



October 4, 2025
Homecoming/ZOOM Meeting
9:30 AM

Attendance

OBAA Board of Directors:

Present: Michael Hoover, Kyle Popek, Dave Zirngibl, Dan Koniecko, Jeff McGlynn, Michael Dayton, Pete Waskel, Sean Lane, Bill Sanders, Justin Lofton, Cory Byrnes, Mike York.

Staff, Alumni & Guests:

Bob Fine, Greg Prospero, Mary Loucks Voltz, Lee Breitkopf, Kirk Langben, Reed Stony, John Hankwitz, Doug Ledford, Bryan Edlund, Jenny Chen, John Wetzel, Bard Bond, Ella Butzer, Scott Socha.

OBAA MEETING

Opening Remarks:

OBAA President Michael Hoover called the meeting to order at **09:32 am hours**. Made some brief remarks about the tenor of the meeting.

09:33 hours: Michael Hoover asks for the last meeting minutes approval. Lee Breitkopf motions to accept at the next meeting and Cory Byrnes seconds the motion. Motion passes with a unanimous voice vote.

09:34 hours: Michael Hoover Asks for a secretaries report, there is no report other than the vacancies on the board. **09:35 hours:** Michael Hoover asks if Reed Stoney would like to become a member of the board as he meets the requirements. President Hoover appoints Reed Stoney to the board until the next Commencement meeting.

09:36 hours: Michael Hoover introduces **Guest Bob Fine** (President of the Academy) gives a brief introduction.

-Enrollment goals did not meet expectations due to re-enrollment. This is something the academy will work on.



- This year there is a different feeling on campus compared to last year, looking to expand enrollment to 80% retention next year.
- Other Military schools are closing, Riverside, Valley Forge this year so far.
- We must change the way we deliver Military in Military schools as society changes; we must evolve.
- Marketing efforts are working; we are averaging over 100 new students a year.
- Biggest concern with Cadets is time, it's difficult to be in sports or extracurricular activities. Adjusting corps of cadets schedules to accommodate. We have maintained the military side.
- Quality of students is very good at the school right now.
- Girls dorm is much better this year with personnel.
- We have more alumni giving to the school which is great, not just in donations but in time and talent, aviation, the pipe organ in the chapel and more.
- We have some Northwestern Alumni helping with Archives, grounds crew for the campus and donations. It's nice to see them getting involved.
- There were some additions to the Board of Trustees, David Hart N' 94, Brian Blazer SJ'89, Hector Lavareda SJN'02.
- Good news on campus, our AP test scores used to be 37-38 passing rate previously. We are now at 79%, which is over the national average and more than double its previous years.
- We have 7 simulators on campus, along with engineering and robotics.
- We did host the State of Wisconsin ROTC and service day, we had about 200 people here, both state representatives were here on campus as well.
- Chapel is almost done with the pipe organ restoration, which was a gift from Bill Hummel, sadly he passed away during the restoration.
- President Bob Fine opened the floor to Questions:
 - Q: What is enrolment at currently? A: About 260
 - Q: What is the ratio of Military and Non? A: 128 Military, rest is Non-Military.
 - Q: Are we a Military school or boarding school? A: We are a corps of cadets, but it really is about branding. So, we are St. John's Northwestern Academies. But we have to change to survive.
 - Q: Do the preps have a standard that is being enforced? A: Yes, it's being enforced and has changed. So, they are held to standards compared to Prefect.

10:05 hours: Michael Hoover introduces **Alumni Director Greg Prospero** give a review of the alumni dept.

- Greg Prospero does not have much to report, Michael Hoover asks how Wavelength is going? A: We are looking for leaders of class years to help drive traffic to wavelength.
- Wavelength is for Prospero to post and Alumni to message the Alumni department.
- We are working on Business Directory on Wavelength and working out bugs.



- Should be good for Alumni to find service via Wavelength from Alumni, Alumni can add their businesses on wavelength and possibly post jobs for alumni.
- We are trying to build a social community beyond the school.
- There is also a speaker's series, to highlight Alumni to the academy students, where they can speak to the Corps/Students and share their life experiences.

10:12 hours: Treasurer David Zirngibl gives an update on the finances of the OBAA.

- Total Cash on hand as of Sept 30, 2025 was \$8,769.42
- We have some bills to pay for graduation which will bring it down to \$7,351.65
- Major expenses are homecoming tent and down payment for Brewers/Cubs game.
- We have \$7,351.65 to spend but this does not include withdrawals from any of the trusts.
- Cash on hand is lower because we never took the withdrawals from 2024/2025 on the trusts.
- Old Trust current balance is \$79,677.21
- New Trust current balance is \$52,058.12
- 2024 withdraw will be coordinated with 2025 withdraw / ASAP; need to discuss
- *As of now, recommend 5% withdraw but that could be more, if we discuss we can withdraw more. Tammy has been a great asset to the OBAA with the trusts.
- Legacy Scholarships for reference:
 - 2025: \$5,000.00 June 2025
 - 2024: \$10,000.00 March 2024
 - 2023: \$6,000.00 May 2023
 - 2022: \$6,000.00 Nov 2022
 - 2021: \$5,000.00 Dec 2021
 - 2020: \$8,000.00 Dec 2020

- We had three considerable donations, couple hundred per month, Mike Hoover and Cory Byrnes gave donations for the pathways project.
- Biggest fundraisers coming up are Pig Roast and Brewers/Cubs event in 2026.

10:21 hours: Michael Hoover asks for a motion to approve the financial report, Cory Byrnes motions to accept at the next meeting and Dan Koniecko seconds the motion. Motion passes with a unanimous voice vote.

10:22 hours: Michael Hoover discussed the Cubs/Brewers game, Jeff McGlynn our second VP has initiated this. We have put down a down payment for \$650.00 to hold the room. We will not have a date until middle of October, and we will not have the time until the MLB schedule is approved. The Room is in the right field, and we will have 60 spots for the Alumni to attend, the OBAA has requested to have the color guard present the colors and we would like Brandin Podziemski to throw out the first pitch. We are putting together a full event for the Alumni and their families to attend. A lot of this is tentative at this time.



10:26 hours: Michael Hoover addressed the awards committee which has Kirk Langben, Anita Kopaczewski, Sean Bornschlegl, Bill Sanders, Sean Lane, Jeff McGlynn as chair. They must meet prior to the next meeting in February so we can get the nominees for the Awards and who to vote on at the February meeting. Is there anyone who would want to join the committee? Lee Breitkopf and Bryan Edlund would like to be added to the committee.

10:28 hours: Michael Hoover says we will need some help at the Pig Roast and the Pathway project, so please lend a hand if you are able to help.

10:30 hours: We have discussed having a holiday party in December, Sean Lane has put us in touch with Gatsby's restaurant in Arlington Heights IL. Date is Sunday, December 7th, 2025 for the Bears vs Packers game. We have about 60 TVs in the bar so we can all watch the game. First drink is on the OBAA.

10:32 hours: Michael Hoover stresses the importance of donations, and all donations help regardless of Time, Talent or Monetary.

10:33 hours: May 1st and 2nd 2026 is Alumni weekend so save that date, graduation will be the 24th of May 2026.

10:34 hours: Next meeting will be February 7th, 2026, at 9:30am.

10:38 hours: Michael Hoovers asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kirk Langben motions and Bill Sanders seconds the motion. Motion passes with a unanimous voice vote.

This report was prepared and submitted by Kyle F. Popek, OBAA Secretary, for & on behalf of the OBAA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

OBAA of SJNA's Board of Directors

Kyle F. Popek

Kyle F. Popek, S'00
Secretary, OBAA