



News & Notes

March 2015

Starting the Year with Camp!

By Michael Tews

On January 23-25, WALH friends gathered for a fun-filled weekend get-together pot luck at the Holiday Inn Express in Verona, Wisconsin. Centered in the spacious Badger Room conference area, guests mingled and laughed with each other while catching up and recounting old, familiar stories. A collection of eclectic music played in the background. Snacks from chips to candy and an assortment of beverages adorned several tables for guests. The atmosphere was relaxing while also being fun and upbeat.

Following lunch, the WALH board members convened for an important meeting that covered everything from fundraising and the financial state of WALH to summer camp, which will be themed after the Renaissance. When the meeting adjourned, a delicious potluck dinner was served for everyone to enjoy. Meatballs, mini weenies, Italian beef, buffalo chicken dip, and chicken wings were just some of the delectable delights available to choose from. After dinner, a large contingent of guests played the game of Cards Against Humanity, and in the end, Dr. Mike Zolinski won the victory. The festivities continued to go strong all through the night with everyone relaxing and having great conversation.

Unfortunately, as they say, all good things must come to an end. On Sunday morning, the WALH guests begrudgingly said goodbye to each other, knowing they might not see each other until summer camp. Nonetheless, this event was a smashing success. WALH thanks Erica Andres for playing a substantial role in planning and organizing this wonderful event, and to the staff of the Holiday Inn Express in Verona for their welcoming hosting.



Summer Camp 2015 Preview

Hark! The official edict from the Board of Directors hereby announces the theme for summer camp 2015 - this year we will enjoy a week-long Renaissance Faire! Dust off those peasant dresses, get your falcon trained, and practice your jousting! Look forward to dining on mutton, the pageantry of the royals at the ball, but be careful lest we put you in the stocks and throw tomatoes! WALH Summer Camp 2015 will be the week of August 1-7. If you have any ideas or would like to help in any way with planning of camp and programs, donations, etc. please contact Camp Coordinator Erica Andres at ericky1834@gmail.com.

Other Socials

On February 5, a small group of WALH members met for a laugh – seriously! They met at **Comedy Club on State** in Madison, Wisconsin, to catch a show of stand-up comics. This unofficial WALH event, enjoyed by Madison area friends for a few years, was attended by Milwaukee-area friends this time.

On March 28, WALH card sharks will come together in Johnson Creek, Wisconsin at the home of WALH friend Hans Christiansen for his **annual poker tournament**, cribbage and board games. We will gather at 2:00 p.m. and begin the tournament at 3:00. A cookout will be provided. Please bring a snack or side dish to pass. Contact Biff Martinoski at unclebiff@att.net for RSVP or directions.

Looking for a Little Help from Within...for Committees!

WALH is full of people with talent and intelligence, and everyone has something to contribute. We have members trained in engineering, law, social work, graphic design, computers, journalism, and more. Others have talents at using the internet and social media, a go-gettem aptitude for fundraising, initiative to bring awareness to our leaders, and even a wonderful ability to make someone laugh or feel companionship. It takes campers, volunteers, and friends all working together to make our week of respite wonderful. **NOW WE ARE CALLING ON YOU TO BRING THOSE TALENTS!** We want camp to not only continue being as wonderful as it has been, but grow to new heights. We on the Board of Directors value your input, efforts, ideas and skills. **PLEASE HELP US AND JOIN ONE OR MORE OF OUR NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEES!**

Camp Planning: This committee will work with the Camp Coordinator before and during camp to help with making sure camp operates smoothly. The Camp Coordinator will delegate duties to committee members which may include: check-in, check-out, setup and cleanup of all camp activities; maintaining the health and safety of the camp environment; ensuring that all necessary medical equipment and personnel are available; planning and implementation of camp themes and activities; communicating with Camp Wawbeek staff to make camp arrangements as needed, and; assist with recruit camp volunteers. **Contact: Erica Andres, ericky1834@gmail.com**

Fundraising: This committee will work year-round to develop, plan, and implement new fund development opportunities. Committee member responsibilities may include: brainstorming (via email, text, social media) new fundraising opportunities; calling businesses for donations and sponsorships, and; planning and implementing new fundraising events. **Contact: Lauren Oftedahl, oftedahl.lauren@gmail.com**

Newsletter and Social Media: This committee is for you writers and facebookers! This committee will be a voice for WALH to reach its members, as well as outside supporters. Please join this committee if you can contribute skills like: writing newsletter stories or capturing photos for publicity; communicating with members via Facebook or email about WALH news and fundraisers, and; stuffing newsletters for mailing 4 times per year. **Contact: Kirsten Nichols, Kirsten_daffodil@yahoo.com**

Sunshine: This committee is for you if you are friendly and cheerful! Sunshine members will work throughout the year to provide all WALH members with companionship, appreciation, and recognition. Please join this committee if you are interested in doing things like: honoring those members of the WALH family to pass away; supporting WALH members who develop health concerns, such as hospitalization, and; recognizing birthdays and special accomplishments of WALH members. **Contact: Jeff "Biff" Martinkoski, unclebiff@att.net**

Membership Socials: If you love seeing your fellow WALH-ers between camp, this committee is for you. This committee will help WALH members stay connected throughout the year between camp with activities such as: brainstorming new social events in Madison, Milwaukee, and nearby areas; communicating with members to promote attendance, and; planning and implementing informal social events. **Contact: Kelly Zolinski, zolinski@frontier.com**

Note from the Editor...

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to join the 2014-15 Board of Directors as the new Newsletter Editor. For years, Scott Uhlman has prepared the News & Notes updates. Now it is my privilege to take the reins so he can devote his talents to other endeavors.

A little about me: I have been involved in WALH since 2009, attending most of the camps since then. I have enjoyed watching more and more people join in the WALH experience, both the old friends from my years at MDA camp, and the many new friends who've joined us recently.

I look forward to keeping up the News & Notes because writing is my passion! Keeping up the WALH newsletter sounds like a wonderful opportunity to write about people and experiences that are close to my heart!

If you have any comments or story ideas, don't hesitate to contact me!



Fundraising Successes

Bucky & Entertainment Books

The sales of two coupon books, Bucky Book and Entertainment Books proved to be worthwhile fundraisers again this year, earning more than \$1,000 for WALH!

Blaze Pizza

By presenting a flyer at Blaze Pizza in Brookfield, Wisconsin, patrons ate pizza and helped WALH raise money. For every flyer presented, Blaze Pizza donated 20% of the meal to support our cause!

Year-Long Raffle

This year we continue this important fundraiser that is a benefit to both WALH and raffle winners. Each month, four winners are selected to win a \$50 prize. With any luck, next month's winner will be you!

March 2015 raffle winners are...

Dan M. - Sold by Jeff Martinoski
Jill H. W. - Sold by Peggy Taubenheim
Martin V. H. - Sold by Martin Van Haren
Joseph O. - Sold by Jeff Martinoski

February 2015 raffle winners are...

Lauren L. - Sold by Peggy Taubenheim
Lauren O. - Sold by Lauren Oftedahl
Michael's Helping Hands - Sold by Julie Chaloupka
Karen F. - Sold by Karen Foxgrover

January 2015 raffle winners are...

Edna F. - Sold by Foelker Family
Michael's Helping Hands - Sold by Jenny Chaloupka
Maggie W. - Sold by Scott Uhlman
Carlos T. - Sold by Scott Uhlman

December 2014 raffle winners are...

Hans C. - Sold by Scott Uhlman
Jean W. - Sold by Jean Wiza
Viki P. - Sold by Rick Sokolowski
Mike Z. - Sold by Kelly Zolinski

Fundraising Opportunities!

Fundraising Showers Bring May Flowers

Normally at camp, rain is something we hope will stay away. When it comes to fundraising, however, we definitely want to make it rain ~ especially for the seasonal fundraiser. With A Little Help has again partnered with Flower Power Fundraising for a beautiful way to support our organization. Now through March 31, anyone who purchases flower bulbs or plants through our dedicated webpage will receive orders shipped directly to their homes. The best part? With A Little Help gets to keep 50% of every dollar sold! It is easy to participate and promote this event! Just refer friends and family to http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/campaign?campaign_id=20430 via E-mail or Facebook. The beautiful blooms that grow will be a delight, so please help us make it rain!



Ruby Tuesday Fundraiser

Feed your hunger and support With a Little Help! On Saturday, March 21 at the Southridge Mall in Greendale, Wisconsin, Ruby Tuesday restaurant is the place to go to dine! Bring the flyer enclosed in this newsletter for your meal, and 20% of all net sales from your order will be donated to WALH. Bring friends, family, and big appetites, because the more you order, the bigger the donation!

An Event that Revved Our Engines!

There are few things that can draw WALH members away during the week of our beloved camp, but the Fondy Vintage Auto Club's Car-A-Funda car show is one of those things. Held on a rainy day last August in Fond Du Lac, WI, the trip was well worth it for those who did attend. Among others, camper Biff Martinoski and volunteer Adam Dreas went to carry on the tradition started years ago by Tim and Reed Gordon (who we miss dearly). Tim and Reed used to arrive at summer camp in a 1937 Chevy Sedan with an entourage of other cars.

Despite the weather (a risk of rust damage to the classic cars), the event was a delight for all who attended. The club's judges walked the grounds and presented awards in various categories, such as oldest or rarest or best painted. At the same time, WALH volunteers sold raffle tickets, ate good food, and reunited with old friends.

This year one lucky hot rodder won \$600 for the summer camp bill. All in all the Fondy Vintage Auto Club raised \$3,500 for WALH, a wonderful donation for which we are enormously grateful!

Biff wants to share sincere special thanks to the group that worked the car show with him: Adam D., Scott U., Linda L., Mary Kay L., Bonnie L., and send a big, big thank you to the Fondy Vintage Auto Club and to Marge & Jerry Gordon!

Featured Members

Featured Camper: Matt Hoehn

Matthew Hoehn is 31 years old, from north of Milwaukee, and has Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy.



Q: How long have you been coming to camp?

Matt: Five awesome years

Q: How did you get involved with camp?

Matt: I got involved with camp thanks to volunteer Joe Fortuna, the unsung hero of camp.

Q: How do you spend your time when not at camp?

Matt: My time away I spend volunteering, hanging out with friends, learning, expanding my mind and awareness (not in a Charlie Sheen way - no tiger blood for me).

Q: What do you think camp could use?

Matt: I would say another event as big as Corvette night.

Q: What's something you would tell people about camp who had never heard of WALH?

Matt: WALH will welcome you in immediately and after awhile it will seem like a second family.

Featured Volunteer: Bre Johnson

Bre Johnson is 28 years old and lives in Milwaukee

Q: How long have you been coming to camp?

Bre: I've been coming to camp since fall of 2014.

Q: What is your favorite part of camp?

Bre: I'd say my favorite part is getting to know all the people I've been hearing about for years. I felt like I knew so many campers and volunteers before I ever met them because I've seen pictures and heard stories. And now I get to see firsthand how great everyone is!

Q: How do you spend your time when not at camp?

Bre: When I'm not at camp, I'm usually home with my awesome 2 year old watching Disney Jr. and tripping over racecars. I love to read so I try to do that as much as possible.

Q: What do you think camp could use?

Bre: Maybe a larger variety of fundraisers. Then there would be more money and camp could happen every other month!

Q: What is something about you that we might not know already?

Bre: I could beat almost anyone in a round of Harry Potter trivia.



2014-2015 Board of Directors

President: Tom Downs

Vice President and Social Coordinator: Kelly Zolinski

Treasurer: Mike Hlavenka

Secretary: Julie Chaloupka

Camp Coordinator: Erica Andres

Fundraising: Lauren Oftedahl

Newsletter and Social Media: Kirsten Nichols

Sunshine: Jeff "Biff" Martinkoski

General: Tyler Engel

Scott Uhlman

Jerry Schulz

Newsletter submissions can be sent to Kirsten Nichols, Editor - kirsten_daffodil@yahoo.com

"With A Little Help..." , Inc.

P.O. Box 32024, Franklin, WI 53132 / (414) 571-0234 / www.walh.org

Enjoy a Meal with Us & we'll GiveBack

100% of the GiveBack amount is donated directly to your organization

RubyTuesday is extremely proud to be part of your hometown and we believe in giving back. As a fellow member of the community, we invite you to participate in...

RubyTuesday's Community GiveBack Program.

Grab your family and friends and join us at the **5320 S. 76th St.** location on:

▫ **Saturday, March 21st, 2015** ▫

HOW IT
WORKS

Please present this flyer to your server, and we will

Give Back **20%** of your purchase to the organization.

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)



To make a reservation, call us at 414-423-0530 or visit us online at rubytuesday.com

Organization:



"With A Little Help...", Inc.

Event Name:

WALH DINNER

Dates of Visit:

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015

**For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu,
visit rubytuesday.com**



RubyTuesday

5320 S 76TH ST, GREENDALE WI
414-423-0530