

LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

FALL ISSUE



ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009 ~ LEXINGTON HOUSE

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, August 5, 2009 ~ Gleneagles C.C.

From The President

Fellow Alumni:

What a great summer it has been for the most part. Both Chicago Baseball Teams have spent the majority of their seasons in first place. The banquet was a fantastic success with over 600 attendees and we had our largest golf outing ever with 256



golfers.

Financially we are doing very well. Our decal drive approached \$30,000 this year. Between the banquet, golf outing and decal drive we have made two generous donations to our alma mater and are sponsoring a full scholarship to a deserving Leo student.

From having watched the football team last year I am optimistic this year's team will be very good. Let's all back the Lions.

One sad note we all miss the man I personally referred to as "Mr. Leo" Jim Coogan '44, passed away. Jim is greatly missed by all of us.

Have a great fall and happy holiday season!!

Best regards,

Rich Furlong '59
President

The Greatest Pep Rally Ever

This article appeared in the December 1970 Oriole. It was written by student Jim Doyle.

The last pep rally of the football season was a most unforgettable one. This is one reporter's account of that assembly.

You will not be obligated to attend the pep rally. Seniors that have an early dismissal may leave at the end of sixth period. Those seniors wishing to attend the rally and all others who have an early dismissal will proceed to the cafeteria at the end of 6th period.

This was the announcement which preceded the pep rally November 20th. A pep rally which was destined to be the greatest in the history of the school.

It started as all this year, threatening to be dull and listless, but soon after it began that feeling evaporated. The catalyst was Brother Doyle who spoke from his heart. Personal feelings that could be nothing but sincere. The students and faculty here at Leo are my family. There is no place on this earth I would rather be

than Leo. Leo is everything. Leo is not black, Leo is not white, there are no divisions at Leo. Leo is one and Leo is great. A cheer went up in the gym, a wall of solid spirit, which threatened to blow the roof off. We're number one we're number one! Index fingers pointed to heaven, voices releasing pent up emotions. An emotional Brother Doyle speaks again, You know a brother is required to take a vow of poverty, but you couldn't give me a million dollars for what I just experienced. I am proud to teach at Leo, it gives me the opportunity to associate with the best kind of men in the world. That's a Leo man. He is so filled with emotion now he is beginning to get misty. Everyone identifies with him, because everyone feels the same as he does. His emotions climax. Beat Rita, Beat Rita! Begins as Brother heads for the exit. Pete Kammolz returns to the mike. He introduces the guest speaker, former Leo coach Jim Arneberg. Handsome Jim, Handsome Jim!. The coach speaks of spirit. It's the same old Leo. There's something intangible about a Leo pep rally. It brings together the greatest bunch of guys in the world. Leo has the greatest tradition of spirit, a spirit which has been a part of my life since I was in grade school. The coach speaks on. He relates stories about Fitzgerald, Hanlon, Foster and other great molders of the Leo Legend. He ends with an address to the team and though he steps away from the mike his volume is not lessened. I want you to remember that when you take the field Sunday, if you see the opportunity to gain another yard, you gain another yard or ten yards if needed. Don't ease up, gain those ten yards. Nothing else of what he said could be heard. The students erupted into "We want city show no pity!!!!!!!" They cheered as Pete Kammholz came to the speaker's stand. He, too, spoke from the soul as you know this was not a mandatory pep rally for the seniors. Many students didn't bother to come. I want to say we don't need those guys. They don't belong here anyway. Leo consists only of those students who are here now only the students who care are Leo men. Then the long awaited moment arrived. Two fingers were thrust into the air as Pete invited the student body to sing Leo's symbol of student participation, the Fight Song. After several choruses, Brother Gremley stepped up to the mike in a futile attempt to dismiss the group but how can one turn off something which took months to build? He finally gave up amid Lions, Lions, clap, clap, clap, clap, clap! Now that the time was theirs, the students wouldn't be denied their wish. A new cry was taken up. "We want Foster, We want Foster" was their cry. They shouted for about 5 minutes before a glimpse of the coach in the hall was seen. His face appeared and immediately "Handsome F

Handsome Bob!" became their cry. Then Mr. Foster spoke. I was forced to leave because I was so emotional that I was afraid I would embarrass myself. I would like to say though that I have been associated with this school for many years. I want you to know that I have never seen such a show of spirit in all of my years. This is the greatest pep rally this gym has ever seen. I can see that you are emotionally involved in this game. Once more index fingers point to heaven "We're number one, we're number one!" Was their cry again. Mr. Foster's finger also pointed skyward. He also had to exit for apparently something had gotten into his eyes. Another futile attempt was made at dismissal. Another call was taken up. Szwasz was summoned. Then Davido, Donnellan and Narish. They either talked slowly or slurred their words as their emotions had overcome them. But their message was clear. Rita had already lost as far as they were concerned. Brother Gremley tried to dismiss them again but he had to wait once more. "V-I-C-I-O-U-S are we, vicious, hell yes." Fifteen minutes later it was Mr. Foster who had the last words. This has been something fabulous but all good things must come to an end. If we keep this up, we will miss practice. But this will not end. It will continue until Sunday when you same bunch of guys will cheer us to a Catholic League Championship.

It thus ended. But did it? Leo spirit, such as was demonstrated here, has been since 1926 and will be until 79th and Sangamon exists no more. And even then it will be remembered forever as the remnants of Leo Graduates achievements will always exist for all the world to see.

Lion's Laughter

One afternoon a lawyer was riding in his stretch limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop, and he got out to investigate. He asked one of the men, why are you eating grass? We don't have any money for food, the poor man replied we have no choice but to eat grass. Well then, you can come with me to my house and I'll feed you the lawyer said. But sir I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there under that tree. Bring them along the lawyer replied. Turning to the other man he stated you come with us also.

The second man said, but sir, I have a wife and six children with me also. Bring them as well the lawyer replied. They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the stretch limo was.

Once underway, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer and said, "sir you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The lawyer replied, "glad to do it. You'll really love my place. The grass is almost a foot high."

Miscellaneous

Ed Ryan class of 1957 will be inducted into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame in October. He will be inducted as part of a very prestigious class that includes Dick Butkus and Gayle Sayers. Ed was inducted into the Catholic League Hall of Fame last year. Many of you will remember Ed as a dazzling halfback who helped lead Leo to its last City Championship in 1956.

Therese Stecich, daughter of Dan, class of 1975, was this

years Class Salutatorian at Providence Catholic H.S. this year. She must have gotten her brains from her mother.

On Memorial Day this year Jim Furlong '65 was asked to make a speech at Gaelic Park regarding the best ways to respect the veterans on Memorial Day. Jim is a highly decorated war hero from Viet Nam. He was presented with The Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star for his heroism in that theater.

This is a column that should be much longer. I would love to dedicate a number of pages bringing people up to date on our respective whereabouts but I need people to give me such information. Contact me at rc5463@sbcglobal.net or mail me at P.O. Box 603, Oak Lawn, IL. 60454.

Rich Furlong

Missing Class of 1959 Members

If you are on this list or know the whereabouts of anyone on this list please contact Wally Nitsche at 708 479-8120 or e mail him at wallyodf@sbcglobal.net or mail me at P.O. Box 603 Oak Lawn, IL. 60454 attn; Rich Furlong

Dennis Baird
Tom Barth
Pat Bush
Don Butz
Phil Carollo
Jim Casey
Will Casey
Charles Clausen
Jim Cosentino
Mike Coyne
John Cummins
Jim Curran
Mike Delio
Steve Demkoski
John Donovan
John Dwyer
Rich Egan
Rolf Engel
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William Manning
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Edw. Nicholson
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Terrence Vaught
Chas. Veith
John Wagner
Michael Walsh
Robt. Welch
Edw. Werhand
Richard White
Rich Wittingham
John Zautis
John Zayner
Walter Zulawinski

A Lonely Lion

I received a letter from Father Tom Mescall '65. Father Tom advised me of a touching story involving Ed Ryan Leo High School Class of 1959. Ed taught at St. Denis for 45 years. He lived a single life in very humble surroundings. Ed dedicated his life to Catholic Education. Every day from his Catholic schools pension check and Social Security he sent a twenty five dollar donation to some Catholic Charity.

This type of lifetime generosity took its toll on his finances and Ed died penniless. This may be one of the greatest examples we as Leo men may have of the true meaning of our motto "Facta Non Verba".

St. Denis, a wonderful Catholic Church with strong ties in the past to Leo High School stepped forward and despite a dwindling budget provided a Christian burial for Ed. However that parish can ill afford not to be reimbursed. Ed only had one family when he died, the men of Leo. Unfortunately, as an alumni association our not for profit charter would not allow us to contribute as a group to this cause. However I was hoping that if I brought this to your attention a number of you might see fit to contribute. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Leo High School Alumni Association but clearly make your intention known that it is to be used for the Ryan Burial Fund.

No man should die a pauper that is especially true with respect to a Leo Man.

This is a little unusual but I think circumstances merit our trying to help.

Mail your contribution to PO box 603 , Oak Lawn, IL 60454

Golf Update

We just completed another very successful golf outing. My special thanks to Joan Howard for making it happen.

We had 256 men play golf. We did this in a shotgun and one half. A true shotgun and one half should be 54 foursomes, we had 64. This resulted in a little more backup on the course than usual. A double shotgun would allow more men to golf and open the golf course up a little better. To have a double shotgun you must guarantee **and pay for 288** golfers. If we could guarantee all who golfed this year would come back and only 32 new golfers or 8 foursomes, we could go both courses full shotguns. We do need to guarantee our number however and must pay for that number.

I would like to see if there is enough interest. If you did not golf this year but can put together a foursome consisting of **3 other golfers who did not golf this year** please let me know as soon as you read this. If we can get at least 32 new golfers we will give serious consideration into going to a double shotgun. If you have been trying to golf for the last several years and we have been full now is your chance. I can be contacted at:

Address: P.O. Box 603 Oak Lawn, IL. 60454

E mail : rc5463@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: 815 436-6345

Rich Furlong

A Huge Thank You to the Businesses, Friends and Alumni who supported the Golf Outing:

Hole Signs:

Booster Club Members

Senator Edward Maloney

Cook County State's Attorney, Richard Devine

Brett Equipment Corp, Matthew Brett

Golfers gifts:

St. Andrews Products, James (Skip) Strzelecki, '64

People First Bank, David Stanton

New Balance Chicago, thru Jim Farrell '61

Golf Enterprises, Scott Fulwiler, '74

Raffle Prizes:

Dan Stecich, '75 personal donations

Quality Control Systems, Jeff Malizia, thru Bob Cheval '74

Big Run Golf Course thru Don Hogan '45

Jack Farnan, '63 personal donations

Golf Enterprises, Scott Fulwiler '74

People First Bank, Joliet, David Stanton

Hawthorne Race Track thru Tim Coleman '72

Phonak Hearing Services, thru Joan Howard

Door Prizes:

Standard Bank & Trust, Palos Heights

Winston's Market, Orland Park

Walmart, Orland Hills

New Balance Chicago, Orland Park

Phonak Hearing Services

Barroco's Pizza, Crestwood

Ollies Coffee Café, Palos Heights

Millie's Ice Cream Shoppe, Oak Lawn

Jack Kelly '57

Bill Murphy '58

Jack Farnan '63

Scott Fulwiler '74

Debbie Lesh (sister of Joan Howard)

Noreen Paglia (sister of Jim Farrell '61)

Annual Alumni Awards

As you all are aware the Alumni Association presents various awards to worthy Leo Alumni. You may not be aware that these awards are open to nomination by any member of the alumni. In the past these awards were discussed at our monthly meetings (which are open to all by the way). We would like to receive input from any one who feels they are aware of an individual who demonstrates the qualities that are required of each award.

First and foremost is the Man of the Year award. This award goes to an individual that has benefited Leo in an extraordinary way. Many have helped Leo, but this honor is given to the person who has demonstrated an outstanding effort to make Leo all that it can be and is.

Also presented is the Community Service award. This award is given to an alumni member that shows an active interest in

promoting the community around him. This isn't specific to just helping Leo, but is awarded to an individual that makes an extraordinary commitment to their community.

Finally there is the Doc Driscoll award named after Dr. Thomas P. Driscoll a man who went above and beyond the call of duty in making sure Leo High School continues to be the success that it is today. The recipient of this award has shown an extraordinary devotion in helping Leo carry on the tradition of excellence that we have all experienced. As you may have noticed this is the one award that is not presented every year. This is because we feel it should be given only to a very special individual who represents the values and ideals that Doc showed to all of us.

If you feel that you know someone that is deserving of any of these awards please let us know. Send their name, the reasons you feel they are deserving of the respective award and a short resume of their achievements. These can be sent in either of the following ways; Leo Alumni Assoc. Attention: Dan Stecich

P.O. Box 603
Oak Lawn, IL. 60454

Or to:

Dnno215@sbcglobal.net

All Hall of Fame nominations must be sent direct to Bob Foster at the School.

We look forward to hearing from you so that we can continue to honor those who have continued to keep Leo alive.

Alumni Association Directory

It has been brought to our attention that there are numerous errors in the most recent alumni directory. In order to correct this we are asking for your assistance in updating the information. If you know of any entry that is incorrect we are asking that you please contact us. The directory isn't published each year so it is our hope that by the time the next one is published that we will have a far more accurate database. We would also appreciate it if we could have someone from each class help to verify the current information from the 2008 directory. Anyone with info or an interest in helping out can contact Dan Stecich at 708/923-0528 or dnno215@sbcglobal.net Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your help.

Good Bye Old Friend

The first time I met him I was struck by his size and strength. What came thru later was his dignity and humility. Jim was a man of love. First and foremost he loved his family. He loved and served his country. He loved and cherished his church and he loved Leo High School. For over 60 years he was devoted to his alma mater.

Jim Coogan was a man for all seasons. He not only was at every Leo event, he worked diligently for the success of those events. Those of us who saw Jim most recently saw the toll the illness was taking on his body. Each time I set out for a Leo event I thought about the possibility that this might be the event Jim would miss. Jim was always there, he would come in supported by one of his great sons and carting a seat cushion and even though he might have to leave early, Jim was there.

Wakes and Funerals! Ah yes, wakes and funerals. Did anyone ever attend more wakes and funerals than Jim Coogan?

Those of us who have lost close loved ones can recall Jim at the wake and funeral. Jim was always there to offer his quiet support.

So now just as death is part of life our alumni brother rests in peace and begins his well earned eternal reward, he joins all of the deceased Legends of Leo, Al Mahieu, Bill Mahoney, Jim Arneberg, Doc Driscoll and Jack Howard to name just a few. Perhaps the heavenly contingent of Lions was beginning to lag a little and needed a shot in the arm or perhaps the heavenly ad book needed a few more ads.

Good bye old friend, watch and pray over us.

Rich Furlong and the Leo H.S. Alumni Association

Lightweight Basketball Reunion

Jerry Schmitt advises that plans are in the works for a City of Chicago Lightweight Basketball Reunion. At the time we went to press Jerry did not have full details. If you are a former lightweight basketball player give Jerry a call at 708/ 371-2449 for full details.

In Memoriam


Unfortunately we have lost several alumni
and family members.

Donald Broderick '43
Richard Budil '54
Jim Coogan '44
Michael Chambers '58
Robert Cronin '33
Timothy Dolan '63
Wm. Gausselin '49
J. Donald Graff '45
Leo Henning (Band Master)
Ed (Goats) Hogan '47
Michael Hogan '65
William Houlihan '57
Tim Knightley '73
Andrew Koval '57
Richard Lange '51
John Landuyi '47
Thomas Maurer '57
John McCormick '39
Jack Kearney '51
John Motier '59
Tim Qualter '31
George Vinton '43
Mike Young '80

May their souls and all the souls of the
faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen


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