

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, July 30, 2025

From the President



As we near our 100^{th} anniversary of the school in 2026, we have another year of events to plan and enjoy.

Once again, we had a very productive year holding many events, highlighted by our Spring Banquet and Summer Golf outing. The banquet was attended by over 500 alumni and friends and well over 250

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 a successful year behind us, it's time to start planning for this 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, Brian Earner '93 and John Gardner '75. For the golf outing Dennis Barista '74 and Scott Fulwiler '74 continue to organize a wellrun fun event. 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. This is an extremely difficult event to organize and 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.

The school year began in August with over 50 alumni form classes dating back to the 50's showing up at 7:00 a.m. to welcome the students to the start of the new school year. What a joy it is to see the looks on their faces as they are welcomed by men who hold this institution so dear to their hearts. Each student is welcomed with a handshake by 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 Dr. Rawls addressed the students and alumni in the auditorium highlighting what was ahead, and also communicating his expectations for the students. As always, the program ended with all of the alumni joining the students in singing our fight song. I was honored to be asked to lead the song and did my best to keep anyone form hearing my truly out of tune voice. The enthusiasm shown by all in attendance makes one proud!

I have been an active part of this organization for over 20 years and look forward to extending that span for many years to come. While sometimes time consuming the effort is well worth the time invested. Leo Alumni have a devotion the mission the school provides and the time spent helping out assures that Leo High School will 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

To no one's surprise we had a very successful banquet in 2024 with over 500 in attendance. Now it's time to get ready

for 2025! Our date for the banquet is Friday, April 25th, 2025 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 1975 and the Silver Jubilee Class of 2000. Tickets will be available via leoalumni.org and through the mail. The price will remain the same at \$80.00 and **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 1975

John Gardner, along with a few classmates have agreed to take on this task. 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:

1975 Class Captain John Gardner 708-989-2727, johnggardner@gmail.com

Ken Mason, 312–446-2217, Fratetrain@aol.com Cedric Minor, ccminor@comcast.net, 678-777-6865 Dan Stecich dnno215@sbcglobal.net, 708-951-1482 Larry Lynch, larrylynch7575@gmail.com

The 25th Anniversary Class of 2000

2000 Class Captains

We are looking for Class Captains for this year, so if you are interested, please contact me at dnno215@sbcglobal.net, 708-951-1482

We are also looking for class captains for classes of '65 (60 year), '85 (40 year), contact either Bob Sigel, 708-629-0611 or Brian Earner '93 brianearner@yahoo.com 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.



2024 Leo Alumni Golf Outing

The weather was perfect (Dan McGrath was in charge, think of the numbers he has on his rolodex).

Green Gardens course was in great shape and the course played well. 255 golfers turned out for the day, and over 260 attended the dinner after. Scott Fulwiler and I had a new "Golf Group" helping with the details this year and they were great, Pat Barry '85, Mike Connolly '64, Ben Nowakowski '68, Bill Figel '72 and Mike Holmes '76.

Before and during the outing our wives Sallie Fulwiler and Laurie Barista along with our friend Peggy Hochgraver put in a long full day of work to make this event look good and run well.

On the course, driving around pushing the various raffle tickets were Jim Carollo '67, Tony DeBella '65, John Caplis '63 and Richie Venkus '66.

Volunteering on the course, at the various events to play were; Louie Caesar '68, Tommy Russell '78, Joe Sabia '73, Ernest Bryant '97, Dan Earner '82 along with Eddie Barry, Nick Dorn and Collen Barry. Even Terrance Bates '86 and his daughter Emma helped.

We had many donations to choose from; \$1000 Travel voucher, Silent auction (with another Famous Leo Golf Bag), Booze basket, Raffle baskets and Split the Pot, that John Linehan '77 won and donated half of his \$1200 winnings back to Leo.

The future Golf date needs to be changed to the last Wednesday in July, to adjust to all the schools starting the first of August. The date for the 2025 Golf outing will be Wednesday 7-30-25.

The other Catholic League schools always wonder how we get such a great turnout for our Leo events, I just tell them, because we are "Leo Guys" a real brotherhood to belong to. Dennis Barista '74

Vets Ceremony November 7, 2024

Leo will stage its annual Veterans Observance on Thursday, November 7 at 11 a.m.

The official holiday celebrating our nation's military men and women is November 11, 2024 but Leo has that day off for the holiday, so students would not be present if we were to salute our veterans on that day. 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.

Leo Scholarship Benefit to Honor Jim Stankiewicz '66

Dr. Jim Stankiewicz '66 has been named recipient of the Andy McKenna Leo Lions Legacy Award and will be honored at the ninth annual Leo Scholarship Benefit on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at the Four Seasons Hotel downtown.

Tickets for the event are available through Patricia Hurley & Associates, at PJHinc@pjhchicago.com.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception at 5:30, followed by dinner and program at 6:30. Lourdes Duarte, anchor/reporter at WGN-Channel 9, will serve as MC, and the world-renowned Leo Choir will perform.

Jim joins the late Andy McKenna '47, Bill Conlon '63, the late Tom Owens '54, Bob Sheehy '71, Mike Holmes '76, Gen. William Walker '75, Joe Power '70 and Ray Siegel '65 as McKenna Legacy Award recipients.

A starter on the Leo lightweight basketball team that won the Catholic League championship in 1966, Jim earned his undergrad and medical degrees from the University of Chicago. He is a longtime member of the Stritch School of Medicine faculty at Loyola Medicine and a world-recognized ear, nose and throat specialist, having performed more than 15,000 sinus procedures.

He is also a loyal and generous Leo supporter dating to his college days, when he and some Leo classmates raised funds for a scholarship in honor of the late Coe Francis '66, an all-state quarterback for the Lions who died in a drowning accident the summer before his freshman year at the University of Illinois.

More recently he has been the primary funder for a Class of '66 scholarship that goes to a Leo student-athlete who excels in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

Jim is a member of the Leo High School Hall of Fame and received the Leo Alumni Association's Man of the Year award in 2023.

"Jim has been as good a friend to Leo as we have had in my time here," Leo President Dan McGrath said. "Like each of our previous honorees, he follows in the Andy McKenna tradition of distinguished service to Leo through exemplary service to others.

"It is our honor to honor him."

SAVE THE DATE ALUMNI NIGHT VARSITY BASKETBALL GAME

Friday, January 10th, 2025

LEO vs. St. Rita 7PM Tipoff at LEO HS

Free Bus transportation departing at 5:30 pm

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

TO: LEO HS, /901 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.

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

Thursday, November 7, 2024

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

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Lion Legacy Award Dinner - Four Seasons Hotel, Downtown Chicago - Cocktail Reception starting at 5:30

Friday, January 10, 2025

Alumni Varsity Basketball game vs. St. Rita

Friday, April 25, 2025

Annual Alumni Banquet ~ Chateau Del Mar

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, August 2, 2025

Annual Picnic - Dan Ryan Woods



Alumni Picnic 2024

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 2004 had the privilege and honor of hosting this year's picnic on Sunday August 4th at the Dan Ryan Woods. The committee which spearheaded the picnic consisted of members of the class of 2004: Akeem Hunter, Tracey Robinson and Pat McClendon, with great guidance and contributions from Shelvin Payne, class of '96. In attendance were over 80 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 the mid-2000s. The class of '04 followed in the footsteps of the class of '03 by catering food from LEO Alumni brother and current dean of students at the school Terrance Cook. The food was a huge hit! Music was spun

by the DJ selected by the class of 2004 which everyone enjoyed. There were a variety of games available for the adults and kids to enjoy. The entire day was full of 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 proceeds from this year's picnic will be donated to Leo High School to benefit the Young Lions of Tomorrow at a later time.

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

Shelvin Payne '96



Leo Update

The first two months of school at Leo were typically hectic, but in a good way. Here's a recap:

In what is becoming one of our most popular traditions, more than 50 alums turned out for a meet-and-greet with the Class of 2028 and all the returning students on "Opening Day," August 8. The alums lined up in the Corporal John P. Fardy Courtyard to welcome the students to Leo and remind them that by enrolling at Leo, they're becoming part of the Leo Family. With Leo achieving a 20year high in enrollment of 250 this year, the student-toalum ratio was approximately 5-1.

Filmmaker/educator/social activist Spike Lee drew a thunderous welcome from the assembled student body when he visited Leo with his friend, St. Sabina's Senior Pastor Father Michael Pfleger, on August 22. Lee spoke with the students about his background in film, took questions and posed for pictures during an impromptu 45-minute session in the Auditorium. He was open, gracious and down to earth. The students loved him.

In an effort to help compensate for the revenue Leo lost when the state's Tax Credit Scholarship program was discontinued, grant writer Stephanie Stecz and her husband Ryan hosted a "Sips for Scholarships" cocktail reception at their North Side home on August 28. Stephanie is a treasured member of the Leo Family; grants she has written helped fund the renovation of Alumni Field, expansion of the science labs and the remodeling of the cafeteria. "Sips" raised more than \$14,000 for the Leo High School Sci ship Fund.

Nearly 300 students from Leo and five other Chi high schools joined the ranks of Cook County voters du Teen Voter Registration Day at Leo on September 10. M than 50 volunteers from various service organizati walked the students through the process: 16 and 17 year-o could pre-register, and 18-year-olds could register and vc in the November election, as could 17 year-olds who wturn 18 before November 5. Media coverage of the event we extensive.

Dr. Marques Stevenson, Leo's head football coach and social studies teacher, was honored by Sixth District Chicago Police Commander Michael Tate at an assembly on Sept. 13. In the early morning hours one day earlier, Dr. Stevenson helped rescue a woman from an attack by two pit bulls at 84th and Racine, as he was on his way to work. Commander Tate said Dr. Stevenson displayed exemplary citizenship and uncommon valor in risking his life to assist a person in need.

Six schools and the International Civil Rights Museum were on the itinerary for 26 Leo juniors and seniors who took part in the annual Fall College Tour the week of September 16. Appalachian State, Winston Salem State, Wake Forest, North Carolina-Greensboro, North Carolina A&T, and A&T Middle College were the tour stops, followed by a visit to the International Civil Rights Museum. College Counselor Tiffany Harston arranged the tour.

Dr. Shaka Rawls, Leo's principal, received an award for Outstanding Service to Education from the JMD Angels Foundation at a ceremony on September 23.

Leo hosted an Infinite Scholars College Fair in the gym on September 26. More than 40 colleges sent representatives, and nearly 1,000 high school students from throughout the city visited Leo during the daylong event. Thirty-five Leo seniors have already been accepted to at least one college, with generous financial assistance part of the package. **Football**

A 47-point win, while satisfying, can't totally undo the gloom of an 0-5 start to a season, but the Leo Lions were happy to claim a 47-0 victory over Noble Academy on Saturday, Oct. 5 at St. Rita's Cronin Field.

Leo celebrated Homecoming with its first win of the season, and for a time there was concern that the game wouldn't be played.

De La Salle was Leo's scheduled Homecoming opponent, but a situation involving numbers has been an issue at 'D' for the last two years— the Meteors fielded only one team last season, and fewer than 30 prospective players turned out for the start of workouts this year.

When injuries further thinned the roster during an 0-3 start, school officials decided to cancel the rest of the season out of concern for the remaining players' safety. That left Leo scrambling for a Homecoming opponent, and Noble Academy, a member of the Noble Street Charter Network located in the Near North Old Town neighborhood, agreed to fill in.

The game was the centerpiece of a festive Homecoming

weekend, preceded by a pep rally that wrapped up five days of Spirit Week activities and followed by a dance in the school auditorium. And it was a day to remember for senior CJ Cunningham, whose three touches produced three touchdowns: on a 35-yard pass reception, a 46-yard punt return and an 88-yard kickoff return.

Marshawn Durr completed the three passes he threw, for 72 yards and two touchdowns, to Cunningham and sophomore Antonio Clark good for nine yards. Javon Logan (34 yards) and Derrick Davis (5 yards) had touchdown runs, and Jaivon Dale recovered a blocked punt in the end zone as the Lions exceeded their scoring output from the previous four games.

Points had been hard to come by in losses to Genoa Kingston (41-22), Amundsen (13-12), St. Pat's (17-6), Marian Catholic (39-18) and St. Laurence (42-0). And there's minimal relief in sight over the final three weeks with St. Rita (4-2), Notre Dame (2-4) and Marmion (4-2) remaining on the schedule.

On the bright side, Logan has averaged better than six yards per carry while running for nearly 500 yards and twoway lineman Nick Armour has been a force on both sides of the ball, each player establishing himself as a college prospect.

Leo "World Renowned" Choir

Referring to the Leo Choir as "world renowned" began as a bit of harmless hyperbole, a marketing slogan. But as the amazing Mrs. Hill and her talented, hard-working singers continue to establish themselves as one of the most popular attractions in Chicago, the label rings true.

The Choir made more than a half-dozen out-of-thebuilding appearances over the first two months of the school year. A sampling:

On August 10 the Choir performed at a "Welcome to Chicago" event in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier, entertaining close to 1,000 delegates, media members and guests in town for the Democratic National Convention.

The North Side home of grant writer Stephanie Stecz and her husband Ryan was the venue for a Choir performance at "Sips for Scholarships," an August 28 fundraiser that generated more than \$14,000 for the Leo Scholarship Fund to help offset revenue lost with the termination of the state's Tax Credit Scholarship program.

On September 11 the Choir sang "America the Beautiful" at Union Station, part of a Day of Service and Remembrance on the 23rd anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The Choir provided the entertainment at "Open Hearts for Broken Hearts," a September 28 event designed to promote healing among Chicago's survivors of street violence.

The only thing better than one Choir performance is two, and a call to double duty occurred on October 2. Holy Name Cathedral was the setting for the Catholic Lawyers Guild's annual Red Mass, where the Choir provided the music for the seventh straight year. Then it was off to Washington Park for an under-the-stars performance in conjunction with the Universal Soul Circus' voter registration drive.

Not many would argue with President Dan McGrath's assertion that Mrs. Hill and the Choir are the best ambassadors Leo has.

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

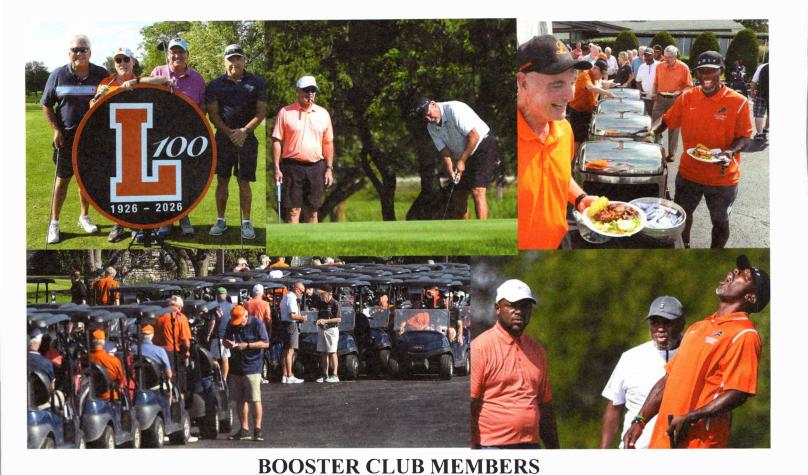
Started 3-19-2024 George Peter Adlhoch, M.D. '47 William George Byrne, Ph.D. '48 Gerald Thomas Carden '48 Stephen V. Pietras '48 John C. "Jack" Fagan '49 Robert F. McKenna '49 James "Jim" Muldoon '50 William R. Brett '51 Robert L. Dunne '51 Joseph Vincent McNicholas '51 Thomas Edwin Watts '51 John M. "Jack" Boehm '52 John Richard "Jack" Costello '52 Ronald E. Kroenert '52 Elmer E. "Bud" Randolph '52 William J. Gavnor '53 Philip L. Jurczewski '53 Daniel James (Jim) O'Neill '53 Patrick Joseph Doyle '54 Donald William Hanigan '55 Robert James Mullin '55 Edward P. Daly '57 Daniel Richard Fusco '57 Ronald J. Geisler '57 Robert E. "Bob" Westphal Ret. CPD '57 Lemuel J. Bell '58 Brian Joseph Murray '58 Marilyn F. Seguin, wife of Jack Seguin '58 William J. Eaheart, Sr. '59 Edward G. Felsenthal '59 Janet M. Jovce, wife of James T. Jovce '60 James Vincent "Jim" McGreal '60 Martin Stephen Obuchina '60 David E. Wilger '60 John B. Conlon, brother of James J. '61 and William F. Conlon '63 David Patrick O'Donnell, grandson of David J. O'Donnell '61 Michael L. Kobar '62 Julie C. Murray, sister of Reverend William J. Stenzel '62 Eugene Anthony O'Neill '62 George J. Hendry '63 Peter E. Kelly '63 Patrick R. Barry '64 Paul Edward Dwyer '64 William F. "Bill" Farnan '64 Thomas M. Frachalla '64 Walter J. (Bud) Cokeley '65 Lester S. Sawicki '65 Mark J. Dwyer '66 Kevin Edward Condron '67 John M. "Jack" Slovey '67 James A. Tunney '67 Patrick J. Fitzgibbon '68 Florian J. Franke '68 William Galis, Jr. '68 Raymond Dennis Madigan '68 Mark E. Nielsen '68 Clifford M. Russell '68 Robert J. Sullivan, Jr. '68 Thomas R. Krull '69 George William Ferenzi '70 Thomas Peter "Tom" Bartosz '71 William C. "Bill" Gorman '72 Terrence G. Blount '75 Marvin P. Tunstall '75 Wellington E. Kendall '78 Walter J. Duval '82 Stephen J. Kreisl '82 Celine M. McKenna, sister of Patrick '82, Mark '86, and James '89 Updated 10-1-2024

Compiled by Bernard J. Pepping '57 and Terrance L. Bates '86

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Best Wishes from Michael Johnson '63

Best Wishes from James Furlong '65

Best Wishes from Thomas Brennan '74

Best Wishes from Rogers Frazier '82

Best Wishes from Robert Feehery '59 Best Wishes from Paul Connolly '81

Best Wishes from LeRoy [Butch] Johnson '60

Best Wishes from Patrick Barry '85

Best Wishes from Gary Lathan '85

Best Wishes from George Peterson '64 *Best Wishes from* Jack Hanigan '63

> Best Wishes from Pat Burns '76

Best Wishes from Ed King '65

Best Wishes from James Loughrey '64

Best Wishes from Jay Luchsinger '68 *Best Wishes from* Jack Wheeler '74

Best Wishes from Daniel J. Waddell '57

Best Wishes from Kenneth Sutton '68

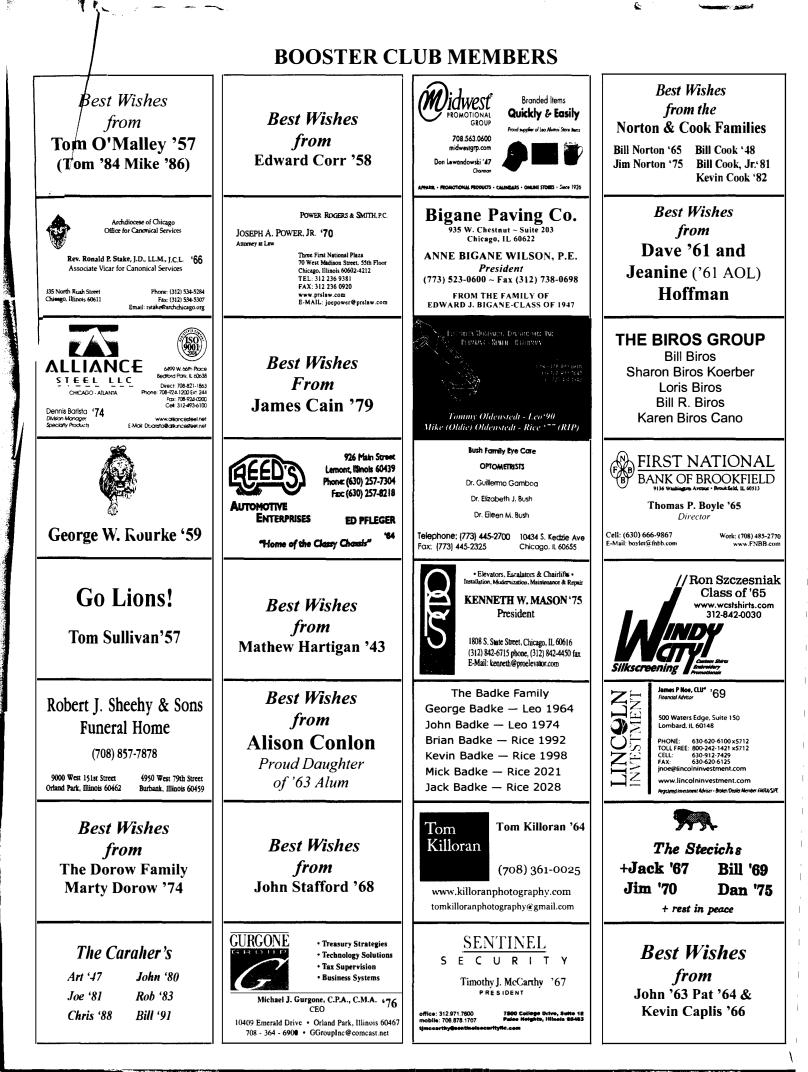
Best Wishes from Jon Burgman '59

Best Wishes from Patrick Shaw '60

BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS







Leo Alumni Association

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