



LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.ThoseLeoMen.com

NEWSLETTER

FALL ISSUE



ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011 ~ LEXINGTON HOUSE

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, August 3, 2011 ~ Gleneagles C.C.



From the President

Greetings men of Leo. As we approach the end of the alumni year, I want to advise you that we had another great banquet and while the golf portion of the golf outing was rained out we had a wonderful dinner and a good time was had by all. You will see separate reports on each of those functions later in this newsletter.

In December my second full two-year term will be up. I do not intend to run for an additional term. There are a number of great men in this organization whom I feel are capable of running this association and I don't think it would be fair of me to delay their development.

I do want to say that it has been an honor and privilege to be your president for the last 4 years. I have met the greatest people in the world right here in the Leo Alumni Association. It is amazing, when a problem or as we like to call them a challenge arises someone immediately steps to the forefront and takes charge to resolve the issue.

As I reflect back on the last 4 years I am proud of what we have accomplished.

In the beginning we restructured the board and created the position of Activities Chairman. That position is responsible for the two main activities of our association namely, the golf outing and banquet.

We established The John R. Howard Scholarship Fund to honor our former president.

We established an endowment fund, which has been increasing every year. The intention of this fund is to sit in reserve for future years when the association might not be as large as it presently is and having possible financial problems, sort of saving for a rainy day theory.

Last year when our contributions were down by almost \$35,000. We continued all of our functions and donations to the school and other worthy causes by carefully budgeting our finances.

The tradition of Leo Alumni Nights at Leo Basketball Games has been reestablished. These have become very popular over the last two years through the diligent efforts of Gene Earner '50.

We have held four highly successful banquets each with approximately 600 in attendance. This doesn't just happen one Friday night in April, but rather requires a year of hard work by the board of directors and class captains.

We have had three great golf outings marred only by this years rain out.

None of this could have been done without the work of many many people too numerous to name. However, I must acknowledge a few people. The members of the board are hard working dedicated Leo men. The board is composed of Dan Stecich '75, John Gardner '75, Tom Lynch '73, Larry Lynch '75 and Bob Cheval '74. Also I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Bob Sigel '53, the banquet chairman and Joan Howard who spends countless hours, days and months preparing our golf outing.

Rich Furlong '59
President

Alumni Banquet:

On Friday April 30th we had our annual banquet. And as I am always proud to report it was a big success. We had approximately 600 Lions in attendance. Nobody does it better than the Leo Lions.

Larry Lynch '75 was honored as our Man of the Year. Larry gave a heartfelt speech upon receiving his award. Bob Foster '58 received the Dr. Thomas Driscoll Award presented to the person who best shows his love for Leo by extending that love into his daily lifestyle. That definition speaks for itself as to it being presented to Bob. We have a Community Service Award, which goes to a person who has devoted much of their life to giving back to the community and making the world a better place for people to live. For the first time there were co recipients, Brother Ross Wielatz CFC '57 and Brother James Glos CFC '56. Their resumes speak volumes of their work into their respective communities. The Hall of Fame Class of 2010 was also inducted. Its members are, Ed Adams - Leo Faculty, Noah Cannon '95, Dennis Conway '62, Robert Cheval '74, John Gardner '75, Tom Joyce '62, Bob Kozlowski '45, Patrick Nolan '51, Jack O'Keefe '59, Mike O'Neill '67, and Bernie Pepping '57. All of the above are to be congratulated and bring great honor to Leo. See all of you on April 29th, 2011 and we will do it all over again.

Golf Outing:

And it rained and rained and rained. The five inches of rain the day before and two inches the morning of the outing gave new meaning to the term water hazards. Yes for the first time in our twenty years of golf outings it happened, we were rained out. But that does not mean that a great time was not had by all. Approximately 175 guys still showed up that morning. While we found out early that we were not going to get out most of the guys either stayed around or came back for the noon banquet. A great time was had and the stories in the bar were better than usual. Because we didn't have the full compliment of over 250 guys that we usually have there were more prize winners than usual. While there are many people who make our golf outing the greatest, I am reluctant to begin naming names since you inadvertently forget someone. However I would be remiss if I didn't thank Joan Howard for all that she does and give a special mention to Skip Strzelecki '64 who again donated the hats thus allowing us to realize a substantial savings which is then passed on to the school.

Geezer Pride:

It has been stated and rightfully so that the Leo High School Alumni Association has an abundance of elderly. I think that is an asset and that was recently reinforced with an article I read recently describing "Geezers" It went something like this,

Geezers are easy to spot: At sporting events, during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, Old Geezers remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Geezers remember the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, the jet age and moon landings. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 – 2005, not to mention Viet Nam. If you bump into an Old Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an Old Geezer on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. When the hat is on his head it will be on straight.

Old Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women.

Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

If you have an Old Geezer value him for the treasure he is.

Annual Alumni Awards:

As you all are aware, the Alumni Association presents various awards to worthy Leo Alumni. You may not know that these awards are open to nomination by any member of the alumni association. We discuss these awards 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 who 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 it can be and is.

Also presented is the Community Service Award. This award is given to an alumni member who shows an active interest in promoting the community around him. This is not specific to Leo, but is awarded to an individual who makes an extraordinary commitment to their community.

Finally there is the Doctor Thomas P. Driscoll award named after Dr. Tom a man who went above and beyond the call of duty in making sure Leo High School continues to be the success that it remains today. The recipient of this award will have shown an extraordinary devotion in helping Leo carry on the tradition of excellence that we have all experienced as Leo men.

With the retirement of Bob Foster from the school the Alumni Association has also been asked to assist in the choosing of Hall of Fame members. We accept this honor and take it very seriously. We have established a committee to set specific criteria for what a Hall of Fame person should be. Also we feel that in recent years our classes of inductees have become too large thus taking away from the tempo of the program of the banquet. Thus if you submit a nomination for the Hall of Fame and they are deemed to be a worthy nominee it make take a year or two to realize the honoring of that person. So don't delay in getting your nominations in for any of these awards. Send their name, and a brief resume of that person. List why it is you think they are deserving. The more specific you are the better chance your nominee may be well received. These can be sent to Leo Alumni Assoc. P.O. Box 603, Oak Lawn, IL. 60454. Attn Dan Stecich or e mail Dan at dnno215@sbcglobal.net

Leo All Class Picnic Great Success:

On July 11th, 2010, over 300 Leo men and their family and friends gathered at the Dan Ryan Woods for the 2nd Annual Leo Alumni All Class Picnic. The picnic was organized by Leo Alumni from the 80's and 90's but was attended by Leo men of all ages. The most seasoned alumnus was from the class of '61 and the baby of the bunch was a young man from the class of 2014.

There was plenty of food to eat, some of which was donated at Moo and Oink, Walgreen's and Save A Lot, and of course a lot to drink. There was even a bouncer for the children provided by Zack Gutter of Irresistible Inflatables. Zack is a friend of the recently departed Steven Lee of the class of '95 and chose this way to honor his friend Steven.

This spirit of giving exemplified by these people and the Leo Men this year and last who gave their time, effort and money to put this picnic together, was what this day was all about. We are proud to tell you that \$3000 was raised and donated to the general scholarship fund at Leo High School. These Leo men plan on doing this again every year to bring more alumni out and raise more money for the school we love.

Mark Lee '85

A Heartfelt Thank You

As you all know when Jack Howard died we established a scholarship to Leo in Jack's name. This year's recipient is Edward Vaughn. Edward is a senior. His mother has sent the following note to me expressing the family's gratitude for the assistance we have given to Edward in securing a Leo diploma.

Leo Catholic High School Alumni Association:

I would like to send my sincere appreciation to the alumni association for once again extending to my son, Edward Vaughn a full tuition scholarship. Leo has truly helped my family in its time of need. I am grateful for all involved with the support of my son's growth and continued education at Leo.

I will continue to encourage Edward in his post secondary education and pray that he will be a Leo Alumnus that everyone can be proud of.

Sincerely Joanna Vaughn

Leo Veterans Day War Memorial

Leo Veterans Day War Memorial Service November 5th, 2010, 11 a.m. sharp:

The 1945 yearbook at Leo was dedicated to Leo's Gold Star Alumni.

In that book was a writing that still today touches me. I don't know who the author was but he was talented. It reads:

Some men gain fame by works of charity and mercy, others by accumulation of wealth. Some gain it by the attainment of power, others by the superb development of their God - given talents. The young men to whom this book is dedicated have gained fame by an act set apart from all of the accomplishments - **The Sacrifice**, not of the comforts of life or means of life, but of life itself.

Some men attain fame only after years of effort with many wearisome hours of planning and in spite of many setbacks. These lads have gained it by a sudden dazzling flash of supreme heroism.

Some secure a place in history by treachery and deceit, by dissimulation, hypocrisy and cupidity. These heroes have an abiding place in all of our hearts by the noble and straightforward expending of that prized most dear.

This document is dedicated to the parents and families of those boys. Their sense of loss is no less real because their loved one died in the noblest of causes. They carry the "sword of grief" within. A pain, which the world's medical science cannot alleviate.

Do not feel that he is gone without trace from a heedless world. Come and stand in the corridors of Leo, look into the classrooms, enter the gym or cafeteria. What you see in the faces of the boys is a reflection of the spirit and tradition that he left behind in Leo. That earnest frown when called upon to recite, that happy, fervent laugh, quick to seize upon any humorous situation. That quiet but determined attitude toward studies and games. All of these were his, and he left them as a precious heritage to Leo.

His personality is an ingredient of the character of Leo. Look for it 50 years hence and it will still be here.

Sixty-five years after that was written and that yearbook was dedicated we still have that opportunity to thank the men of Leo who paid the ultimate price in all of our wars starting with World War II. What better way to mark Veterans Day? Again it is Friday November 5th at Leo at 11 a.m. sharp.

News from Leo

As we hit the ground running on a new school year that began on Wed., Aug. 18, Leo's faculty and staff had to pause to say goodbye to Lloyd Bernier, who died in August. Mr. Bernier was a good man who performed a great service for many Leo students as our guidance counselor. Leo was well-represented at his funeral, and his family was grateful for our participation.

On the personnel front, Dan McGrath '68 is settling in as Leo's new president, and Pete Doyle has rejoined the faculty as a science teacher, returning to Leo from St. Gregory. The overwhelmingly positive reaction to Pete from his former students at the alumni picnic in July was a heart-warming reminder of how many lives he touched during his time here. We're grateful to have Pete back---now a new generation of Leo men will benefit from his presence.

Nick Masciola and John Lettiere are new to the faculty this year, though Nick was with us last year as the teacher in our Catapult Program. In addition to teaching reading and English, Nick is helping coach the cross country team. John has succeeded Nick as the Catapult teacher. Along with '06 Leo grad Marcus Pass, John is advising the school newspaper---at Mr. McGrath's ink-stained insistence we are reviving the Oriole as an on-line publication. John also plans to help coach baseball. The addition of Nick and John to a strong, versatile holdover faculty has enabled us to add or expand classes in reading, humanities, World Civilization and Conflict, journalism, art and photography.

The Freshmen Academy is new to Leo this year. The goal of the academy is to create an environment that is nurturing to the newest members of our school community. All freshmen classes will be on the second floor and contact with the larger school community will be limited. Discipline and academic rigor are key components of the academy.

Bishop Joseph Perry said Mass at Leo on Friday, Sept. 3. Dr. Milt Kobus, our campus minister, put together a wonderful liturgy, and the students were polite and attentive. Bishop Perry seemed impressed with the orderly learning environment we are striving to create. At a well-attended Open House with Leo parents on Aug. 17, we emphasized that our dress code, our insistence on punctuality and our rules of conduct are intended to create an orderly learning environment while promoting discipline, responsibility and self-respect. The parents were most receptive. Christian values will be a prominent part of the

Leo curriculum. In his expanded role as Campus Minister, Dr. Kobus is organizing retreats for all four classes. The freshmen had a highly successful one as part of their introduction to Leo on September 7.

Around the building, we have automated the library and repaired water damage to the floors in the kitchen and the football room. We're still in need of plumbing, electrical and plaster upgrades in various parts of the building. We're working with CDOT and the 17th Ward office to repair, expand and spruce up the cul-de-sac at 79th and Sangamon. The teachers' lounge has been moved to the 4th floor. We're converting a classroom into a Parents Club room. Additional security cameras are being installed, and the second-floor public bathrooms should be upgraded by basketball season.

We are extremely grateful to our alums and other donors for contributing nearly \$500,000 to Leo since Jan. 1. Your support is needed more than ever. Other recent gifts include 400 slightly used desk chairs from Loyola University and two dozen pairs of new football shoes from the Bears' Garrett Wolfe.

The Leo Lions split their first two football games, losing a tough one to Gordon Tech and rolling over Fenger. As this is being written we're preparing for a Catholic League White showdown with De La Salle. The freshmen team was undefeated going into its third game against Fenger.

To summarize, we're looking forward to a great year. We ask for your prayers and support as we move ahead with a Leo mission that's more important than ever.

Sincerely,

Phil Mesina
Principal

Dan McGrath
President for Institutional
Advancement

Miscellaneous Reminders

There is a mass at 8:30 a.m. on the first Friday of every month at Incarnation Church at 5727 W. 127th Street in Palos Heights. The mass is said in honor of deceased Leo graduates and faculty.

Continue to keep in touch with your Alumni Association by visiting our website www.thoseleomen.com

Speaking of the website there is a link on there for our Alumni Store where you can purchase a number of great Leo memorabilia items.

Finally it has always been my desire to put a column in each newsletter-updating people on the whereabouts and doings of Leo Alumni. I seldom if ever get any input from anyone but would very much appreciate hearing from each of you about what you are doing etc. Simply send in the information to the Leo Alumni Association P.O. Box 603 Oak Lawn, IL 60454. Or e-mail me at rc5463@sbcglobal.net

In Memoriam

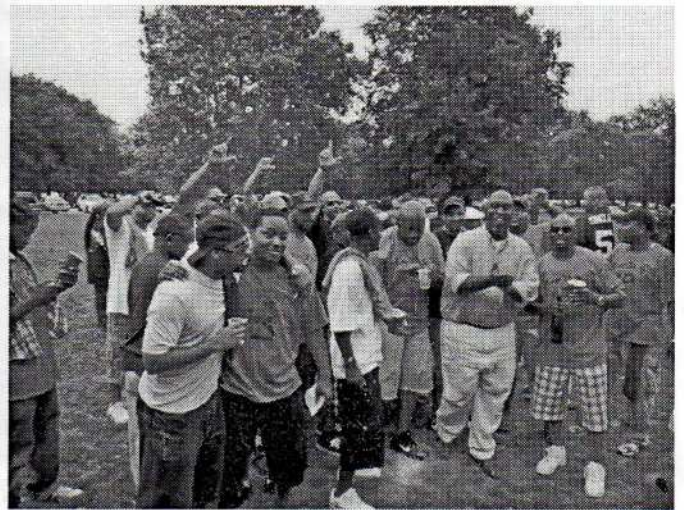
May their souls and all the souls of the
faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.

Donald Callahan '47
Dan Carroll '51
John Cleary '50
John Collins '42
Frank Connelly '51
Maria Mother of Michael Coyle '58
Joseph Deloughery '58
John Dore '47
Robert Dore '45
Thomas Dougherty '40
Jack Fitzgerald '36
James Foley '49
Donald Foster '79
John Galvin '42
Kieran Griffin '67
Robert Halliday '50
Patrick E. Hickey Father of Patrick F.
Hickey Leo Faculty
Richard Kane '65
Robert Kozlowski '45
LTC Eugene Lee USAF Retired '33
Steven Lee '95
Richard Maher PHD '61
James McCourt '45
Daniel McDermott '45
Joseph McGreal '38
Patrick Moriarity '61
Michael Mullen '48
John O'Brien '46
David O'Connell '50
Richard O'Leary '45
Deacon Leonard Olszak '60
Charles O'Reilly '58
John Prendergast '60
Harry Richards '57
Joe Ryan '48
Jean - Marcel Sauve '58
Daniel Sheridan '80
David Snyder '58
Cordell Toliver '92
Fred Tuch '47
Gene Waite '45
William Warner '52

All Class Picnic



The picture speaks for itself !



Younger Lions frolic at Ryan's Woods

Golf Outing



*Another
spectacular
prize table!*



" you pays your money, you takes your chances "



*The people who make this work!
L/R Mary Anne Sigel, Nanette Furlong,
Kay McKeever, Phyllis Stanton,
Joan Howard, and Stephanie Westphal.*

2010 Banquet



*Another
overflow
turnout!*



*Larry Lynch '75 receives his
Man of the Year Award*



Brother Ross Wielatz '57 receives his



*Bob Foster '58 is presented with the
Dr. Thomas Driscoll Award*



*Brother James Glos '56 receives his
Community Service Award*

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From
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