

**From:** Ed Palmer edwardgpalmer@mplsvocational.com  
**Subject:** [List] Vocational High Newsletter - September 12, 2024  
**Date:** September 12, 2024 at 12:26 PM  
**To:** Ed Palmer edpalmer@edwardgpalmer.com



Greetings Ed,

Thanks to everyone who took the time to post a comment about our 2024 all-alum picnic. I appreciate your input, and if you still want to post a picnic comment, you can do so by using the link below.

<http://www.mplsvocational.com/alumni-picnic-comments.html>

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NEW 1976 ALUM CO-CHAIRS  
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Our picnic committee met on September 4 to review this year's picnic. If you provided input for improvements, they were presented to the committee and discussed. For many years, we have planned to eventually have the '70s alum take over the leadership positions. We want to keep the annual all-alum picnic going for as long as possible. God willing, for at least "another" ten years.

From a historical perspective, our first team from the Class of 1964 retired from picnic duties after five years. Now, after ten years, I will also retire from picnic duties. I'll explain what all this means in this update. Of course, it means I will now visit with my friends during the picnic. My exit from picnic duties started in 2023, and my friend and co-chair Joe Rath began taking over. This year was initially awkward for me as I felt a little lost. I had accomplished some goals by stepping aside and out of the scene. Therefore, if I looked a little lost, as some had commented to me, I was. It was the first time in ten years I could visit, and eventually, I settled down and started visiting with friends.

Our picnic co-chair, Joe Rath, had to resign for an air security position he accepted. Joe has done a fantastic job these last two years. From our picnic committee's perspective, we are grateful Joe was able to be involved these last two years. Joe had been promoting a new '70s team to extend the life of our annual picnic.

I'm delighted to introduce Kathy Hansen-Schwichtenberg and John Rath, both from the class of 1976, as the new co-chairs of Vocational's Picnic Committee. Their dedication and enthusiasm are truly inspiring. You can reach Kathy at 952-818-0677 and John at 715-704-1137. They're eager to hear your thoughts, especially if you're from the '70s and interested in joining them.

Our updated Picnic Organization Chart is at this link -  
<http://www.mplsvocational.com/about/all-alumni-annual-picnic/picnic-committee.html>

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NEW SHELTER INTERNAL LAYOUT  
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I want to thank Wayne Lindstrom, from the class of 1966, for his new shelter layout that moved our registration process entirely under the shelter. That gets alums picking up name tags or signing in — out of the sun or rain.

Our new Shelter Layout is at this link -  
<http://www.mplsvocational.com/about/all-alumni-annual-picnic/picnic-table-layout.html>

The following changes, part of the new Shelter Layout, are designed to streamline our operations and enhance your picnic experience. We're confident these improvements will make future picnics more enjoyable for everyone.

1. No flags are hanging at the back of the shelter.
2. The DJ booth is eliminated, and we will no longer play music at the picnic.
3. A new MC booth and PA system featuring two speakers up high will be used for announcements. The announcements will be easier to hear and understand without music playing in the background.
4. The front of the shelter will be taped off to direct traffic and make it easier for alums and guests to enter the picnic.
5. If we continue to make name tags, they will be with more prominent printed names in 2025. TBD
6. Once past the donation table, alums pick up a name tag or sign in at the last table.

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OTHER UPDATES & CHANGES  
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1. The Purple Jacket Award will not be continued.
2. John Rath will create a new Picnic website to handle all picnic-related issues.
3. John Rath will be taking over the All-Alum Newsletter.
4. I will maintain the current website, the Vocational Alum Database and Archive.
5. John and I will coordinate the two websites so they work together seamlessly.
6. I expect the existing website will contain the information from the first ten years of the picnic.
7. Depending upon the features deployed on the new Picnic Website, I may add or delete items from the existing website.
8. The existing website will remain where the Vocational Alum database records are located.

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9. The new Picnic website will be optimized to make operating the annual picnics easier.
10. There will be no table decorations.
11. There will be no door prizes unless donations are received to give away.

All these changes will give me significant relief from my existing picnic tasks. The final attendance number for our 2024 picnic was 216 attendees, making it the largest picnic event to date.

Your ongoing support and participation are what make our alums community so special. I look forward to seeing you at every picnic between now and 2034. Thank you for being a part of our Vocational Alum Newsletter list and your continued support.

May God Bless your continued health,

/Ed Palmer/, Webmaster

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ANTI-SPAM NOTICE

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I sent this email to Ed Palmer at the email address of [edpalmer@edwardgpalmer.com](mailto:edpalmer@edwardgpalmer.com). Our all-alumni newsletter list indicates that you were in or are associated with the Minneapolis Vocational's Class of 1964. To get removed from Vocational's All-Alumni Email List, respond with remove in the subject line. Alternatively, call my cell phone and let me know you want to get removed from this email list. No action is required if you wish to remain on Vocational's all-alumni newsletter list. If your name or class-year is incorrect, please email me the correct information.