



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the NMH Alumni Association  
June 5, 2021  
(This virtual event replaced the Association's June 5, 2021 in  
person annual meeting, cancelled due COVID-19.)**

Molly Goggins Talbot '93, P'21, Association President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to Reunion 2021 and our second virtual Alumni Association Meeting. She reminded us that all those who have attended NMH are automatically members of the 30,000 strong Alumni Association, represented and guided by the Alumni Council.

Molly remarked that the 2020-2021 year presented unique challenges and expressed pride that NMH was able to safely conduct school on campus all year long – a remarkable accomplishment. During the February participation fundraising event, NMH Gives, a record number of alumni/ae challenged each other to raise 1.4 million dollars for the NMH Fund. In a show of leadership, the eighty members of the Alumni Council raised nearly \$80,000 toward financial aid for the NMH Fund – again surpassing our goal of raising enough funds to cover a year's tuition. Molly encouraged others to join the Council's efforts.

Molly then thanked the following members of the Alumni Council who are rolling off their committees at the end of their terms in June 2021: from the Advancement Committee, Gail Doolittle '89 and Rebecca Eldridge Capasso '05; from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Leticia Devonish '91 and Geoff Locke '86; from the Reunion Advisory Committee, Steve Green '87, Sara Simon Stevens '64, and Ryan Fluence '10; and from the Strategic Advisory Committee, Ethan Yake '97. We will welcome 11 new members to the Council in FY'22.

Thanks were also given to all the staff who supported and executed the virtual Reunion 2021. Molly specifically mentioned Phil Hood, Julia Farmer, Heather Card, Lisa Robinson, Jocelyn Merrick, Olivia Murphy, and all of the class reunion leaders who worked together to make the weekend possible.

Leigh Hansson '71, 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion co-chair, was introduced to share a Moment of Silence reflection. As the sixth member of her family to attend the Northfield Mount Hermon schools, beginning with her great grandmother, class of 1894, Leigh expressed a respect for school history. This was especially significant as the Northfield and Mount Hermon classes of 1971 were the last to graduate from

single-sex campuses. The school has “changed dramatically over the past 50 years in order to remain vibrant, relevant, and to thrive as times, society, and student needs changed.” Leigh stated her Northfield education prepared her well for all her academic endeavors and as a future leader in a changing world. She also shared her appreciation for sacred and choral music, cherished traditions, and lifelong friendships. Leigh then invited us to be silent and consider what we would now share with our eighteen-year-old selves.

Wendy Alderman Cohen '67, Secretary of the Association, announced that our required quorum of 200 alumni was not met with only approximately 170 virtual attendees. Unfortunately, the lack of quorum meant that we could not vote to approve minutes of the October 3, 2020 virtual meeting or elect officers. She then explained that should attendees exceed the required 200 during any remaining portion of the meeting, we would return to the voting process. (NOTE: A quorum was not reached before adjournment. However, the Association by-laws contained a provision to fill vacant officer positions and on July 1, 2021, Andrew Ness '04 was re-elected as Executive Vice-president; Wendy Alderman Cohen '67 was elected as Vice-president; and Mary-Jane Atwater '66, P'96 was elected as Secretary by unanimous approval of the Executive Committee.)

Head of School, Brian Hargrove P'24, shared highlights from the campus via a pre-recorded video message. Standing on the front steps of Memorial Chapel, he remarked on all the amazing physical changes on the campus. The Guilder Science Center is rising and will be in use in the fall; the James gym will boast the Calagione Fitness Center; the McCollum Hockey Arena is being enclosed, and a new wrestling venue is being developed.

Hargrove outlined the impact of Covid on the school year. In August, students returned to campus with cautious optimism and began thirty-five weeks of successful living and learning with short intervals of post-vacation quarantining. Faculty, students, and staff rose to the challenge of utilizing several modalities of instruction. The year saw 9,000 Covid tests administered with fewer than ten total Covid cases on campus. In the spring, some athletic competitions returned along with Sacred Concert, all culminating in a safe graduation in May. It was truly a year like no other.

Hargrove announced several other important highlights of the year. Thanks to alumni/ae and families, the NMH Fund is at the precipice of five million dollars, a new hallmark. The surge in interest and enrollment is at its highest level since the two campuses were consolidated. For the next year, we are looking forward to a more typical, but vaccinated, school experience and the ability to welcome more visitors to campus.

The address continued with an outline of the Strategic Plan, newly adopted by the Board of Trustees. There are three overarching tenets of the plan. The first is to invest in our people through increasing financial aid to historical levels and renewing support for faculty and professional development. The second tenet is

to continue developing a tremendous academic program to enable students “to serve with humanity and purpose and giving them the tools to do so.” The third branch of the plan reflects a commitment to sustainability of both our campus environment and financial resources through responsible stewardship.

Brian happily announced that in-person reunion will return to campus in June 2022 and will include those classes who missed their 2020 and 2021 reunions due to Covid cancellations. The classes celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> and older reunions will gather June 3-5 and those honoring their 5<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> reunions will celebrate on June 10-12.

Brian then closed by thanking everyone for their commitment to NMH and their willingness to engage with other alumni and the school. He reminded us all that “We are doing remarkable things.”

Next on the agenda was the announcement of the Alumni Association’s annual award winners as detailed by Tom Baxter ’59, chair of the Awards Committee.

**Alumni Citations** were awarded to Dorcas Platt Abell ’41, Caro Woolley Peterson ’56, Sandi Scopteuolo ’61, Lynn Gilligan Everhart ’66, Cathy DiMiceli Maisie ’81, Julia Callahan Streit ’86, Juan Garcia ’91, Tanya Luthi ’96

**The Josie Rigby Spirit Award** was presented to Christopher A. Zissi ’01

**The Young Alumni Awards** were presented to Amanda Kusek ’06 and Kate Hayes ’06

**The Community Service Award** was presented to Carleton Kendrick Finch ’41

**The William H. Morrow Award** was presented to Bob Cooley

**The Distinguished Service Award** was presented to Marshall L. Horowitz D.D.S. ’71

**The Lamplighter Award** was presented to Edwin Finch ’46

Molly thanked Tom and the Awards Committee for all their hard work.

We next listened to a rousing version of Jerusalem, lead by alumni from the class of 2020.

Molly then adjourned the meeting at 1:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Alderman Cohen ’67

Alumni Association Secretary