

**Elk County Catholic High School Alumni Association**  
**Minutes of the Fall Business Meeting**  
**October 14, 2025 Meeting**

The Elk County Catholic High School Alumni Association held its annual Fall Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building conference room.

The following were in attendance:

- President: Becky Schatz (2000)
- Vice President: Samantha Smith (2011)
- Director of Advancement: Franchesca “Frankie” Stubber Herzing (2005)
- Marketing and Communications Coordinator: Jessica VanAlstine Fritz (1996)
- Other alumni present include: Mary Pat Frey Dornish (1989); Devin Brock (1981)

### **I. Opening Prayer / Introductions**

President Becky Schatz opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with the reading of the Alumni Prayer.

### **II. Approval of Minutes / Correspondence**

The minutes from the Spring Business Meeting held May 13, 2025 were reviewed. Mary Pat Frey Dornish proposed changes to some topics. Under IV Topics of Discussion, it should say “The **2024** Share Your Career Day...” not 2025. Under VI Other Business, it should say “Midge **Lenze’s** involvement...” not Fritz’s. Pending corrections, Mary Pat Frey Dornish made a motion to approve the Spring Business Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Jessica VanAlstine Fritz, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence:

- Email from Kathy Reuscher saying the Golden Grads was wonderful. Her husband (Mike) is in the class of 1974.

### **III. Advancement Office Remarks**

Comments are included in discussion topics.

### **IV. Topics of Discussion**

- **2025 Fall Spirit Night - Not Held**

The 2025 Fall Spirit Night was not held. Future Fall Spirit Nights could be considered as part of the homecoming event or as a tailgate before a Thursday night soccer game. Discussion to be continued at the June 2026 meeting.

- **2025 Golden Grads Reunion - Sunday, October 5, 2025**

The 2025 Golden Grads event was held on Sunday, October 5, 2025. A discussion followed regarding the details of the event.

Roughly 94 people RSVP'd for the Golden Grads (including ECC staff and volunteers). Mr. Gelsick walked in (extra) that day. There were only 4 no shows. The honored class (Class of 1975) had a good turnout. The \$1,000 donation from the Class of 1975 was not included in the Golden Grads financial report. Franchesca Stubber Herzing will send them a thank you card.

A discussion was had regarding possible improvements for future Golden Grads. We need to rethink the special meal choices (blue name tag). Trouble knowing what special was needed. Maybe Mary Pat Frey Dornish should have a list? There were a lot of appetizers left over. Should we try new appetizers next year...meatballs? There were a lot of spills this year. The cups were too thin? Maybe consider buying better cups from Indus Sales for next year's event. The yearbooks that were put on display were enjoyed. Consider putting out all of the yearbooks next year.

Possible dates for Golden Grads 2026: October 4th or 11th? Kelly Breindel will be stepping down from leading the Golden Grads, but will still help. Who will be in charge next year? Should we ask classes for help? Possibly 1975 and 1974?

- **Other Topics of Discussion**
  - **Proposed Class Reunion Alumni Event**

A discussion with Devin Brock was held on a potential alumni event. It was decided that Saturday, August 8th or Saturday, August 15th would be the best possible dates to hold the event. The event would be held at ECC's field or ECC's parking lot. The event would be for ECC graduates 21+ and a guest. The event would include a beer booth, food trucks, and a band. Would possibly consider expanding the event in the future to offer a brewery tour, church tour, school tour, and mass.

Need to get internal support from the school (Ted Hanes, John Schneider, and Aaron Straub)...not just Franchesca Stubber Herzing and Jessica VanAlstine Fritz. Franchesca Stubber Herzing will email them to set up a meeting to discuss the event. Devin Brock should recruit a 5-10 person committee to help plan the event. He will also reach out to the class representatives from the anniversary classes to coordinate and hopefully draw more alumni in to participate in the event. The Advancement office could assist with the marketing and class lists as well as the alumni reunion emails and website.

May need / want to discuss with the following people:

- Liquor license - Becky Gabler (Mary Pat Frey Dornish will reach out), Mary Lynn Carnovale, and Amanda Wingard.

- Tents - Tent Express
- Electrical needs - Ralph Swackhammer (There are no lights at the field. Will the event be held early, or will we need temporary lights?)

Alumni Association members will look for postcards that they have received for other alumni events to use as an example.

## **V. Upcoming Events**

- **Share Your Career Day - December 2025**

The 2025 Share Your Career Day will be held in December 2025 (date not confirmed). Looking to revamp the program, but need further discussions to be held. There were multiple good ideas brought up at the Spring 2025 meeting that can be shared with the administration such as including all grades, changing the length of the presentations, having stations so students can visit multiple presenters, etc. Speakers from many professions, including trades, are expected.

- **Winter Spirit Night - January / February 2026**

The 2026 Winter Spirit Night was discussed, and the Friday January 23rd game against Punxsy was determined to be the best date for the event. Franchesca Stubber Herzing will discuss the date availability with Aaron Straub, and Becky Schatz will check with Gunners. The frisbee game will be played.

- **Alumni Pinning Ceremony - May 2026**

The 2026 Alumni Pinning will tentatively be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. There are around 52 seniors. Jessica VanAlstine Fritz will check the pin inventory. Blankets will be ordered for the students. We need to communicate to the students that the blankets are gifts for the students themselves, not the pinners. A previous suggestion was made to give rosaries handmade by the students to the pinners as a 'thank you' that would be more meaningful (and less costly) than previous gifts, but no decision was made.

- **Other Upcoming Events**

## **Other Business**

- **Alumni Room**

- A writeup about the Alumni Room and Midge Lenze's involvement was previously drafted and reviewed. Mary Pat Frey Dornish will call Marsan O'Leary to discuss possible layouts and how to display the alumni materials. Work will continue on the alumni materials to display. (A timeline display was previously discussed and at a past meeting a type of "History of Catholic Education" theme was suggested to be reflected in the pictures and memorabilia.)

- **Alumni Officers**
  - Alumni Officer positions we discussed, and the alumni officer term lengths were questioned. Per the bylaws, terms are two years.
  
- **Bylaw Review**
  - A workshop should be held in the future to review the current bylaws, and draft any proposed bylaw changes / updates. Becky Schatz gave Samantha Smith a copy of the current bylaws. Becky Schatz will text Samantha Smith and Kelly Ehrensberger Breindel to either set up an in person meeting to review the bylaws, or they will review them via email.
  
- **Other Alumni Plans and Events**
  - Previously, there was a discussion about holding “Paint and Sips”. Further discussion should be held in the future.
  - Updating the class representatives and identifying active alumni are both great opportunities that may help improve alumni participation.
  - It was suggested that holding Alumni Work sessions to address alumni info, the bylaws, and other items in addition to the 2 regular meetings would be beneficial to increase the Alumni Association’s effectiveness.
  
- **Alumni Reunion E-mail**
  - Previously, it was determined that an Alumni Reunion E-mail for all Anniversary Classes could be developed and sent each year. Who will be in charge of this? Email addresses will need to be updated. What should be included?

## **VI. New Business**

No new business.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

The Spring 2026 Alumni Association Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the administration conference room.

## **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Mary Pat Frey Dornish made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Franchesca Stubber Herzing seconded the Motion.

The meeting was concluded at approximately 8:00 pm after completing the Our Father as the Closing Prayer.