

*"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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Message from the President:

It is with great enthusiasm that I take over the presidency of the Valley Forge Alumni Association from Linda Reik-Brown. Linda's dedication to this association has been a wonderful gift and I will rely on her help as she remains Vice President and head of the reunion committee.

I have always known that those formative high school years were the best years of my life and it is due to the strength of the relationships I was fortunate to have during those years; both with my peers, as well as with faculty. I still find it impossible to drive by the school without having mental flashbacks about my years there. It has now been forty-three years since I roamed those hallways as a student, and yet, as I walk through those hallways again now, those years seem to fade away. The classrooms haven't really changed. The cafeteria and gym look the same. Of course, there are changes that have taken place over those intervening years, but they don't disturb my memories of the school. And even though I attended college, grad school, and worked for 40 years, my closest and dearest friends come from those three, very short, years at Valley Forge. I hope that in the near future, more alumni make the effort to re-connect with friends you haven't seen (be it within a day or two, or if it's been years) through this association. Find them by joining us on our Facebook page, Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO), or visit our webpage <http://www.vfalumni.org>. There are already over 3,200 of us on that page. Help us find friends we have lost track of by responding to a new section of this newsletter called **"Whatever Happened to..."**

I have a vision for the future of the Association that includes higher visibility within the school for the upcoming classes, as well as within the community-at-large. This means being visible at Valley Forge school functions and at Parma Hts. and Parma community functions. We have such a large number of alumni (now over 25,000 graduates), and yet participation in alumni activities is relatively small. There are always opportunities, short-term or longer-term, to participate in the alumni association, whether you'd like to be an officer, committee member, or maybe just offer to volunteer for a single event. Some opportunities to serve are available even if you are not local! I want to remind everyone of their years at Valley Forge and rekindle that "Patriot" spirit in all of us.

Come. Join us. Participate. Rekindle that VF Spirit!

Go Patriots!

Rick Meeks '73



2016-17 Officers

President
Rick Meeks '73
Vice President
Linda Reik-Brown '65
Secretary
Needed
Treasurer
Cathy Anelli-Solomon '73

Committees

Newsletter Editor
Karyn Niedetzki Newton '89
Hall of Fame
Bob Baisch '85
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



Reunion Coordinator—Linda Reik
Brown, '65

Classes ending in 1 or 6 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!

1966	50th Golden Reunion	Aug. 19—20
1971	45th Reunion	?
1976	40th Reunion The Venue, Parma Heights	Aug. 6
1981	35th Reunion	?
1986	30th Reunion	None planned
1991	25th Silver Reunion	Aug. 12—14
1996	20th Reunion	Planning
2001	15th Reunion	?
2006	10th Reunion	August 2016

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 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.



The Valley Forge Alumni Association wishes to congratulate recent graduates Samuel Garrett and Amanda Primozik, (pictured here with VFAA President Rick **Meeks, Class of '73)** the recipients of the **2016 VF Alumni Freedom Scholarship** and Liberty Scholarship, respectively. The scholarships were awarded at the **Winner's Circle Assembly held on Friday, April 29th, 2016.**

Congratulations to Samuel, Amanda, and the entire Valley Forge Class of 2016!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 ~ 7 pm
James Day Park (formerly Nike Park) Pavilion
Pot Luck – Bring a side-dish and your own NON-alcoholic beverages.
The Association will supply hot dogs, burgers, buns and paper goods.
There will be a raffle for a beautiful corn hole set with a VF Patriot theme!

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

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.

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@vfalumni.org.



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, July 19th, 2016	General Membership Picnic/Meeting—7:00 pm, James Day Park
Friday, September 2nd, 2016	VF Football Game with Alumni Hall of Fame Induction
Friday, October 7th, 2016	VF vs. Parma Football Game
Tuesday, October 18th, 2016	General Membership Meeting—7:00 pm, Valley Forge High School “Shoestring Chef Competition”

Visit Our Website!
www.vfalumni.org



Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)