

The Southern Junior High/Middle School Alumni Association

Annual Newsletter

January 2019

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Darren Anastasio; Donna Bird; Harry Eisenbise; Thomas Gajewski, Sr.; Dr. Christ Ganas; Janet Giddens; Linda Greth (Interim Secretary); Ted Jamula (President); Dorothy Johnson-Aughtry; Gwen Malecki; Dr. James Nicholas (Treasurer); Charlie Randazzo; Mark Reichardt; and Mary Ann Zerkowski (Vice President).

EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE: We would like to extend our sincere thanks to both Marsha Daubert and Lawrence Blachman, who have retired from the Executive Board. Their years of dedication and service to our Association are truly appreciated! We would also like to welcome Donna Bird and Harry Eisenbise as new members on the Executive Board, and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

MISSION STATEMENT: Our Association's mission shall be to recognize the lifetime achievements of distinguished alumni, reward the academic achievements of Reading High School seniors who attended Southern, and provide opportunities for alumni to reunite in celebration of their years at Southern.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION IN 2018: The following alumni were honored at our Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 18th: John C. Boyer, Jr.; Angelo Di Maria; and Dr. Rosanne Spolski, Ph.D. Following the ceremony at Southern, our inductees were also honored at a luncheon for current Hall of Fame members and our new inductees. A good time was had by all on the festive occasion at the Doubtree Hotel. **We proudly congratulate the inductees for their lifetime achievements and for providing inspiration to the current students at Southern Middle School.**

HALL OF FAME NOMINEES IN 2019: The biographies of this year's nominees are enclosed for your consideration. The top three (3) vote-getters will be inducted into our Hall of Fame during an assembly at Southern on Friday morning, May 24th. In addition, the inductees will be honored at our Reunion later that evening. A special thanks to our Vice President, Mary Ann Zerkowski, for all of her efforts to prepare the Hall of Fame Program each year. **Please be sure to cast your vote on the enclosed blue ballot, and mail-in your ballot by Friday, March 15th.**

IMPORTANT NEWS: The Executive Board has approved a major change to our Hall of Fame Program. Beginning this year, we will have an Induction Ceremony at Southern **every other year**, held on the same day as our Biennial Reunion. We simply do not have a sufficient number of nominees to continue inducting new members every year, and we need your help! **If you know of someone who merits induction into our Hall of Fame, please submit his/her name on the reverse side of your blue ballot, or contact Mary Ann Zerkowski at mazredwing@aol.com.**

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IN 2018: The "Bernard J. Lillis Alumni Scholarship" was awarded to Abdiel Cruz, who is now attending Kutztown University; and the "Arthur R. Kline, Jr. Alumni Scholarship" was awarded to Shelby Boyle, who is now attending Ursinus College. **We congratulate Abdiel and Shelby on their academic achievements, and extend best wishes for their continued success in college and beyond.**

S.O.M.S. AWARD - NEW IN 2018: In an effort to strengthen our partnership with Southern Middle School, we have initiated the "Southern Outstanding & Motivated Student (S.O.M.S.) Award". This award will be given annually to the top all-round student in each of the six teams, as determined by their teachers; and recipients for the 2017-18 school year were awarded plaques by our Association at the Southern Awards Assembly on June 6th. Thanks to Mary Ann Zerkowski for representing our Association at this event, and to Southern Principal, Mitza Morales, for her continued support!

CAREER WEEK AT SOUTHERN: The students at Southern Middle School are encouraged to think about potential career pathways, so that they can make good decisions about course selections at Reading High School. In that regard, the week of May 20th has been designated as Career Week, during which time selected guest speakers will meet with groups of students who are interested in their areas of expertise. This is a great opportunity for our alumni to get involved! **So, if you are interested or want more information, please contact Amy Anders at andersa@readingsd.org.**

CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE

REUNION PLANS FOR 2019: Our next Biennial Reunion is scheduled for Friday, May 24th, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We look forward to another fun time reminiscing about the good old days at Southern, and have planned special activities for our alumni. **Note that information about the reunion is provided on the enclosed pink form, and that the deadline for reservations is Friday, May 17th.**

BREAKFAST UPDATE: In an ongoing effort to provide opportunities for our alumni to reunite, the Association has initiated a Breakfast Reunion, and we are happy to report that our get-togethers at the Wyomissing Family Restaurant have been a huge success! Our next breakfast will be on September 28th, and we will send you a registration form later this year. **Mark your calendars now, and be sure to join us for another fun time!**

CONTRIBUTION UPDATE: We depend on contributions to support our Scholarship Program and the Hall of Fame Program; and once again in 2018, our members responded with exceptional generosity. **We are sincerely thankful to the following individuals for their contributions and memorial gifts!**

Edith & Ronald Austin	Ted Jamula	Dr. Peter D. Nicholas, Jr.	Lisa A. Silvia
Dr. Anthony G. Baxter	Judy Lownes	Thomas J. Pasko, Jr.	Robert A. Spatz
Lawrence P Blachman	Charles A. McNichol	Karen E. Raszkievicz	Hon. Albert A. Stallone
Joseph Bonanno	Martin L. Meleon	Linda L. Reedy	Gloria Zellers Steeves
Ruth A. Fetterman	Cynthia Miller-Aungst	Mark S. Reichardt	Mary Jo Weishampel
Douglas C. Greth	Mary F. Moran	Jean C. Riggle	Mary Ann Zerkowski
Fianna D. Holt	Dr. James D. Nicholas	Geraldine L. Rochowicz	

Richard G. Crist in memory of his friend and our past President, Arthur Kline
The Southern Belles in memory of their beloved teacher, Elva Rittenhouse, on her 100th birthday

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: We need your help in attracting new members, so please encourage your family members and friends to join the association. Membership applications can be accessed on our website, along with a listing of our current members. **Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest members:**

Ray Hildenbrand, Don Himmelreich, Fred Lubas, Kevin Painter, Steven Reedy, Linda (Kunkle) Skoraszewski, Barry Suski, and Richette (Nowotarski) Suski

IN MEMORIUM: We also extend our sincere condolences to the families and friends of members who have passed away since (or prior to) our last mailing. **May they forever rest in peace!**

David M. Bonsall, Ronald G. Browne, Dorothy (Korejwo) Gajewski, Mary (Fry) Good, Antoinette (Kramer) Haas, and Elva M. Rittenhouse

YOUR DUES STATUS: Our dues records for you, _____, are shown below. Please note that members who have not paid dues for more than three (3) consecutive years will removed from the rolls, and that the cost of a Life Membership remains at \$100 (less the total amount of dues previously paid).

- Your dues have been paid through the following year: _____.
- Amount of dues you owe at this time: \$_____.
- Total amount of dues you have paid so far: \$_____.
- Please consider becoming a Life Member by reaching the \$100 plateau!

PAYMENT INFORMATION: Please send your membership dues, Hall of Fame ballots, and/or contributions to the following address no later than Friday, March 15, 2019.

**Southern JH/MS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 12662
Reading, PA 19612-2662**

NOTE: Checks must be made payable to the "**Southern JH/MS Alumni Association**".

FINAL REMINDERS: Please be sure to visit our website at southernalumniassociation.com for news, updates, and membership information; and contact us with your questions and suggestions at southernalumniassoc@gmail.com.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!