



October 2005 Newsletter

25th Annual Pig Roast a Huge Success – The 25th Annual Greater Susquehanna Valley Chapter Pig Roast was, again this year, a huge success. The Penn State Cheerleaders, The Nittany Lion, Roger Williams – Executive Director of the Penn State Alumni Association, John Black – Editor of the Penn State Alumni Association Football Letter and Alan Janesch – Director of the Penn State Grassroots Network were all in attendance along with over 300 Penn State Alumni, fans and supporters. Many thanks for your continued generosity benefiting our Annual Scholarship fund. We hope to see you again for the 26th Annual Chapter Pig Roast, Sunday August 27, 2006.



Chapter to Participate in Homecoming Parade – This year we are planning to march, as a chapter, in the annual Homecoming parade, which is scheduled to begin at approximately 6:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. All alumni groups are encouraged to participate in the parade, as this is one of the elements recognized as being an Alumni Group of Distinction. October 28th is full of various activities open to anyone wanting to participate and have fun. The day begins with an Ice Cream Social from 1pm – 4pm at the Hintz Family Alumni Center before the parade. Formation for the parade begins at 5pm with the parade beginning at 6pm. Upon completion of the parade there is an invitation only party being held at the Hintz Center for all parade participants. Please keep in mind that this is a by invitation only event and registration with our chapter is required. Please contact President Curt Rothermel at 966-7197 about any questions or to sign up. If you have never participated in this University sponsored event, it is truly an evening to remember. In addition to all the parade related activities, there is the traditional Guard the Lion vigil and the coronation of the Homecoming King and Queen. Other than the timeline for the parade, this is a very informal event that people can come and go as they please. Just come dressed for a night of Penn State pride. For those concerned about the distance required to walk, DJ Mapes has graciously agreed to drive his “bus” in the parade so that people can take a break throughout the parade walk or simply ride the entire route and enjoy everything the festivities have to offer. Don’t be shy, sign up, and we’ll see you at the PARADE.

Donation made to Endowed Scholarship Fund – At our October monthly meeting, chapter members voted to make a contribution to our Endowed Scholarship fund. This donation brings our principal contributions to over \$20,000.00. Through this Endowed Scholarship Fund young men and women from this area will always benefit through the awarding of Annual Scholarships. Through the last several years we have been able to award at least one \$1000 scholarship to a deserving student entering either their Junior or Senior year at Penn State. Thanks to your continued support of our chapter fund raising activities, we will be able to continue the tradition of awarding Endowed Scholarships for generations to come to deserving area students who have excelled in their continuing education at our beloved **PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**.

Katrina Fund Donation – Recently our chapter made a donation of \$500.00 to the Daily Item Katrina Relief Fund in the name of our Chapter. Through the continued support of all of our members and friends throughout the Greater Susquehanna Valley, we felt it only appropriate to help out the thousands of people displaced by hurricane Katrina. If you wish to make a donation to the Katrina relief fund, contact the Daily Item or visit them on the web at www.dailyitem.com.

Annual Christmas Party – Our chapter's annual Christmas Party, monthly meeting, will be held again this year at the Carriage Corner in Mifflinburg on Wednesday December 14, 2005 at 6:00pm. We would like to try something different this year by offering a buffet dinner, as opposed to ordering off the menu. The price of the buffet would be somewhere around \$15.00 per person and would include beverage and dessert. Hors d'oeuvre will be provided by the club. Also our annual donation of Christmas gifts for the Women in Transition organization will be collected at this event. If you would like to make a reservation or have any questions concerning this event, please contact President Curt Rothermel at 966-7197. Please mail your reservations, with a check made out to the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chapter, by December 7, 2005 so we can provide an accurate count to the Carriage Corner.

2006 Spring Meeting Dates – Chapter meetings for the spring of 2006 have been scheduled and are as follows – February 1, 2006 at the Towne Tavern in Lewisburg – March 1, 2006 at the Forest House in Forest Hills and April 5, 2006 at Vinnie's Pizza in Middleburg. If you need any more information about monthly chapter meetings, please contact secretary Tony Barnasconi at 988-6615.

Atlantic City Bus Trip – The chapter is planning on taking our annual bus trip to Atlantic City to a casino for the day on either April 1, 2006 or April 8, 2006. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us for a day of fun and gambling in Atlantic City. Also the chapter is looking into taking a one day bus trip to New York City sometime next summer. More details on this trip will be available in our spring newsletter. If you would like more information on the Atlantic City bus trip, please contact DJ Mapes at 966-1141.

Grassroots Network developing plans for fall initiative – The Penn State Grassroots Network is developing action plans to mobilize Network volunteers this fall in support of Penn State's 2006-07 budget goals, special long-range initiatives, and the state appropriation for the 2006-07 academic year.

In September, Penn State's Board of Trustees approved a budget request of \$354.4 million for the 2006-07 budget year and an innovative "tuition freeze" proposal. Under this proposal, Penn State has asked state government for a 9.5 percent overall increase in its annual state budget appropriation, in return for freezing tuition for nearly 38,000 students at 20 Penn State campuses.

The Grassroots Network is a legislative education and advocacy group. Created in fall 2002, it consists of nearly 35,700 Penn State alumni, parents, students, and friends who volunteer their time to learn about issues important to Penn State and to communicate the University's goals, contributions, initiatives, and needs to community leaders, policymakers, legislators, and government officials.

The Network's director is Alan Janesch '76, '00 MA, a resident of East Buffalo Township and a member of the Greater Susquehanna Valley chapter.

Under the Network's developing plans, Network volunteers will be asked to get involved as soon as October. Now in the works and still tentative, these plans are being based on consultation and conversations with Penn State's Office of Governmental Affairs, trustees, state legislators, other government officials, and state and federal legislative staff.

Major points in the plan may include:

- Urging Network volunteers to contact state officials in support of Penn State's appropriation request and "tuition freeze" proposal, during an October/December time frame.
- Focusing Network activity on specific Penn State initiatives that would benefit from state support; and
- Helping Network volunteers who live near specific Penn State locations to organize meetings with elected officials in their home district offices.

Again, these points are tentative at this stage. Details of the new Network action plan, as it develops, will be reported on in future Grassroots Network newsletters.

Janesch urges all chapter members to sign up as a member of the Network. To do that, go to www.alumni.psu.edu/grassroots, click on the "Subscribe" link, fill out the short online form, and hit "Submit." Soon afterwards, you'll receive an e-mail asking you to confirm your membership in the Network.