



LEO HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
www.leoalumni.org
NEWSLETTER
FALL ISSUE



ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 ~ CHATEAU DEL MAR

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, August 7, 2024, ~ Green Gardens C.C.

From the President



Another Summer has gone by far too fast, but the change of season is still welcome.

Once again, the association has had a very productive year holding many events, highlighted by our Spring Banquet and Summer Golf outing. We once again enjoyed over 500 attend the banquet and well over 200 at the golf outing. The success

this Alumni Association has at these events is unsurpassed in the Catholic League and for that matter, any high schools in the metro area and the thanks goes to our devoted alumni base. With Fall upon us, it's time to start planning for this upcoming year's events, which will be highlighted later in this issue.

Both the banquet and golf outing require a major commitment to assuring their respective success. The leaders of that effort for the banquet are Bob Sigel '53 and John Gardner '75 and for the golf outing, Dennis Barista '74 and Scott Fulwiler '74. This is not an easy task and while they have help throughout the year, these events wouldn't be the success they always are without their leadership. While they will still be heading up the events, there is a need for the younger alumni to step up and offer their help, so that in the future we will have the leadership needed to continue our fine traditions, so I ask that you consider adding your talents to keeping this alive.

Once again, the school year began with the Alumni welcoming the incoming students on their first day of classes. What a joy it is to see the looks on their faces as they are welcomed by over 35 alumni from classes dating as far back as the 1950's. What is truly satisfying is seeing each student shake hands with all the alumni in attendance, a true highlight of the day! The first day of school is always stressful, but I hope that seeing so many friendly faces from the past made the day a bit easier for them. After the welcoming, Principal Rawls addressed the students and alumni in the auditorium highlighting what was ahead, and also commu-

nicating his expectations for the students. As always, the program ended with all of the alumni joining the students in singing our fight song, with all the enthusiasm of one of our many great pep rallies.

I am proud to be an active part of this organization for over 20 years and look forward to extending that span for many years to come. While this is occasionally time consuming, it's always rewarding. Leo Alumni are a breed like no other so the time spent helping out brings the reward of knowing that we collectively are helping Leo High School thrive for many years to come. Our commitment to the school is not only unmatched by any in the area, but also envied. In my encounters with others, those not from Leo are amazed at the success of our annual banquet. They often comment on how they wish their association was as dedicated as ours. Information regarding our monthly meetings, upcoming events, and much more is available on our website, leoalumni.org. Please take a look and join us. We would love to see you. I know we'll continue our efforts in the future and look forward to another successful year.



Banquet Update

We had a very successful banquet in 2023 with over 500 in attendance. Now it's time to get ready for 2024! Our date for

the banquet is Friday, April 26th, 2024 at Chateau Del Mar aka Hickory Hills CC. We hope that you will be able to join us. We will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee Class of 1974 and the Silver Jubilee Class of 1999. Once again, tickets will be available via leoalumni.org and through the mail. Tickets will be the same price of \$80.00. **There will be no ticket sales at the door on the day of the banquet.** Get together with your classmates and friends and buy a table or two so we can ensure that you will all sit together. For the Jubilee classes, reach out to your class captains for the purchase of tickets.

The 50th Anniversary Class of 1974

Bob Cheval has agreed to take on this task. He has put together a group of capable classmates to assist. So, if you are a class member, you will likely be hearing from one of them soon. If you are interested in making your contact information available, or particularly if you are interested in assisting with the planning or with making contacts, please contact: 1974 Class Captain Bob Cheval 708-990-2846, rc1255@aol.com

The 25th Anniversary Class of 1999

1999 Class Captains

We are looking for Class Captains for this year, so if you are interested, please contact me at dnno215@sbcglobal.net

We are also looking for class captains for classes of '64 (60 year), '84 (40 year), contact either Bob Sigel or Dan Stecich if anyone is interested.

For any general questions about the banquet, please contact **Bob Sigel '53 708-629-0611, John Gardner '75 708-989-2727 johnggardner@gmail.com or Brian Earner '93 brianearner@yahoo.com**

We look forward to seeing all of you again and being part of hosting another successful Leo High School Reunion.



Leo Alumni Golf Outing 2023 and 2024

2023 Leo Alumni Golf Outing

New place: Green Gardens Country Club, seemed far away, but was easy to get to. Course was in great shape and a nice track to play, a little challenging but fun. Our turn-out this year was low, but fun was had by all. The dome experience was new and will be better in the future with all the

upgrades they are making at the club, sound system and even the hot dogs to name a few.

Again, our prizes were outrageously good, and we will be working on a better display and give away system in the future. Thanks again to Dan McGrath for his sports connection, as our sports silent auction section is still the best in the city.

Special thanks to our volunteers: Jim Joyce, Jack Hannigan, Jim Carollo, Tony DeBella, Jim Earner, and Joe Sabia for helping out at the course the day of the game.

Next year, same time, same place in 2024.....Green Gardens CC, Wednesday August 7th, 2024, tee time is 9:00 AM.

Dennis Barista '74

Andy McKenna Legacy Award

Ray Siegel, who graduated from Leo with the Class of 1965, has been named the eighth recipient of the Andy McKenna Legacy Award. Ray will be honored at Leo's eighth annual Scholarship Benefit on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the Four Seasons Chicago Hotel.

Formerly known as the Leo Lions Legacy Award, the name was changed this year to honor its first recipient, Andy McKenna '47, who died in February 2023. Mr. McKenna established himself as one of Leo's most distinguished graduates during a lifetime of service to others and was especially proud of his ties to Leo.

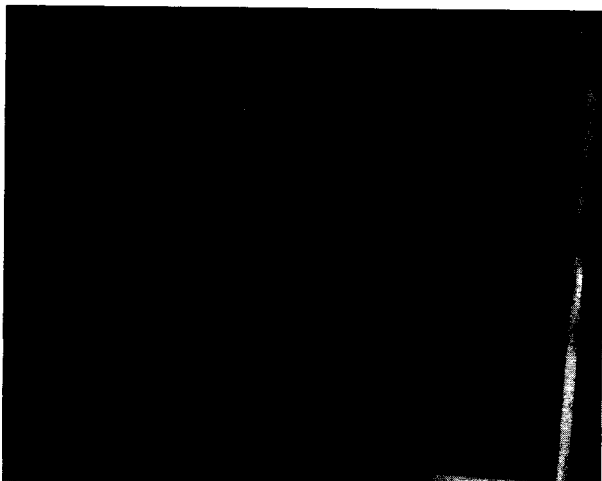
Leo honored Andy at the first Scholarship Benefit, held ~~in conjunction with Leo's 90th anniversary in 2016, and a~~ who's-who of Chicago business and civic leaders turned out to salute their friend. The inaugural event was so successful that it has become an annual affair, raising nearly \$8 million for scholarship assistance to deserving young Leo Men.

"Ray joins seven other recipients of our highest honor, and he's an ideal choice to receive the award that bears Andy McKenna's name," Leo President Dan McGrath said. "Much like Andy, Ray has been one of our most loyal and generous supporters, in ways that extend beyond financial. Ray is a true role model and a true exemplar of Facta non Verba - Deeds not Words."

A graduate of St. Margaret of Scotland elementary school, Ray transferred into Leo as a junior to extend his football career after St. Ignatius dropped the sport. Over two years he became an All-Catholic League and All-City defensive lineman for the Lions.

An ankle injury sustained late in his senior year curtailed his recruiting, but Ray received a scholarship to St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, IN., where he enjoyed a standout career under former Leo coaching legend Jim Arenberg.

He's in the final stages of a long and successful business career as head of RJS Associates LTD, a corporate financial consulting firm. In 2022, Ray received the Doc Driscoll Award from the Alumni Association for above-and-beyond service to Leo.



Vets Ceremony November 3, 2023

Leo will stage its annual Veterans Observance on Friday, November 3 at 11 a.m.

The ceremony will take on added significance this year. A plaque honoring the late Corporal John P. Fardy will be unveiled, and the courtyard where Leo's Veterans Memorial is located will be designated the John P. Fardy Memorial Courtyard.

Corporal Fardy, a U.S. Marine who graduated from Leo in 1940, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism at the Battle for Okinawa during World War II. A grenade rolled into the trench where Corporal Fardy's platoon had taken cover during heavy fighting. Before it detonated, Corporal Fardy dove on the grenade, absorbing its full impact but sparing his men. He died of his wounds the next day.

Corporal Fardy is Leo's lone Medal of Honor recipient. Jim Furlong '65, a decorated Vietnam veteran, has spearheaded the efforts to have Corporal Fardy recognized.

The official holiday celebrating our nation's military men and women is November 11, observed on Friday, November 10 this year. But Leo has that day off for the holiday, so students would not be present if we were to salute our veterans on November 10.

Rather than have them miss out on this example of living history - the interactions between the students and the vets is always a program highlight - we have scheduled the event a week out from the actual holiday so our students can participate.

A reception will follow the ceremony in the newly renovated Leo cafeteria. Visitors are invited to come early and see the improvements we've made to the cafeteria and the entire first floor.

SAVE THE DATE

ALUMNI NIGHT VARSITY BASKETBALL GAME

Friday, January 19th, 2024

LEO vs. FENWICK 7PM Tipoff at LEO HS

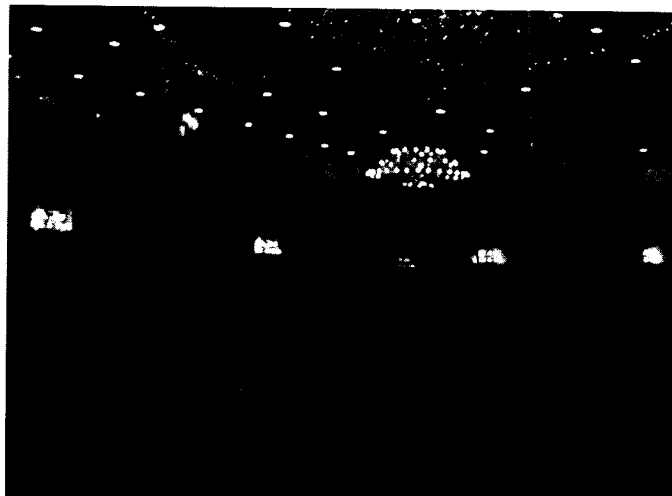
Free Bus transportation departing at 5:30 pm

FROM: Evergreen Park Legion Post, 9701 S. Kedzie.

TO: LEO HS, 7901 S. Sangamon.

Buses will return to EP Legion Banquet Hall for a post-game reception.

Free pizza and a cash bar will be offered at the reception. This is a great chance to visit your alma mater, catch some great Catholic League Basketball, and reminisce with old classmates. We hope to see you there.



Leo Update

Happening around Leo

We began the school year with our largest freshman class (82) and highest overall enrollment (230) in more than 20 years. The hard work of Admissions Director Kevin McNair has to be acknowledged; Kevin is a tireless recruiter who develops an easy rapport with prospective students and their parents and sells them on the value of a Leo education.

A generous gift from Sam Leno '63 and a grant which outgoing Congressman Bobby Rush helped us secure funded the expansion and refurbishment of the Brother Finch Science Wing on the second floor. Up to date STEM technology and equipment, a robotics component and modernized labs have helped create a more ambitious and attractive Science Department under the direction of Ms. Tenille Wright, STEM teacher and head of the Science Department.

Another grant, which Congressman Rush and State Rep. Mary Flowers helped us obtain, funded an extensive renovation of the cafeteria and other first-floor spaces. The highlights include new flooring throughout, new cafeteria fixtures and furniture, a tutoring center and new study cubicles.

Two dozen sophomores and juniors got a head start on the college selection process when they joined eight seniors and College Counselor Tiffany Harston on a tour of six college campuses in mid-September. Schools visited included Georgetown and Howard universities in Washington, D.C.; the University of Maryland-College Park and Bowie State in Maryland; Penn State University and the University of Cincinnati. The Leo party's host at Maryland was Dr. Quincy Mills, Principal Rawls' Leo classmate from the Class of '93 who is an associate professor of history at the school.

Principal Rawls served as MC, the world-renowned Leo Choir performed and three Leo students shared their

personal stories at a St. Sabina “pep rally” designed to help save the Invest in Kids Act. The legislation funds the Tax Credit Scholarship program for lower-income students in Illinois. It’s due to expire in 2024 unless the legislature votes to extend it. Leo has more than 30 students receiving tax-credit scholarships, including seniors Zion Cornell-Strickland and Theauntae Jones and freshman Ian White-Holmes, who told the gathering they probably would not be able to attend Leo without the scholarship.

Jones also delivered a “Spoken Word” poem to the audience at the Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board Ball at the Wintrust Bank Events Space downtown on Sept. 29 ... On Sunday, Oct. 1, Cardinal Blase Cupich cited Leo in his homily at 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Name Cathedral, pointing out that the school’s *Facta non Verba motto—deeds not words—is an admirable example of living one’s faith ... Finally, the World Renowned Leo Choir provided music for the annual Catholic Lawyers Guild Mass at the Cathedral on Oct. 4.*

Football in a word: Ugh!

A four-game losing streak against Marmion (42-14), DePaul Prep (38-14), St. Laurence (50-8) and De La Salle (48-6) saddled Leo with what seemed to be a 2-4 record.

To make matters worse, the Lions learned they’d been ordered to forfeit their season-opening, 20-19 victory over Bishop McNamara due to an eligibility issue. Leo allowed three transfer students from St. Laurence to play in the game, in the mistaken belief that their IHSA paperwork had cleared. It had not, so the players were technically ineligible. IHSA bylaws call for the forfeiture of any game in which ineligible players appear.

“No excuses,” Leo President Dan McGrath said. “We thought the paperwork had cleared; it had not. The IHSA isn’t interested in ‘we thought’ or ‘inadvertent.’ It exists to set policy and enforce rules, and we were in violation.

“It’s disappointing, to say the least, but we have to be better and more aware.

“It will not happen again.”

Better on the field as well. Granted, the Catholic League schedule is typically murderous, but the Lions have rarely been competitive during their four-game skid, often done in by their own miscues such as bad snaps on punts, fumbles and penalties.

“The execution has been lacking at times, but I won’t fault our effort,” first-year Coach Marques Stevenson said.

Junior Javon Logan has brought it every night, leading the Lions in rushing with 375 yards on 64 carries (5.9 average) and four touchdowns while catching 18 passes for 217 yards and two touchdowns.

Fellow junior Marshawn Durr has had his moments at quarterback. Injured in the Marmion game, he sat out against DePaul Prep, then returned to complete 14 of 28 passes for 125 yards with a touchdown and an interception against St. Laurence. Running for his life in the Homecoming loss to De La Salle, Durr piled up 109 rushing yards, but he misfired on eight straight passes after competing his first two and threw two interceptions.

Defensive highlights have been hard to come by for a

team that’s been torched for 44 points per game during its losing streak, though it should be noted that bad or mishandled punt snaps led to five short-field touchdowns and a safety for the opposition.

“We have a lot of young guys at the skill positions, and we can expect them to get better with experience,” Stevenson said. “Line play is what has to be shored up. That’s the foundation where it all starts.

“When I was fortunate enough to land this job I promised that we’d have a program the Leo Family would be proud of,” Stevenson added. “It’s a process, slow at times, but that’s what we’re building toward.”

Annual Alumni Awards

Once again it is time to ask you to provide the Alumni Association with nominations for our annual awards. These awards are open to nomination by all Leo High School graduates or current faculty members. Here is a brief summary of each of the awards given:

Man of the Year- Our most important award is reserved for an individual who has contributed to Leo in an extraordinary way. Many help our school, but this award is given to the individual who exemplifies what *Facta non Verba* truly means.

Dr. Tom Driscoll- Named after the man who went above and beyond the call of duty in helping make sure Leo remains the success that it is today. This award is given to an individual who has shown an extraordinary devotion to making sure that Leo carries on its great tradition.

Community Service- An Alumnus that is an outstanding example of contributing to the community. This is not specific to the Leo community, but to any area in which they lend their efforts.

Finally, the association, along with the school administration, is accepting nominees for the school’s Hall of Fame. This honor is given to those who have given their time, talent or financial support to the school. Typically, six are nominated, so please make sure to add your nomination.

Nomination forms are available on our Alumni Association web-site, www.leoalumni.org, and need to be submitted by November 30th, and will be discussed at our December alumni meeting and voted on at our January meeting. The nominations need to be signed by the nominator and also provide contact information for the nominee. These can be submitted in three ways, on our website, via email to dnno215@sbcglobal.net, or sent to Leo HS Alumni Assn, PO Box 603, Oak Lawn, IL 60454.

Submitted by Dan Stecich, '75

Leo Alumni Calendar of Events

Friday, November 3, 2023

Veterans Day Ceremony - Leo Courtyard - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 30, 2023

Lion Legacy Award Dinner - Four Seasons Hotel,

Downtown Chicago - Cocktail Reception starting at 5:30

Friday, January 19, 2024

Alumni Varsity Basketball game vs. Fenwick

Friday, April 26, 2024

Annual Alumni Banquet ~ Chateau Del Mar

Wednesday, August 2, 2024

Annual Golf Outing Green Gardens Country Club, Frankfort, IL

Saturday August 3, 2024

Annual Picnic - Dan Ryan Woods



Alumni Picnic 2023

The Leo High School All Alumni class reunion picnic! Annually, the class celebrating their 20th-year reunion hosts the picnic. In line with that tradition, the class of 2003 had the privilege and honor of hosting this year's picnic on August 5th at the Dan Ryan Woods. The committee which spearheaded the picnic consisted of 2 members of the class of 2003: Asanté Manning and Gary Fields, with great guidance and donations from Shelvin Payne, class of '96. In attendance were over 50 Leo Men, along with their families, and friends of Leo including former cheerleaders and current Parent Club members who also helped to serve the food. Those Leo Men represented a wide range of classes, from the 1960s to 2004. The class of '03 followed in the footsteps of the class of '02 by catering food from Colorful Café with Chef Cynthia Monden. The food was a huge hit! Music was spun by DJ Blackmon. There were a variety of games available for the adults and kids to enjoy. The entire day was full of rain and brotherhood, camaraderie, and family fun. Each decade of classes had the opportunity to take a "decade photo" with their fellow Leo brothers. Special thanks to the Leo Alumni Association who graciously supported this annual event. The committee also thanks all of the Leo men who came out and supported the picnic by purchasing shirts and food. This picnic was not as well attended as we would have liked but it was a good time had by all that did attend. All of the cookout merchandise was designed and produced by alumnus Mel Roberson, class of '94. There are a lot of commemorative shirts available. If you would like to purchase one, contact Asanté Manning @773-759-4337 for size and color options. All proceeds above the picnic budget will be donated to Leo High School to benefit the Young Lions of Tomorrow.

We all look forward to seeing the Leo alumni support in attending next year's picnic in great numbers!

Shelvin Payne '96

In Memoriam

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

Started 3-11-2023

John J. Sarsfield '43

Edward J. Feeney, Sr. '44

John E. 'Jack' Walsh '44

Richard 'Dick' Kloser '45

Thomas Jerome Cullinane '51

Terrence F. Martin '51

Frank J. Schuler '52

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James B. Heneghan '53

Thomas Charles Kane '55

Patrick J. Malone '55

Robert J. Ricucci '55

Owen Michael Brennan '56

Paul T. Lyons '56

Daniel T. McGowan '56

John H. Crossman '57

Edward Thomas Curran '57

Gerard A. DeBouvre '57

James Edward Kumicich '57

Frederick John Papp '57

Theodore H. Sweeney '57

George Frederick Voris '57

Martin F. Cunningham '58

Donald Arthur Olson '58

John 'Jack' Higgins '59

Anthony Francis LaPorta '59

Lawrence S. Bahnaman, son

of Lawrence W. '60

Laurence M. Hickey '60

Sean Patrick Richards, grandson

of Lawrence F. Richards '60

Thomas Edward Forrer '61

Stephen A. Fuesting '61

John R. Healy '61

John J. O'Malley '61

Robert M. Brown '62

Robert B. Gibbons '62

Robert E. Johnson '62

Paul James McAllister '62

Peter J. O'Malley '63

James M. Gearon '64

Robert Joseph Loftus '64

Richard P. O'Brien '65

James A. Woolley '65

William Walsh Clair '66

Frank Gerald Bennett '67

Patrick Edward Farritor '67

Michael E. Athey '70

Robert J. 'Bobby' King '70

Joseph W. Geringer '71

Pamela C. Rayner, sister of the

late Ahmed A. Rayner '71

Kathy Moss, sister of

William P. Moss '75 &

Daniel Moss '83

Katherine Witas, daughter

of Dennis Witas '75

Charles Dennis Morrison, Jr. '77

Darryl L. Arnold '87

Vincent M. Butler '95

Updated 10-3-2023

Compiled by Bernard J. Pepping '57 and

Terrance L. Bates '86





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<i>Best Wishes from Mike Stankiewicz '70</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Michael Young '61</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Danny Sullivan '68</i>	<i>Best Wishes From Mike, Marty, Joe, Jim and Dan Busse</i>
<i>Best Wishes from Ben Nowakowski '68</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Thomas J. McInnes '54</i>	<i>Best Wishes from William Boyle '51</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Bob McClellan '75</i>
<i>Best Wishes from Gene O'Niel '62</i>	<i>Best Wishes from John O'Connell '62</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Jack Kiley '54</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Edward Corr '58</i>
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<i>Best Wishes from Jack Kearns '69</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Daniel Casey '60</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Jack Gannon '65</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Robert Vanecko '53</i>
<i>Best Wishes from William Hession '54 RIP</i>	<i>Best Wishes from LeRoy [Butch] Johnson '60</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Richard Mattis '62</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Daniel J. Waddell '57</i>
<i>Best Wishes from Thomas Brennan '74</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Patrick Barry '85</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Daniel Newquist '50</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Kenneth Sutton '68</i>
<i>Best Wishes from Rogers Frazier '82</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Fredrick Mason '81</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Roger Finn '81</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Robert Burgman '59</i>
<i>Best Wishes from Robert Feehery '59</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Tom Egan '65</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Bill Murphy '55</i>	<i>Best Wishes from Patrick Shaw '60</i>

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The Pendergasts
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TOM 1989 DECK 1948
RICH 1984*



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*In Memoriam
John J. Gorman '51*



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Class of 1975**



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from
Class of 1963*

*In Memory of a Wonderful Wife
and Mother
Donna Earner
June 25, 1932 - May 27, 2006*

**IBEW, Local 134
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*Oh I have slipped the surly
bonds of earth...*



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* Rest in Peace



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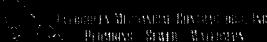
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