Class Dues ≠ Annual Giving

If you are a Class Treasurer, you have probably received at least one of the following questions:

“What is the difference between Class Dues and Annual Giving?”
“I already donated to Princeton last year, so why do I need to pay my Class Dues also?”
“Can I just send you one check to cover both Annual Giving and my Class Dues?”

The short answer to all of these questions is NO. Class Dues and Annual Giving are two separate donations to two distinct legal entities. Annual Giving supports unrestricted funds for use by Princeton University. Class Dues separately fund activities such as the PAW and class-sponsored events.

If a classmate accidentally sends you an Annual Giving payment, you should obviously coordinate with the University to move the funds to the correct account. As a general rule, however, you should remember that these are separate activities, and you should not tie Class Dues collection directly with Annual Giving.

Adam E. Lichtenstein ’95 *10

ATTENTION 2’s & 7’s:
It’s time to initiate your new officer election process!

Refer to your class constitution and/or by-laws for guidance. To access your class constitution and by-laws (if available), visit: alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/resources/.

If you need assistance, please contact Cathy Phillips, Associate Director for Classes and Reunions, at cp14@princeton.edu or 609-258-9573.
PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY MEMORIALS

Many alumni know that the Class Notes section of the Princeton Alumni Weekly (PAW) has consistently been the most highly-read section of the magazine. What may or may not come as a surprise, is that the Memorials section is also a big draw. Depending on your class structure, the designated Class Memorialist, the Class Secretary, or a friend of the person who passed away will send in the information to the PAW office. PAW’s memorials editor will review the information provided for factual mistakes, word count (200), clarity, and to ensure the listing maintains AP style. The memorials editor will make every effort to edit with a light hand so that it also maintains the Class voice. The PAW has worked diligently to reduce the lead time for a memorial to appear in print once the information is received. In general, it now takes approximately two to four months for a memorial to appear in the PAW; keep in mind that the PAW is not published between early July and mid-September, so if the memorial is submitted during that period of time, the lag might stretch to five months. So for example, the memorials that ran in the January issue were received in the office between late August and October. Every summer, PAW sends out a note to all Class Secretaries and Memorialists (where designated) with the PAW guidelines and the schedule for the year. If you would like to see the current schedule, please visit the Volunteer Resources page at alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/resources/, or if you prefer we can always send you a copy.

Maria Carreras Kourepenos ’85

UPDATING ALUMNI RECORDS

In addition to sending memorials to the PAW, Class Secretaries should also notify Alumni Records at 609-258-3114 or alumrecs@princeton.edu.

Princetoniana “Take It or Leave It” Tent

For alumni hoping to find a new home for Princeton memorabilia and apparel that could be treasured by other alumni and guests.

Bring your items (only as big as you can carry) to Reunions and drop them off at the “Take It or Leave It” tent on the East Pyne South Lawn any time after 9:00 am, Thursday, June 1. And then go on your own search for more great finds!

Items not claimed by a new owner by 9:00 pm, Saturday, June 1, will disappear!

alumni.princeton.edu/goinback/reunions/2017/events/

DID YOU KNOW

The Class of 1970 had the first women (9) to graduate with Princeton undergraduate degrees. The Class of 1973 was the first class to have women in the class for all four years. To learn more, visit: blogs.princeton.edu/mudd/2014/11/history-of-women-at-princeton-university/.
Colleges and universities throughout the US are looking at ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Princeton has numerous initiatives on this front, involving all aspects of University administration and life, and the greening of Reunions is part of that effort. We’ve included some suggestions for you, as a class leader, to make your own Reunions greener.

**Cups, cups, cups:** About 100,000 plastic cups are used and discarded at Reunions each year. Encourage your classmates to mark and reuse their cups when possible and provide designated containers for their disposal. Since 2004, the University’s EcoReps have been working at Reunions in their bright green shirts to help classes manage and recycle their cups and other recyclables. Used cups are sent to two local upcycling businesses, TerraCycle and Preserve, where they are made into consumer products such as chairs and toothbrushes. But all that upcycling takes a while, so you still have to bring your own toothbrush to Reunions. Really.

**Bottles, bottles, bottles:** Staying hydrated during Reunions is key to having a great time without flagging under the high June sun, but all those disposable plastic water and soda bottles produce a mountain of waste. Encourage your classmates to bring their own refillable bottles, or, better yet, include a refillable water bottle in your classmates’ goodie bag. During Reunions, the University provides free filtered drinking water at over 200 locations across campus, so wherever you are, you’re probably closer to water than to beer. Strange but true. And green, too.

**Chairs, chairs, chairs:** If you’ve ever been on a Reunions Committee, you know it involves a lot of chairs. There’s the Food Chair, the Costume Chair, the Beverage Chair, the Community Service Chair. How about adding a Sustainability Chair to your room full of chairs? Starting in 2017, Alumni Affairs is encouraging classes to do exactly that to help classes incorporate sustainability efforts into their Reunions planning from the start.

And who knows, maybe you’ll come up with some great new ideas on how to make your Reunion the greenest ever—ideas we can all use for greener Reunions, a greener Princeton, and a greener planet.

**Jason C. Gold ’81**

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**UPCOMING REUNIONS**

- **2017** • June 1 – 4
- **2018** • May 31 – June 3
- **2019** • May 30 – June 2
- **2020** • May 28 – 31

**VOLUNTEER RESOURCES**

[alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/resources/](http://alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/resources/)

Your main source of information for class business, including:

- handbooks for Class Officers and Reunions
- printing and mailing how-to’s
- event dates and planning tips
- PAW class notes schedules and fees
- financial reports
- links to past ClassExchange newsletters
The IRS and You – the Class Officer
(It’s Not as Bad as it Sounds . . .)

You may have heard that over the past couple of years, the IRS has sent hundreds of notices to class officers and trustees stating that the IRS had revoked their tax-exempt status for failure to file annual information returns or other mandatory documents. If so, let’s hope you’ve also heard that (a) this was the result of an IRS computer glitch leading to mistakes in their processing of the University’s group tax return; (b) the University’s tax offices promptly responded to all the notices; and (c) no University alumni organization lost its tax-exempt status based on those notices.

By the way, just in case it happens again, please forward the notice to the University’s Treasurer’s Office tax@princeton.edu and let the University respond on your behalf.

That’s relatively easy, but tax compliance is serious business, and it’s important for all class officers to have at least a basic understanding of the key concepts. Here’s a quick overview.

The University received an Alumni Group Exemption in 1984. This exemption currently covers over 150 organizations, including more than 75 classes, enabling each of them to accept gifts (including dues or fees) on a tax-deductible basis, subject to normal IRS charitable contribution rules.

Among the key do’s and don’ts for maintaining that tax-exempt status are the following:

Each class or organization must adopt substantively identical governing documents – articles of incorporation and by-laws. The current templates for each are available at alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/resources/.

Each alumni organization’s primary purpose must be to further the interests, welfare, and educational goals of Princeton – essentially to advance learning through study and research. And each expenditure of class funds should be consistent with those goals.

Conversely, expenditures should not be for the benefit of a few individuals.

Reunions fees, which clearly benefit the individuals attending the event, are not tax-deductible, even when one classmate pays the fees for a classmate who cannot afford to pay. As a corollary, classes may not use money collected as class dues for this purpose.

Annual dues are fully deductible, even though they cover the cost of PAW Magazine subscriptions for class members.

Other permissible expenditures include supporting scholarships or grants for University students, functions that bring classmates together as a whole – not, for small dinner parties or other limited-invitation gatherings – and memorial services or community service activities that bring together class members in a way that enhances their connections to the class and the University.

Other impermissible uses of class funds include raising funds for unaffiliated charitable organizations (with a possible exception if one does so through an in-person gathering of classmates and other Princetonians), political activities, and any activity that would result in personal profit or political gain.

Many events and other expenditures, particularly those related to community service projects and fundraising for unaffiliated groups, present close calls. Please reach out to the Office of Alumni Affairs before beginning a community service effort, especially one that involves fundraising of any type.

John R. Nealon ’77

JUST HAD A GREAT EVENT?
WIN A PRIZE!

Engrave your class name on a silver cup for outstanding attendance at a non-reunion event!

Please submit an Event Report online at alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/resources/ or call 609-258-5451 for a paper version of the report.

Class Events & Mini-Reunions

Class events offer a wonderful opportunity to bring classmates together, strengthen long-standing bonds and forge new ones as you cheer on the Tigers at a sporting event, help others through a service project or discover new places while on a journey.

Has your class held an event or a mini-reunion this year? If so, please remember to submit an event report online under Volunteer Resources: alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/resources/.

In addition, the Office of Alumni Affairs has compiled a listing of past class mini-reunions that you may peruse for ideas and inspiration (also found under Volunteer Resources). We encourage you to contact the organizer or class officers to learn more about any trips that may be of interest to your class.