

Nonnewaug GradNite Meeting October 2, 2017 Notes

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Introduced Christine Paige–Chair, Joann Bodie- Co-Chair,

Linda McCarthy- Secretary and Julie Biron-long time committee member

- **GradNite Overview** – *discussed what GradNite offers that evening and what is entailed throughout the year to make this night possible*
- **Financial Report**- *shared the Expenses of GradNite (approximately \$15,000-\$17,000 – this is a 40% decrease when this committee started in 2013. Cost was \$25,000) GradNite is not a separate entity like PTO's, all funds/activities are run through the region. We have absorbed our own expenses regarding extra mailings to businesses and parents and storage facility for all of GradNite supplies, as the school has no space available. Valuable information was shared regarding the work involved and stressed that fundraising is a huge component of a successful GradNite. Funding for this event is 1/3 business and civic organization donations, 1/3 fundraising and 1/3 parent donations. Depending upon student/parent involvement we could potentially decrease the parent donation portion.*
- **Social Media** – *Linda M is handling all the social media. The attendees were encouraged to promote all aspects of GradNite and to “follow”, “like” and “share” GradNite on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Linda explained that Instagram is part of our push to reach out to and encourage the senior class for their involvement in GradNite. Other opportunities the committee is exploring as a way of exciting seniors include a T-Shirt Design Contest, events and fundraisers related to Prom, GradNite Senior Survey where they get to rate, vote and suggest activities for their GradNite celebration as well as the opportunity to earn extra raffle (drawing) tickets for the evening of GradNite, when they participate in ProGrad activities throughout the year.*
- **Chair Positions Open : Help is needed !**
 - ✓ **Business donations Coordinator** – *someone to coordinate volunteers to approach various businesses on our list for donations for upcoming events/activities. We have a master list to use as a guide.*
 - ✓ **Decoration Committee** – *someone to head up the decoration committee to what theme, design and decorations will be used at GN*
 - ✓ **Raffle Coordinator** – *someone to collect donations for various raffles throughout the year and also the GradNite raffle which includes the big prizes for the seniors*

Thank you to Marie and Julie :

- ✓ **Food Coordinator** – *Marie Feola offered to coordinate with volunteers to ask for food donations for the night of GradNite*
- ✓ **Gift Bag Coordinator** – *Julie Biron offered to coordinate this again this year. Ordering of items for the parting gift bag for each senior that attends.*

- **Major Fundraisers/Events.....Volunteers/Chair positions needed :**
 - **Pie and Cookie Dough 9/25-10/16**
 - *Prize levels – students that sell 50+ items will receive a \$ 25-gift card
Students that sell 100+ items will receive a \$50- gift card and the highest seller for items sold over 100 will get an additional \$50- gift card*
 - *Pick-up date is set for 11/16 – ALL ITEMS MUST BE PICKED UP THIS DAY
2 Volunteers needed to help distribute and make calls before hand to remind people of the date*
 - **Clothing Drive 10/21 – 8-3 @ NHS**
 - *Donations of clothing and some household items are collected at the school.
A company picks up the bags at 3pm. We are paid by the pound. This is a very easy no-cost fundraiser.*
 - **Holiday Bazaar 11/18 – 10-4 @ WMS**
 - *Previous vendors have been contacted, there are still openings with a first come first serve basis for companies represented*
 - *At previous bazaar we have offered food trucks, committee is considering a different option for food this year as we have not reached out to these vendors to date*
 - *Bake Sale –Chair will be Terry Creighton*
 - *Bakers are wanted – donations can be dropped off that morning at WMS*
 - *General help needed Friday night and Saturday*
 - **Breakfast with the Grinch –12/3 8-12 @ Woodbury Senior Center**
 - **Promotional Business Placemats – Open Chair position** ~someone to organize the Promotional Business Placemats and collect business cards from businesses.
 - **Raffle – Open Chair position** to solicit businesses for raffle table
 - **General volunteers, students, art honor society** are need for face painting, food preparation, serving, and hostesses. This is a great opportunity for students to get involved.
Committee is currently working on revising their solicitation letters for this fundraiser.
Marie also suggested that we consider running a holiday shop where items are purchased whole sale and resold for profit. In the past, she dealt with a company in Florida and will forward the information to Christine for review.
 - **Holiday Bake Sale – 12/2 @ FFA Holiday Plant Sale ~**
Terry will Chair this – bakers are needed
 - **Shutterfly Online** – order your holiday cards through this online link:
NHSGradnite.ShutterflyStoreFront.com

Other upcoming fundraiser Ideas :

LaBonne's Bake Sale - before holidays (1 per calendar year)

Terry is looking into organizing a date

Restaurant Percentage Nights – Open Chair position

- **Charcoal Chef (February 12)** *We receive 10% of the day profits and have a raffle basket. Marie Feola offered to make chocolates and work on the basket we will be offering*

PaintNite – (Linda McCarthy)

Yankee Candle Online – (Linda McCarthy)

Senior Class Involvement :

Sports Center of CT Activity Card - (Linda McCarthy) *Christine submitting approval*

Senior GradNite T-Shirt Design Contest – *will start this is January*

Prom coordination – *working with businesses to offer students discounts*

New business :

- *It was also relayed that due to the construction taking place at the school, we are unsure at this time where GradNite will be held and that we should have a better understanding in January as to where we stand.*
- *Mike Rickenbach suggested the possibility of running a Round up Fundraiser through the school lunch program. While this might not be a possibility through the lunch program, the committee members thought this to be a good idea and will look into this as an opportunity to fundraise through local businesses*
- *David Bibbey suggested the possibility of adding an online donation option. It was explained that we would not be able to do this because while we are a not for profit organization under the umbrella of Region 14, we unfortunately are not our own 501c and therefore cannot have our own bank account to deposit funds. It was suggested that the committee look to another local organization that would be willing to do this for us. The committee thought this to be a good idea and will look into options.*
- *David Bibbey suggested the possibility of the NHS DECA club using GradNite as a project to gain some marketing experience. He will discuss the possibility with the DECA club to see if they would have any interest.*
- *Marie Feola volunteered to organize a group of seniors to hang GradNite fundraising flyers at local businesses around town starting with our upcoming Fall Clothing Drive.*

Next Meeting :

Monday, November 6th

7pm NHS VoAg room 453