

"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 in October, January, April and July by the Valley Forge High School Alumni Association

Happy New Year!



The cold weather is here but it is warm in the halls at Valley Forge as the teens bustle around the halls of our alma mater. We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are prepared to see a lot happening here at the association!

New fundraisers are in the works so we can continue to award the scholarships we have in the past. We award two \$750 scholarships through an essay process chaired by Alan Rudolph, '88, through the Parma Schools PTA. For more information, please visit our website: vfalumni.org.

More details will be coming soon but so far a Casino Run to the Hollywood Casino in Toledo will be held this spring. As soon as details are formalized, you will hear from us. We need a least 35 people to move this event further. It will probably be on a Monday, Thursday or Friday to get the most bang for our buck. The cost will be \$35 per person with a \$10 slot play provided by the casino. Watch for the details!

Coming in August will be our first Scholarship Golf Outing. Again, details are not known at this time but Terry Wandt ('63) and Bob Baisch ('65) are getting the ball rolling and we will inform you as soon as possible. Start talking to your golfing buddies NOW about forming your foursome!!

Reunions!

Classes ending in a 4 or a 9 should be looking forward to reunions in 2014. The only ones we know about so far is the Class of '64 and the Class of '89. Contact information can be found at our website: www.vfalumni.org.

Class of 1964

50th Reunion, July 25, 26, & 27, 2014

Class of 1989

25th Reunion, August 1 and 2, 2014

Where are the classes of '69, '74, '79, '84, '94, '99, 2004?????

January 2014

2013-14 Officers

President

Linda Reik-Brown '65

Vice President

Deb Zmijewski-Greytak '73

Secretary

Stacy Brown-Grice '93

Treasurer

Cathy Anelli-Solomon '73

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Needed

Hall of Fame

Bob Baisch '65

Scholarship

Alan Rudolph '88

Membership

Terry Wandt '63

Database

Halle Magpoc-Dawson '89

Webmaster

Frank Petersen '88

Nominating Committee

Needed

Audit Committee

Needed

Reunions Coordinator

Needed

Historian/Displays

Mary Lou Chappell-Hentges '65

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 from October *Heritage*)

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)*



The Class of 1988

The Class of 1988 celebrated their 25th reunion with an evening celebration on October 19, 2013. The class hosted their reunion celebration at Fox and Hound Pub & Grille in Parma with our own private area, a dinner buffet, dessert, cash bar and billiards. The class had a fantastic turnout with over 26% of the reachable alumni from the Class of 1988 attending the reunion event! The class will be holding a 30th reunion and encourages classmates to visit the class website



at www.vfclassof1988.com and Valley Forge Class of 1988 Facebook page for regular updates and photos from the 25th and the 20th reunion celebrations! The class would like to sincerely thank Linda Reik-Brown and Mary Lou Chappell-Hentges (both from the VF Class of 1965) and the VF Alumni Association for their guidance and help in making this reunion a huge success!

Letters, We Get Letters....



We recently received a letter from a woman in Bridgeport, CT who purchased a painting at an auction. She decided to reframe it and when she took it out of the frame, glued to the back was an “Entry Blank in the Q-Tips Art Award contest” from 1972! The artist was **Cindy Bonnesteel** who was 15 years old and the teacher on the form was Miss K. Wilkins!

This tells you how far our work can carry! The new owner of the painting thought Cindy would like to have the painting back after all these years but our database has no information on her. Cindy is from the Class of 1974; if anyone knows her whereabouts, please contact us at patriots@vfalumni.org.



Anyone remember **George Arthur Roberts**? He would have attended VF in the late 60's or early 70's; born 10/5/53. He passed away a few years ago and family members are looking for any pictures of him from high school. It was unclear in the letter if he graduated or not but the association has no info on him. Things are missing due to moving across the country. Parents are deceased and he had no siblings. If you can help or if you have the time to sift through yearbooks, let us know. This may require looking at underclassmen pix as well; email patriots@vfalumni.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

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.

Valley Forge Alumni Merchandise (Prices do NOT include shipping and handling)

T-shirts in S,M,L,XL,2-4X	\$15
Lapel Pins	\$5
Spirit Beads	\$1.00
Alumni Cookbook	\$8.00
Golden Anniversary Archive 2011	\$10

Calendar of Events

Tues, 1/21/14	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—At VF in Room 101 near the Auditorium
Tues, 4/15/14	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—At VF in Room 101 near the Auditorium Election of Officers
Wed, 6/4/14	Senior Checkout
Sun, 6/8/14	2014 Commencement and Hall of Fame Induction
Tues, 7/15/14	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—Location to be Announced

Visit Our Website!
www.vfalumni.org



Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)