

**From:** Ed Palmer [edwardgpalmer@mplsvocational.com](mailto:edwardgpalmer@mplsvocational.com)   
**Subject:** [List] Vocational Alum Newsletter - July 27, 2023  
**Date:** July 27, 2023 at 5:13 PM  
**To:** Edward Palmer [edwardgpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:edwardgpalmer@gmail.com)



Greetings Edward,

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ALUM PICNIC IS NOW ONLY ONE (1) WEEK OUT  
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NEXT THURSDAY, we celebrate our ninth annual picnic at the Richfield Veteran's Shelter. This year promises to be the best picnic yet. Today, we are only ONE week away from Vocational High School Alum's Annual Picnic.

DO THIS NOW, PLEASE - If you haven't already, take the time to let us know you are coming!

1. RSVP Online at <http://www.mplsvocational.com/RSVP.html>
2. Text your message to me at 763-370-8227
3. Call and leave a voice message for me at 763-370-8227

If you message or call, let me know your name, class year, and how many are coming with you.

Please RSVP. Do it now before reading further. I need a better estimate of attendees than I currently have.

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2023 PICNIC DETAILS  
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WHAT'S NEW?

1. The internal layout of the shelter is NEW.
2. A NEW sound system with six speakers will make it easier to hear announcements and music.
3. Joe Rath, a DJ from Vocational's class of 74, will play the top hits from 1956-1976. The music will be soft and will not interfere with conversations or announcements.
4. A dance floor area has been established on the left side of the shelter in front of the DJ booth.
5. Class photos will take place under the shelter in this designated dance floor area.
6. A Professional Dance Instructor, Carol Brecht-Wiles from the Class of 1967, will teach the dance lesson.
6. A BASIC East Coast Swing Dance Lesson is at 3:45 pm. No experience or partners are required.
7. Two Hours Of Open Dancing will be held from 8:45 to 5:45 pm

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PICNIC SCHEDULE  
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Volunteers Set Up - 9 am to 10:45 am  
General Picnic Hours - 11 am to 3 pm  
Alums Photos Taken - 11:45 am  
Lunch Served - 12 Noon to 2 pm  
Take Down and Clean Up - 3 pm  
East Coast Swing Dance Lesson - 3 pm to 3:45 pm  
Open Dancing from 3:45 to 5:45 pm  
Socializing can continue until 6 pm

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PICNIC LOCATION  
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WHO: ALL MPLS VOCATIONAL ALUMS  
DATE: AUGUST 3, 2023  
TIME: 11 am TO 6 pm  
WHERE: RICHFIELD VETERANS PARK  
6335 PORTLAND AVENUE S  
RICHFIELD MN

Get directions at this link - <http://www.mpls vocational.com/about/all-alumni-annual-picnic/next-alumni-picnic.html>.

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PICNIC PLAN  
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Our Annual Vocational Picnic is now thoroughly documented in a "Picnic Plan." It is available to download and view online at the link - <http://www.mpls vocational.com/picnic-plan.html>. The document is a password-protected PDF file dated June 19, 2023. The password [REDACTED] This password is redacted out of the online newsletter file, but is available by contacting me. The picnic plan has updated contact information and an organization chart for all current picnic committee members. It also has updated layouts of the shelter area and internal layout plans. See the top item under the "About" menu tab for other online picnic files.

The picnic RSVP database link is - <http://www.mpls vocational.com/RSVP.html>. While the RSVP isn't a requirement, it helps us to gauge the expected attendance. All that is required is a name, class year, and the number of attendees. The form does not ask for emails or phone numbers. They are not needed—just an estimated body count. You can also message me or phone me with your information. However, the RSVP database makes it easier for me to keep track. The RSVP database is not helpful for learning who will show up. Call them to ensure they'll be there if you want to visit with a specific alum.

Other changes this year include the following items.

1. Our recommended donation has been raised from \$5 to \$10. It is now the ninth year, and it has always been \$5. However, our shelter rental went from \$330 to \$667 this year. Last

year, Richfield's online rental was also \$667, but we skated by. Our committee has deemed the Richfield Veteran's Shelter the ideal place to hold our annual picnic, so I do not expect any change in this venue. We'll have to deal with the cost increases, and the recommended \$10 donation will do the trick. Please remember that this is not an entrance fee. It is just a suggested donation. It's always been that way, and we always seem to have enough cash collected to hold the next picnic.

2. We've lost two committee members due to health issues.
3. We lost one committee member due to a move out of state for retirement.
4. We have begun transitioning to 70s volunteers, who now comprise about 45% of committee members.
5. Joe Rath, from the class of 74, has joined me as the Picnic Committee's Co-Chair.

We'll be okay with the number of volunteers for this picnic, but we would like another 4-6 volunteers to step forward and help. We want enough volunteers in every area so that all alum volunteers can also visit with their classmates and friends. The first five picnics left all volunteers working full-time with no time for visiting. Thank you for pitching in to help. See Bonnie at the front desk if you can help with this picnic or want to join our picnic committee. You can recognize the picnic volunteers by name tags, usually attached to a lanyard.

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WISH LIST  
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1. A Videographer to take a video of the alum picnic. I will post the video(s) online. If this is you, let me know.
2. A portable dance floor for the event. If you have one, let me know. Otherwise, we are dancing on concrete.
3. A PR professional to help us spread the word about Vocational's Alumni Picnic to reach more alums.

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LOST EMAILS  
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Let's talk about emails for a moment. After the 5-Week notice, I had to delete six alum emails from our all-alumni list. The reasons for deleting are one email "unavailable," one "not found," and three email accounts "disabled." Quite frankly, I have no clue as to what these reject reasons mean. However, they are permanently bouncing emails that need deletion from our mailing list. Three others were "over quota," and one was "mailbox full." Those four rejections indicate the email is viable, but the user's mailbox won't accept them. These four alum emails are ignored and left on our list in hopes a subsequent email will get through. I don't have the time to nurse emails, so if you change your email, let me know your new one. Keeping an email inbox cleared is difficult nowadays with all the spam coming in. If you now find yourself with 1-2 thousand emails in your inbox (or more), you'll need to scan them visually for important stuff and then do a mass deletion to get a fresh start. Alternatively, browse and simultaneously delete 25-50 emails at a time.

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**DOUBLE-CLICKING FORM SUBMISSION**

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Vocational's website forms are all equipped with a feedback message that your data is received. Please give the server 10-20 seconds before hitting the submit button again. Hitting the button more than once results in multiple entries. Again, I don't have the time to deal with multiple entries. However, if you search for an alum and find more than one entry, the database record number with the largest number is the newest information. Remember, all alums can update their information and delete duplicate records. The site's data integrity depends on all alums.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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I've attached Vocational's Picnic press release. If you know someone at a local TV station, Radio station, newspaper, blog, or email list — Send them a copy and ask them to help spread the word about our annual all-alum picnic. It will help us reach more of Minneapolis Vocational High School alums. If an alum wants to pay for an email to contact all Minnesota media and some national media, the cost is \$100 to reach them. Let me know if this is you.

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**PARK SHELTER & PICNIC RULES**

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I've also attached the Park's Shelter and our additional Picnic Rules. From our food court, the following three issues are notable. Do not bring food using mayonnaise if the weather is hot on the picnic day. There are some health concerns. Make sure you label any kitchenware or memorabilia you bring to the picnic. Some green masking tape and a black Sharpie are available to identify your belongings. Lastly, we do not have facilities to prepare food or clean kitchenware.

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**ALUM PRAYERS NEEDED**

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I have heard from several alums who have serious health issues and won't be able to attend our annual picnic. Some problems are life-threatening, and some involve the deaths of family members. If you are a spiritual and praying person, please keep all of Vocational's alums in your prayers. Your prayers are appreciated.

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**PICNIC FLYER ATTACHED**

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I've attached the picnic flyer PDF. You can share it with other alums as needed. It is also available from our website as a download. Remember that this is a potluck. Bring a dish or something to share. Caution on cookies, as we are getting too many. Make sure you bring something to drink. Also, if you have a few folding chairs you can share, bring them too.

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**FINALLY**

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Welcome to professional dance instructor Carol Brecht-Wiles, from the class of 1967, who will teach our East Coast Swing dance lesson. Carol has over 25 years of experience as a dance instructor, has participated in dance competitions, and teaches ballroom dancing at several venues. She is available for private dance lessons and represents a line of dance shoes.

I look forward to seeing you at NEXT THURSDAY all-alum annual picnic.

May God Bless your continued health,

/Ed Palmer/  
Ed Palmer, Webmaster

edwardgpalmer@mplsvocational.com  
(763) 370-8227 Cell

MAILING ADDRESS

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13570 Grove Drive #361  
Maple Grove MN 55311

Minneapolis Vocational High School All Alumni Web Site  
<http://www.mplsvocational.com>

Author Website  
<http://www.edwardgpalmer.com>  
Featuring Body-Healing & Soul-Saving Books

ANTI-SPAM NOTICE

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I sent this email to Edward Palmer at the email address of edwardgpalmer@gmail.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.



**“Let’s Get Together”**  
***Minneapolis Vocational High School***  
***All Alumni Potluck Picnic***

**Date:            Thursday August 3, 2023**

**Date:** Thursday August 3, 2023

**Place:** Veterans Memorial Park:  
6335 Portland Ave.  
Richfield MN.

**Time:** 11:00 am to 3:00 pm (lunch served 12:00 to 2 pm)

**Details:**

- 1) All Vocational Alumni & Guests Are Invited. We need your help to spread the word! Thank You!
- 2) Please bring a **dish to share** and **your beverage or water**.
- 3) You may bring a lawn chair for your comfort.
- 4) Electrical outlets are available for all hot dishes to share.
- 5) The picnic area has excellent shelter and will be held rain or shine
- 6) The committee will provide the picnic shelter, music, coffee, and paper products. We are asking for a suggested donation of **\$10.00 per person** to help defray the costs.

**Web Site:** [www.mplsvocational.com](http://www.mplsvocational.com)

**RSVP:** [www.mplsvocational.com/RSVP.html](http://www.mplsvocational.com/RSVP.html)

**Questions:** Contact Ed Palmer at 763-370-8227

*The 2022 picnic was a great success with Alumni from the classes of 1947-1976; Official Attendance Count - 230. A Huge Thank You to All Who Attended!*

*Our All-Alumni Picnic Is Made Possible by Volunteers*

## **Park Shelter & Picnic Rules**

- 1 - No balloons as the shelter can have a wind tunnel effect.
- 2 - Mark the lids of food dishes, the dishes, and memorabilia with your name.
  - Masking tape and markers are provided for this purpose.
- 3 - Don't bring food that needs to be prepared **or large salad bowls**.
- 4 - Our food service volunteers only organize the food for self-serving. They do not mix food or wash kitchen dishes, pots, pans, serving wear, etc.
- 5 - Be aware of the weather. If hot, do not bring food containing mayonnaise.

- 6 - Bring your own drinks. That includes water.
- 7 - No alcoholic beverages allowed.
- 8 - Stay home if sick or not feeling well.
- 9 - Bring something to share.
- 10 - A donation of \$10 per person to help offset costs is requested.  
*This is a voluntary donation. There is no entry fee to attend the picnic!*
- 11 - This is a space limited Vocational High School all-alum event. Bringing a spouse, significant other, or a friend is normal and expected. Making it a family event is discouraged since it is focused on Vocational Alums.
- 12 - The microphone is not shared with anyone not on the picnic committee.
- 13 - Announcements will be made only by the MC or a committee member.
- 14 - Alumni showing up after photos will have their photo taken alone with a class-year sign.
- 15 - Bathrooms are in the building adjacent to the shelter.
- 16 - Some food, water, and other non-alcoholic drinks are also in this building.
- 17 - This is a non-smoking area.
- 18 - Do not take someone else's table while they are in line getting food.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Ed Palmer, Co-Chairman**  
Minneapolis Vocational High School  
All-Alumni Picnic Committee

**Phone: (763) 370-8227**

**Email: [edwardgpalmer@mplsvocational.com](mailto:edwardgpalmer@mplsvocational.com)**

## **MINNEAPOLIS VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI TO HOLD NINTH ANNUAL PICNIC ON AUGUST 3, 2023**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.**, July 13, 2023 — Alumni from the Minneapolis Vocational High School will gather in Richfield, MN, at the Veteran's Memorial Park on Thursday, August 3, 2023, for an all-alumni picnic get-together. The picnic will run from 11 am to 3 pm. The Vocational All-Alumni Picnic Committee estimates that over 200 alums will attend this year. At last year's annual picnic in August 2022, an estimated 230 Vocational alumni came from as far away as Mexico. We expect alumni from 1947 through 1976 to attend this year's picnic.

The all-alumni website now has 10,473 alum records, representing alums identified in all extant

yearbook records. Searchable class yearbooks from as far back as 1926 are on the website. The Vocational High School website now functions as a place to locate and connect with alums. It also serves as a historical record of the Minneapolis Vocational High School experience, serving Minneapolis families from 1914 to 1976. The website illustrates how generations in the same families sought a trade school education. It also shows what life was like in Minneapolis in the 1900s when reading the comments in the class yearbooks.

A graduate of 1947 will be at this year's picnic. Vocational graduates are now ranging in age from 64-94. This picnic will be the third gathering of these seniors since the COVID crisis.

Picnic Co-chairman Ed Palmer said: "What started as a website and annual picnic for only Vocational's Class of 1964 immediately expanded into an all-alumni project. The expansion was a natural extension of the database technology deployed and the class friendships established.

To continue documenting Minneapolis Vocational High School's history, we request that Minneapolis Families, who attended Vocational, search their attics for artifacts and records from early years.

Vocational High School was open from 1914 through 1976. However, very few records are available from 1914 through the early 1940s. Contact Ed Palmer if you find Vocational artifacts or documents you can donate to our picnic committee. Loaned yearbooks can also be scanned and returned to families wanting to retain such artifacts.

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