

# BARNEVELD ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



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## Staying in Touch



Alumni and friends of the Barneveld School District have joined together to form an association with a goal of supporting the community’s school.

The Barneveld Alumni and Friends Association has been taking shape in recent months, with early meetings focusing on short- and long-range goals. Organizers hope to reconnect alumni with the school and begin a fundraising campaign to support school facilities and programs.

The Barneveld Alumni and Friends Association will fit under the umbrella of the Education Foundation of Barneveld, a group that raises about \$10,000 each year through a letter-writing campaign to support scholarships and school mini-grants.

Organizers believe the fundraising potential would be much greater than that if all alumni could be reconnected to the school.

Many Barneveld alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago get together every summer at the 50-plus class reunion, but Barneveld School Administrator Brett Stousland said people who have graduated more recently don’t necessarily have the same connection with the school.

“Common sense says people want to know what’s going on in the school where they attended,” Stousland said. “A lot of people who attended school here are still in the area, but there are also a lot who have moved away who don’t necessarily know what’s going on.

“I think Barneveld is a unique community. The people here are very giving, they’re very loyal. The alumni association will be one way to keep these people connected.”

**We want  
to stay  
connected**

**We hope  
to make  
good  
things  
happen**

**STRONG  
TOGETHER**

“Once people begin to reconnect, their interaction begins to generate more and more enthusiasm,” Leary said.

Renee Meyer, a 1976 Barneveld graduate and health aide at the school, is heading up the alumni association committee. Meyer has begun contacting at least one representative of each past graduating class to try to get addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all alumni.

The committee has been meeting to determine the best way to reach out to alumni, with options including social media, direct mail and an electronic newsletter.

Organizers are considering an ongoing program whereby association members could receive such perks as Golden Eagle lapel pins, season activity passes or other items at specific annual donation levels.

Jim Leary, a 1952 Barneveld alumnus and longtime school supporter, has been doing foundation work for more than 30 years and believes the support would be there if alumni could be reconnected to the school.

“Once people begin to reconnect, their interaction begins to generate more and more enthusiasm,” Leary said. “These things don’t happen overnight, but over time, fundraising campaigns can be successful.”

Leary, who now lives in Lake Holcombe in northern Wisconsin, said Barneveld alumni have “tremendous respect and appreciation” for the school system.

“What you’re doing has good value and will have value for years to come,” Leary said.

Meyer said she is hopeful the names and addresses of all alumni will be collected by the end of the summer, and that the alumni association’s first newsletter can be published in time for the 2018 Barneveld Fair Day.

People who would like to learn more, join the committee or help organize the association are encouraged to contact Meyer at [remeyer@barneveld.k12.wi.us](mailto:remeyer@barneveld.k12.wi.us) or 608-574-7274.