



19 April 2019

DEFINITION OF FDMS ALUMNUS

Brothers:

On November 20, 2018, the FDMSAA held an open discussion seeking the input of fellow alumni regarding the definition of an FDMS alumnus. Over the past few months, the officers, administration and other stakeholders held further discussions based on the input given by you, the band of brothers. Through it, we have come up with a plan on how to move these discussions forward to a vote.

Before I proceed further, I want to make clear that receiving a diploma from FDMS explicitly categorizes you as an alumnus, regardless of any other criteria, i.e., number of years of attendance. If you walked the aisle as a graduate or received that piece of paper that says you graduated from FDMS, you are an alumnus...plain and simple. So these discussions/vote will not focus on that.

First, as part of the discussion, we have divided the classes into three (3) groups:

- 1) 2006 and older/earlier (pre FDMSAA formation)
- 2) 2007 through 2018 (post FDMSAA formation)
- 3) 2019 and beyond

The vote will focus on only two (2) groups: **2006 and older/earlier and 2019 and beyond**. We will not vote on the how to apply the definition of an alumnus to the classes of 2007 through 2018. Here is why.

On or around October 2006, a meeting was held at the FD Phoenix Center, in which the discussion was held on who is an FD alumnus, how the FDMSAA would and should be established and how much of a fee should be paid annually by its members, amongst other things. I, personally, was at that meeting. The FDMSAA was officially formed in 2007, prior to the start of the 2007 Alumni basketball tournament. So, a quorum was held with alumni, officers were elected, and a decision was made and the rest is history. All graduating classes from 2007 and on knew what the definition was, so there is no debate. What happened in 2006 is essentially what is happening now. We don't want to do this again.

That being said, for **2019 and beyond**, there will be two choices:

- 1) maintain the status quo of (a) 2 full year's attendance, (b) diploma, or (c) honorary status OR
- 2) diploma only

For **2006 and older/earlier**, the three (3) choices will focus ONLY on the years of attendance with no diploma:

- 1) One (1) full year attendance
- 2) Status quo of two (2) full years of attendance
- 3) Three (3) full years of attendance

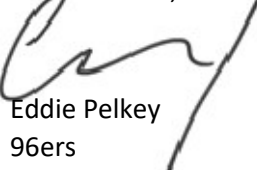
Again, it is understood that if you graduated from FDMS and have a diploma, you are an alumnus.

Once the vote is tallied, and the definition has been identified, the FDMSAA board will meet to ratify the decision. Once ratified, a 2nd vote will happen for the FDMSAA to amend the by-laws. This second meeting will be held in conjunction with the meeting for the summer basketball tourney. Once all this is done, I will ask the school to generate a lists for those within the voted on definition. Any person who is NOT on the list, but the class feels should be included, will then have the option to bring that person up before a soon to be formed REVIEW BOARD, which will consist of at least 3-5 members from every decade. This discussion will continue at a later time.

The vote will happen on **Wednesday, May 29th at 6:00pm at the Phoenix Center**. The ballot will be provided, but please bring something to fill in your circles with. **There is one (1) vote per class.** So discuss amongst your class and send your rep. If you don't send a rep, you don't have a say and shall accept the decision by the group. e-voting will NOT be allowed. Your class must be physically represented in order to cast a vote. **The representative from your class casting the vote MUST meet the current status quo eligibility requirements – 2 full years attendance or diploma.** Honorary members will NOT be allowed to make a vote on behalf of the class.

A short, general discussion will be allowed prior to vote on May 29th. After that, ballots will be passed out, votes will be cast, and results will be read aloud upon completion. For many, MANY years this definition has been a contentious issue. On May 29th, we put this argument to rest, once and for all and steer our focus toward matters that truly benefit our beloved alma mater and its students.

Fortes in Fide,



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