

"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

Published Quarterly by the Valley Forge High School Alumni Association



Winter 2017

Message from the President

All the gifts have been opened. New Year's Eve has passed. Welcome to 2017!

For those alumni still living in the Parma City School District – PLEASE stay in touch with what is happening within the school system during this time of fiscal re-building. Attend school board meetings or watch/read about them on the school's webpages. Many of the financial cuts have been made and began in January. The repurposing of the buildings has been tabled while new options are being studied. Stay involved!

The Valley Forge Alumni Association is gearing up for its winter and spring activities. Background and resumes are being evaluated for this year's Hall of Fame Inductees. Presentation of the inductees will be made at this year's commencement ceremony.

Instructions on how to apply for 2017 high school senior scholarships are available on-line at the Parma City Schools website or you can follow this link: <http://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/6592>. Deadline for all applications is February 10th---NO EXCEPTIONS! The alumni association awards two scholarships every year! These both require an additional essay to be written and submitted with the application. The essay will answer this question: "I am proud to be a Valley Forge High School Patriot because..."

As with any new year, I expect we all have made a whole lot of New Year's resolutions. What are yours? Weight loss? Exercise? Quit smoking? (Thank goodness I did that years ago!) Whatever your new year's resolutions are, how about adding one more—getting involved with your alumni association? We are always looking for people that want to be involved in various ways. It is a great way to stay connected to old classmates and to Valley Forge. Send me a note at president@vfalumni.org if you would like to help!

Go Patriots!

Rick Meeks '73



Officers

President

Rick Meeks '73

Vice President

Linda Reik-Brown '65

Secretary

Needed

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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

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. Babcook 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 Huntington, 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)



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 or family 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.

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.

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.



Graduation classes ending in 2 or 7 might be having reunions this year. To date, none have been in contact with the alumni association about a reunion. If a class is planning to have a reunion, please let us know at patriots@vfalumni.org We can offer help in both planning and at the event.

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.



Calendar of Events

2/10/17	DEADLINE – NO EXCEPTIONS for All Applications for Parma City Schools PTA Scholarships
2/16/17	Parma City Schools Board Meeting – Board District Administration Center 5:30 PM
2/21/17	Parma City Schools Board Meeting – Board District Administration Center 5:30 PM
3/6/17	Parma City Schools Board Meeting – Board District Administration Center 5:30 PM
3/12/17	Parma Symphony Concert – Valley Forge Auditorium 3:00 PM
3/20/17	Parma City Schools Board Meeting – Board District Administration Center 5:30 PM
4/3/17	Parma City Schools Board Meeting – Board District Administration Center 5:30 PM
4/18/17	Valley Forge Alumni Association Spring Quarter Meeting – Location TBA 7:00 PM
4/24/17	Parma City Schools Board Meeting – Board District Administration Center 5:30 PM

We desperately need a webmaster to update and manage our webpage! Contact Rick Meeks at president@vfalumni.org if interested. The position involves about a four hour per month time commitment.

We are also looking for someone to fill the vacant Secretary position on the VF Alumni Association board. This requires about a two to three hour per month time commitment.

Visit Our Website!
www.vfalumni.org

