

**From:** Ed Palmer edwardgpalmer@mplsvocational.com  
**Subject:** [List] Vocational Alumni Newsletter - August 29, 2023  
**Date:** August 29, 2023 at 7:59 PM  
**To:** Ed ICN-Testing icnewswire@gmail.com



Greetings Ed,

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PICNIC PHOTOS ONLINE  
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To everyone waiting on the picnic photos, they are now online. They are the top item on the photo tab's submenu. Or, if you prefer, you can find them at this link.  
<http://www.mplsvocational.com/picnic-2023-group.html>.

This year, I have done some programming on our all-alumni website. For the first time, I'm providing a list of who RSVPd alongside a list of picnic ATTENDEES. That differs from prior years, where I have struggled to identify the names of all actual alums. Previous years show a list of who I think was an alum directly under the photos. I failed to make it easier with a separate alum and guest list. I think it was too complicated. Plus, I arrived at the picnic late, adding to some signup confusion.

Reflecting on the picnic, I have realized a few things regarding the data collected. First, it is a necessity that our picnic committee knows the names of every person who attends the picnic. That is true whether it is an alum or an alum's guest. My attempt at two lists pointed out how difficult it is to identify alums correctly. I am also not in the business of harvesting emails on the signup sheets for any purpose other than should an emergency arise that requires our committee to contact picnic attendees. Next year, the email option on the signup page will be eliminated. Only an emergency contact phone number will be requested. If needed, our committee can then contact those listed on the form. The list of attendees at next year's picnic will be added to the picnic attendee database for the year 2024. You can search "all records" or use the year 2023 this year. The results are the same. However, after the database is updated, each new year will be available to view in this database.

I've reset the RSVP database for the August 1, 2024 picnic RSVPs. The list has only Joe Rath and myself currently on it. If you plan to attend the 2024 Picnic, ADD your RSVP NOW at this link. <http://www.virtualapostle.net/cgi-bin/start.cgi/system/startup/RSVP.html>. Our 2023 picnic was the 9th year of our all-alumni picnics. In prior years, the RSVP database provided only a guesstimate of possible attendance. Historically, it was unreliable. However, in 2023, we had 174 alums and guests as RSVPd attendees. We counted 185 at the picnic, and the attendee list you can now view has 184 names. If you attended the picnic and are not on the list, email me, and I will add you to the list. Just provide the class year you were in OR are associated with as a guest, along with your first name, last name, and phone number.

So, you have the slide show for the alum class pictures on top and a link to download all the photos in the link below. There are 2-3 pictures of each class in the download file. I selected the one I thought was the best for the slide show. At a 290 Mb file, it could take a few minutes to download. The download is a zipped file that automatically opens into a folder of images when clicked. This year, there are two buttons instead of a list of class years and alums. The red left button will show you who RSVPd for 2023. The right green button will open up the picnic attendee database. You must select a year and click the "Search Attendee Records" button to see the attendee list for a particular year or all records from 2023 forward.

The website updates have been an interesting task for me and also a necessary one as we

move forward. Given past estimates using the RSVP database, we estimated an attendance of 250 for 2023. We had sweltering heat and humidity, and we think that was a limiting factor for lower attendance. Thank you to everyone who showed up despite the heat. We can't forget that all of us are seniors 62 or later. Nor can we forget that Minnesotans are heartier people. I think I can get away with saying that.

Our capacity for the shelter is 300. Next year is Joe's 50th for the Class of 1974. We expect a large crowd and plan to add more tables and chairs. That means we will REQUIRE an RSVP via the database or a phone call to someone (unsuspecting) I have yet to identify to take on this task. We will close off the RSVPs THREE WEEKS before the picnic to ensure we have enough resources for the 2024 picnic. That will also ensure we do not exceed the City's maximum for the shelter. The RSVP database provides a priority list for attendees. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO RSVP for the 2024 Picnic. It will be imperative for a successful 2024 picnic. Do it now if you plan to attend. If you are still working, you have a whole year to prepare to take the day off and attend the 2024 picnic on August 1.

Now, there is a purpose behind all my coding and website work. I plan a significant upgrade to the website soon. I aim to remove some complexity and make it easier for another person to update the website in my absence or if I get a pair of wings prematurely. Please let me know what works or doesn't work for you on our website. Also, let me know what you'd like to see on the website.

Finally, if you attended the 2023 Picnic, take some time to leave a comment on our "Picnic Comment Bulletin Board." Here is the link for picnic comments. <http://www.mplsvocational.com/alumni-picnic-comments.html>. There is a simple form at the bottom of the comments. Add your comments and hit the button on the form. The server will add your comments immediately.

Our picnic committee will hold its review meeting next week on September 7. Let me know if you have any concerns or comments for the committee, and I will bring them up for discussion. I'll provide an update after the meeting. Have a great Labor Day Holiday weekend. That's all for now.

May God Bless your continued health,

/Ed Palmer/

Ed Palmer, Webmaster

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"I shed light on alternative health practices

shed light on alternative health practices  
and biblical wisdom through my writing."

ANTI-SPAM NOTICE

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I sent this email to Ed ICN-Testing at the email address of [icnewswire@gmail.com](mailto:icnewswire@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.

