

The Heritage

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This well known saying has many purposes for the majority of us. For me, it is time to step down as President of the Valley Forge Alumni Association. The past ten years have been a labor of love but I have come to "that" season. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve you as best as I could and I look forward to training some younger alumni to take over and run your association.

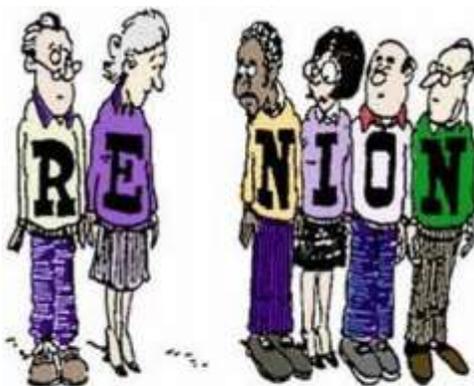
We strive to serve all 25,000+ alumni as well as the current Valley Forge students and administration. Please step up and get involved and give back to the school that (along with our parents and the community) prepared us for the life we are living. There are a number of jobs open and we all know the more help we have, the less the work load. I pray that each and every one of you will thoughtfully consider giving back to future VF Alumni!

Love,
Linda Reik-Brown
VF Class of 1965



The 2016 Reunions should be in the planning stages. This is the year all classes ending in a 6 or a 1 could be having their class reunions! Don't forget that the association is here to help you plan your reunion and offers the use of our tax exempt number, as long as you are an active member of the association. Keep us AND your class informed.

There are no set rules for reunions. Traditionally the class officers or previous reunion committees are responsible for planning the reunions; they are also responsible to let us know who is taking their place when circumstances change.



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!!

Five years, ten years? Again, no rules.

Just what are the desires of the majority of your class? Let us help you plan yours. Keeping track of your classmates is the biggest job ahead of you. Facebook is great but please don't use it exclusively and omit your classmates who do not use it. Not everyone is on Facebook nor should they be left out because they don't!



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Officers

President
Needed
Vice President
Needed
Secretary
Needed
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
Needed
Nominating
Needed
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.

The History of Parma City Schools

by Kenneth J. Lavelle, Local Historian

VF Class of 1975

Introduction

Much of the material included here was part of other historical papers I have written. The material concerning Indian Treaties mentioned in the timeline was originally written in 1978 for a paper on early military forts before the State of Ohio was established. Some of the material is common knowledge. Other items included are not so well known or remembered. Such as the 1940 watercolor painting done of an early 1846 schoolhouse on Ridge Road. The timeline is intended to help the reader understand how far the schools have progressed in 150 years. Lists of the elected members of the subdistrict schoolhouses are from this author's notes recorded in 1989 when he visited the school administrative offices on Ridge Road. Very little has been recorded about the Parma Heights Village Board of Education and its brief period of existence. A brief account is included here in this booklet. It is hoped this booklet will enlighten those persons who attend this presentation.

The Early Parma Schools

There were nine one-room schools in Parma Township from 1853 to 1921. Each one was staffed by one teacher. There were special holiday presentations planned by each teacher for the students to participate in. Each schoolhouse varied in size and type of construction material used for the subdistrict or district school age population when it was built. Normally a schoolhouse could be 14 feet wide and either 24 or 30 feet long, with a outhouse in the rear behind the school. It was not uncommon to have photographs taken of the pupils and teacher. Later, a small postcard with the photo was given to the pupils. All eight grades were taught inside the one-room schools. Commencement in the Parma Public Schools was held inside the Parma Presbyterian Church on Wooster Pike (Pearl Road Today). This was the largest private Church/Hall type building existing then able to handle such events. For example, June 14, 1911 commencement began at Eight-Thirty Sun Time (Sharp). Since Parma Township was an agricultural community, it used 'Sun Time' for scheduling public events for many years before/after Standard Time Zones were established for train

schedules in 1883. 'Sun Time' consisted of one minute for every 12 miles traveled East or West. Rural farm families used 'Sun Time' for their clocks in their homes Hence, there were over 300 'Sun Time' time zones in the United States and this did not change until after World War I (1914-1918).

Miss Stround's 1957 article in the Southwestern Frontier newspaper reveals her personal account of the schools. Had she lived longer, she may have given such a historical talk concerning the schools. Such was not to be the case and we are all poorer for that situation. My humble attempt to write a brief series of articles for The Parma High Traditions hopefully provides specific details and updates her 1957 article for those readers living in 2003.

The Consolidated Schools

In 1921, the nine one-room schools were closed and consolidated into three buildings on Pearl, Ridge and State Roads. Later, several additional buildings were needed and they were built. Currently, there are twenty-two separate buildings used by the school district in 2003. Each building has its own unique historical story. In the 1970s and 1980s, several schools were closed. In the 1990s, they were reopened as the need for them was realized again.

The schools over the last 150 years have undergone much change and will continue to do so in the future. Many individuals have given much of themselves over the years to create the excellent reputation the school system now enjoys and the opportunities for its students. *(to be continued)*



VF Class of '65 Celebrated It's Golden Class Reunion This Summer!

The third graduating class of Valley Forge High School celebrated it's 50th year reunion this past July.

The weekend began with a Golf Outing at Mallard Creek Golf Course on Friday, July 10th. Then about forty classmates met at the school for a tour of the building—big changes to see since 1965! Including that elusive swimming pool we never used!

On Friday night there was a Welcome Home Cocktail Party at Hilton Garden Inn Airport. Informal attire and only \$5 at the door saw about 150 classmates from around the country enjoying the excitement of seeing old friends and making new ones!

On Saturday, July 11th, about forty classmates enjoyed lunch at Antonio's at Parmatown reminiscing about the pizza we enjoyed there following football games at Byers Field back in the sixties.

Saturday night, the Class of '65 Golden Senior Prom was held at the 100th Bomber Group Restaurant on Brookpark Rd. by the airport. Over 180 classmates enjoyed a first-class meal, an ice sculpture, boutineers and corsages for everyone, a first-class band (Sight-n-Sound), prizes, souvenirs and a photo booth!

It certainly was a successful event to remember! About thirty classmates met on Sunday for brunch at the hotel to say "Adios til we meet again". There were no good-bys...just talk about our 55th reunion in 2020!



The Class of 2005 had their 10th reunion this August at the Fox and Hound. Reports are that every one had a great time and that approximately 70 people attended which is wonderful for a class of less than 400 graduates. They are looking forward to doing it again!

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.



Happy Hallanukkahivingsmasween!



Visit Our Website!
www.vfalumni.org



Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)