

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHS Alumni Association Clears Hurdle

St. Clair, January 24, 2011. The St. Clair High School Alumni Association has cleared a major hurdle in its effort to assist graduating high school seniors with their advanced education costs. According to Fred Becker, Treasurer of the association, in a very rare move, tax exempt status has been granted by the federal government this month, assuring that all gifts to the association will be deductible from income taxes.

The association was formed last fall by the Class of 1963 for the primary purpose of providing scholarships to graduating seniors of St. Clair High School who are continuing their education beyond secondary school. Their first steps involved organizational issues. Officers and directors were named, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were written, and the association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri. At this point the association was in business, but was not at the stage of being recognized as a tax-exempt organization by the IRS.

The six-member board (Fred Becker, DeWayne Landwehr, Gary Marchbank, Janie (Bigley) Moore, Glenn Owens and Gloria (Duncan) Patterson), met several times by conference call to hammer out the details of the voluminous and complicated paperwork required to petition the IRS for tax-exempt status. Conference calls were required because, interestingly, not one of the current board members lives in St. Clair, although four of the six live in Missouri.

After many hours of preparation the documents were finally assembled and sent to the IRS in early December. "I cautioned the group not to expect approval on the first pass", said attorney Dan Buescher, who provided pro bono assistance. "It's common for the IRS to come back several times with questions that need to be answered before giving final approval. Frankly, I was surprised to see them gain that approval on their first submission."

DeWayne Landwehr, Board Chair, gives credit for the early approval to the board members. "It helped that some of us had been through this process before, but the real factor that helped us the most was our ability to work together. The process wasn't just a simple fill-in-the-blanks exercise; we had to formulate policy, agree on basic structure and processes, and do it all while considering differing opinions on some key issues. Lots of work went into this effort, and it was done equally by everyone."

"Our next two big assignments are to ensure we are working well with the school staff and administration, and to raise some money. We have enough donated already to offer two small scholarships this spring, but we would like to do a lot more than that. Right now we need donations to the scholarship fund. We also need volunteers who would like to serve on a

couple of committees. We have openings on the Scholarship Selection and Fund Raising Committees that need to be filled so we can move forward.

Donations to the scholarship fund can be mailed to Fred Becker at 7778 Liberty School Road, Leslie, MO 63056. Make checks payable to the SCHS Alumni Association.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the committees, please contact any board member or by writing to info@schs-alumni.org

You may find out more information by visiting the SCHS Alumni Association website at www.schs-alumni.org. Applications for scholarship committee are on line.

For more information, contact DeWayne Landwehr at dewayne@flagshipenterprise.org.