



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the NMH Alumni Association June 1, 2024

Welcome and Remarks by Brian H. Hargrove, Head of School

After a spirited processional into the NMH chapel, led by the Celebration Brass Band, at 3:40 pm Head of School Brian Hargrove welcomed alumni "back home to NMH." He recognized David Durham '49, who was attending his 75th reunion, and Supervisor of Grounds and Equipment Michael LaChance for maintaining the beauty of the campus. He also acknowledged the 50th Reunion Class of 1974, which he said is "showing us the way" with its Reunion Gift of \$16 million for the endowment and financial aid. Brian stated that he considers it a great honor to be at NMH and to have led the school through the past five years. He noted that the school's This Place This Moment Campaign has raised \$160 million of the \$225 million goal, the largest campaign in NMH history.

Brian then quoted NMH's founder, Dwight L. Moody, who is sometimes credited with the following call to action: "Do all you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, for as long as you can." Brian commented that Moody, who lived his faith, founded Northfield Seminary as a school for girls of limited means in 1879, and since that time, NMH has carried on a long tradition of standing up for what is right and, in the process, serving as a "disrupter." Brian noted that NMH was founded on the notion that young people need a world class education, regardless of where they come from: "Education can be a lever that moves mountains." He recalled that Moody believed in active citizenship and understood the power of a beautiful place. He concluded by saying, "This place is a lever that calls on each of us to live and act with humanity, purpose and service." Brian then introduced Sarah Dunton '04 for a moment of silence.

Moment of Silence by Sarah Dunton '04

Sarah recalled the beginning of her sophomore year when she was put on disciplinary probation for work job absences and, as penance, assigned to work an afternoon at the farm, among other restrictions. Her task was to prepare apples for the cider press by scooping out rotten spots. She and several other student "violators" on probation faced

a tedious task as they worked through large crates of apples and hauled heavy buckets to the cider house. Sarah returned to the Northfield campus exhausted and humbled –and relieved her restrictions were over. Weeks later, she noted jugs of cider in the dining hall and poured herself a glass. It was sweet and crisp – and she realized that her punishment had produced a sublime gift. During the moment of silence, Sarah encouraged attendees to reflect on the gift of their NMH experiences. Sarah then introduced Andrew Ness '04, President of the NMH Alumni Association.

Call to Order by Andrew Ness '04, President of the NMH Alumni Association

Andrew called the meeting of the NMH Alumni Association to order and noted that the quorum of 200 had been reached. He gave a special welcome to the 50th Reunion Class of 1974, the Class of 2019, here for its first reunion; and David Durham '49, the oldest alumnus in attendance. Andrew thanked the current and past Alumni Council for its dedication and commitment to the school.

Andrew noted that one of NMH's greatest strengths is our sense of community. NMH is the "home" where many of us grew up. He then shared the story of Tchi Chang Yun, who was sent by his parents over 100 years ago to Mount Hermon School for Boys to learn English. Tchi Chang graduated in 1922 and went on to become the first Korean ambassador to Great Britain and later ambassador to Turkey. However, when the Korean War erased his family's fortune, he moved the family from Seoul to New York. His daughter, Peggy Yun Wong, who was present in the chapel, followed in Tchi Chang's footsteps, graduating from Northfield School for Girls in 1959. The education she received launched her into life and a distinguished career in the U.S. Department of Immigration. Continuing the family tradition, one of her children graduated from NMH in 2022. Andrew concluded by highlighting the multi-generational impact of our school on the Yun Wong family; NMH served as their home and a place of safety. "Whatever your experience, whatever indelible mark this place, this moment enshrined in your life, we are all united by a shared community...Welcome home."

Andrew invited the Class of 1974 to lead everyone in singing Jerusalem. He then introduced Mary-Jane Atwater '66, P'96, for Alumni Association business.

Association Business by Mary-Jane Atwater '66, P'96, Secretary of the NMH Alumni Association: Approval of 2023 Alumni Association Minutes and Election of Officers

Mary-Jane first called for a motion to approve the 2023 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association. The motion was made and seconded by several in attendance and passed unanimously.

Regarding election of officers, Mary-Jane noted that the NMH Alumni Association constitution requires that officers be elected at the Annual Meeting. She called on Bill Rowe '83, chair of the Alumni Council Nominating Committee, to make a motion to elect Wendy Alderman Cohen '67 to a second term as Executive Vice President (July 2024-June 2027). The motion received a second from a chorus of attendees. During the vote, there was one "Nay" among the "Ayes" from the remainder of alumni present, and Wendy was elected to a second term as Executive Vice President.

Mary-Jane again called on Bill Rowe, who made a second motion to elect Celia Popper Carboni '72 as Secretary of the Alumni Association for a first term (July 2024-June 2027). The motion received a second from a chorus of attendees. The vote was unanimous to elect Celia to a first term as Secretary. Mary-Jane then invited Eric Chatman '78, chair of the Alumni Council Awards Committee, to present the Alumni Awards.

Alumni Association Awards by Eric Chatman '78, Chair of the Awards Committee

Eric made the following presentations, describing the outstanding contributions of each recipient:

Alumni Citations: David E. Durham '49, Peter F. Guild '64, Stephanie Lynn Gerson '74, Susan Fenske McDonough '74, Gail Doolittle '89, Christina Kathryn Lamb Sidell '94

Young Alumni Award: Daisy Letendre Gordon '09

Josie Rigby Spirit Award: Paige Relyea Lehman '79

Community Service Award: Paul Murtha '69

Community Service - Empowerment Award: Nancy Banks' 89

Community Service - Social Impact Award: Dawson Her Many Horses '94

Distinguished Service Award: Valerie Bowman Jarrett '74

William H. Morrow Award: James C. Block P'25, '98

Lamplighter Award: Thomas G. Baxter '59

Announcements and Adjournment

Following brief announcements about the locations for class photos, Andrew invited everyone to join in singing the Northfield Benediction. The Celebration Brass Band then led the recession at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Jane Atwater '66, P'96

NMH Alumni Association Secretary