



# BENZIE SPARTANS™

VOL 3, ISSUE 1  
NEWSLETTER OF THE MSU ALUMNI CLUB OF BENZIE COUNTY – BOX 46, FRANKFORT, MI 49635

SUMMER - FALL 2017

## SUMMER 2017 PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am happy to report that half way through 2017, all is well with the Benzie Spartans! We have successfully reached our rather lofty goal of \$90,000 in our fundraising efforts and we're well on our way to our goal of doubling that number in the near future.

We held a very successful, well attended Donor Reception at the Hotel Frankfort on June 22nd and everyone came away with a good feeling about the direction that the Club is heading. We're looking forward to our annual Beach Bash which will be held on August 10th in Elberta (rain or shine) which is always a great time! We are also looking forward to the annual Michigan State vs Michigan football game on October 7th on the big screen at the Garden Theater.

Have you noticed a trend here? All of these events are planned with great Spartan camaraderie in mind with the main goal of having fun while supporting local students to attend the great university that we all love so much.

At the June Donor Reception, the retirement of our Treasurer and former President David Lean was announced to the Club. We had a brief moment to celebrate his tremendous contributions to our alumni club over his 9 years of service on the board. He will be sorely missed, not just for his tireless support, but his ever present smile and positive outlook on everything. David's retirement means that we have an opening on our board. If you have any interest in serving with the current 8 upbeat fellow Spartans on the board, or if you want to be a volunteer for any of our special events, please let us know.

In the meantime, Go Green!

Paul Sadows

### **ANNUAL BEACH BASH**

**The Annual Benzie Spartan Beach Bash pot luck will be held Thursday, August 10 at the Elberta Pavilion, at 5:00. As in previous years, the Club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, with the fixings, and soft drinks. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass. Admission is \$5. If you have items for the silent auction, contact Maggie VanHaften at 231-352-6045. We hope to see you there.**

## **ENDOWMENT TOPS \$100,000!**

After passing the original \$90,000 objective, we were a bit concerned that endowment enthusiasm would wane. We're happy to report that these fears were unfounded! Generous Benzie Spartans continue to provide enthusiastic support, and early this year the campaign topped over \$100,000 in contributions and pledges! As of June 14, 2017 we have received \$101,519 in donations, pledges and Club earnings! This is a testament to the boundless kindness of local supporters. Thank you!

In our last newsletter, a hypothetical 20 year endowment projection was presented showing that the endowment could provide over \$170,000 in scholarship support over the next two decades, and still have over a quarter million dollars in principle! Our projection was based upon average donations of \$5,000 per year. The past year contribution level was significantly higher than \$5,000 - which bodes well for future Benzie Spartans!

Our next goal is to reach the \$180,000 milestone! This will allow us to expand the number of scholarships, increase scholarship amounts, and/or provide multi-year awards. So, don't be surprised if you're approached by a Board Member to consider further support! If you, or someone you know, wishes to make a contribution to the endowment, please don't hesitate to contact us. Any board member would be happy to meet with you, or you can contact Al Flory, at [arflory@yahoo.com](mailto:arflory@yahoo.com) or via phone at 612-309-9977.

## **PLANNED GIVING REQUESTS**

As the endowment has grown, we've received a number of requests for information on alternative ways to provide support. While we're not estate planning professionals, we've learned that there are an amazing number of options. Everything from cash to real estate to retirement accounts are possible resources. We are currently working with MSU to arrange for an estate planning professional to visit Benzie County to discuss these options - more information will be forthcoming as our plans are finalized.

## **BECOMING "SPARTAN LOYAL"!**

Under the Spartan Loyal program, individuals who contribute \$100+ per year to **any fund** at Michigan State University will be considered Spartan Loyal and thus eligible for enhanced alumni benefits. **This means that your contributions of \$100 or more to our scholarship endowment fund will not only support Benzie County Spartans, but will also provide you with enhanced alumni status and benefits!** You can make endowment contributions directly through the MSUAA web site, or by sending checks to our local post office box. Please make your check payable to: "**MSU Benzie Spartan Endowment**". In the check's memo line, please record the fund **ID number: AF010979**.

Mail checks to:  
MSU Alumni Club of Benzie County  
ATTN: Endowment Committee  
P. O. Box 46  
Frankfort MI 49635

## **HELP WANTED!**

Have you ever wondered who writes this newsletter, who organizes our football and basketball game watches, the annual beach bash, the scholarship dinner, and the list goes on....? Well, it turns out that these people are loyal Spartans just like you. Amazing as it may seem, activities don't just mysteriously happen - and we need your help!

If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the Club, we can guarantee that you would be welcomed with open arms, and you'd also have lots of fun. Here are just a few of the things that you can do:

**If you love social events, and are a great organizer,** we need someone to organize our annual spring/early summer event. In the past we've had an annual scholarship dinner, but this event is "wide open" to someone with creative ideas.

**If you're a football fan, and want to get together with 400 of your closest friends,** how about taking over responsibility for one of our game watches? This is a relatively easy task to organize, and you would have lots of fun. You would also have plenty of help!

**Are you a social media guru?** If so, we REALLY need your help! If you love Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. you could make a tremendous contribution to our Club. We're just getting started and you could help make this tool a great resource for members, students, and the Benzie County business community

**And if you really want to help shape our future,** how about joining the Board of Directors? Currently we have one opening and will have more next summer. We are looking for fresh faces and new talent! Our Board is a fun group, easy to get along with (in our opinion), and always receptive to great ideas!

## **MATCHING FUND**

A \$500 matching fund has been established in memory of Frank and Eleanor Roberts to encourage contributions from previous scholarship recipients. We are in the process of locating them. While we realize many are starting careers and have other financial obligations, we believe this is a great opportunity for their small donations to be doubled. If you have contact information for a previous scholarship recipient, contact Maggie VanHaften at 231-352-6045 or mbrv214@gmail.com.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

This year The Benzie Spartans awarded 3 scholarships to local students. Chelsey Ely, from Frankfort-Elberta High School was awarded the Terry Herban Scholarship; Joseph Johnston from Benzie Central High School was awarded the Donald W. Nugent Scholarship, and Autumn DeRidder, also from Benzie Central High School was awarded the Len Blewett Scholarship.

Each scholarship was in the amount of \$1500, however, shortly after the scholarships were awarded, MSU announced an increase in tuition, amounting to about \$400 per student for their freshman year. That is when anonymous Benzie Spartans stepped forward to cover the increase for each student, a \$1200 donation. Benzie Spartans are truly wonderful people, aren't they?

## **PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Scholarship winners are on summer break. We will be catching up with them in the fall and will update you on their accomplishments later this year.

## **NOTES**

### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**

It saves us money if we can send you newsletters and updates through e-mail, so if you received this copy of the "Benzie Spartan" by mail and are willing to give us your e-mail address, you can send it to: [benziemsuac@msubenziealumni.org](mailto:benziemsuac@msubenziealumni.org).

## **BENZIE SPARTANS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **PRESIDENT**

Paul Sadows (B.A. '71)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Barbara Johnson (M.A. '68)

### **TREASURER**

Bruce Wilde (B.A. '68)

### **SECRETARY**

Maggie VanHaften

(B.A. '73, MA, '78)

### **ENDOWMENT CHAIR**

Dr. Alan Flory (B.A. '73,

D.V.M. Minn.)

### **MEMBERS**

Joanne Herban (Saginaw Business School '63)

Dr. Susan Kirkpatrick (B.S '70,

M.A. '75. PhD '84

Joyce Kirshner (B.A. '64, M.A. '90)

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ray Miller, Webmaster

Please support local businesses who help defray the costs of the newsletter:



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*Beauty Bar*  
*Melissa Bradley*

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SKIN - HAIR - NAILS



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Breakfast & Lunch Served All Day

1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia,  
MI 49616



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE "BENZIE SPARTAN," CONTACT  
MAGGIE VANHAFTEN, [mbrv214@gmail.com](mailto:mbrv214@gmail.com) or 231-352-6045

## UP-COMING EVENTS

- Beach Bash – August 10<sup>th</sup> - See article on page 1.
- MSU/ Michigan Football Watch at the Garden Theater – Saturday, October 7 – Game time not yet announced. We'll send updates before the game. Don't miss this annual event – a chance to meet with Michigan fans to cheer on our teams. We are looking for individuals or businesses to help sponsor the Game-Watch. Contact Al Flory – 612-309-9977 or Maggie VanHaften – 231-352-6045 if you are interested.

