

From the Association president...

This space highlights current issues and meetings as well as upcoming events, decisions, and volunteer “opportunities”.

Keith Kaniut



April 23, 2007 – The A-Section academic term has ended and B-Section is now in session. Spring has also finally arrived and my A-section son is back home with us while working his co-op job in Troy. A new student representative attended our meeting this month: Brad Sewell from Dayton, Ohio. Welcome Brad and thanks for your input! We covered a lot of ground at the Saturday (4/21) meeting that I want to highlight here.

First: A fond “**Thanks and Farewell**” to our friend **Ralph Gruss**, long-time member and enthusiastic supporter of the Parents Association and Kettering University. His son Alexander graduated in March so Ralph no longer has an excuse to make the long drive to Flint from his home in northern lower Michigan. We congratulate Ralph on his son’s graduation. This is an important and welcome milestone for everyone, especially those helping foot the bills!

Ralph was the Association President two years ago when my son started at Kettering and I became his Vice President that first summer. Last summer we swapped jobs as he prepared for his son’s imminent graduation. He is a cheerfully reliable and enthusiastic volunteer. He is also our resident “expert” on all questions related to the Parents Association history, by-laws and its interaction with the university. We’re going to miss Ralph and his humor and in a blatant effort to give him an excuse to occasionally travel down state, the Association Board has decided to create a new position with the title “Honorary Lifetime Member”.

Congratulations Ralph on your selection to this new position! This means that without specific invitation, you’re entitled to attend all future Association meetings and events! (No - that’s not a punishment....)

Ralph’s departure brings us to the second big item this month: **Elections**. At the two *Orientation Days* (July 12th for A-Section and October 4th for B-section), we will be talking about upcoming board and At-Large section representatives elections. One problem we hope to resolve with this year’s elections is: When do you hold elections in order to ensure fair representation from both A and B-section parents?

With the students (and their parents) divided into two sections there are no meetings where the two groups overlap. How can parents be introduced to all the candidates and how can we complete the elections in a timely manner?

Our solution this year is to introduce during *Orientation Days* anyone who wishes to volunteer. Those unable to attend can also volunteer to be a candidate by email. Then we'll post their names and a little info about them along with email addresses on the web page. On each *Family Day*, we'll review the list of candidates and vote. Between *Orientation* and *Family Days*, anyone who is unable to attend in person can vote by email (click on my email link below).

New for this year are four new volunteer positions for each section. These volunteers will serve two-years for continuity and help with any significant issues that affect students and parents in their section, as well as attend board meetings to report on and vote on these issues.

The benefits of being a Parent volunteer include meeting the faculty and staff who are responsible for making Kettering the outstanding educational opportunity it remains. Even more fun than this, you will meet the impressive young men and women who are attracted to Kettering University and its rigorous academic and professional education.

Parent volunteers who help at *Orientation Day*, *Family Day* and the various *Prep-For-Success* events each Spring will work with these exceptional young people whose enthusiasm for the university is contagious.

Please consider becoming an active member of the association. We need your inputs and talents. Over the past year I've talked here about new initiatives we'd like to pursue, including improved communications with all parents through the web site and mailings, sponsors for out-of-state students on co-op assignments, Local Emergency contacts, and web-based issues discussion and voting. We need your help to flesh out the details.

I am slowly building a list of parents interested in helping with some of our new projects. Please contact me by phone (248-755-4141) or email (kkaniut@tir.com) if you are interested in joining the fun.

Cordially,

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