

"The Archive" was the name selected by votes cast by the Junior Class (Class of '63) on May 3, 1962 for Valley Forge High School's yearbook.  
"The Heritage" was the runner-up and now appropriately names our alumni newsletter.

# The Heritage

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Valley Forge High School Alumni Association  
www.vfalumni.org

Spring 2017

## Message from the President:

So the saying goes: April showers bring May flowers. Well here it is – definitely April.

As some of you already know (those who peruse our Facebook page), I sadly announce the resignation of Cathy Anneli-Solomon from the position of Treasurer of the Alumni Association. Cathy has held that position on the board of directors for the Association for the last twenty years. She has been one of the most dedicated alums I have known. Cathy has cited wanting to spend more time on family matters in part for her wishing to resign. Cathy has truly been what being a Patriot alum is all about. She will certainly be missed. My best wishes go with Cathy and her family. I'm sure she will remain active with the Association, just in a less formal capacity.

Due to Cathy's resignation, we are now looking for someone to take over the Board position of Treasurer (time commitment is approximately two hours a month). It does not require a formal education in accounting or finance, but a familiarity with accounting principles and checking and savings accounts would certainly help. We are also seeking an Alumni Association Secretary (2-3 hours per month), and are still desperately in need of a webmaster to update and manage our webpage (about four hours per month). Contact me at [president@vfalumni.org](mailto:president@vfalumni.org) if interested in any of these positions.

As I mentioned in January's newsletter, the months of April, May, and June are the busiest for the Association. Evaluation of essays by the 2017 seniors who have applied for scholarships has just been completed. The topic for these essays was "Why I am proud to be a Valley Forge Patriot!" From the original applicant pool, the field was narrowed down to ten finalists for our two scholarships. The winners will be announced at the Winner's Circle assembly at Valley Forge on Thursday, April 27th, and they will receive their scholarships at the Parma Council of PTA's Scholarship Dinner at held at La Villa on Wednesday, May 17th, 2017.

And last, the primary election is coming up on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please, exercise this most fundamental right that you have in our country – GET OUT AND VOTE!!!!

Go Patriots!

Rick Meeks '73



## 2017-18 Officers

### President

Rick Meeks '73

### Vice President

Linda Reik-Brown '65

### Secretary

Needed

### Treasurer

Needed

## Committees

### Newsletter Editor

Karyn Niedetzki Newton '89

### Hall of Fame

Bob Baisch '65

### Scholarship

Alan Rudolph '88

### Membership

Terry Wandt '63

### Database

Halle Magpoc-Dawson '89

### Webmaster

Needed

### Nominating

Needed

### Audit

Needed

### Reunions Coordinator

Linda Reik-Brown '65

### Historian/Displays

Needed

### Audit Committee

Review past year's bank transaction entries including class disbursements, withdrawals, and deposits.

### Reunion Coordinator

Assists classes with planning their reunions, makes sure proper financial procedures are followed, schedules Alumni Ambassadors to attend reunions to help and represent the association.

### Nominating Committee

Ongoing search for new officers for annual elections.

## History of the Parma Schools

(continued)

by Kenneth J. Lavelle, Local Historian  
VF Class of 1975

On November 22, 1853 there was a vote taken for the construction of local High School. Only 16 men voted for it and it was not built. Thus, for many years students who attended high school continue to their education, traveled into Cleveland with the township school board paying for their continuing education. Over time the importance of the sub-district numbers was replaced by local names given by local residents. For example, sub-district number 8 was called 'Center School' or 'Town Hall School' and number 1 was 'Maple Grove'.

With the passage of the 'Workmen Law' in 1892, the sub-district school elected members began to lose local control of the school house. Each school house was considered a 'district school' in the township with an assigned district number. In 1900, the sub-districts were abolished and they had no influence in school board decisions by 1904. All five members of the school board were elected by the residents in 1905. This was one of the root causes that led to the establishment of Parma Heights Village Board of Education in 1912. It existed only until 1917 and students in Parma Heights Village returned to the Parma Rural School District. Students in Seven Hills Village began to attend classes in the Parma Schools in 1928. Parma became a City in 1931, the name was changed to the Parma City Schools.

In 1919, a special election was held and approved to issue bonds to build three consolidated schools to replace the nine individual school houses. The old district school houses were sold. In 1921, the three new consolidated schools were opened on Pearl, Ridge, and State Rds. The school age population kept growing and more buildings had to be built, with that trend continuing to the present day. The Parma schools are one of the few districts to have built six high schools: No. 8, Ridge, Schaaf, Parma Sr., Valley Forge, and Normandy.  
*(to be continued)*

**\*\*\*WE DESPERATELY NEED A WEBMASTER.** This would not be a heavy time commitment job. We are looking for someone who can maintain and possibly improve our site. If you have or know someone with webpage skills, please contact Rick Meeks at [President@vfallumni.org](mailto:President@vfallumni.org).\*\*\*



### Reunion Coordinator—Linda Reik Brown, '65

**Reunions are being planned! Reunions for the Classes of '67, '77, and '07 are in the works.**

Don't see your class listed? Graduating classes ending in 2 or 7 could be having their class reunions this year. Check with your class officers or reunion committee (listed on our website) to see what your class is up to!

Are you a class officer planning a reunion in need of help? Let us know—we can help!

**We are always looking for fun, low-cost events to bring our Patriot family together for an evening! Maybe you already have a group of alumni friends that get together and would like to expand the fun! If you have suggestions, please send them by email to: [Patriots@vfallumni.org](mailto:Patriots@vfallumni.org).**

## What We Do...

The Valley Forge Alumni Association, Inc. is a 501(c3) organization created to help graduates work together for the common good of both the graduates and the high school. Our priorities and goals are as follows:

~ To Alumni by maintaining database for reunions, assists with reunion planning and at the reunions themselves, if desired, and maintains class reunion funds. Also a newsletter and website. Preserves the history and traditions of Valley Forge High School.

~ To Current Students by providing scholarships to seniors and future programs of grants to teachers and funds for school functions, projects, clubs and building in general.

~ To The Community by being an active member of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and participating in as many community events as possible.

**Valley Forge Alumni Association Freedom Scholarship** is awarded annually through the Parma

Council of PTAs Scholarship Program. We require each applicant to submit an essay describing why they are proud to be a Valley Forge graduate.

## Valley Forge High School Hall of Fame

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to our school, our community or our world? Nominate them for this honor and tell us about their post high school accomplishments in Academics, Athletics, Career, Cultural/Performing Arts or other endeavor. You will find the form online at [www.vfalumni.org](http://www.vfalumni.org)

## How Can You Help ?

- **Donate Funds for Scholarships:** We awarded \$500 scholarships in the past. We want to increase the amount or number of scholarships.
- **Fundraising:** Suggest fundraising strategies and/or be ready to jump in and help or implement one.
- **Attend Meetings:** Help us make decisions that will shape the future of the Association as well as socialize with other alumni.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 27, 2017	Winner's Circle Assembly at VF
Tuesday, May 2, 2017	Primary Election Day – No School
Sunday, May 7, 2017	Parma Symphony Orchestra Concert—3:00 pm
Monday, May 8, 2017	PCSD Board Meeting – District Administration Center—5:30 PM
Monday, May 22, 2017	PCSD Board Meeting – District Administration Center—5:30 PM
Tuesday, May 23, 2017	Spring Sports Award Night
Wednesday, May 24, 2017	Scholarship Dinner at La Villa
Thursday, May 25, 2017	VF Choir Concert—7:00 pm
Friday, May 26, 2017	Senior Recognition and Prom
Monday, May 29, 2017	Memorial Day – No School
Wednesday, May 31, 2017	VF Band, Choir, and Orchestra Concert—7:00 pm
Tuesday, June 6, 2017	VF Class of 2017 Commencement—3:30 PM, Cleveland State University Wolstein Center



Visit Our Website!  
[www.vfalumni.org](http://www.vfalumni.org)



Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)