



LEO HIGH SCHOOL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
[www.leoalumni.org](http://www.leoalumni.org)  
**NEWSLETTER**  
SPRING ISSUE



**ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025 ~ CHATEAU DEL MAR**

**ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, July 30, 2025 ~ Hickory Hills CC**



**From the President**  
**Fellow Lions,**

Winter is gone (hopefully) and we are getting close to celebrating our annual banquet, being held April 25th at the Chateau del Mar in Hickory Hills. Leo continues to make us proud through their continued efforts at educating nearly 300 young men, with continual news in the press showcasing the school's great work. This event showcases how we all work together to help the school succeed.

As you'll read in Dan's "School News", the school once again has its biggest class of Freshmen in years, due to the efforts of so many at the school. The dedication of Dan, Shaka and their staff are a true example of our motto, "Facta non Verba". Inside of this newsletter is a more detailed update about the school and what the future holds, so take a look and if possible, give Dan and Shaka a call to tell them how proud you are, not only of their efforts, but of the entire dedicated staff at the school. Anyone who has read this newsletter has heard me say this multiple times, but it bears repeating, if you can find time to stop at the school and say hello, you'll walk away very pleased with the experience. Just make sure to give the school a call and arrange a visit.

This has been a very active year as always for the Alumni Assn with many events already taking place. The banquet is the marquee event of the year, but in what has become a great new tradition, we headed back to the school to watch our Lions play Loyola, and experienced a thrilling upset win. On March 16th the Alumni Assn hosted a float for the Southside Irish parade with our Alumni joining the students marching down Western Avenue providing the crowd with a good glimpse of all generations of "Leo Men" showing our pride. And as always, thanks to Brian Earner '93 for making these and so many of our events happen. Still to come is our golf outing on July 30th at a new location, Hickory Hills CC in Hickory Hills, IL. More details are in this newsletter, let's thank Dennis Barista '74 and his volunteers, both of whom work tirelessly to make sure this event runs as smoothly as it does.

I mention this often, but as a whole we are one of the smallest alumni associations in the area, but there is no stronger or dedicated one. Whenever an event is held that is attended by non-alumni guests, you are certain to hear them comment at how dedicated we are, especially after the singing of our fight song. I'm sure we will see well over 500 of you at our banquet, which just shows the pride and admiration we have for our Alma Mater. I look forward to seeing you all there and encourage those who haven't attended in a while to join us and reminisce in the good times we shared all those many years ago. Finally, this organization runs as well as it does because of the help that our officers and directors provide on a continual basis and many thanks are due. While we may be a small organization, without everyone working in concert, we wouldn't be the success that we truly are. We hold

meetings monthly at the American Legion Hall in Evergreen Park, and encourage any and all alumni to join us. The website has the dates, so please take a look and try to attend. If you need any other details, feel free to contact me at [dno215@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dno215@sbcglobal.net) and I will do my best to answer your questions.

Major thanks to all who helped with this newsletter and Bill Figel '72 and Dan McGrath '68, in particular, for their assistance in preparing all of the bios!

**Alumni Association Banquet**

On April 25, 2025, we will be celebrating our 70th Annual Leo Alumni Association Banquet. Our Association was formed and continues for charitable and educational purposes to promote the best interests of Leo High School, as well as foster a spirit of loyalty and fraternity among Leo Alumni. The banquet is our largest social event and brings together hundreds of alumni from all class years. The Golden and Silver Jubilee classes are honored and our prestigious "Man of the Year", "Doctor Thomas Driscoll", and "Community Service" awards will be presented. Inductions into the Hall of Fame are also made at this time. The banquet exemplifies the sense of loyalty and dedication the Alumni have for Leo High School.

This year the banquet will again be held at the Chateau Del Mar located at 8301 W. 95th Street in Hickory Hills. Cocktails begin at 6:30p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. with a brief program. The bar reopens for several hours after dinner. Members of the Jubilee Classes must purchase their tickets directly from class captains. Contacts are:

**Golden Class of 1975**

**John Gardner** [johnngardner@gmail.com](mailto:johnngardner@gmail.com) 708-989-2727

**Ken Mason** [fratetrain@aol.com](mailto:fratetrain@aol.com) 312-446-2217

**Larry Funk** [larryfunk1956@gmail.com](mailto:larryfunk1956@gmail.com) 708-975-1118

**Larry Lynch** [larrylynch7575@gmail.com](mailto:larrylynch7575@gmail.com)

**Cedric Minor** [ccminor@comcast.net](mailto:ccminor@comcast.net) 678-777-6865

**Dan Stecich** [dno215@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dno215@sbcglobal.net) 708-951-1482

**Joe Tucker** [joetucker1@comcast.net](mailto:joetucker1@comcast.net) 815-600-1672

**Silver Class of 2000**

Please contact Dan Stecich at 708-951-1482 if you would like to help.

**Diamond Class of 1965**

**Tom Boyle** 708-925-7461

**Bob Werner** 708-636-5183

**40 Class of 1985 contact:**

**Pat Barry** 312-402-6408 [Pgbarry79@yahoo.com](mailto:Pgbarry79@yahoo.com)

The banquet is traditionally an Alumni Member only affair, but we do have one exception. If you are an award recipient, you may have guests attend including females. However, we do ask that children be at least 13 years of age. The exceptional attendance we experience each year makes this event the largest and best of its kind in the Chicago area. Call your classmates and make arrangements. The ticket price is \$80 in advance and **no tickets will be sold at the door**. This year tickets are once again available on our website at [www.leoalumni.org](http://www.leoalumni.org) as well as purchasing them through the association, details are on the website. Please note that we make every effort to seat you with your

class, and will reserve tables for those who let us know in advance.

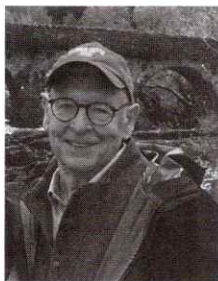
**Bob Sigel** '53 708-389-0118 **Brian Earner** '93 708-527-2514

**Dan Earner** '82 daniellearner@att.net

Banquet Co-Chairmen

## Man of the Year

### Raymond J. Siegel '65



Ray Siegel grew up in St. Margaret of Scotland with four brothers and a sister.

He came to Leo in 1963 after two years at St. Ignatius, graduating in 1965. He was Co-Captain of the 1964 Leo football team with the late Frank Brandys. Ray shared the 1964 Leo Football Scholar-Athlete Award with Don Gehr. A tackle, he was named to the All-City and All-Catholic League teams, as well as the Chicago Tribune-Coca Cola All-Stars. He received Special Mention All-State.

After graduating from Leo, Ray attended St. Joseph's College and played under Leo's legendary Jim Arneberg (Class of 1943). Ray describes his two years with Coach Arneberg as a fantastic experience. Arneberg, he says, is a man he and his St. Joe teammates will never forget, and they talk about him whenever they gather.

Ray received a BS in Finance from St. Joe's in 1969. He and wife Lynn then headed to Northern Illinois University, where he taught accounting as a teaching assistant. He and Lynn both graduated in 1971, Ray with an MBA and Lynn with her teaching degree.

After teaching Accounting and Finance at Eastern Michigan University for a few years, Ray and Lynn returned to Chicago. He began his business career in Evanston, IL, with the troubled mini-conglomerate APECO. While at APECO, Ray identified strategic purchasers for and negotiated the sale of manufactured housing facilities and retail marine operations.

In 1980 Ray joined Comdisco, Inc. in Rosemont. During his first 10 years at Comdisco, the company grew at a 50 percent compounded rate. Before beginning the Global Treasury Department in 1987, he was part of the R&D team at Comdisco, developing unique structures to finance Comdisco's multi-billion-dollar computer mainframe leasing and computer trading operations.

Starting in 1987, he built an internationally recognized corporate finance team for Comdisco. The team dealt with an array of capital market issues, complicated tax structures, cross-border financings, complex bank negotiations, asset-backed securities and international money market structures.

Eventually, that team structured and negotiated billions of dollars in financings across 22 different currencies.

In 1992, Business International, the research arm of *The Economist*, included Comdisco's Finance Team in its list of the top 50 creative Global Finance Departments. By 1992, Comdisco had grown to be the largest independent leasing company in the world.

Ray founded RJS Associates LTD in 1995 to specialize in corporate financial consulting. Some of his clients have included: ABN AMRO Bank, American Express, A.J. Gerrard & Co., Comdisco, Inc., Electro Source, General Aviation, Lazard-Freres, Price Waterhouse/Coopers, Pulver Systems, Inc., Sexton Companies, The Seidler Companies, Zenith Electronics, and Carl Buddig and Company.

In 1996, Ray co-founded Global Securitization Services LLC, a New York-based provider to the Asset Securitization industry. Global has offices in Manhattan and Long Island.

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Ray earned an MM from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management in 1998. He was the Salutatorian of his graduating class at Kellogg.

He was an adjunct graduate faculty member at Dominican University in River Forest for more than 15 years, and he taught in Executive MBA programs at Brno University of Technology in Brno, Czech Republic, and Nicolas Kopernicus University in Torun, Poland for more than 12 years. Interacting with graduate students in former communist countries is a reminder of freedom's fragility, Ray says, as evidenced by Russia's continuing brutal

assault on Ukraine.

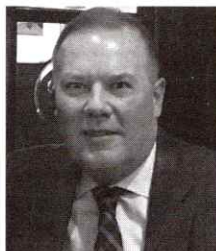
Ray received the Andy McKenna Leo Lions Legacy Award for exemplary service to Leo in 2023. He and Lynn have been honored by St. Vincent de Paul Center for their work at St. Vincent's annual gala. Their son, Patrick, owns and operates Robusto & Briar, a cigar and pipe emporium, and the Corona Club in Lakewood, Ohio.

Ray retired in 2021 after completing the liquidation of 221 Partners Fund, LP. He and Lynn divide their time between homes in Edwards, CO, and Winnetka.

Leo's 2025 Alumni Association Man of the Year points out that his father, Raymond F. Siegel, taught history at Leo during the 1946-47 school year.

## Doctor Thomas Driscoll Award

### Larry Lynch '75



Lawrence Lynch, Leo High School Class of 1975, embodies the very features found in the Doc Driscoll Award.

Intended to acknowledge a Leo man whose contributions go above and beyond, the Doc Driscoll award matches up perfectly with Lynch's instincts in helping to facilitate the advancement of the Leo mission.

Many a grade school boy would make proximity an overriding factor in high school choice – not Larry. The graduate of St. Rita Grammar School left the Marquette Park neighborhood to attend Leo and never looked back.

The overachiever was named captain of the track team and also played varsity football for Bob Foster.

His familiarity with the challenges of choosing a school out of the neighborhood likely led to his involvement at Leo in the late 1980s.

"I helped recruit during the late eighties by driving Leo's potential recruits to pizza and bowling events and, and transporting them to entrance exams," said Lynch.

Juggling a busy schedule but still finding time for Leo, the political science major graduated from St. Xavier University with a Bachelor of Arts. From there he graduated from John Marshall Law School but never left Leo in his rearview mirror and always returned to lend a hand where and when it was needed.

After 21 intense years as a Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service, Lynch retired as the Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge.

Recruited to bring his expertise to the private sector, Lynch accepted the role of Global Security Director for the Northern Trust Company and retired in 2021.

Before and after those career transitions, giving back to Leo and other organizations was always front of mind for him.

Lynch served as an officer in Leo's Alumni Association in 2003 and assisted in the golf outing and spring banquet committees; he assisted by tackling assignments such as raffle sales. He even served as President of the Alumni association for one term.

Beyond the Leo family, Lynch organized the Police Officers' Appreciation Dinner for several years at the Beverly Woods Restaurant in Morgan Park.

As a member of Father Perez Knights of Columbus, Lynch was a past Grand Knight, 4th Degree. Lynch remains committed to the sponsorship of Catholic faith-formation programs and the volunteer participation in service-oriented activities.

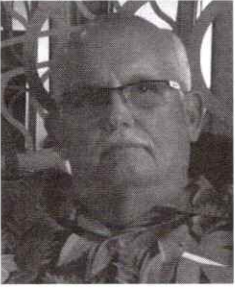
As a member of St. Cajetan Parish, he was involved in the many endeavors needed to raise funds and help keep tuition fees in check.

Lynch has been married to Karen Lynch for "44 lovely years" and have "two wonderful children" Katy and James, and they were blessed with a granddaughter, Grace.

Leo Alumni Association is thrilled to name Larry Lynch the 2025 Doc Driscoll award recipient.

## Community Service Award

### Tom Krull '69 Posthumously



Wherever there were balls bouncing, you'd find Tom Krull at the center of the action.

Whether it was donning a Leo basketball jersey or facilitating an even field of play for Special Olympic athletes, Tom cherished the action, the competition and the camaraderie built with teammates – and even opponents.

Tom dedicated more than thirty years of service to Chicago Special Olympics, the final decade as Operations Coordinator for Special Olympics Track and Field Spring Games.

In 2002 Tom received the Special Olympics Anne McGlone Burke Service Award from the Chicago Park District. In 2008, in a wonderful gesture honoring his years of service, Special Olympics held "Tom Krull Day" to everyone's approval and delight.

The 1969 graduate is the epitome of what Leo alumni seek in naming a recipient for their Community Service Award.

Tom, and his two sisters, Sue and Diane, were born and raised in Visitation Parish, or "Viz" as it was known in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. According to his wife Gerry, it was during the "Viz" years that he nurtured his love of family, friends and, of course, sports.

Tom excelled in basketball Lightweight competition and baseball for Leo.

"Tommy was one of those players you learned from, and he motivated you to get the next level," said Jim "Yummer" Fitzgerald, starting center on the 1972 Leo Lightweight team who nominated Tom for alumni recognition.

Tom's draw to amateur sports led to a position at Chicago Park District in 1975, where he was a hands-on, man of action and accountability on the same course for 33 years. His role with Special Olympic athletes continued his love affair with athletics and was elevated even further by Tom's skill working daily with his community's children and adults with special needs.

Beyond his profession, Tom assumed a vital role at St. Bede's when his children entered the South side grammar school; Tom accepted an active post as a member of the St. Bede School Board.

"Working as the park supervisor and living in the same neighborhood, Tom was committed to positively impacting the community and finding ways to provide opportunities for local youth," said Tom's wife, Gerry.

"Coaching was important in Tom's life. He coached a great number of Little League and basketball teams, including establishing a Little Hoops Basketball Program for budding basketball stars.

"Tom worked with youth boxing charity programs and was a founding organizer of the Police and Fireman Battle of the Badges Boxing events, which have been ongoing for more than 20 years and helps families in need."

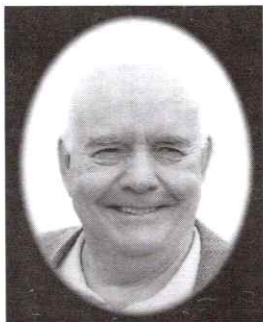
During his park career and into retirement, Tom worked as an integral part of the Chicago Special Olympics as the spring Track and Field manager, hosting hundreds of athletes in Chicago each year.

Tom was married for 43 years to his loving wife, Gerry. He was proud of their son Eric, daughter Lauren, and son-in-law Dave. Tom and Gerry were blessed with two "beautiful" grandchildren, Tommy and Molly.

Tom's wife Gerry is accepting the award for Tom, who left us in July.

## Hall of Fame

### Mike Lux '62



Bill Conlon, who earned a scholarship to Indiana University after playing quarterback for the Leo Lions in the 1962 season, remembers the first time he saw the late Mike Lux throw the football.

"Mike was a senior and I was a junior," Conlon recalled. "I went to Coach (Jim) Arenberg and asked if I could play end. I wanted to be on the field, but I knew I couldn't throw the ball like that."

Conlon wound up catching two touchdown passes from Lux in a victory over defending city champ Mount Carmel ... and Lux went on to be-

come the All-Catholic League quarterback.

He was also a two-year starter on Leo's lightweight basketball team, and as a 12-year-old, he'd played second base for a Brainerd-Beverly Little League team that barely missed qualifying for the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

A pretty good athlete, one might say.

What Lux did after leaving Leo might have been more impactful. Beginning in his undergraduate days at DePaul

University, he became one of the busiest and best known youth-league figures in the Chicago area, coaching football and basketball at Christ the King, St. Barnabas and St. Damian and baseball in Oak Forest and other southwest suburbs for more than 60 years.

"He had a lot of success because he was a stickler for fundamentals," said older brother George Lux '54, a Leo basketball standout himself who will accept the HoF plaque for his late brother, who died in 2019.

"The best coach I ever played for," said Tim Weber, a St. Damian's grad who went on to play football at Brother Rice and is now a youth-league coach himself. "He emphasized fundamentals, but he also made it fun. You wanted to play for him."

Mike and his wife Christine had four children. Mike Jr. hopes to join his Uncle George at the Alumni Banquet, where his dad will become a member of the Leo Hall of Fame's Class of 2025.

### Dave Wetzel '74



Dave Wetzel '74 remembers being in the "first wave" of students to attend Leo from St. Alexander Elementary School in Palos Heights. "I was in awe of the place – four flights of stairs!" he said.

Brothers Dennis '77 and Jim '79 would soon follow him.

As a freshman football player, Dave shared a locker room with the Dan Payne/Bob Sheehy-led 1970 Lions. "That was huge and they were huge!"

He was a junior when a Tony Parker-led Leo basketball team dominated the city, to the extent that state champion Hirsch declined to play the Lions for the city championship. "We used to pack the gym for those games," Dave recalled. "Exciting times."

Some of the young Leo Men with whom he shared those experiences remain pals to this day.

"The friendships I made at Leo are what I remember best," he said. "Those guys are still my friends. We get together several times a year."

Dave was a good enough football player at Leo to continue playing at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. After graduating, he followed his Dad into a "side job" that became almost a way of life.

"I started umpiring in the Palos Youth Program, and then I branched out into softball – sometimes four games a night, which became a little much," he said. "I remember working the Old Style Classic in Grant Park one Sunday morning. I found out they were playing for \$2,000 a man. I was getting paid 65 bucks."

A family friend talked Dave into expanding into football. The less demanding schedule appealed to a married family man – he and wife Nancy, a Little Flower girl, would eventually have four children.

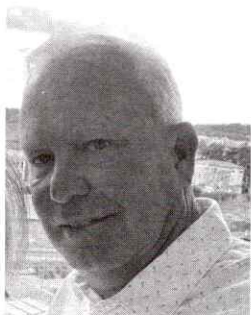
Not only is Dave still refereeing football, he is the supervisor of football officials for the Chicago Catholic League and has earned league wide respect for the thorough and evenhanded manner with which he handles a truly difficult job.

He still works Catholic League baseball games, too, "and I'd probably still be doing basketball if I could get up and down the floor better."

For his achievements at Leo, for his unwavering commitment to the school and for his years of important service to young athletes in

and around Chicago, the Leo Hall of Fame is pleased to welcome Dave Wetzel as a member of the Class of 2025.

### Mike Arrigoni '76



Mike Arrigoni was a busy guy at Leo after arriving from St. Alexander Elementary School in Palos Heights. He played four years of football and made All-Catholic League and second team All-State as a running back his senior year, serving as a tri-captain with fellow stand-outs Mike Holmes and Mike Marks. The Lions went 6-4 and lost to Brother Rice in the IHSA playoffs.

"Mike was a good, tough running back, just a good football player," Holmes recalled. "I was primarily a tight end, but they used me at tailback occasionally, and Mike always did a good job blocking for me."

Mike also was an honor student, a student council officer, a writer for the Oriole and a member of the Letterman's Club and the Prom Committee.

Mike's wife Sherry Egan Arrigoni is a Queen of Peace grad. They have been married 41 years and have three adult children – Melissa (Dan) Smith, Brittany (Kyle) Willcutt and Michael (Carly) Arrigoni – plus seven grandchildren.

Mike is an avid golfer and a bowler, but he lists family time as his favorite leisure time activity. Coaching his kids' youth league teams in baseball, basketball, football and softball at St. Francis of Assisi in Orlando Park occupied much of Mike's time as the kids were growing up. He still maintains his ties to football, having served as an IHSA-sanctioned, Catholic League official for the last 15 years.

"He's a good official – we had him a number of times when I was coaching and he always knew how to handle things," Mike Holmes said.

Mike is a committed Leo alum who attends as many Alumni events as time permits.

For his contributions to Leo High School, for his continued involvement with the school and his service to young Chicago-area athletes, Mike Arrigoni joins the Leo Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2025.

### Pat Barry '85



Patrick Barry's life was steeped in Leo lore even before he arrived from Queen of Martyrs elementary school in Mount Greenwood.

Pat "proudly" entered Leo as a third generation Lion, preceded by his grandfather, Edward Barry Sr. (Class of 1932), his father, Edward Barry Jr. (Class of 1959) and brother Joseph Barry (Class of 1984), Patrick was thrilled and honored to carry on their legacy.

Destined to wear the orange and black uniforms with the distinctive "L" Pat's pride only grew with each academic and athletic achievement, along with a life of deeds not words that led him to Leo's Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

In his years at Leo, Pat was an All-Catholic defensive end on the 1984 Leo football team under legendary Coach Bob Foster.

He anchored the defense at the center position on the 1985 Catholic League Championship basketball team coached by Jack Fitzgerald.

Pat was the very first recipient of the Jim Arneberg Award, presented by Fitzgerald, an event of even greater significance and pride because the Arneberg name was revered in stories around his childhood home for as long as he could recall. The recognition still ranks as one of the top moments in his athletic career.

"I loved every moment on the field and on the basketball court in my orange and black," said Barry.

To this day, Pat will "bump into fellow Leo alumni" who share the

same passion for Leo and will exchange "detailed conversations about highlights from our sports days."

Pat currently works as a Chief Operating Engineer at a 1.5 million square foot Chicago Loop high rise; he is a 29-year member of Local 399 Operating Engineers Union. Pat has been a member of the Chief Engineers Association of Chicago for more 25 years as well. The powerful Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Chicago awarded Pat in February 2025 the Gold Circle Building Engineer of the Year Award.

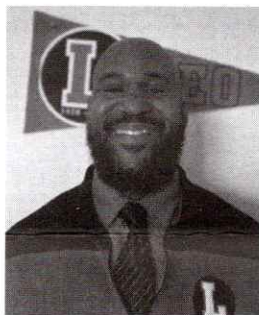
You'll find Pat striving to give back to his community, volunteering regularly for the Greater Chicago Food Depository; fundraising for worthy causes such as St. Baldricks; and most recently helping organize and raise funds and awareness for the Leo Alumni Golf Outing every summer.

In recent seasons, as a vocal leader on the golf committee, Pat pledged to -- and did -- secure thousands of dollars in donations and is already looking forward to topping last year with an even more successful 2025 event at Hickory Hills Country Club.

In a life rooted in pride, Pat points first to his blessings - his wife Bonnie and three "amazing" sons, Edward (25), Daniel (22) and Finnegan (12), all of whom all know the Leo motto very well -- "Facta non verba" -- because Pat made it his "personal credo after my four years at Leo."

In his spare time, Pat enjoys golf, cheering on Chicago sports teams (especially as a diehard White Sox fan), traveling, and spending "quality time in my back yard hosting friends and family."

### Terence M. Cook '94



Terence M. Cook, Leo Class of 1994, left Leo as a winner and returned to Leo the same way -- a winner.

A four-year letterman in football and a three-year letterman in track, he distinguished himself as a Catholic League champion in the shot put and discus.

As Leo's current Dean of Students, Mr. Cook walks the halls a winner, eliciting the level of respect that transforms boys into men and Leo men into leaders.

Mr. Cook has been in the education field since 2009 serving as a teacher, coach and dean and valued colleague to Dr. Shaka Rawls, Leo principal.

Mr. Cook excelled in football and track at Leo and was awarded a football scholarship to Tulane University.

Mr. Cook has also helped coach Leo's football and track team over the years, including successful football playoff appearances and state championships in track in 2001-2002.

"Having worked alongside Mr. Rawls in education prior to coming to Leo, I understand the value and dynamic of becoming a Leo Man and the resources needed to ensure their success," said Mr. Cook.

As a key member of the 1993 football team, Mr. Cook played a pivotal role in their victory over St. Rita, landing him Team MVP recognition en route to Tulane University in New Orleans.

At Tulane, Mr. Cook continued to thrive, earning a Bachelor of Science degree while making his mark as an all-conference defensive player. His leadership and dedication were recognized with the prestigious Bill Svoboda Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Following his collegiate success, Mr. Cook pursued professional football, playing with the New York Giants, as well as the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League.

After his collegiate and professional athletic career, Mr. Cook transitioned to "my life of service." Mr. Cook worked in psychiatric rehabilitation and committed several years to Chicago Public Schools and charter schools, often working alongside Dr. Rawls as a Dean of Students.

Mr. Cook cherishes his coaching encounters at Leo as a football coach, working alongside notable alumni such as Dan O'Keefe, Michael Holmes, Antoine Livingston, Otto Horton, Michael Anderson, Quincy Mills, and longtime state champion track coach Ed Adams.

His unwavering dedication to Leo is reflected in the countless hours he invests in fostering a safe, disciplined, and character-building environment for students.

Beyond his professional and athletic accomplishments, he enjoys spending quality time with family, including relatives, nieces, nephews, and close friends.

He has a passion for traveling, cycling, the outdoors, and cooking. Eight years ago, he combined his love for food and community by founding Bert's Jerk Grill and Seafood, a catering company and food truck serving the greater Chicago area.

Bert's Jerk has had the privilege of providing meals to various communities and organizations, including Chicago's police districts, the West Side Music Festival, Chicago Police Appreciation Day at Soldier Field, the 25th Ward Aldermanic Summer Festivals, and even the Detroit Lions for Thanksgiving.

Like the many greats before him who have had the honor of receiving the Hall of Fame Award, Terence embodies the true spirit of **\*\*Facta Non Verba\*\***—Deeds, Not Words as he enters Leo's Hall of Fame 2025.

### Shelvin Payne '96



Leo's Shelvin Payne never needs to travel far to be an inspiration to others and stir those who to follow in helping those right at home in the community.

The 1996 Auburn Gresham community member grew up in St. Leo the Great parish and followed to Leo his older brother Ronald, Class of 1989.

Shelvin's parents -- Tom and Wilma Payne -- are still staples in the community and welcome their youngest frequently as the young man of action sees need and finds solutions around the neighborhood.

Shelvin's faith and inclination to inspire others to follow culminated in a career path after his days at Leo and after a successful career at JP Morgan Chase, where, after 21 years of service, he accepted God's challenge to change course, according to Minister Ken Whaley.

Shelvin serves as the current Council President of Faith Lutheran Church located at 8300 S. Sangamon, where one might find him most days working and religiously in attendance every Sunday.

An avid supporter of Leo High School and its endeavors, Shelvin is a behind-the-scenes force.

For years Shelvin has supported various students at Leo through monetary means and creative gifting of resources. Shelvin, with assistance from Faith Lutheran, has blessed many Leo families with need items at Thanksgiving and Christmas time for many years.

"There are times when we have Leo families in need of clothing and Shelvin steps up with really quality items that parents cherish," said Leo President Dan McGrath.

Members of Faith Lutheran Church credit Shelvin with leading inspirational initiatives and being "a very intricate part of rebuilding the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church."

"It is through Shelvin's innovation that we have hosted many events, including community day in which we feed the families in the community, host healthy cooking classes and even hosting as an amazing car show for the community to enjoy," said Minister Whaley.

Shelvin Payne, Church Council President at Faith Lutheran 8300 S Sangamon, welcomes support for the generous food donations he will harvest and present to Mothers House, J&R Ministries and Life House, where at least twice a month his donations help feed over 200 families.

Shelvin Payne's path to Leo's 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame was paved with great deeds.

For his achievements at Leo, for his unwavering commitment to the school and for his years of important service to young athletes in and around Chicago, the Leo Hall of Fame is pleased to welcome Shelvin Payne as a member of the Class of 2025.

## Leo Picnic 2025

Greetings Brothers

I hope everyone is well and ready for this year's Alumni Annual Picnic to help raise money for the school we all love, Leo High School. This event is several months away, but we want to give you plenty of notice, so you can make plans to attend. For many years we have held a great gathering it's at the picnic that Leo, men and their families can come together and strengthen, renew and make new friendships. There will be plenty of food, music, and fun for the children and all sorts of shenanigans taking place. This picnic is BYOB, so you know there will be plenty of beverages flowing freely from tent to tent. This year's activities will take place Sunday, August 3, 2025. Please be on the lookout on the website, [lealumni.org](http://lealumni.org) for more information soon.

Shelvin Payne '96

## 2025 Leo High School Alumni Golf Outing

Get a grip on your calendars for the July 30, 2025 Leo Alumni Golf Outing. This event will sell out. During the offseason, the Leo Alumni Golf Outing committee has stayed on course to find the best "country club for a day" experience for alums. **Hickory Hills Country Club**, the new home of the spring alumni banquet, has set new standards in golf play with subtle improvements to the landscape. The Championship 18-Hole and Executive 9-Hole courses emerge from magnificent willow trees and spectacular rolling hills, providing a high standard of excellence for every golf enthusiast. Hickory Hills Country Club is picturesque in design and rugged enough to test every facet of any golf game.

**Hickory Hills Country Club, located at 8201 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street in Hickory Hills, is six blocks from the I-294 exits**

**Event Details:**

**The Last Wednesday - July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The 18-hole event tee time is 9:00 a.m. - \$ 200.00

The 9-hole event tee times are 12 noon - \$ 175.00

Dinner only & Open Bar begins at 3 p.m. \$ 75.00

Golf includes Bloody Mary Bar at Check-In, Golf Cart, Hot Dog lunch, drinks on the course and featured theme challenges on several holes.

Dinner and Open Bar will include a New York Strip Steak complete meal (and other diet options).

The Golf Committee sends their appreciation for your early registration support and trust in the committee's final decisions, which include:

- Price increase as we close in on Leo's 100th year, promoting "deeds" to continue our fundraising efforts.
- Nine-hole option for competitive senior golfers and others who prefer a briefer golf experience
- Dinner and Drinks - only options for those who relish the camaraderie with fellow Leo men

Stepping up to the tee now secures your spot for a summer day hanging out with Leo buddies and friends. Mailers for signing up will be distributed shortly.

## Leo Update

### Sign 'em Up

The third annual "Signing Day," hosted by Leo High School's Admissions Department, took place in the Leo Cafeteria on Saturday, February 8, with more than 40 incoming freshmen "signing on the dotted line" to formalize their membership in Leo's class of 2029.

The event, organized and supervised by Admissions Director Kevin McNair, is designed to make the incoming freshmen feel they are part of the Leo High School Family while they finish their grammar school careers. Basketball games and other commitments kept another 40 or so students from attending, but the turnout was still the largest in the three-year history of the event.

With parents, grandparents, siblings and other relatives included, there were more than 120 people in attendance. And with a total of 80 prospective freshmen already registered, Leo's Class of 2029 will be its largest in 30 years as more and more families become interested in their sons attending Leo.

McNair is completing his third year as Leo's admissions director. He also oversees the Chicago Bears-sponsored Flag Football Program, which has afforded several students their first exposure to Leo, including some 20 members of the current freshmen class.

"Kevin McNair has done an outstanding job," Leo President Dan McGrath said. "He has a great rapport with students of all ages, and he excels at explaining the advantages of a Leo education to their parents. He's been a great addition to the staff."

### **Black Empowerment Leads to Success**

Representatives from fields ranging from sports, business, medicine, the media, the arts and the law took part in a Black Empowerment lecture series Leo hosted during February in conjunction with Black History Month. Each week, different speakers addressed an assembly of Leo students, tracing their career paths and laying out some of the obstacles they had to overcome to gain a foothold in their chosen fields.

The participants included:

- Romanski Luv, a South Side native and 40-year veteran of Chicago radio; and LaRoyce Hawkins, an actor in his 12th year as a regular on the Chicago PD television series;

- Kevin Cross, one of the highest ranking Black executives in the television industry as Vice President and General Manager of NBC Universal-Chicago;

- Attorneys Yoshi Haynie, Devante Johnson and Julian Harrell, who used their inner-city life experiences and education as a springboard to careers in the legal profession;

- Drs. Maxime Madhere, Pierre Johnson and Joseph Semien, advocates for a group called Pulse of Perseverance that endeavors to draw inner-city youngsters to careers in the medical field and support their training.

- Bobby Simmons, a Simeon graduate who went on to play at DePaul before fashioning a 12-year NBA career.

The program finale, on Friday, February 28, was a lively one, with African drums, African chanting and African dance leading off. Luv reminded the students of the power of persistence.

"It is going to be rough some days, absolutely," he said. But you've got to keep going. I was a quiet kid, an introvert, didn't say much. Now they pay me a lot of money to talk on the radio."

Harris echoed that theme, explaining that he had parlayed a gift for making people laugh into a successful acting career. "Talent got me here, but tenacity and positive energy sustain me," he said. "One day it will be your turn to make Black history, to celebrate Black life, to preserve the culture."

Freshmen Austin Knight, Jahad Smith, Emmett Patterson and Isaiah Robinson and senior Tyshaun Glenn performed original, Black History-themed spoken-word poems. Senior Nick Armour was recognized for qualifying for the state wrestling meet, where he had to withdraw because of injury.

Senior Lordan Black joined fellow seniors Kaleb Larry, Keith Smith, Joshua Smith and Carlin Henry as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Hooters restaurant chain. Ms. Sotelo's home room (\$128.96) edged out Ms. Tabernacki's room (\$94.24) and Ms. Bogard's (\$64.38) in a month-long competition to collect coins for the missions and will have lunch on Dr. Rawls. School-wide, more than \$500 was raised.

Bobby Simmons was the series' leadoff speaker on February 3. His pro basketball journey took him from coast to coast, but he came back to Chicago because he feels obligated to give back to his community.

After retiring as a player, Simmons used his NBA earnings to launch a second career as an entrepreneur. Through "Sucezz," the firm he founded, Simmons is involved with a clothing line, a high-end shoe store specializing in athletic footwear and apparel, and a club/event space in the West Loop. He employs dozens of people, and he endows three non-athletic scholarships at DePaul for deserving students who might not be able to afford college otherwise.

Simmons said "structure, accountability and responsibility" were traits he learned in basketball that carry over into his business. He's also a believer in preparation as a catalyst to opportunity, and cited one of the highlights of his NBA career as an example.

"My second year with the Clippers (2004-05), I was supposed to back up Kerry Kittles, but he got hurt, and I got a chance to start," Simmons recalled. "I wound up winning the league's Most Improved Player Award."

He averaged 16.4 points, 5.9 rebounds and 2.7 assists in 75 games, all career highs, then signed a big-money free-agent contract with the Milwaukee Bucks.

"Life is what we make of it," he reminded the Leo students before presenting gift cards to the Sucezz shoe store to two Leo students. "If there's something you're really passionate about, something you love, you can be great at it if you put in the work."

### **No Stopping the Leo Choir**

Black History Month brought out the best in the world-renowned Leo Choir, which remains in demand throughout the Chicago area.

They began the month with an appearance at a Black History observance at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. The following week they joined with Uniting Voices Chicago at the Chicago Symphony Center, where their combined performance of "Swing Low" was a show-stopper.

On February 21 they were invited to perform at Mayor Brandon Johnson's Black History reception at the Chicago Cultural Center. The invitation came from the city's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, in gratitude for the Choir's two appearances at Democratic National Convention-related events and one at the Christmas Carol Sing-Along at Millennium Park.

And though it took place on March 1, the Choir's participation in Jazz at the Gem in Kansas City, Mo., was one of the highlights of the year. Following an eight-hour bus trip, the Choir put on two performances and received several standing ovations at one of Kansas City's most historic music venues.

They also squeezed in a visit to the Negro League Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and a meal at the fabled Gates Barbecue Restaurant, where they met 92-year-old founder and proprietor George W. Gates.

### **Wrestling - Injury Derails Nick Armour**

Leo senior Nick Armour's hopes of ending his high school wrestling career with a state championship ended in disappointment on February 20 when he was injured in his first-round heavyweight match and taken to a Champaign-area hospital. After an examination, Nick was unable to continue.

Appearing in the IHSA Class 1-A state meet at the University of Illinois' State Farm Center for the second consecutive year, Nick was leading Jaylen Torres of Wheaton-St. Francis on points when Torres was disqualified for using an illegal move – a variation of the body slam. Stunned and sore in the neck and shoulder area, Nick remained on the mat for several minutes. He was removed on an immobilization board as a precaution, then taken to the hospital.

He was released following an examination and a shot to dull the pain, but after consulting with doctors, Nick and his family decided it was best he not continue.

Nick finishes his senior season with an impressive 32-8 record. He also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and was an all-conference defensive lineman for the Leo football team during an achievement-filled senior year.

And he might not be done as a state-level competitor. Armour is a shot-putter/discus thrower for the Leo track team and has hopes of replicating the state-meet trip he qualified for as a sophomore.

Armour advanced to the state meet with a fourth-place finish at the Class 1-A Coal City Sectional. He lost his first-round sectional match, but stormed back through the consolation round to go 2-1, including a first-period pin, and finish fourth overall. The top four finishers in each weight class advance to state.

Teammates Vandell Dudley (132 pounds), Aiden Bright (145) and Jubril Kannicke (190) joined Armour at the Coal City meet. Bright lost his first two matches and was eliminated. Kannicke won his first match but dropped his next two and was eliminated. Dudley, the Catholic League frosh-soph champion at 132 pounds, split his first two matches and won his first-round consolation match, but lost his next one and was eliminated.

Armour was Leo's fourth state-meet qualifier since Leo revived its wrestling program 10 years ago, following heavyweight James Britten (2015), 138-pounder James Foy (2019) and 152-pounder Jordan Anderson (2020)

## ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Leo High School has an ongoing commemorative brick display that is located in the school courtyard. The brick display gives Leo alums an opportunity to acknowledge their time at Leo with an engraved brick bearing their name, graduation year and a personal message. In the works for more than three years the display is an attractive addition to the refurbished Leo courtyard and a symbol of how Leo alums like to stay connected to their school.

"I look at the brick display every day," Leo President Dan McGrath said. "I'm reminded of the wonderful ties that connect our Leo Men across the generations."

We have over 250 brick spaces displayed and have room for another 200 or so bricks. For information on obtaining a commemorative brick, please contact Jim Carollo '67 at jamescarollo@sbcglobal.net or call him at 312-498-6841. He will send you a Brick Order Form.

## Leo Alumni Association Raffle

**This Year Your Main Event Raffle Ticket Purchase Includes an Opportunity to Purchase an additional ticket to the Highest Odds Bonus Raffle.**

A chance at **\$10,000 (ten thousand dollars)** and an additional chance at five other prizes is a lot to miss out on. There are 6 prizes and only 300 tickets are being sold, **your chances of winning are very good!!**

The tickets are only **\$100** and as hard as they are for us to give up, we are committed to giving everyone a chance so you can buy them clicking on the button below or by calling in your order at 708-910-1467. All the details for your easy purchase are below. Don't wait! You

may be very glad you acted now.

### MAIN EVENT Raffle Details:

Raffle to be held on Friday, April 25th, 2025 at the 68th Leo Alumni Banquet at Hickory Hills Country Club (Chateau Del Mar).

The ticket price is only **\$100** and only 300 Tickets will be sold.

1st Prize.....\$10,000

2nd Prize.....\$2,500

3rd through 6th Prize.....\$500

1st Prize Ticket Seller.....\$250

**The Winner Need Not Be Present**

### BONUS RAFFLE DETAILS:

What is the **BONUS RAFFLE?**

The **BONUS RAFFLE**, is the Alumni Association Raffle which has the best odds we could ever offer!

**Only 150 BONUS RAFFLE tickets are being sold and 66.6667% of the money collected will be returned as prizes!**

**THERE IS A QUALIFICATION - EACH TICKET YOU BUY FOR THE MAIN EVENT RAFFLE MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE TO BUY A BONUS RAFFLE TICKET!** You can only buy the same number (or fewer) of Bonus Raffle tickets as you hold for the Main event Raffle.

**STILL, BONUS RAFFLE Tickets are only \$100.00 Each and THERE ARE 7 BONUS RAFFLE PRIZES! PRIZES for the BONUS RAFFLE (ONLY 150 Tickets will be sold!)**

1st Prize.....\$7,500

2nd through 6th Prize.....\$500

**To purchase a Raffle call (708) 910-1467, or visit the Alumni Association website at [www.leoalumni.org](http://www.leoalumni.org). Good Luck to All!**

## In Memoriam

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

Started 10-2-2024

Arthur G. Ialongo '41

Lt. Col. Robert H. Drumm

USAF retired '43

George C. Beresheim '44

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Paul Kenneth Hoffman '45

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Patrick John English '61

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Michael "Mike" Joseph Johnson '63

Hugh Patrick McGourty '61

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Reverend Daniel Collins, cousin

of Brother Thomas J. Collins CFC, Leo '54

James Richard Comack - Former Irish

Christian Brother on the Leo faculty during




the 1950s

Updated 3-6-2025

Compiled by Bernard J. Pepping '57 and

Terrance L. Bates '86

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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Best Wishes from Denny Lawrence '55</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Please Support Campaign Leo!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Please Support Leo High School 21st Century Society !</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b><i>GO LIONS!!</i></b></p>
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God Bless America  
 God Bless Our Veterans  
 God Bless Leo H.S.

  
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
  
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