

Newsletter

Mar. 2016

**VERNONIA EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

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**All donations to VEF are
tax deductible**

catalyst

The campaign for Vernonia's Schools

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Aaron Miller

The Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) was initially founded to support the rebuilding efforts of the new Vernonia Schools campus, but its overriding mission is to "improve the educational opportunities in the Vernonia School District."

The VEF Board took several more steps toward achieving that mission by moving more of its focus onto students and improving academic opportunities. The Board is working to enhance college scholarship options, and support and develop current, innovative, educational programs. Providing funding for the high school robotics team to compete in regional competitions, for the high school pep band to perform at the State Basketball Tournament in Pendleton, and for the Junior Salmon Art Auction to take place are just a few of the initiatives the Board is working on to enhance educational opportunities for our students.

If you are interested in helping develop these efforts the VEF Board is always looking for volunteers willing to contribute their time and efforts for the good of our community's youth. Call the VSD Office at 503-429-5891 to sign up.

If you are able to donate to the VEF, whether it be small or large, in the form of a check, donated stocks or other form.....Every Little Bit Helps!!! Please help us as we strive to eliminate the final bills incurred for our new building.

I want to again give my sincere thanks for all your past donations to the VEF, and encourage you to donate again (or for the first time) to support all the goals and initiatives of the foundation. Your continuing support helps provide our students the best educational opportunities and facilities possible and is so appreciated! Thank you!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VHS Hall of Fame Inductions: April 2, 2016 (see article on back page)

VEF Board Meeting: May 10, 2016 4:00 p.m. School Library.

Upcoming Events

VEF Board of Directors

Pam Weller Wauna Federal Credit Union	Aaron Miller Vernonia School District
Bill Langmaid Vernonia School District	Cari Levenseller Vernonia School Board
Ronda Smith Lennen VHS Alumni Class of 1974	Camrin Eyrrick Vernonia Community PTA
Jim Eckland VHS Alumni Class of 1962	Mark Lemay Vernonia Boosters
Greg Kintz Vernonia School Board	Barb Carr Secretary
Marie Knight Treasurer	

ALUMNI UPDATE

By Ronda Lennen

The Vernonia High School Alumni Scholarship was established in 1976 by the class of 1936. Since that time approximately \$30,000 in scholarships have been granted to deserving Alumni or current High School Seniors. Contributions to the account have come from alumni, family and community members.

Records indicate the last sizable contribution was from the class of 1976 who turned over the remainder of their class treasury. This scholarship is supported solely through donations.

Beginning July 2016, the current Alumni Scholarship will be merging with the Vernonia Education Foundation. It is the hope of the current committee to continue to help support students interested in furthering their education. The program will award an annual amount of \$1,000 to be awarded to one recipient, or may be divided and distributed to multiple recipients.

Anyone can make a donation to the fund by sending a check, or cash payment, to the Vernonia Education Foundation/ Alumni Scholarship fund. Donations can be made anonymously, or can be made as memorials. If you are alumni making a donation, please specify your year of graduation. If you choose to make a memorial donation please specify the name (and year of graduation, if an Alum) of the person(s) in whose name(s) the donation is being made. Applications will be available at Vernonia High School.



Progress continues on the new Alumni Softball Field

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

By Gordon Jarman

Congratulations to the 2016 Inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame; Dick & Kathleen Gwin, Class of 1954; Peter Schmidlin, 1997; Tim Grady, 1990; Brian Anderson, 1996; Gaylen Weigand, 1978; Gerald Millis, 1951; and Bill Braun, 1954. Inductees will be honored Saturday, April 2nd at the Cedar Ridge Complex beginning at 6:00 pm with a no-host bar social followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$17.00. Please RSVP to Kathi Fetch at 503 429-1340.

VERNONIA SCHOOLS HIGHLIGHTS

By Aaron Miller

The Vernonia High School (VHS) boys' basketball team won the 2016 OSAA State Basketball Championship held in Pendleton by beating Regis, 57-49. The team finished the season with a 16-0 league record and a 28-1 record overall. Several players earned All-Tournament and All-State honors while Coach David Weller was named the OSAA 2A Coach of the Year.

Vernonia Middle and High School students have had the opportunity to compete in two different FIRST Robotics leagues this year. While our students were not able to make the regional finals in either league, they did an outstanding job of fabricating a working "bot" and competing in each of the technical challenges set for each group. In addition, the FRC team was the recipient of a Daimler Trucks Robotics grant worth over \$18,000.

The VHS/Vernonia Hands On Art Annual Junior Salmon Auction will be coming up soon. VHS art students produce the artistic salmon replicas, and auction them off to earn money for the program. Last year over \$2500 was earned for the program. Come join us on Thursday, May 26 at 7pm in the Vernonia Schools Commons for this wonderful event.

SPORTS INITIATIVE UPDATE

By Jim Eckland

The VEF Sports Initiative continues to actively solicit donations for constructing a new track and football field on the new school campus. Your continuing efforts are making a difference....keep them coming!

The new softball field, "Alumni Field," is nearing completion with a tentative grand opening ceremony set for Friday, April 22. Vernonia will host Gaston with the first of two games starting at 3pm. We hope you can join us for this event. Please call the school ahead of time at 503-429-1333, as this event will be weather dependent.