



Press Release

MLFE Finalizes Strategic Plan, Announces Board Changes To Launch Mt. Lebanon Alumni Association

Mt. Lebanon, PA – August 20, 2008 The Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education (MLFE) Board of Directors developed its first strategic plan which will be presented to the public this fall. During the upcoming year, the board will be working hard to raise awareness and support throughout the community, build its endowment, and increase the amount of funding available for educational programs. The plan sets forth ambitious goals for the near future, including a major new initiative to launch an official Mt. Lebanon Alumni Association. The association will provide a conduit for alumni giving, while offering support for reunions, and social and professional networks.

“With the high school about to undergo a major renovation, MLFE hopes to capitalize on the nostalgia and appreciation graduates have of their own Mt. Lebanon experiences, combined with a desire to preserve traditions and secure a legacy of educational excellence for future generations of school children,” explained Vernadean Passodelis, MLFE president. “Many families within the district represent multi-generations of Mt. Lebanon alumni, as a high number of graduates evidentially return to the area to raise their children here. We want to provide avenues and events for both local and widely dispersed graduates to reconnect with each other and to ‘give back’ to the community.”

The group expects to begin offering membership and recruiting alumni from all classes later this fall. Alumni interesting in participating in the initial Steering Committee and formation of the association, or in providing financial support to help underwrite the organizations’ development should contact MLFE.

MLFE is also looking forward to the contributions of four new, talented directors to its board. Judy Grayhack and Eni Sonmez-Alpan both serve as Adjunct Professors in Communication Science Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh and Biology at Chatham College, respectively. Joel Rosenthal, a Mt. Lebanon alumnus, is a director of Schneider Downs Business Advisors and serves on several other boards in Pittsburgh. Carol Walton served for twenty years on the Mt. Lebanon School Board and has led a myriad of groups throughout the community.

“The Foundation is grateful to those who have given of their time to serve on our board,” expressed Jackie Foor, Executive Director. “This year, MLFE said goodbye and thank you to members Joyce Adamcyk, Marc Field, Ronald Hoffman, and Donald Reddinger. Joyce, Marc and Ron all served as Foundation president during the course of their terms and were instrumental in developing our first strategic plan. Don held the demanding post of Treasurer for several years, helping to keep MLFE fiscally sound and prepare it for moving forward.”

In preparation for the upcoming school year, MLFE elected new officers and directors. Foundation officers for the 2008-09 year are: Vernadean Passodelis, President; Angela Stengel, Vice President; Cory Polena, Secretary (also Program Chairman); and Patrick Kyne, Treasurer (also Finance Chairman). Other directors serving as committee chairs include; Debra Magee, Publicity and Carol Walton and Linda Smartschan, Board Development. Linda also leads the Foundation’s Fundraising efforts with John Federico.

About MLFE *The Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education was founded in 1999 and is a donor advised endowment fund through the Pittsburgh Foundation. In establishing the independent Foundation, Mt. Lebanon joins more than 4,800 communities across the nation to raise private funds for public schools. MLFE is dedicated to raising both money for extraordinary learning projects and community support for public education. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over \$140,000, awarding 85 grants to teachers for innovative classroom projects. The mission of MLFE is to provide a permanent source of financial support to enable the Mt. Lebanon School District to expand and enhance learning opportunities for its students. Interested individuals, families and business and can learn more at www.mlfe.org*

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