheduled to tour current facilities, Boot Hill, etc.—Treva Batman Brewster (C90)
- SMPC Trivia contest maybe by decade, a group Boot Hill museum time, maybe feature “groups” like Spearville students, the singing groups, football, etc.—Kenneth Ebert (C75)
- Same as this year. Maybe add access to Hennessey to look around—Michael Arel (82)
- I think the activities are fine, the golf is always fun and the luncheon and banquet are a great time to catch up with classmates and teachers—Bryan Foreman
- Saturday Banquet—Eugena Stanley (C82)
- Softball game would be nice, Friday social, Saturday banquet—Stephen Triggs (C90)
- The schedule is fine as it is/was this year—Greta Suttle (Clark) (1969)
- Friday social, tours, golf, free time/Mass option/Saturday Mass option/Saturday banquet—Thomas Schroeder (C89)
- Friday social, Saturday luncheon & banquet, golf, Saturday Mass—Bob Holmes (1962)
- Golf, bike rides, swimming, Saturday banquet—Jim Streit (C72)
- Friday social, Saturday dinner—Anthony Modzelewski (C78)
- Social, luncheon, banquet, Saturday Mass at the banquet site—Karen O’Neil Bunker (C75)
- Friday night social and Saturday night with DJ, golf on Saturday. Keep everything in Dodge City where the motels, etc., are. Maybe use SAC or Hennessey Hall for some functions—Jerald Kemmerer (C85)
- All the above—Louis Mages (1966)
- Friday social, Saturday luncheon & banquet, Saturday Mass—John Wahlmeier (1960)

- Friday social, Saturday luncheon & banquet, alumni meeting, tours of Dodge City and SMP—Elizabeth Early (Spiker) (1969)
- Golf, Saturday Mass—Terry Fattor (C70)
- Friday social, Saturday luncheon, business meeting & banquet, golf, Sunday Mass—Michael Pearl (C72)

6. Would you be interested in serving on the Reunion Committee? (32)

- Dr. Lewis Cisto
- Kenneth Ebert
- Mike Arel
- Geni Stanley
- Elizabeth Spiker
- Michel Pearl

7. Would you consider serving as a Board member? (28)

- Geni Stanley
- Anthony Modzelewski
- Elizabeth Spiker

8. Are you registered on the SMP website? (41)

9. If you are not registered on our website, why not? (N/A)

10. Do you check the website on a regular basis? (41)

- Yes 75.6%
- No 24.4%

11. What sections do you visit the most often?

- All Pages 26.7%
- Trivia 0.0%
- In Memoriam 22.7%
- Classmate Profiles 28.0%
- The President's Message 21.3%
- Other 1.3%

12. Does the President's Message have merit? (37)

- Depends on the issue—Marlene Schlereth
- Yes, very much. I look forward to reading Bev's words of wisdom. I do really enjoy them — Joseph Gulino
- Yes—always interesting—Mark Vossmer
- Yes, I love to read that message every time it is sent out—Michael Kelly Joyce
- Yes—Blair Quinn, Roland Pierce, Evelyn Stegman, Drew Naccarato, Constant La Forge, Ricardo Vieya, Gregory Lix, Louis Cisto, Treva Batman Brewster, Alford Williams, Kenneth Ebert, Cecilia Lutz, Eugenia Stanley, Stephen Triggs, Greta Suttle, Thomas Schroeder, Bob Holmes, Jim Streit, Anthony Modzelewski, Robert Guptill, Karen O'Neal Bunker, Louis Mages, John Wahlmeier, Michael Pearl

- Absolutely, it's the only way to keep up with SMP and the direction of the Alumni Association and events as well as the President's insight—Bryan Foreman

13. Are you a SMP Facebook friend? (40)

- Yes 30.0%
- No 70.0%

14. Do you get most of your SMP alumni news/information from our website?

- Yes 90.0%
- No 10.0%

15. How often do you check our website? (44)

- Daily 2.3%
- Weekly 13.6%
- Monthly 7.3%
- A couple of times a year 15.9%
- Whenever I get a mass email 40.9%

16. What is your preferred method of receiving upcoming SMPAA news and events?

- Website 42.1%
- Facebook 10.5%
- Mass Email 47.4%
- Snail Mail 0.0%

17. I think the Alumni Association should close as it has outlived its purpose. (43)

- No— Kenneth Ebert, Thomas Schroeder, Jim Streit, Anthony Modzelewski
- Yes— Stick to Facebook for greater following-- Alford Williams
- There are too many people from SMP that are still around and it's neat to hear their stories. Maybe in another 20 years it will cease due to age, but for now it needs to stay—Larry G. Neuschafer
- Absolutely not! It should run as long as it can. I so look forward to this every three years. Quite frankly every two years would be great—Joseph Gulino
- No, anything that maintains SMPC communications alive is a good thing—Mark Vossmer
- No, there are still too many of us around—Michael Kelly Joyce
- Hopefully the alumni association will continue, allowing us to remember the great times enjoyed in Dodge—Blair Quinn
- No, it provides a useful communication means—Roland Pierce
- No, it still of value even though the high school and college have been closed for a long time—Evelyn Stegman
- No, there are still a lot of us around and we want to keep that Crusader & Cavalier spirit alive—Drew Naccarato
- There are a lot of alumni around yet and it's good to get together—Gregory Lix
- We each have our own SMP story. Why we attended, friendships that were made and common experiences unique to SMP alumni. I still have a desire to rekindle those memories. The Alumni Association keeps me connected to those—Eric Flax
- While we still have long-term memory we should continue to have the Alumni Association—Ricardo Vieyra

- No, I specifically am interested in hearing about my classmates. I recently started communicating with Lee Ziegler and really enjoy hearing from him. I'm especially interested in hearing from or about Phil Meng, Jim Norton, Warren Carlstrom, Sharon Suthers, Kris Urig, Tommy Mullen, Rueben Corona, Gordon Corwin (music director)—Lewis Cisto
- It's needed to keep alumni connected and to continue to provide reunions—Treva Batman Brewster
- There is a fellowship among the graduates and attendees of the college that should be maintained. Attending the Reunion this year and seeing classmates gave more depth and substance to the emotional ties—Michael Arel
- We are getting older but I still think there's good participation at the reunions and we should carry on—Bryan Foreman
- It is sharing a part of our history—Cecilia Lutz
- How sad we even have considered closing the association. There are so many people that still enjoy reliving their college days—Eugena Stanley
- It's nice to come back and see friends and the school—Stephen Triggs
- People are interested in staying in touch if even slightly—Greta Suttle
- No it shouldn't close. I am grateful for the diligence of those that work for us. I live too far away to be a part of what is going on so I rely on the Alumni Association—Claudette McCammond (Katzenmeier)
- Every good school should have an alumni association—Bob Holmes
- While we are getting older and a day may come when this is true, at present this site is a great way to keep in touch and stay abreast of our friends and former classmates—Robert Guptill
- The alumni association is basically all we have left of our dear school and I am not ready to sever that connection... gratitude to all who keep it alive—Karen O'Neil Bunker
- Definitely not!—Jerald Kemmerer
- This is all that is left. The Viet Nam Memorial was a good example of the need to continue—Louis Mages
- The alumni association keeps people in contact with old classmates. Even though it has been 61 years since I graduated I still am interested in what my old classmates are doing. Yes, some have passed on but that does not make me forget about all of those who are still living. I know and realize that there are only a few active board members. THANKS to you the association is still active. Keep up the good work—John Wahlmeier
- No the Alumni Association HAS NOT OUTLIVED its purpose. It should continue as long as there are Alumni willing and able to meet—Elizabeth Early (Spiker)
- No, but understand the difficulty to keep going—Terry Fattor
- Should NOT close. Its purpose of connecting alumni continues. Being in operation probably encouraged Kansas Wesleyan University to add SMPC to its Legacy program—Michael Pearl

18. Additional Comments (16)

- SMOP HS & College are a BIG part of my family's history. Thank you for keeping it alive—Drew Naccarato
- Definitely enjoy the email updates that are sent out—Gregory Lix
- I understand the Campus has gone through some significant and traumatic changes with the Chapel being used as a dance studio, the dorms torn down and subsequently giving a real bummer of an experience for returning alumni. My memories of my time at SMOP are really

precious to me. It was a golden moment in my life. I don't think returning to the Campus would be positive. I was really saddened to hear "my" undergrad school was gone—Lewis Cisto

- Have a list of local bars & available events happening in the area so folks that want to socialize later on Friday and Saturday have options of where to go. Maybe even bring in a band or DJ to one of the local establishments for both nights just for SMPC alumni. Maybe recreate some of the dances, i.e., barn dance one night and Blue and White another. Maybe rent SAC. These are suggestions, but appreciate very much the work and what has been provided for alumni at the reunions through the years. Thanks—Treva Batman Brewster
- Maybe a more appealing venue for the Saturday banquet. The fellowship was the main thing but it might draw folks if it was held at a nicer, more modern place. Overall, the effort of the board and committee was appreciated. We are grateful—Michael Arel
- It's disappointing that there are so many graduates from in and around Dodge that don't come to the reunions. Wish there was a way to get more local participation—Bryan Foreman
- We need to a way to get Dodge City alumni to help more with planning so they will participate in the reunion. Maybe a SMPC dinner once a year at Cowtown in the back room that holds about 100. If we could get 25 people it would spark some interest—Gena Stanley
- Reunions in Dodge City are difficult for alums who live thousands of miles away. Maybe regional groups could be re-invented to serve us on a venue closer to home—Bob Holmes
- Thank you for keeping this site alive and worthwhile!—Robert Guptill
- When I go to the reunions, I really just want to visit, not go anywhere else for extraneous activities—Karen O'Neal Bunker
- Need to book ahead of time some of the old places like the lounge at KC Hall, Stonewall's if available, SAC and/or Hennessey Hall—Jerald Kemmerer
- Continue the reunions. The one thing that keeps me alert and appreciating life is getting news from the Alumni Association—John Wahlmeier