



LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.leoalumni.org

NEWSLETTER

SPRING ISSUE



ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023 ~ CHATEAU DEL MAR

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, August 2, 2023, ~ Green Gardens C.C.

From the President



Fellow Lions,

Spring is near and that means that we are ready to celebrate our annual banquet, being held April 28 at the Chateau del Mar in Hickory Hills. Leo continues to make us proud through their continued efforts at educating over 200 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 with covid restrictions relaxed, we headed back to the school to watch our Lions play Mt Carmel, with a reception for both Alumni groups held afterward at the American Legion Hall in Evergreen Park. This year we held the game in honor of Bill Holland '72, who unfortunately passed away this past year. His wife Cathy was in attendance with her family and he was honored at halftime. On March 12 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 in August, but at a new course, Green Gardens Country Club in Frankfort, IL. More details are in this newsletter, let's thank Dennis Barista '74 and Scott Fulwiler '74, both of whom work tirelessly to make sure this event runs as smoothly as it does.

While our association is smaller in numbers than most, we still remain the biggest and best of all our local Catholic schools. 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 and I will do my best to answer your questions.

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

Alumni Association Banquet

On April 28, 2023, we will be celebrating our 68th 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", "Community Service" and "Special Appreciation" 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 has 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:

Class of 1973 - Ed Kearney ekearney25@gmail.com 708-287-6611

Class of 1998 - David Prater Prater112@gmail.com 312-508-0768

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 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. No covid restrictions are in place this year, but please use your best judgment in keeping yourself and your classmates safe.

Bob Sigel '53 708-389-0118 **John Gardner '75 708-989-2727** or
johnggardner@gmail.com
Banquet Co-Chairmen

Man of the Year

Dr. James Stankiewicz '66

James A. Stankiewicz, MD, blazed a path from Leo High School, class of 1966, to this year's Leo Alumni Association "Man of the Year" honor paved by focus and devotion.

Stankiewicz' meld his stellar career in medicine through devotion to patients' healthcare and the guidance of the next generation of physicians. Working in the medical field with his wife of 48 years Joanne brings

nearly a century of healing to one home. Joanne is a practicing clinical psychologist.

It was at medical school Stankiewicz first met nurse Joanne Grotta, who promptly asked her two brothers from Leo – Tom, '64 and John Grotta, '67 – what kind of guy Stankiewicz was at Leo.

Stankiewicz is still the same self-described "blue-collar kid from the South Side" who attended St. Sabina. Others say he has a heart of gold. He went into medicine to help people and was recognized as the 2022 Stritch Medalist for his 40-year journey helping to bring full accreditation - followed by international regard - to Loyola Medical Center's Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.

There was but one person on staff when Dr. Stankiewicz arrived as an assistant professor. After a two-year turnaround beginning in 1980 with added staff and professionals following the vision of Stankiewicz as Vice-Chair, the department thrived. He became full Chair serving from 2006-2016.

"Very focused," said younger brother Mike, '70. "Those accomplishments didn't come without trials and tribulations" of his brother's University of Chicago degree in biology and doctor of medicine degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 1974.

In 1985, the Doctor of Otolaryngology founded the Nasal Sinus Center at Loyola University Medical Center, the first of its kind in the Chicagoland area "because it was needed."

Along the way Stankiewicz' on-going financial commitment to Leo has resulted in tuition support for multiple Leo students across generations.

Before he carried medical journals, he chased championships at Leo in football and basketball and was a member of Leo's first baseball team in 1966. Stankiewicz served as co-captain of the 1966 Lightweight Catholic League champions, a team trailing at half to Weber. Teammate Jay Standring promised everyone a turkey meal at his house if they pulled out a title under coach Tom O'Malley.

"I don't think his mom was too thrilled but we had a great time at the dinner at Standrings," recalled Stankiewicz, who was one of full-court press spark plugs who erased a 13-point halftime deficit en route to Leo's Catholic League title.

While a proud contributor to Leo's undefeated, 1962 freshman football team, Stankiewicz' father had other plans for his son. When Leo played in the championship in 1966, Stankiewicz donned a Leo cheerleader outfit to root.

"I would much rather have been on the field playing but back in those days we had boy cheerleaders so I did my part," said Stankiewicz.

"That just show what kind of Leo guy Stanks is," said Standring. "Just to come out cheering for us when he could have been playing says it all."

Stankiewicz balanced the challenges of studies at the University of Chicago with baseball and football outlets along with intramural basketball. He served as president of his fraternity. During his medical school residency he served a two-year military obligation using a little political pull to jump from the Marines to the US Navy, accelerating his trajectory in medicine while serving in San Francisco.

Professionally, he has performed more than 20,000 nasal or sinus procedures, shared with his peers 300 medical papers and delivered more than 500 presentations on nasal and sinus disorders.

Devotion to the medical field and the comfort and care of others is the stamp that distinguishes Dr. Stankiewicz in his field and among his fellow Leo Men as the 2023 Alumni Association Leo Man of the Year.

Doctor Thomas Driscoll Award

Ron Malec '46

Leo High School's Ron Malec, Class of 1946, still operates in the circles of young men as an attorney, businessman and real-estate developer nationally and most recently in Florida.

Locally, Mr. Malec was one of the developers of the expansive Maple Park subdivision on Chicago's South-west Side, which draws a link back to Leo.

Maple Park is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. In conjunction with that occasion, Mr. Malec has set up a Scholarship Fund that will make it possible for students from Maple Park to attend Leo High School -- the plan is to start with four students next year and gradually grow to 16.

Two public grammar schools that serve Maple Park embrace the concept. While Fenger and Morgan Park are viable options in the district schools, Leo High School is the obvious option, thanks to a Leo man living in Florida who never forgot his roots.

After Leo, Mr. Malec served in the US Navy and then attended University of Notre Dame and earned his degrees in accounting and law, both of which served him well in real estate endeavors.

Malec's career began as an accountant in Chicago working for Arthur Andersen. His interests in real estate drew him further into the industry. For the next 20 years he grew his reputation and business developing single-family homes, post offices and apartments.

As co-founder and executive director of Keystone Halls, Inc., Mr. Malec provided homes and opportunity for low-income families. Many lives took a trajectory up after Mr. Malec opened doors.

After he moved his family down to Florida he was approached to help turn a halfway house into a greater reality for those in need. Tapping his career experiences and contacts, Mr. Malec totally transformed the halfway house into Keystone Hall in Fort Lauderdale. The media wrote that Mr. Malec "jumped in with both feet" credited with investing his skill set money into lives. The structural changes took an eight-bed program to a 93-bed, 12-program institution of substantial significance.

Today Keystone Hall is a model transitional home with support services offered to homeless alcoholics and individuals with addictive disorders, as well as homeless veterans and those recently incarcerated seeking new vocations during a period of transition.

Mr. Malec was quoted as saying of the Fort Lauderdale's Keystone Hall:

"We're the best program around. Every person we keep off the streets and out of jail serves our community as much as \$100,000 a year. It's an extra plus when we get someone a job, too."

Industry recognition for his life's work includes: "Who's Who" in the Midwest and Commerce and Industry and Chicago Jaycees' "Man of the Year" are among his many awards.

Age is no threat to Mr. Malec, who recently was awarded the Community Foundation of Broward "For Good Awards Hall of Fame winner; continues to play a major role as a self-proclaimed "salesman" developer helping to re-purpose real estate while rejuvenating their lives.

Ron is among the thousands of Leo Men who believe the school helped them get off to a good start in life and he is giving back in earnest.

Community Service Award

Antwane "Tony" Spivey '92

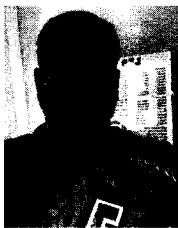
Antwane "Tony" Spivey of the Class of 1991 is this year's recipient of the Leo High School Alumni's Community Service award and as an unmistakable Leo Lion.

Coming or going, Spivey's signature orange and black clothing purposely projects his love of Leo, as well as its sense of home and dedication in his roles.

Spivey joined the Leo staff in 2020 as the "go-to, get-it-done now" alum returning to the school on 79th Street that shaped him.

"If Leo were to give out an MVP Award, Antwane "Tony" Spivey '91 would be a leading candidate," said Leo President Dan McGrath.

"He drives a bus that delivers students to Leo in the morning. He moni-



tors the cafeteria and on-line classes during the day. He covers classes when teachers are out. He supervises field trips, drives Leo's teams to games and practices.

"Courteous, professional and responsible in all his duties, the kids love him, as do their parents.

"I wear my Leo gear everywhere," said Spivey. "Being at Leo working everyday has tightened my bond even more, especially seeing the young Lions coming up everyday."

A player under Leo coach Bob Foster, Spivey has walked his share of sidelines having coached youth football for a decade, highlighted by his days as a head coach for his son's Zion Zeebees. The juniors reached the Super Bowl in 2018 under Spivey.

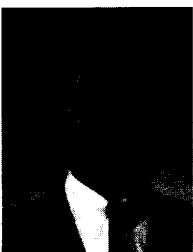
Leo proved a vital touch down point for Spivey during his most challenging chapter as a young man. When his mother turned deathly sick, he took on the responsibility of his younger brother. It was the old coach Foster who responded with "Do the job, Tony."

"And I did just that," said Spivey, whose mother died at 41.

Spivey raised his seven-year old brother and also three boys of his own, now in their 20s. He's been blessed in return with two grandsons.

"I believe Mr. Spivey's involvement has helped make Leo a better school," said Shaka Rawls, Leo Principal of this year's Community Award recipient Antwane "Tony" Spivey who lives a Leo life of deeds for the school he loves.

2023 LEO HALL OF FAME



Albert Marks '64

Where Albert Marks went in life, his younger brothers proudly followed.

In turn, Al followed the sporting careers of his brothers from football to track to golf to fishing of all the Marks' family members and their offspring.

Showing the traits of one of the oldest - with the responsibilities his parents' instilled, Al rarely spoke of his own achievements at Leo but rather supported and praised

those that followed.

Marks graduated from Leo in 1964 and his seven younger brothers who followed each found their own niche whether it was on the gridiron, the glee club or intramural sports.

"Each brother would shine in his own way at Leo and it was Al who was always around the cheer them on, whether it was the football field or track," said a family member ticking off the many brothers - Bob, Bill, Dan, Joe, Mike, John, Rich and Tom.

"Al was always following Leo's growth, transformations and sports records over the years."

Albert enters Leo's Alumni Association Hall of Fame posthumously.

Also a member of Leo's Glee Club, he was likely the first to regale a wedding crowd by singing the **Leo Lions Fight Song**.

Even when Al turned 75 years old, he was still sporting his "Leo sprit wear" and was quick to show off the cherished painting in his office of his school on 79th Street.

"Al's pride in Leo was an integral part of his personality which formed his Christian values throughout his life," said a family member.

Al was drafted into the Army and served honorably in combat during the Vietnam Wars from 1966 until 1968. Returning safely he married his wife of 52 years Kathy and the two were blessed with daughter Michelle and son Tom, who frequented Leo games with his dad.

By then he was advancing his career in sales and rose to sales manager at Butternut Bread before joining Frito Lay.

Away from work, Al coached Tom's Little League and followed Michelle's games. One of 11 children, Al's love of family was eternal, especially when his four grandchildren arrived. All occasions regarding family "were sweet chances to cherish his friendships and brotherhood."

"Al wasn't particularly focused on one charity but he was the first in line to support friends in need attending charity events, smokers, alumni banquets and Veterans' charities.

In his later years, Al showed a softer side in his absolute dedication to his four grandchildren - Megan, Luke, Tommy and Maddie - supporting them in schooling and their sporting events. They were the apple of grandpa's eye.

"In life Al embodied the values of Leo with his family everyday. He brought laughter, love and support to the Marks family all the days of his life."

Daniel Marks '67

Now in retirement, Daniel Marks, class of 1967, comes to Leo's Hall of Fame in good company - his brothers.

Daniel Marks graduated from Leo High School in 1967 after attending Saint Augustine's Grammar School and finds Leo and family still govern his life to this day.

Well-known as one of Leo's Marks brothers - Robert, Albert, William, Richard, John, Michael, Joseph and Thomas Marks - he fell in as both younger brother and responsible older brother to seven who followed.

Dan's fondest memories of Leo from yesteryear match up to his favorite activities as a grandfather. Dan was a big fan in attendance at Leo pep rallies and fan of his older brother Bill, who played football on the 1966 team that played Loyola in 1966 at Soldier Field. Today, he cheers from the stands for his two granddaughters Sarah and Mary on the field.

Family vacations with nearly 60 or more Marks family members and fishing trips are worked into the calendar around Leo golf outing and fundraisers.

"I am happy to support the young men who currently attend Leo," said Dan. "It's important for them to have a good place to learn and feel welcome.

"My time at Leo High School showed me how important a sound education can be to better prepare you for future endeavors. Supporting Leo High School is something that is important to my brothers and me. These kids deserve the best possible chance at succeeding in life."

Dan participated in intramural basketball, football and softball at Leo. After Daley Community College Dan was drafted into the United States Military. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971.

He spent 13 months serving in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea. The Joint Security Area unit was part of the Joint United Nations Peacekeeping Force in the Truce Village of Panmunjom, Korea. Panmunjom was where the UN and North Koreans debated the violations of the Armistice Agreement.

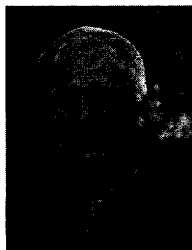
After service to his country Dan worked for 28 years as a route salesman for Wonder Bread, while giving up his free as an active member of each of the parishes he moved to. His community service work included: coaching, tutoring, Bible study and fundraising efforts for the hungry and homeless. He also served on the parish carnival committees and as a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America as Scoutmaster of the local Scout Troop.

Dan and his late wife Christine of 36 years raised two children, Tim and Jacki, and are "blessed with two granddaughter. Over the last dozen years. "I've been enjoying my retirement with my partner of 12 years, Suzanne."

Never but a phone call away, Dan uses his handyman skills in plumbing and such to help his daughters when something is in need of fixing or repair.

"My favorite memories are because of the people I met in high school," said Dan "They have become my lifelong friends, some who I see to this day."

Welcome Dan Marks to the Leo Alumni Association Hall of Fame.



Bill Holland '73

William Bernard Holland III wanted his golden jubilee alumni anniversary to be the biggest turnout for one class in the history of Leo's 67 reunions.

That Bill "Dutch" Holland passed away suddenly on June 11, 2022 only hastened his induction into Leo's Alumni Hall of Fame and a heavenly reunion with two of his closest 1973 classmates - Tom Hopkins and Tom Knightly - as well as other Leo men

deceased.

The ever-so-proud Leo Man was a member of Leo High School Alumni

Association and the Leo Advisory Board, 1977 graduate of Marquette University, past Grand Knight of Fr. Perez Council 1444 and an Insurance Broker for 30+ years at Arthur J. Gallagher.

If he were approached about entering the Hall of Fame earlier, he probably would have shunned the gesture with a heart-filled laugh because there would be plenty of time for that, if not other Leo recognitions.

Leo was runner-up in life to his wife of 45 years Catherine and daughters Colleen, Mary Kate and Patty Holland. He was "Big Papa" to grandchildren Conor and Maura.

From the time Holland left Little Flower Parish to arrive at Leo, he donned the black and orange juggling a number of roles:

- Student Council President 1973
- Honor Roll Student: Junior and Senior Year
- Valedictorian: Senior Year 1973

Sports:

- Football: Freshman-Senior Year
- Captain Senior Year
- Position: Linebacker

Football Coach Bob Foster considered Holland "one of his hardest-hitting, most dedicated football players at Leo High School."

A newly founded Bill Holland Scholarship Fund was started shortly after Bill's passing in honor of his dedication and love for Leo. "Seed money" came from in-lieu-of-flowers donations received during the wake and funeral. Contributions continued to mount after the services, enough to fund a full scholarship for a former student of Bill's daughter/teacher at Evergreen Park High School, Colleen McWalter.

The young Leo Man is currently a sophomore, and his tuition will be covered for the remainder of his time at Leo. More than \$12k has been raised in Bill's name to date, allowing for a second student to walk the Leo halls this upcoming fall.

The posthumous induction into the Leo Hall of Fame for Bill Holland prompted his wife Cathy to pass this along to the Leo Men he cared for:

Bill took care of everyone in his life. He did this without looking for anything in return or any accolades. It was just the right thing to do and that's what Bill did. When his family needed him, he was there. From being an honorary grandpa, to Santa Claus, or designated chauffeur, Bill loved helping anyone in his life.

When Bill's daughters were little, he would walk in the door and yell, "Are there any little girls here who love me?" His three daughters (Colleen, Mary Kate, and Patty) would fly to the door where Bill would hug them and ask about their day. Every day. Every day Bill did this. Bill showed his love through his actions. He lived the Leo motto, "Deeds not words," though he was never short on those.

Bill Marks '66

William "Bill" Marks enters Leo's Alumni Association Hall of Fame posthumously, nearly four years after his death in 2019.

An officer of Leo's Glee Club in his 1966 graduating year, he was known to stretch the vocal chords at family weddings singing the *Leo Lions Fight Song* with his brothers: Bob, Al, Dan, Joe, Mike, John, Rich and Tom – all Leo graduates.

Marks brought his football skills from St. Augustine Grammar School and even joined the Drama Club, having honed his stage skills from a large family.

His son Bill recounts his dad's vivid memories of times at Leo High School, focused mainly on those including playing on the football field or participating in the Glee Club.

"My dad was incredibly proud of his high school, Leo, and he and his brothers made a tradition of singing the *Leo Lions Fight Song* at all major family gatherings.

"It was also a well-told tale in our household about how he met his wife Helene while acting in one of the high school's plays," "And of course, there was the infamous Marx Brother's nickname of Harpo Marx that he received from his classmates."

Upon graduation from Leo, Marks entered into University of Illinois at Circle to study business. His early career in sales was interrupted by the

draft. In 1968 he joined the United States Army and served in Vietnam for fourteen months as a military police officer. Before departing he got engaged to high school sweetheart Helene Julkowski. They were married in 1969 and had four children: Jake, Josh, Jessica, and Erin. He eventually had nine grandkids that he loved to fish and joke around with.

He enrolled in DePaul University and graduated with his business degree, leading to his first career stop at Northern Trust Bank, followed by an illustrious sales career at Forsythe McArthur. A multiple "Salesman of the Year" recipient, he thrived for more than two decades at Forsythe.

Bill retired in March of 2009, after which he spent his days golfing, fishing and ballroom dancing. Bill was honored to be included in the Oklahoma Honor Flight to Washington, DC in November of 2018.

Never too far from the Catholic church efforts, he dedicated his time and his talents to helping local organizations, such as St. Colleta's, which services adults with special needs. He also was very involved in charity golf tournaments, combining his passion for the sport with raising money for causes, including working with the Heisman Trophy winners in a charity golf fundraiser.

Marks loved spending his free time outside, whether it was on the golf course, fishing with his siblings, or watching his beloved Chicago Bears. He cherished his visits to connect with his siblings and see his grandkids. Never one to pass on "the finer things in life" he liked a good drink and cigar with friends or his brothers while sitting outside, or vacationing.

Renardo "Rick" Anthony Hall '72

Just 23 days remained on Renardo Hall's home calendar in Maryland until he would be reunited with his Leo High School classmates in Chicago Friday, April 22.

Leo's first Black class president, Hall's presence at the Leo Alumni Association's celebration honoring the 1972 Golden Jubilee Class would be emblematic of the school's enduring presence on Chicago's South Side.

Instead, Hall died of a sudden, massive heart attack Thursday, March 31, 2022 Ricardo Watts, Hall's vice president and class officer running mate, along with dear friend Larry Wilson, dutifully shared the news with their classmates, conveying that "Renardo was looking forward to the 50th Class Reunion" and "working hard" to reach as many people as possible.

In months leading up to the reunion Hall was initiating Zoom calls, finding other 1972 graduates and projecting a contagious enthusiasm for the gathering April 22, 2022 at Chateau Del Mar, the most recent banquet host to a storied event that enjoyed crowds of 700 men at the former Martinique Drury Lane in Evergreen Park. Nearly 400 are expected.

"Renardo was a peacemaker," said Pete Doyle, Hall's cross country and track coach at Leo, who will bestow the banquet's invocation and occupy Hall's seat.

Hall's final email correspondence in trying to "round up" classmates read:

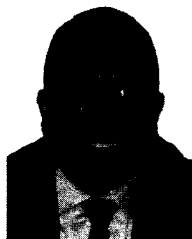
"Brothers of '72', I am requesting that you find a way to come back to Leo High School for this Golden Occasion. Come back to rekindle old friendships and good memories. Come back to give back to LEO! I know our classmates would enjoy seeing one another, I definitely know I will enjoy seeing your face in the place." Renardo Hall.

Hall was approaching the trip like a retreat. Like many who moved from Chicago, he cherished mailed news clippings of Leo's success and sustainability and, in recent days, Google links of television spots showing proud young Black men making their mark, the way Hall did.

"The summer before his senior year, he ran everyday to prepare for cross country and track," said attorney Tom Lynch, a 1973 graduate. "We ran in Marquette Park when not many young Black men even entered the park and we ran in Ryan's Woods where guys would be sitting around drinking from paper bags."

"Renardo was leading the charge back to Leo," said Leo President Dan McGrath, a 1968 Leo graduate. "He was coming straight to the school Friday morning to meet our students in a Journalism class and answer their questions."

Hall's Saturday agenda called for a "tour of the school" with McGrath and Leo Principal Shaka Rawls, followed by loose plans for an afternoon brunch, golf and bowling, concluded with a reference to presenting a "Gift to school from Class of 1972."



The Hall family established the Renardo Hall Scholarship Fund prior to his memorial service in Maryland April 15th. The family plans to attend the 2023 banquet at tables occupied by the 1972 class members and local friends and family.

"Ours is a success story because of people like Renardo," said McGrath.

Fred Nelson III '77



Young Fred Nelson III had his own spotlight at Leo High School in the late 1970s but gained worldwide industry infamy using his gifts to make others famous.

At Leo the brown-eyed, handsome young man sported a classic 1970s-inspired Afro puff hairstyle that said Black it Beautiful. Nelson was a band officer and student under the direction of the great Chicago orchestra conductor and teacher Leo Henning. Nelson was a distinguished member of Leo's woodwinds, a piano player and all-around contributor to Leo's spring concerts.

That Nelson and Henning intersected at Leo on 79th Street proved harmonious as both found their greatest calling in music just "20 feet from stardom" yet, vital keys to the starring artists' stellar performances – live performance and studio recording.

Nelson's graduation in 1977 from Leo launched into globetrotting assignments with such legendary artists as Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Hudson, Anita Baker, Jennifer Holiday and Ben Vereen - and the list goes on.

Like Henning, the modest Nelson gives back as the artistic director to students at Southland College Prep Charter High School and District 162 in Matteson, Illinois.

The Leo High School Alumni Association honors Hall of Famer Nelson for the music he's brings the world and inspiration he instills in tomorrow's musicians and artists.

The world of music knows Fred Nelson III as a producer, composer, arranger, conductor, jingle writer for Leo Burnett Advertising and keyboardist extraordinaire, a skill he honed as a toddler while on the lap of his father, who graced the piano bench and keys as a performer.

Mr. Nelson's journey gradually changed from performance to music production and direction. Through Nelson Entertainment Group, Inc., he has produced music for national radio and television commercials for over three decades.

Nelson's list of commercial clients include major advertising agencies such as: Burrell, Leo Burnett, Vince Cullers. He has produced music for clients such as McDonald's, Polaroid, Sears, Coca Cola featuring Anita Baker, United Airlines, Illinois State Lottery, American Airlines, Toyota, Ford and Sears.

In addition, Nelson has served as a producer and musician for several recording projects, including Celine Dion, Chuck Mangione and Neil Diamond.

Mr. Nelson has served as an elected member of the Chicago Chapter Board Governors for NARAS (The National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences) Committee for the Grammy's. He is also a signatory to SAG-AFTRA and AFM.

To Mr. Nelson's credit are several recognitions and awards for his continued pursuit of musical excellence. His most recent recognition was the Chicago Defender's "Men of Excellence Award".

Mr. Nelson gives credit to God first, and to list a mentors who guided and shaped his musical career. His mentors include Fred Nelson Jr. (father), Donald Byrd (Fred's tour arranger and MD with Ray Charles), Robert Mayes (Virtuoso Musician), and Wendell Logan (Fred's Oberlin College Professor). Mr. Nelson believes that he merely a "blessed channel for God to express Himself to uplift man through music."

Nelson considers his most rewarding accomplishment to be his daughter, Paige.

Golden Jubilee Class of '73

Golden Jubilee Class Captains

Ed Kearney '73 ekearney25@gmail.com 708-287-6611

Silver Jubilee Class 1998

Silver Jubilee Class Captain

David Prater '98 Prater112@gmail.com 312-508-0768

Leo Picnic

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 Saturday, August 5, 2023. Please be on the lookout for more information soon.

ALL MONEY RAISED AFTER EXPENSES ARE PAID AND WILL BE DONATED TO LEO HIGH SCHOOL.

We know times are tough for many of us and know that times are just as tough financially for many Catholic high schools, including our own Leo High School. What separates us from so many other schools is the strength and support of our alumni. If you are able, please come out to the picnic and enjoy yourself and make sure Leo stays alive and strong! And always remember, FACTA NON VERBA!

For further details please contact Asante Manning 773-759-4337 or Gary Fields 708-228-3190

Shelvin Payne '96

Leo Golf Outing August 2, 2023

Tee Time is 9:00 AM

New location: Green Gardens Country Club

9511 West Manhattan Road, Frankfort, IL

18 holes of golf with a cart is \$150.00 per person.

Includes: Bloody Mary Bar, Halfway house lunch, Unlimited pop, water, and cold beer, with a full dinner buffet.

Dinner only is \$50.00 per person. Open bar and full dinner buffet begin at 3:00 pm.

Frankfort, IL sounds far, but when comparing the following times and distance, it is an easier location to get to.

79th and Dan Ryan to Gleneagles - 35 minutes/ 21 miles

79th and Dan Ryan to Green Gardens - 30 minutes/ 30 miles

95th and Kedzie to Gleneagles - 25 minutes/ 15 miles

95th and Kedzie to Green Gardens - 36 minutes/ 27 miles

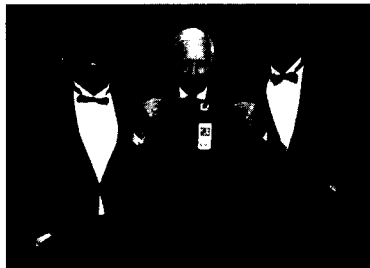
More miles, not a big difference in time, taking I-57 most of the way.

We expect another great year for Raffle prizes, Silent Auction prizes, a Big Raffle item, and Split the Pot.

Donations to fill the raffle baskets and monetary donations to offset expenses are being accepted and truly appreciated.

Contact Scott Fulwiler 708-514-1467 or Dennis Barista 312-493-6100 with any questions or concerns.

Andrew J. McKenna '47



The passing of Andrew J. McKenna - one of Leo High School's most distinguished and supportive alums - does not mark the end of an era.

Rather, it's reminds us that one of our own put stronger winds in Leo's sails

In 2016, Leo held its first Scholarship Benefit to celebrate

its 90-year anniversary, and to fund tuition assistance for deserving students who were increasing in number as Leo's enrollment grew.

With an eye on 2026, Mr. McKenna agreed to accept the first Leo Lions Legacy Award as recognition for his lifetime of service to others.

The response was remarkable. A who's who of Chicago dignitaries filled the Four Seasons Hotel, raising more than \$2 million for establishment of the Leo High School Scholarship Fund. The benefit has become an annual event, and is Leo's No. 1 fundraising vehicle.

Mr. McKenna left us with these words:

"A lot of the values I still adhere to today date to my time at Leo," Mr. McKenna said. "Ambition, responsibility, work ethic, time management ... I don't know that I could have got more out of high school."

Mr. McKenna recalled taking three streetcars from his South Shore home to Leo every day and said he was well served by the experience. He urged today's young Lions to follow his example.

"The world is yearning for young men like you. Show up. Get involved. Stick with it."

Mr. McKenna '47 died in his Winnetka home after a brief illness on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. He was 93, and to his final days his impact was felt throughout the city's business, civic, philanthropic and sports communities.

Mr. McKenna was the only man in the history of Chicago baseball to serve as Chairman of both the White Sox and the Cubs. He was a longtime member of the Chicago Bears' board at the time of his death, and Chairman emeritus of both the Notre Dame Board of Trustees and McDonald's Corp.

He was a co-founder of the Big Shoulders Fund, a longtime board member at Lurie Children's Hospital and former Board Chairman of the Museum of Science and Industry and the United Way Fund of Greater Chicago.

"Imagine going through life as the son of an 'inexhaustible dynamo,'" son Bill McKenna said in his eulogy, citing a description applied to Mr. McKenna in a Crain's Chicago Business obituary. Bill McKenna didn't dispute the characterization.

"It was an honor to be Andy McKenna's son," he said.

Mr. McKenna was known as "Andy" to his friends, as "Cubby" to his grandchildren and as "the Chairman" to fellow business and civic leaders, in deference to his penchant for winding up as the head of virtually every organization with which he involved himself.

"Mr. Chicago" would be an appropriate title as well," said longtime friend Pat Ryan, founder and former Chairman of the Aon Corp. "You'd be hard-pressed to find someone who did more and meant more to this city."

Mr. McKenna's wife Joan preceded him in death in 2019. Their family included seven children, 24 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

"No matter how involved he was in other things, family was always the No. 1 priority in his life," grandson Drew McKenna said. "Every one of us felt we had a special relationship with him."

Leo High School always held a place in Mr. McKenna's heart, from his days as an honor student, senior class president and sports editor of The Oriole, the school newspaper.

"Andy was probably the wisest, most clear-thinking individual I have ever known, and also the nicest," said Leo President Dan McGrath, who attended the funeral with Principal Shaka Rawls and several members of the National Honor Society. "We have not had a better friend. Leo High School is forever indebted to him. The world is a lesser place today.

Facta Non Verba---Deeds Not Words. It was not just a school motto at Andy McKenna. It was a way of life.

Leo Update

Bear Down

Before he begins full-scale preparations for his second season as the Chicago Bears' coach, Matt Eberflus told Bears Care Director Marge Hamm that he'd like to visit one of the organizations that partners with Bears Care in community- service projects.

Mrs. Hamm, a longtime friend to Leo, suggested Leo High School. Eberflus came on Friday, Feb. 24. In his talk and in the Q&A session that followed, he made a strong impression on the students with his candor and his easy, approachable demeanor.

"There are three things that I believe are essential to success in any endeavor," Eberflus, 52, told an all-school assembly. "Be on time, be respectful and work hard, to the best of your ability. Commit to those three things and you'll get results."

A football player since the fourth grade, Eberflus said he always knew he wanted to coach, and he got into it immediately after graduating from the University of Toledo. He was a two-time All-Mid-America Conference linebacker, but he lacked the size and speed NFL teams require at the position.

"Nick Saban, the Hall of Famer, was our head coach my senior year, and even though I was only around him for a year, how he went about it really made an impression. He was a major influence. We still talk regu-

larly."

In Eberflus' experience, the best coaches are those who approach the job as a partnership. "You're not only trying to build a better player, you're trying to build a better person—someone who wants to be all he can be," he explained. "If you're successful in that, you'll build trust. And trust is essential to any relationship."

Eberflus reminded the boys that progress toward one's goals requires persistence and patience: He put in 30 years as an assistant at the college and pro levels before landing the Bears' head-coaching job in January 2022. After a lengthy tenure as defensive coordinator at the University of Missouri, he moved to the NFL as linebackers coach with the Cleveland Browns. He later coached the Dallas Cowboys' linebackers and was defensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts when the Bears hired him.

Black History Month

A series of events filled the Leo calendar during February, celebrated each year as Black History Month. Some of the highlights:

* More than 100 professionals, several of them Leo graduates, turned out to discuss career opportunities with Leo students on Feb. 15-16. Business, medicine, technology, law and law enforcement, media, marketing, fire-fighting, logistics, transportation and the trade unions were among the fields represented by hands-on practitioners who met with Leo students in small groups to share their expertise and offer common-sense advice: what type of education is needed for work in a particular field, breaking into that field, advancing in it, etc. How to handle a job interview, responsible use of social media and workplace preparation and professionalism were among the other topics covered.

* Mr. Redmond's sophomore and senior English classes have been studying creative writing all year with Jennifer Finstrom, a professor of writing and rhetoric at DePaul University, and her students. A recent assignment was an essay on the trials and tribulations of life as a young Black man on the South Side of Chicago. Twenty-one of Mr. Redmond's students volunteered to deliver their essays as Spoken Word performances at an all-school assembly on Feb. 14.

* Nine elementary schools who are part of the Big Shoulders network came to Leo on Saturday, Feb. 25 for the sixth annual Black History Quiz Bowl. Leo's National Honor Society members helped Big Shoulders staffers prepare the questions and served as hosts, MC's and judges. Six-person teams from each school answered questions pertaining to religion, music, math, pop culture, sports, STEM, music videos and movies. A tour of the school for the contestants, their parents and principals followed. Over lunch, the top three finishers were introduced and presented their trophies. Holy Angels (63 points), St. Catherine-St. Lucy (57 points) and St. Philip Neri (55 points) took home trophies.

* Principal Rawls came to the event from a breakfast in Burr Ridge, where he accepted a Distinguished Service award from the Chicago Pastors Rally in recognition of his commitment to improving the lives of others. In his remarks to the students, Mr. Rawls emphasized the importance of Black history in their lives.

"With book banning and the curriculum pressure being placed on various school districts, there are those in power or seeking power who would deny us our history, as if it never happened," he said. "So Black History can't be a one-month thing each February. It has to be a year-round commitment we make to learn from it and get better."

* Leo took to the road on the final day of Black History month, bringing the world-renowned Leo Choir to Old St. Mary's Elementary School to participate in a Black History program on Tuesday, Feb. 28. Old St. Mary's 450-plus students—pre-schoolers through 8th grade—weren't sure what to make of the Lions as the program began, but by the time the Choir performed "Siyahamba"—the African-themed version of "We Are Marching in the Light of God"—the kids were clapping along and dancing. Thanks to the always-stellar work of Choir Director LaDonna Hill, it's doubtful the St. Mary's gym has ever been more energized.

Speaking of Sports

An 8-23 season doesn't offer much in the way of celebration, but it speaks to the type of season Leo senior Keeland Jordan had that he was accorded Honorable Mention recognition on the Chicago Sun-Times' All-City team. Leo's 8-23 season came to an end with a 61-53 loss to CICS Longwood in

the semifinals of an IHSA Class 2-A Regional at South Shore High School on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

The game illustrated how dependent the Lions were on Jordan, the only returnee from last season's 25-5 Catholic League champions who developed into 22-point scorer. He was shaken up in a car accident the day before Leo met Longwood. He played, but he was clearly not himself during a scoreless first half.

Somehow, Jordan willed his way to 25 second-half points. Though they cut their deficit to one point on two occasions, the Lions never could escape the early 15-3 hole they dug for themselves, and Longwood put the game away with 9-for-10 free-throw shooting down the stretch after Leo took to fouling in desperation.

"I'm proud of our guys," Coach Jamille Ridley said. "It wasn't easy, being thrust into a situation with all those guys leaving. But the seniors stepped in, the young guys stepped up ...

"You gave us everything you had, every night. Left it out there. This team will always be special to me." "This season was a blip on the radar," Ridley said. "We're Leo. We're a premier program. We'll be back."

Wrestling report

IHSA Sectional competition at Coal City was the end of the line for Leo wrestlers Chris Mathis and Nick Armour. Mathis, a senior, and Armour, a sophomore, couldn't duplicate their strong showings in the Class 1-A Regional at St. Laurence and saw their seasons end short of the state meet, Armour losing in the first round of the sectional and Mathis in the second.

The regional, though, was a season highlight for both. Armour, a heavy-weight, pinned all three opponents and took first place in his division. Mathis, wrestling at 120 pounds, placed second with two victories in three matches as both moved on to sectional competition.

As a team, Leo placed seventh among 10 teams with 47 points. Host St. Laurence won the regional with 150.5 points and Nazareth was runner-up with 133.5 points.

Armour was an All-Catholic League Red Division defensive lineman as a sophomore for the Lions, while Mathis is an honor student and a member of the National Honor Society.

Staff Sergeant James Fagan, USMC

James "J.D." Fagan graduated from Leo in 2013 as class valedictorian. He was also a baseball standout and a member of the chess and bowling teams.

On Thursday, Feb. 16 he returned to Leo as Staff Sergeant James Fagan, USMC, having chosen Leo as the site of the ceremony for his promotion from sergeant to staff sergeant. "This is a significant step in a Marine's career," said Chief Warrant Officer Richard Whelan, USMC, who presided. "It's like all the sergeants' names are listed on a board, and the ones best suited to continue to serve are selected for promotion to staff sergeant. What it says is we want this individual to remain in the Marine Corps."

Sgt. Fagan joined an ROTC program while attending college at SILT-Edwardsville. The military lifestyle appealed to him, as did the opportunity to avoid accumulating thousands of dollars in college debt. "The government is paying for my education," he told an assembly of Leo students, "and I'm seeing the world."

Since enlisting for active duty, Sgt. Fagan has deployed to South America, Spain, Germany and Israel. He is currently assigned to the Marine Recruiting Station at 51st and Pulaski in Chicago. "It's not a bad life, and there's definitely a feeling of accomplishment in the work you do," he said in urging his fellow Young Leo Men to consider the military as an option. "Ten years ago, I was sitting there just like you, wondering what was next for me. I'm grateful that the Marine Corps opportunity presented itself. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made."

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

Whether you are attending the banquet or not, an easy way to support Leo is by buying a raffle ticket. It is an option that gives you a reasonable chance at winning \$10,000 and there is also a chance at five additional prizes. A total of six prizes and only 300 tickets being sold, your chances of winning are very good.

The tickets are only \$100, and as hard as it is for us to give them up, we are committed to giving everyone a chance. You can buy them online through the website at www.leoalumni.org or by calling 708-243-1640 and the nice lady who answers the telephone will be happy to sell you a ticket.

Of course, the raffle will be held on Friday, April 28th, 2023, at the Banquet. The Winner Need Not Be Present. Good Luck to All!

In Memoriam

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

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James Joseph Malone '46
Robert T. Mangan '46
William E. Fitzgerald '47
Andrew J. McKenna '47
James Paul O'Connell '48
John J. 'Jack' Kelly, Jr. '48
David Otis Crabb '49
Fred B. Gardner '49
John Edward Scanlon '49
John J. Quinlivan '50
Joseph Anthony Moran '50
Edward Paul Bialecke, Jr. Ph.D. '52
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Francis M. Craven '52
James C. Graeber '52
Gerald Francis Quitter '53
Peter J. Sterchele, Sr. '53
John M. McLaughlin '54
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Richard F. O'Rourke '55
Rance J. Powers '55
Eugene F. Murphy '56
Arthur J. Bonardi '57
Robert Lee Cunningham '57
Carol Frenette, wife of the
late Donald H. '57
Donald Henry Frenette '57
Kathleen Johnson, wife of
Robert J. '57

William R. Murphy '58
Donald B. Salzman '58
Matthew P. Walsh '58
John B. Fleming, Jr. '59
John Michael Glasner '60
Lawrence Osinsky '60
Kurt M. Schindler '60
Richard B. Sienkiewicz '60
James F. Weldom '60
James M. Nash '61
John Lee Henning '62
John J. Begley '63
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Henry J. Maipeli '63
Daniel D. Obuchina '63
Lawrence J. Oresky '63
Bernard J. Rubin '63
Kevin T. O'Brien '64
Thomas R. Sheils '64
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Dennis E. Sexton '65
Michael Edward Croy '66
Clarence Junkins, Jr. '68
Anthony Richard Bedalow '69
Frank Blase Castiglione '70
Stafford L. Hood Ph.D. '70
James P. Shea '70
John M. McNulty '75
Ronald Paul Mathius '83
Shelley A. Randolph '96
Michael L. Hill '01

Updated 3-10-2023
Compiled by Bernard J. Pepping '57
and Terrance L. Bates '86

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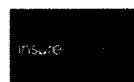
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