

A Message from SCAA Board President Pete Samples, August 20, 2009

I know that many of you are questioning the status of the Association and are wondering why there has been little to no communication to its alumni family. I have received several emails confirming your thirst for information.

As you probably know, the 1914 building was demolished several months ago. Given that fact, its preservation was lost forever as a viable goal for the Association. As a direct result the Association deemed it necessary to revisit and revise its Mission Programs. In Addition, a revision of the Association's by-laws was completed as well. Unfortunately, the revision of the by-laws was prompted, primarily and part, by the Association's Board of Directors taking necessary disciplinary action against one of its officers for violation of state laws governing corporate charters.

Your Association's officers have dedicated much thought and consideration in the revision of both of these critical documents as they represent on paper the legal life-line and direction in which the Association is heading.

The Association is steadfast in its position to move forward in its attempt to accomplish two primary and critical goals. In looking forward, it must concentrate its efforts toward bringing together and unifying its existing and potential membership. While the battle over the years has left the alumni less a high school and the historic building which housed it, the Association's Board of Directors is dedicated to the preservation of its alumni, both active and inactive.

A second critical goal must be the preservation of the Association itself. The original incorporators intended that the Association work in partnership with St. Camillus Academy, the school, while at the same time, maintain its own separate identity. Legally, the school and the Association are two different entities. Thus, as for any non-profit, charitable organization, its primary goal is its own preservation. In order to have perpetual life, the Association must have perpetual membership and that can come only with a high school, whose graduates and attendees recognize and adopt the Association as its own. To that end, the Association will continue its efforts to attract and support the re-establishment of a catholic high school in the local geographical area, regardless of the catholic religious order which might operate or sponsor it.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our next alumni banquet. Peggy Smith, Director of Alumni Affairs, is presently putting together the details and will publish those soon.

In closing, I will respond to those members who have asked for my thoughts concerning the demolition of the historic 1914 building. This is my opinion only and does not necessarily represent that of the Board of Directors or its individual officers.

“The sisters, flexing their zeal while skillfully executing their long-laid plans to destroy the 1914 building, did so. It now lies, in part, within its own grave at the top of the hill. It’s now only a memory. Not so, had the sisters been business-minded visionaries. Now, I can’t help but recall the words of John Greenleaf Whittier – **‘For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: It might have been!’** But more than this, I often wonder if the sisters, during their moments of discernment, stopped to think about how Jesus would have handled the situation, with Him being a carpenter by trade and all. It just doesn’t seem plausible that He would have destroyed a monument bestowed with such architectural beauty and grace when there were viable options afloat to preserve and utilize it. Its demise was the easy way out.”