

# *The Southern Junior High/Middle School Alumni Association*

## *Annual Newsletter*

*January 2020*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Donna Bird; Claire M. Cleaver (Secretary); Harry Eisenbise; Thomas Gajewski, Sr.; Linda Greth; Ted Jamula (President); Dorothy Johnson-Aughtry; Gwen Malecki; Dr. James Nicholas (Treasurer); Charlie Randazzo; Mark Reichardt; and Mary Ann Zerkowski (Vice President).

**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.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE:** It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Christ Ganas, who was a valued member of our Executive Board for many years. We also must report, with regrets, that Darren Anastasio and Janet Giddens have stepped-down from the Board, and we extend our sincere thanks for their years of dedicated service to the Association. Finally, we are pleased to welcome Claire M. Cleaver to the Executive Board, who will be serving as our new Secretary!

**HALL OF FAME INDUCTION IN 2019:** The following alumni were honored at our Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Southern on May 24<sup>th</sup>: Richard Carpenter; Arlene (Wenrich) Cleaver, represented by her daughter, Claire M. Cleaver; and Robert D. Orzechowski. Their comments at the assembly were motivational and well-received by the students in attendance. We proudly congratulate these 2019 inductees for their lifetime achievements, and for providing inspiration to the current students at Southern Middle School! We also would like to thank Southern's new principal, Andrew Kidd, for his support of our Association, and his assistance with the Hall of Fame assembly program.

**HALL OF FAME UPDATE:** As reported in our previous newsletter, **the Induction Ceremony will now be held every other year, on the same day as our Biennial Reunion.** We do not have a sufficient number of nominees to continue inducting new members every year, so if you know of someone who merits induction into our Hall of Fame, please submit his/her name on the enclosed blue form, or contact Mary Ann Zerkowski at [mazredwing@aol.com](mailto:mazredwing@aol.com).

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IN 2019:** The "Bernard J. Lillis Alumni Scholarship" was awarded to Elijah Ortega, who is now attending the University of Pennsylvania; and the "Arthur R. Kline, Jr. Alumni Scholarship" was awarded to Laura Sanchez, who is now attending Penn State University at the Harrisburg Campus. We congratulate Elijah and Laura on their academic achievements, and extend best wishes for their continued success in college and beyond!

**SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:** Last year, Hall of Fame member, Kate Belinski, made an extremely generous donation in memory of Ron Browne, her beloved science teacher at Southern. We consulted with Kate, and decided that a scholarship related to science would be a fitting tribute to Mr. Browne. She has committed \$1000 each year for a period of 5 years toward the "Ronald G. Browne STEM Scholarship", which will be awarded to an RHS graduate who attended Southern. We are truly thankful to Kate for her generosity, and for honoring the life of such a distinguished teacher!

**S.O.M.S. AWARDS IN 2019:** We are also happy to recognize the achievements of current Southern students with the "Southern Outstanding & Motivated Student (S.O.M.S.) Award". This award is given annually to the top all-round student in each of the six teams, as determined by their teachers; and recipients for the 2018-19 school year were presented with beautiful plaques at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope that, someday, these same students will be on that stage as Hall of Fame inductees!

**CAREER WEEK AT SOUTHERN:** The students at Southern are encouraged to think about potential career pathways, so that they can make good decisions about their course selections at RHS. In that regard, the week of May 18<sup>th</sup> has been designated as Career Week, during which time, guest speakers will meet with groups of students about their careers, and share memories about their years at Southern. This is a great opportunity for our alumni to get involved, give back, and inspire the current students at Southern! Please sign-up for a one or more sessions on the enclosed green flyer!

***CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE***

**REUNION FANFARE IN 2019:** Our Biennial Reunion was held at The Crowne Plaza on May 24<sup>th</sup>. After dinner, our Hall of Fame inductees spoke with great pride about their years at Southern, followed by a trivia contest and story-telling time. There was also a slide show of East Reading landmarks, a Southern memorabilia display, and pictures of past principals. The banquet hall was alive with conversation, and a good time was had by all on this special occasion!

**BREAKFAST UPDATE:** The Executive Board has decided to schedule our Breakfast Reunion every other year, beginning this year on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our breakfast last year on September 28<sup>th</sup> was another success, thanks to the efforts of Jim Nicholas and Tom Gajewski; and we look forward to many more get-togethers at the Wyomissing Family Restaurant. Make your reservations now on the enclosed yellow form, and join us for another fun time on May 2<sup>nd</sup>!

**CONTRIBUTION UPDATE:** We depend on contributions to support our Scholarship Program and the Hall of Fame Program; and once again in 2019, our members responded with exceptional generosity. We are sincerely thankful to the following individuals for their contributions and memorial gifts!

Edith & Ronald Austin	Fianna D. Holt	Charles M. Randazzo	Geraldine L. Rochowicz
Dr. Anthony G. Baxter	Rochelle A. Hunt	Donald R. Reber	Susan & John Shaffer, Jr.
Lawrence P. Blachman	Gwendolyn E. Malecki	Linda L. Reedy	Lisa A. Silvia
John & Marian Boyer	Charles A. McNichol	Mark S. Reichardt	Robert A. Spatz
Ruth A. Fetterman	Dr. James D. Nicholas	Randy L. Rick	Gloria Zellers Steeves
Debra Ann Hill	Thomas J. Pasko, Jr.	Jean C. Riggie	Mary Ann Zerkowski

Richard G. Crist in memory of his friend and our past President, Arthur Kline  
Jeanette C. Hunsberger in loving memory of her brother, Russell L. Yeager  
Karen E. Raszkievicz in loving memory of her mother, Catharine Wilkinson Lerch  
Candace F. Stitzman-Duley in loving memory of her father, Maj. Franklin V. Stitzman

**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:

**Daniel J. Gardner; Clayton B. Taylor; Walter Kazmierczak, Jr.; and Hedy (Rios) Oldham**

**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!

**Dorothy (Stremba) Albert; Donald Anastasio; Eleanor (Bottiglieri) Blimline; Dr. Christ L. Ganas;  
Robert E. Harper; Gloria J. (Wagenhurst) Mazurkiewicz; and Russell L. Yeager**

**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 recommendations, and/or contributions to the following address no later than Friday, March 13, 2020.

**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](http://southernalumniassociation.com) for news, updates, and membership information; and contact us with your questions and suggestions at [southernalumniassoc@gmail.com](mailto:southernalumniassoc@gmail.com).

***THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!***