

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/ ASSOCIATION

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Incorporating Changes: A Special Report

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In the last issue of *AlumNotes*, we announced the Executive Committee's exciting proposal for the Association, which will be presented to the general membership at the Reunion meeting on June 1st. Because we want as many alums as possible to come to Reunion and vote on the proposal, and we know that nobody enjoys protracted discussion about by-laws changes, this special mailing is devoted entirely to the proposal. We hope it will answer most of your questions.

Q: What exactly is the proposal?

A: The proposal is to establish the Association as an independent non-profit organization. The Executive Committee is recommending that the members approve the transfer of the Association's current membership and assets to a newly-created not-for-profit corporation to be known as the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. This will involve

some changes to the organization's structure.

Q: Who can vote on the proposal?

A: Members in good standing can vote on the proposal. Ballots will be available at Reunion. To be a member in good standing you must be current on dues. If you have any doubt about your dues status, call the Association office between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm EDT any weekday. Now that we've finished entering 2,000+ changes

to the new database, we can answer your question within seconds.

Q: Why incorporate?

A: Incorporating as an independent non-profit allows the Association to support the High School more actively and effectively, and to create a more visible presence for the High School and its alums. It allows the Association to do active fundraising for the High School and to solicit charitable contributions for the High School for the



first time. If, as expected, the IRS grants our application for tax-exempt status, all contributions to the new Association will be fully tax-deductible.

Q: What will change about the Association's structure, and why are the changes being made?

A: We need to change our structure to comply with the laws that govern our new status as an independent not-for-profit. Apart from a larger, more vigorous Association with more active membership participation opportunities, the main change that members will see is in the governing body. Currently, members vote for a proposed slate of officers and members-at-large. These elected representatives, together with past presidents and with committee chairs appointed by the current president, form the Executive Committee. In the new corporation, members would vote for a slate of directors who would comprise a Board of Directors not unlike the Executive Committee. The proposed Board would have fifteen members, with five members up for re-election each year. After a brief transition period, Board members would serve for three-year terms. A Board member may serve only two consecutive terms but is free to serve on the Board again after a one-year hiatus. Officers will

be selected from among the Board members by the Board.

Q: Why is the Executive Committee recommending this particular structure?

A: After considering a number of options, the Executive Committee decided to recommend this structure because it strikes a nice balance between retaining experienced directors and encouraging new participants. Following the generally-accepted form of a corporate board helps ensure that our new standing will be approved by the multiple government agencies involved without unusual problems or delays.

Q: Why are there fewer officers?

A: From an organizational standpoint, it is more efficient to have clearly delineated positions and duties and to know exactly who is on the Board. While most non-profits have smaller boards, it was felt that this was the largest practical size that would allow for maximum participation from different membership segments.

Q: Don't members have less say in how things are run if officers aren't elected directly?

A: The new structure doesn't diminish the amount of control that members have. In the existing structure, the Executive Committee proposes a slate which members then vote for. In the new corporation, members still elect the Board, which in turn selects the officers. It is foreseeable that Board nominees will express interest in officer positions.

Because the new structure allows for mail ballots for the first time, more members than ever before will be able to participate in elections.

Q: How can members run for the Board?

A: The expectation is that it will be easy to nominate yourself or another member. For continuity's sake, during the first year after incorporation the Board will consist of the members of the existing Executive Committee. These 21 members, who are named in the Certificate of Incorporation, were all elected or appointed by the current

Moving? Let us know.

We don't want to lose touch with you.

If you're planning to move or if you know of a classmate who has moved, don't forget to call the Association office at (212) 772-4079 or use the membership form on page 3 to let us know. The Post Office will not forward *AlumNotes*.



president. After the first year, five positions will open up on the Board every year.

Q: How can we keep tabs on the Board?

A: The new structure imposes more stringent requirements for accounting and record-keeping on the new Board than the old structure allowed for. Coupled with increased efforts to distribute *AlumNotes* more frequently and the development of email and web-based communications, it should be easier than ever for members to know what's going on and to get involved.

Q: How does this affect the dues structure?

A: The dues structure is not directly changed by the fact of incorporation. The Board may make changes in the dues structure at some future time, and it is anticipated that any changes implemented will include the provision of benefits and incentives for paid membership.

Q: How does this affect my taxes?

A: The Association has made and will continue to make all possible efforts to ensure that any contribution coming in to the Association that is ear-

AlumNotes

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YES! I want to be a member in good standing of the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association

Class of '96: Gift Membership NO CHARGE Class of '95, '94, '93: \$7.00

Class of '92 and earlier: \$20.00 Reunion '97: \$23.00/person in advance (\$28.00 at door)

PLEASE FILL OUT FORM BELOW

Years	#	Cost	\$
Class of '96		Gift Membership	NO CHARGE
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Reunion '97 (\$28.00 at door)		\$23.00	
Other			
TOTAL			\$

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First Name	Surname at Hunter	Current Surname (if different)	Year of Graduation
Street Address			
City	State	Zip	Telephone
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marked for the High School is promptly turned over to the High School. If, as expected, the IRS approves our application for independent tax-exempt status, any future contributions members make to the Association will be fully tax-deductible.

Q: Doesn't incorporating as a non-profit mean that we can't lobby for the High School?

A: A non-profit corporation can't endorse a particular candidate for public office or engage in significant lobbying efforts that aren't related to its reason for existence. Since

the new corporation, like the old organization, is created with the purpose of providing support for the High School, the change in structure will not diminish in any way our ability to rally behind the High School if there should be another threat to the High School's existence or if we decide to seek backing for a major project (like a new building) that requires governmental approval.

Q: What if I have more questions or I want a copy of the proposed Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws?

A: Write to the Association and a member of the Executive committee will respond. For a copy of the proposed Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws, send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope with \$1.01 in postage to the Association office.

DON'T FORGET!

Send in your registration for Reunion NOW, so that we can have your name tag and ballot ready when you walk in the door.

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