

"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

[www.vfalumni.org](http://www.vfalumni.org)



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**Reunion Edition** Welcome to the Annual Reunion Edition of The Heritage where we hope you will get some valuable information for your next reunion!

Regardless if you are a class planning your first reunion or a seasoned alum planning your Golden Reunion, the planning is the same. It requires the cooperation of as many classmates as you can find.

Class Officers are always surprised to find out that **they are the reunion committee** for their class, and they need to create a committee. Somehow this information is never conveyed to them at election time! I guess we have to start doing a better job at VF and meet with the juniors before election time!

The association is here to assist active classes in a number of ways. But first we will discuss what an "active" class means. Our status as a 501c3 entity with IRS requires us to follow their rules. Being active class with the association is purely a financial arrangement. You must have money in our trust using our written Financial Consent Agreement and its stipulations to be an active class. In exchange, you get to use our tax exempt number at reunion time, which can save you a lot of money.

This for your protection. We have had a class lose their reunion money because the classmate holding it took off with it. (Not

everyone is as honest as we would like to believe) We have also had a class lose their reunion money when the classmate holding it died and the money got mixed into the estate. Also, the person holding on to your money is responsible for paying the taxes on it. We are bonded and insured and we are here to relieve you of all these problems with our 501c3.

The association offers you the planning assistance of experienced reunion planners who have been doing this a long time. They won't do it for you but will help steer you away from some of the pitfalls that can surprise you.

We also are able to provide two of our Alumni Ambassadors to attend your reunion and take care of your registration table so your committee doesn't have to miss anything! (Some older classes find this eliminates the embarrassment that comes when they don't recognize people anymore that they used to know.) We would encourage you to feed them too!!

Linda Reik-Brown, Class of '65  
VF Alumni Reunion Coordinator  
lindabrown3418@gmail.com

## January 2016

### Officers

#### President

Needed

#### President Pro Tem

Linda Reik-Brown '65

#### Vice President

Needed

#### Secretary

Needed

#### Treasurer

Cathy Anelli-Solomon '73

### 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 Committee

#### Audit

Needed

#### Reunions Coordinator

Needed

#### 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.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 ~ 7 pm

VFAA Annex Office

Parkview Elementary Building ~ Kitchen Entrance

(Just South of Parma High School

at the entrance to State Road Park off West 54<sup>th</sup> St.)

# History of the Parma Schools

(continued)

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

Formal schools as we know them today, did not begin in Parma Township until 1826. Prior to that time, children were educated at home by their parents. The early settlers in the township came from Connecticut, New York State, Massachusetts, and Vermont to settle here in the New Connecticut 'Western Reserve'. The first settler in Range 13, was Benajah Fay and his family in 1816. Settlement had been slow here until 1821 and the local population grew. The area was called 'Greenbrier' before Parma township was organized in 1826.

In 1825, Samuel Freeman and his wife with their ten children arrived in Parma Township from Massachusetts. The Freeman family lived in the newly constructed barn at B. Fay's Inn while their two story house was built along Wooster Pike (now Pearl Road). Mr. Freeman was the first school teacher in Parma Township. Later, his son, Lyndon, became a school teacher in the township also. Mr. Freeman later became the first Justice of The Peace and Post master in Parma Twp. The first meeting of the Parma Township Trustees was held in the Freeman home in early April, 1826.

On May 26, 1826, the first early school district boundaries were established by the first elected Township Trustees. The first school classes were held in Mr. Freeman's house. Later that year, a log school house was built along Wooster Pike in a Northern portion of the Parma Township Cemetery (now Parma Heights Cemetery). In 1913, a metal marker was dedicated on that land parcel indicates the early school building site that stood until 1841. Inside this public Township building, meetings, local elections, a singing school and religious services as well as learning took place. Two school sub-districts were established in 1826. The first sub-district school was established at Wooster Pike and Snow Road. The second sub-district school was established on Townline Road (now Broadview Rd near Rockside Rd).

The number of sub-district schools grew with the increase of the school age population over time and more teachers were hired to teach the local children. In 1843, the following list of early teachers were working in the township: Julia A. Beals, Emily T. Gillett, Abigail H. Address, William Wheeler, S. W. Haladay, Charles H. Babcock and Caroline Humphrey. In 1851, list of early teachers employed were: O.O. Spafford, L.R. Thorp, S.W. Chandler, Frances C. Eaton, Eliza Storer, Frances Huntingon, and William Taylor. Prior to the adoption of the new 1851 State of Ohio Constitution, each school district was independent and operated their schools to suit themselves. After the new state constitution became law, each school district had a Board Of Education, consisting of clerks from each sub-district elected by the local residents.

Each sub-district one room school had one teacher assigned to it to teach all eight grades Each school varied in design, size, and building materials used at the time of construction. Each school was indicated on the township map. Each sub-district school was assigned a number and the land parcel was recorded as being owned by the Board of Education. Each sub-district elected three persons to be in charge of the local school house. A Clerk for a three year term; Two Directors, one for a one year term and another for two years. This was the time period when there was local control of the school house and the taught core curriculum. There were nine sub-district school houses in existence in 1853.

As early as 1853, parts of the school district were attached to fractional parts of other school districts such as Brooklyn, Brecksville, Independence, and North Royalton. Thus, adding confusion for later historians who read the old records. Teachers worked for low wages and in schoolhouses with limited teaching aids. *(to be continued)*



# REUNIONS For 2016!

## Class of '66 ~ 50th Reunion

August 19 and 20, 2016

Email [VFclassof1966@outlook.com](mailto:VFclassof1966@outlook.com)

with your current address, phone number, and email address. If you are in contact with any classmates who have not received their postcard, please forward this information to them and ask them to contact us also.  
Cheryl (Cioletti) Kuhn, Cheryl (Coppella) Tyson

## Class of '76 ~ 40th Reunion

Friday, August 5, 2016 -

All-Class Mixer at Tony K's in Berea

Saturday, August 6, 2016 -

"Just One Victory"

at The Venue in Parma Heights

Find info on our website  
<http://laclede.net/vfhs1976>  
and 'Like' our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/valleyforge1976](http://www.facebook.com/valleyforge1976)

## Rumor Has It

That these Class Reunions are in the planning stages but we have not been given any information yet:

Class of 1991—25th Reunion

Class of 1996—20th Reunion



## 5 Tips For Collecting Money For Your Class Reunion

Whether you are planning a class reunion or a family reunion, one of the biggest obstacles to overcome is how to get people to purchase tickets for the event.

Planning a reunion is hard enough, but when you don't know how many people to expect, it is next to impossible. It is very important to know well in advance how many people are coming to the reunion events you are planning. How else can you predict the size of the space you should rent, the amount of food to order, and what kind of entertainment to book?

The following 5 tips are essential if you want to make your life easier as the organizer of your class reunion.

1. Generate a lot of interest for the reunion. The best way to do this is to create a class reunion website where you can communicate all of the details of events, and entertain everyone with some great content from years gone by. There are reunion website builders that require no special skills or knowledge to make a professional website that will help in the entire planning process and increase attendance at the reunion. Just be sure you are aware of all their fees. And protect your contact list. Another great reason to create a reunion website is that people like to know who else is coming to the reunion. Encourage people to spread the word about the reunion website and update their profiles so people can connect before the big event.

2. Guarantee your guests that if the reunion ends up getting cancelled they will get a refund. This is another concern that many people have, so if you alleviate this worry, you remove another excuse they may have not to pay for their ticket.

3. Come up with some incentives for people to commit early to the reunion. Offer people an early bird special, and discount the price for people who purchase their tickets by a certain date.

4. Offer people who buy tickets by a certain date a chance at entering a draw to win a prize if they buy their tickets by a certain date. The prize can be a free ticket to the event or a gift that you are able to get for free from a member of the committee.

5. Give people several options to pay for a ticket. That means allowing people to send a check by mail, pay cash in person or pay with a credit card on your class reunion website or family reunion website. Paying by credit card is much easier than writing a check, so if you only accept checks you give people another reason to procrastinate and put off making a decision about coming to the reunion or not.

**Social media has made it easier than ever to find people. But PLEASE do not only use one of them. Not everyone does Facebook or Twitter and it is not fair to exclude them just because they don't!**

## 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.



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## Calendar of Events

Tues, 1/26/16	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—Dunkin Donuts Meeting Room, 6317 Pearl Rd., Parma Heights
Tues, 4/19/16	General Membership Meeting-7 pm- VFAA Annex Office, Parkview Elementary Building, Kitchen Entrance, Parma (Just South of Parma High School on W 54th, at entrance to State Road Park)
Tues, 5/31/16	Class of 2016 Senior Checkout
Sun, 6/5/16	2016 Commencement and Hall of Fame Induction
Tues, 7/19/16	General Membership Picnic/Meeting-7 pm-James Day Park (former Nike Park) Pleasant Valley Road
Fri, 10/7/16	VF vs Parma Football Game
Fri, 10/28/16	VF vs Normandy vs VF Football Games
Tue, 10/18/16	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—VFAA Annex Office, Parkview Elementary Building, Kitchen Entrance, Parma OH (Just South of Parma High School on W 54th, at entrance to State Road Park)

[Visit Our Website!](#)



Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)