

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
1760 Third Avenue - 18th Floor
New York, NY 10029**

MINUTES

DATE: May 21, 1995
TIME: 10:15 AM
PLACE: Florence Nightingale Nursing Home

Attending:

Saul Grossman (Presiding), Abraham C. Bein, Norman Bernstein, Julie Chan, Norman Cohen, Alvin Dobsevege, Robert Edelstein, Al Feld, Lester Friesner, Jerry Halpern, Sam Malkin, Norman Merino, Burton Milenbach, Lani Muller, Te Hsing Niu, Maurice Paprin, Ted Peck (Secretary, Pro-tem), Clarence Shapiro, Henry Shereff, Charles Sigety, Craig Slutzkin, Thomas Sweetin, John Walcer.

Because of the large representation from the Florida Chapter, the President opened the meeting with a request that each alumnus and alumna introduce himself or herself to the group with brief biographical data.

Out-of-Town Chapters:

Saul Grossman opened discussion on this topic with a report on his upcoming visit to the Phoenix and Los Angeles Chapters. Arrangements have already been made for Saul to lunch with the alumni at these two locations and bring them up to date on current activities. He is taking along photographs of the new Townsend Harris building.

Saul Grossman then brought up the subject of the apparent discontent of the Florida Chapter as relayed to the Board in a series of letters -- particularly one by Morton Greene. Mr. Greene seemed to indicate a desire to cut off contact with the national Alumni Association.

Saul Grossman had earlier distributed copies of a memorandum prepared by Julie Graber in anticipation of expected criticism from the Florida representatives. Julie, as Treasurer, pointed out that the organization's tax-deductible status was based on its involvement with the educational activities of the re-opened Townsend Harris. To the extent that we report such activities to the IRS as the principal and primary concern of the Alumni Association, we will continue to enjoy tax-deductibility for our dues and contributions from supporters -- including the THETA Fund.

Norman Merino, President of the Florida Chapter, interrupted at this point with an emotional *cri de coeur* that provided a better understanding of the seeming conflict. Florida members were not interested in pulling away from the parent body, but on the contrary, wanted a closer relationship. Most of the Florida members took an interest and pride in the re-opened school, but they needed more information and news, not less. Mr. Merino expressed surprise that the Florida Chapter's position was so misunderstood that the Board was bringing up matters like tax-deductions.

Jerry Halpern pointed out to Norm Merino and the Florida representatives that Julie Graber is the Association's Treasurer and has the responsibility of dealing with the IRS and other government entities. It is only natural that he sees any conflict or misunderstanding in terms of its impact on his areas of major interest and responsibility.

Al Feld and John Walcer took turns supporting Norm Merino's position. Norm Merino then brought up the question of a new Membership Directory, indicating that this is the kind of "communication" that Florida is looking for. Saul Grossman promised that a new Directory would be out before the end of the year. He pointed out that with old alumni retiring and dying, and young alumni at college or changing jobs, it would probably be better to distribute a simple computer print-out more frequently than a printed and bound publication which could only be produced every five-years or so.

Discussing the flow of information from Florida to New York, Norm Merino said that he sends every meeting notice and news item to Irv Gerber. Les Friesner asked to be put on the Florida mailing list, too. That way he can discuss the editorial content of the newsletter with Irv. The Florida people indicated their appreciation for Maury Paprin's addressing their group a couple of times. A suggestion from Saul that Florida might like to plan and produce a Hall of Fame dinner of their own -- with the selection of inductees to be approved by the national organization -- was met with limited enthusiasm. Norm Merino pointed out again that Florida does not want a separate identity, but wants to be included in the overall programs and agendas.

School Contact Report

Tom Sweetin reported that Army Archerd, the Hollywood columnist and a member of the Townsend Harris Hall of Fame, is the principal speaker at this year's commencement. Apparently, Mr. Archerd has let the school know that he expects to be picked up at the airport and delivered back to the airport by limousine. Mr. Sweetin asked the Board if the Alumni Association would authorize \$100 for a limousine. A motion to provide the \$100 was made, seconded and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Sweetin was asked about the availability of parking near the school for the upcoming breakfast Membership Meeting scheduled for June 25, 1995 in the school cafeteria. Mr. Sweetin did not know if the Melbourne Avenue gate would or would not be open. But he indicated that since it will be Sunday, there should be plenty of parking space on Melbourne Avenue itself, as well as other campus parking areas.

THETA Fund Report

Ted Peck reported that the Grant Distribution Committee, under Chairman Jerry Chazen, held its first conference-call meeting. Mr. Chazen asked Jerry Halpern and Julie Chan to serve on the committee with him. Their first grant request came from Principal Mal Largmann who asked for about \$1,000 to send a member of the staff to a four-day training session to learn how to coordinate the computer network in the new building. The request was approved.

Mr. Peck also reported that Leon Levy selected investment advisor Harold Jaffa '40, and George Weissman, Chairman Emeritus of Philip Morris, to serve on the Investment Committee of which Mr. Levy is Chairman. Although the committee has made no recommendations as yet, Mr. Peck reported that Finance Committee Chairman Julius Graber had indicated that \$100,000 would be available in June for investment.

Charles Sigety reported on his discussions with members of the Annenberg family and of his hope that they can be convinced to provide matching funds for the THETA Fund. Jerry Halpern asked how much THETA had raised in gifts and pledges. Ted Peck said the total was about \$475,000, but that the \$100,000 challenge grant for teaching Hebrew might never be received.

Saul Grossman said that after Joe Flom served as Principal for the Day at Townsend Harris he promised to provide the funds to replace the school van. It is expected that this will mean about \$30,000 more for the THETA Fund. Mr. Flom also discussed the possibility of providing scholarship funds for those graduates who are accepted at leading schools but cannot attend because scholarships leave them well short of the monies required for tuition, books and room and board.

Two more requests for grants from the THETA Fund were received from Mr. Largmann. These were turned over to Mr. Halpern for consideration by the Grants Distribution Committee.

Insurance and Legal

Mr. Halpern reported that an insurance policy covering Directors and Officers of the Board is now in effect.

In reviewing the minutes of previous meetings, Mr. Halpern noted that while Gene Heil had been duly elected Vice Chairman of the Board, the By-Laws of the Alumni Association do not indicate that such a position exists. Mr. Halpern suggested that a motion be made to create such a position and put it into the By-Laws retroactively. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Jerry Halpern noted that he has been serving as the sole member of the Nominating Committee. The question arose, because at the upcoming General Meeting on June 25, 1995, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers and directors for the membership to vote for or against. Jerry pointed out that in reviewing the list of officers and directors, he discovered that there are 22 directors from the old alumni, six from post-1984 classes and Mal Largmann and PTA representative Tom Sarcina as *ex officio* members of the Board. The present officers of the Alumni Association include: Henry Shereff '36, Chairman; Gene Heil '16, Vice Chairman; Saul Grossman '39, President; Maurice Paprin '36, Vice President; Julius Graber '40, Treasurer; Lester Friesner '36, Corresponding Secretary; Dana Zachary '88, Recording Secretary; and, Irving Gerber '43, Executive Director.

Jerry Halpern called attention to the fact that with Gene Heil's election to Vice Chairman, one Vice President slot was unfilled. Julie Chan was nominated to fill the position, and she was elected unanimously by voice vote.

When the Chair asked for volunteers to serve with Jerry Halpern on the Nominating Committee, Lani Muller, Beat Milenbach, Henry Shereff and Lester Friesner all volunteered and were accepted. Their first task was to review and complete the list of new alumni who have been recommended for the Board by Mal Largmann, but have never been voted on by the Board itself.

Newsletter Committee Report

Lester Friesner reported on a meeting with Saul Grossman and Irving Gerber. The original idea of featuring the seeming unhappiness of the Florida Chapter on the front page of the next newsletter was scrapped. Instead, it was agreed that Norman Cohen, Abe Bein and Charley Sigety would submit articles to replace the material being deleted. The newsletter would, therefore be delayed.

Lester Friesner addressed the Florida representatives, again reminding them to send news releases and reports to him as well as Irv Gerber.

At this point, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.