



LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION www.ThoseLeoMen.com



NEWSLETTER

FALL ISSUE

ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012 ~ LEXINGTON HOUSE

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, August 1, 2012 ~ Gleneagles C.C.



From the President

Fellow Leo Men,

It's been a great couple of months since I became your president. Our two biggest events were a complete success thanks to all of the hard work of our Board and volunteers. The banquet surpassed even our estimates. It was good to see some of the younger alumni getting involved. Some of you may have noticed some of them wearing the old letterman sweaters too. Nice touch men.

The golf outing and golf banquet were great. We continue to have the nicest awards/gift table and the weather was sunny and warm. The numbers were good and I believe a good time had by all.

As you will read in the letter, we had a memorial for Cpl. Fardy who was a Medal of Honor award winner, but he was not properly recognized. Thanks to some dedicated Leo men, we rose to the challenge and made sure everything was done correctly.

We have some events coming up in the next couple of months that we hope you can attend. We are trying to get more alumni involved by offering a variety of outings.

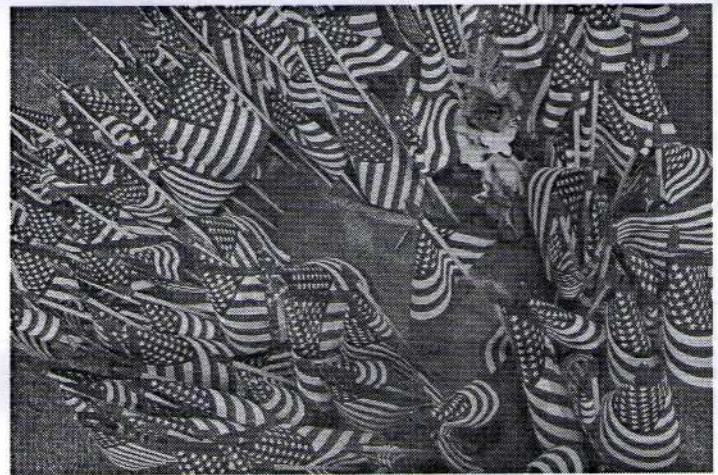
We are still trying to update our data base. So if you know of a Leo grad that is not getting any info, please let me know and we will take care of it. We would also like to have e-mail addresses so we can keep you current of events between the newsletter publications. Pretty soon you will see our new website. We have enhanced it to make it user friendly and we also added face book and twitter accounts for our more recent grads.

Please let us know how we are doing and hope to see you soon.

John G. Gardner-'75

Alumni President

johnggardner@gmail.com



USMC WWII Medal of Honor Hero Remembered

Hundreds of people gathered at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery near Chicago to honor Marine Corps Corporal John P. Fardy who received the Medal of Honor for actions during the invasion of Okinawa in World War II. Among those celebrating Fardy's heroics were descendants, veterans groups, classmates and other alumni from Leo High School where Fardy graduated from in 1940.

Fardy was injured on May 6, 1945 and died from his wounds the next day. Fardy was recommended for the Medal of Honor by his Platoon Leader and as typical of Medal of Honor investigations, successive people in the chain of command right up to President Harry S. Truman, recommended Fardy to receive the Medal of Honor. Fardy's parents received the Medal of Honor in 1946 and his body was not repatriated from Okinawa and reinterred until 1949. His headstone is simple and until recently gave no indication that Fardy received the Medal of Honor.

So for over six decades, tens of thousands of people visiting one of Chicago's largest cemeteries would not know of the courage and bravery of the Marine buried there.

Dr. Terence Barrett, historian and author of *The Forgotten 34, Honored by the Marine Corps but Forgotten by their Hometowns* brought this headstone oversight to the Leo Alumni Association. Vietnam Veteran and fellow Leo grad Jim Furlong (Leo 65) formed a committee with fellow Leo grads David Lee (Leo 85) and Coach Mike Holmes (Leo 76) to correct the oversight and rededicate the headstone for Fardy's honor. Soon the headstone was re-engraved with the Medal of Honor Badge and the text "Medal of Honor".

On August 8, 2011, with Full Military Honors, Cpl. Fardy's headstone was rededicated. An Honor Guard Detachment from the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Division presented Colors and presented a flag to descendants of Cpl. Fardy including Fardy's nephew and namesake, John Martin (Leo 67). Other participants in the program were Fr. Tom Mescall (Leo 65) who gave the invocation, 10 year old Shane Crean who sang the *National Anthem, Irish National Anthem—A Soldiers Song* (in Gaelic) and the *Marine Corps Hymn* (all a capella), the Marine Corps League who rendered a 21 gun salute tribute, The Military Order of Purple Heart who presented descendants with a Purple Heart/Medal of Honor Plaque; Tom Day, USMC retired, bugler and founder of *Bugles Across America* who performed a stirring rendition of *TAPS*, and bagpiper Jim Bruenner who greeted the gathering crowd with the *Marine Corps Hymn*, played *Amazing Grace* during the Ceremony and piped *Oh Danny Boy* as the group retired. Participants also placed about 200 American Flags around the newly engraved headstone as they left.

Dr. Barrett was guest speaker and noted that Cpl. Fardy went to an academically challenging school (Leo) yet was otherwise undistinguished. But that he worked hard to achieve all that he did. And his hard work and dedication was the epitome of a Marine. Drafted by the Marine Corps in 1943, Fardy volunteered for Japanese language school and also volunteered for training and became proficient in the use of the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). As Dr. Barrett noted, this "assured" Fardy of action in the Pacific Theatre.

On May 6, 1945 a veteran of two earlier Pacific Island invasions (Cape Gloucester and Peleliu) Fardy, promoted to Corporal, was leading his squad up a hill against heavily fortified enemy fire. Taking temporary refuge in a drainage ditch to regroup his squad, the enemy threw a hand grenade in the Marine Squad's midst. The Medal of Honor Citation goes on: "Instantly throwing himself upon the deadly missile, Corporal Fardy absorbed the exploding blast in his own body, thereby protecting his comrades from certain and perhaps fatal injuries. Concerned solely for the welfare of his men, he willingly relinquished his own hope of survival that his fellow Marines might live to carry on the fight against a fanatic enemy. A stouthearted leader and indomitable fighter, Corporal Fardy, by his prompt

decision and resolute spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death, had rendered valiant service, and his conduct throughout reflects the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

And true to his courageous spirit and indomitable will, Cpl. Fardy continued to fight. Though gravely wounded he resisted death until finally succumbing to his wounds on May 7, 1945.

SEMPER FIDELIS

The Leo High School motto also has its roots in Latin - **Facta non Verba** - Deeds not words. Cpl. Fardy's deeds on May 6, 1945 are the embodiment of this motto.



Leo Veterans Observances

Leo High School site of Veterans Observance on Friday, November 4th, 2011 at 11:00 A.M

Contact - Mr. Pat Hickey - Director of Development (773) 224-9600

When - November 4th 2011 at 11AM

Where - The Courtyard of Leo High School 7901 South Sangamon Street Chicago 60620

What - Leo High School and the Leo Alumni Association welcome all veterans to the Memorial Observance at the Leo War Memorial in the school's courtyard. Leo High School Principal Phil Mesina (USAF ret.) & Vice Principal Frank Wilson (USMC ret.) will direct the observance which features presentations by Veterans and a wreath - laying by John Gardner, President of the Alumni Association and assisted by Leo Veterans

Leo High School erected a memorial in 1965 to honor the many Leo men who have died serving America in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The Windy City Veterans of Chicago updated the engraved names and constructed permanent lighting for the memorial. Last year more than two hundred people joined the 150 Leo students in honoring America's Heroes.

Leo High School Speakers at War Memorial 11:00 A.M.

1. Principal Phil Mesina, USAF (ret.) and Vice-

Principal Mr. Frank Wilson, USMC (ret.) call to Order

2. Prayer

3. Leo Alumni President Dan McGrath

4. Color and Honor of the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines – Posting of the Colors -Chicago's own &

5. Wreath Laying by Leo Veterans.

6. Our National Anthem

7. Leo 2004 Alumnus and an Iraq and Afghanistan Combat Veteran: Sgt. Jauwan Hall, USMC

8. Taps – Gun Salute and Dismissal &

9. Refreshments in Leo Cafeteria

Golf Outing Huge Success



Good weather returned for this year's golf outing and with it came an outing that met all of our high expectations. We had over 220 golfers, a full shotgun and a half. The prize and raffle tables, with much help from many of our members, were well stocked with wonderful gifts. The food and ambience at Gleneagles was top shelf as usual. I would like to thank my committee: Joan Howard, Jim Farrell and Larry Bahnman, and as always the ladies who come out all day to work the registration desk and banquet functions. Also while many

people contributed prizes special recognition must go out to Dan McGrath and John Gardner who went above and beyond in securing donations.

Rich Furlong

PS-Special recognition goes out to the group with what I think had the most experience, but not necessarily the lowest score. Ed Rook-'42, Gene McGrath-'43, Tom Emerson-'47 and our own, Don Hogan-'47. Between them, it is 339 years of bogeys!!

Banquet Update

The 2011 Alumni Banquet was held at the Lexington House and again proved to be a great success with over 670 Leo Men and guests attending. This event is an excellent way to connect with your classmates and fellow alumni. The 2012 Banquet will be held at the Lexington House on Friday April 27, 2012. Please begin to make plans on attending. Reach out to your classmates and have them come out. We are looking for Class Captains to help out with the Jubilee Classes and we are also looking for Captains of the 30th, 35th and 40th year classes. Let's make this years Banquet even bigger and better. Thanks again.

Larry Lynch

Leo Comedy Night

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Just a last minute reminder about "Lions of Laughter" to be held at the Beverly Art Center (BAC) on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

We all know many comedians that went through LEO High School (Some are probably reading this newsletter!). Four of these 'class clowns', Paul Kelly '66, Bill Campbell '66, John Caponera '75, and Kenny Howell '83, went on to perform professionally. We are fortunate to have all of them come back to their roots and put on this show at the BAC.

Paul Kelly and I went to the LEO Alumni meeting on September 21st. It is shaping up to be a fun night, as ticket sales are moving. All are welcome for a night out with the guys or 'date night' with the wives (or significant other). It is not mandatory that you went to LEO to enjoy the show, but there will be a lot of alumni in the crowd. I'm certain that the material from the days at 79th and Sangamon will have our cheek bones hurting the next day from laughter!

Tickets, which are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door, can be purchased by contacting Pat Hickey at LEO High School (773) 224-9600. You can also contact me, Bob Standring at work (773) 881-8000, cell (773) 457-3884 or roberttstandring@aol.com for further information. The BAC (located at 111th and Western, Chicago (773) 445-3838 will also have tickets.

This is not a 'full blown fundraiser' but any excess funds from the evening will go to LEO for plumbing

repairs. (New doors and some windows are also badly needed.)

Let's all take advantage of this fun night out and support "Lions of Laughter". See you on November 19th.

Bob Standring (Class of '70)

P.S. It should be noted that the comedians are giving of their time and asking for minimal reimbursement of travel expenses, etc. Mike Nix, a LEO graduate of '76 who runs BAC, is donating the Hall for 'no charge'. He will make up his 'fixed costs' with the sale of adult drinks.

School News

An excellent retention rate and a slightly larger freshman class have helped Leo High School put a stop to the declining enrollment of recent years. With 34 of last year's 36 freshmen returning and the Class of 2015 currently listed at 44, we were one of the few Catholic high schools to report an increase for the 2011-2012 school year. We have two good, strong classes to build on as we step up efforts to expand enrollment much further and make a first-rate Leo education available to more young men. Mike Holmes and his staff are already at work recruiting the Class of 2016.

Last year's Freshman Academy concept was a big success, as first-year Lions finished with the highest GPA, largest honor roll representation, best attendance and fewest detentions in school. They're back for more, joining this year's freshmen in a Frosh-Soph Academy that we believe will be just as successful.

Dr. Milt Kobus, our Campus Minister and former principal, left Leo for an attractive job as an elementary school principal—we were sorry to lose Dr. Kobus and we wish him well. The good news is his replacement: the great Pete Doyle, who takes over as Campus Minister and religion teacher. Better still, Pete's classroom is now on the second floor instead of the fourth, so the many alums who come by to say hi to him won't be as taxed climbing stairs.

Chad Pilger, who played baseball in college, is Pete's replacement as science teacher. We also have a new guidance counselor: Katie Hyland takes over for Kaitlyn Curta, who moved to the suburbs after doing an excellent job at Leo. Ms. Hyland has several Leo Men in her extended family and was up to speed on the fight song before the first pep rally.

Speaking of baseball, former Cubs manager Dusty Baker paid a visit to the Lions on Wednesday, Sept. 7. With his Cincinnati Reds in town to play the Cubs, Baker came by and gave a stimulating talk to a Leo assembly about growing up amid racial unrest and discord over the Vietnam War in the '60s. He talked baseball, signed autographs, posed for pictures and answered questions, including one about Barry Bonds' steroid use and what exactly happened when he lost his

job with the Cubs.

"You've got some future reporters in this group," Baker told us.

Leo solidified its relationship with the Gale Sayers Learning Center by sending five students to participate in the annual "Evening With the Stars" benefit fundraiser for the Sayers Foundation at the White Eagle banquet Hall in Niles on Sept. 23. Sophomore Jeremy Clark and freshmen James Britten, Zuriel Cross, Jabari Jackson and Anthony Peoples did a great job representing Leo as they introduced Sayers and the four Pro Football Hall of Famers honored by the Foundation: Willie Davis, Richard Dent, Anthony Munoz and Paul Warfield.

Christine Meany, in her second year teaching math and consumer economics at Leo, extends thanks to George Sperekas '86, Andy Nevin '92 and Marty Dorow '74. The three Leo Men served as volunteer interviewers for a class in which Ms. Meany is preparing her junior and senior consumer economic students for job interviews.

Sophomore Jeremy Clark is this year's recipient of the Jack Howard Scholarship from the Leo High School Alumni Association.

Jeremy was an honor roll student in each of his first two semesters at Leo and finished his freshman year ranked No. 2 in his class. He also played freshman football and basketball, ran track, wrote for the Oriole newspaper and volunteered for several community service projects.

"Jeremy is as committed a Leo Man as we have," Development Director Pat Hickey said. "Some days we practically have to kick him out of the building. He's a worthy recipient of the Jack Howard Scholarship because he embodies the dedication Jack always gave to Leo."

Jeremy succeeds Edward Vaughn '11 as Leo's Jack Howard Scholar. Edward was the valedictorian of last spring's Leo graduating class and is currently studying engineering at the University of Illinois.

Basketball

This year our Basketball staff is joined by 2 alumni, Class of 93 Terrill Binion and Class of 2003 Curshaw Pullen.

Also our Student/Athletes are doing well on and off the basketball court.

We received a great blessing from God in Senior - Marc Seylan a transfer student from France. Marc is a great example of a student/athlete he has a 3.8 G.P.A and being recruited by Ivy League Schools, and tons of Mid-Major Division 1 schools.

Junior - Russell Woods is keeping me busy on and off the basketball court as of right now he has over 50 scholarships offers including DePaul University.

Sophomore - Martez Hampton the son of Alumni

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Sophomore - Martez Hampton the son of Alumni

again for your continued help.

Dan Stecich '75 dnno215@sbcglobal.net 708/951-1482. We are also trying to get as many e-mail addresses as possible so we can bring you up to date on happenings at the school, sporting events, outings etc. If you would like to be included in this and we do not have your e-mail, please follow the format above.

Leo Alumni Triathlon

Save the date Friday Feb 3, at Beverly Woods Restaurant-Leo Alumni Triathlon. As was done last year, there will be 3 bone crushing events; Aluminum can bowling with a 16" softball, Bean bag toss, Free throw contest with a 5" foot nerf ball and basket.

A doctor's certificate is required for participation. The \$32 cost will cover food and an open bar. We had some fun last year, and we hope you can make it.

Denny Conway

conway.denny@yahoo.com

Online Store

With the holidays approaching, your Leo High School Alumni Association in partnership with Midwest Promotional Group, have put together an Online Store. We are offering polo shirts, wind shirts, hooded sweatshirts, t-shirts for kids, hats and coffee mugs. Please go to the Alumni website and 'click' the store and it will take you right to the order page. You can pay by credit card or check. If special delivery options are needed, please contact Tom Lynch at 708-598-5999. If you would like to recommend another item for the store to offer, please contact Tom.

Leo All Class Picnic Great Success

On August 14th, 2011, over 300 Leo men and their family and friends gathered at the Dan Ryan Woods for the 3rd 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 '59 and the baby of the bunch was a young man from the class of 2014. There were even incoming Freshman joining the festivities.

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.

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 money 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

In Memoriam

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

John Pershing Yore '37
Joseph G. Fleming Sr '39
John Patrick Carey '41
Thomas J. Gallagher '43
George R. Martin '45
Edward M. White J. D. '46
Daniel Joseph Henry '47
David J. Looby '47
Donald J. Fox '47
Michael Mullen '47
Richard G. Warman '47
Robert J. Mueller '47
Thomas P. Doherty '47
Alfred Acou '48
Daniel R. O'Connell '49
Donald M. Cole '49
John E. Reynolds Jr '49
Patricia Grant, wife of Ed '50
Thomas W. Fox '50
Patrick F. Ford '51
Wilfred W. Barowsky '51
Father Bill Bauman '52
Raymond C. Thomsen '52
Robert E. Ward '52
Brother Charles B. Joyce, CFC '53
Marilyn Slavin, wife of William '53
John M. McLaughlin '54
Maureen I. Brennan, wife of Bernard P. '54
Edward P. Miller, Jr. '58
Peter P. Beltemacchi '59
Kenneth McInnes '61
Timothy J. Barry '61
Robert C. Nau '64
Raymond M. Latham '67
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John A. Geary '76
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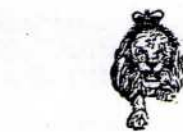
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Bill Farnan '64

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Fax: (708) 385-0027

JOHN P. HOPKINS

Sewer & Water

Jack Hopkins '89 - Contractors

Tom Hopkins '73

Jim Hopkins '79 Rice

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Crestwood, IL 60445



www.ThoseLeoMen.com

The Leo Alumni Association Website

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+Jack '67 Bill '69

Jim '70 Dan '75

+ rest in peace

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James M. Calace

President '85



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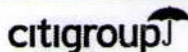
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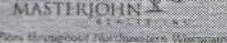
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