

The Southern Junior High/Middle School Alumni Association

Annual Newsletter

January 2021

GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Donna Bird; Claire 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).

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: This 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 NEWS: The current 3-year term for Executive Board Officers will expire on June 30th, and the following Board members have been nominated for the new term, beginning on July 1st: President - Harry Eisenbise; Vice President - Mary Ann Zerkowski; Treasurer – Ted Jamula; and Secretary - Claire Cleaver. We want to thank Ted Jamula for his dedicated service as our President during the past 10 years, and extend a warm welcome to Harry Eisenbise as our new leader. Ted will be taking over for Jim Nicholas, who is stepping down as Treasurer, and we're happy to announce that Jim will continue to serve on the Executive Board.

REUNION AND HALL OF FAME UPDATE: As you might recall, our Biennial Reunion and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will now be held every other year, on the same day; and **we are currently looking at October 22nd as the tentative date for this year.** We will continue to monitor Covid-19 projections, and make a final decision at our Board meeting on March 25th. At that time, we will decide to either move forward with the October 22nd date, or postpone these events until next year. In either case, **our decision will be posted on the website and confirmed in a second newsletter to be mailed in late August.**

BREAKFAST UPDATE: We reported in our previous newsletter that the Breakfast and Biennial Reunions will now be held on alternate years; and, unfortunately, the breakfast scheduled last year on May 2nd was cancelled due to concerns about Covid-19. Those who registered received a refund or requested that their payment be applied to our next breakfast, which will be held in 2022. We look forward to more fun get-togethers at the Wyomissing Family Restaurant, and will keep you informed about the exact date for our next breakfast.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS IN 2020: The following scholarships were announced at the RHS Awards Program on June 8th, which was conducted online; and checks were delivered to the recipients via certified mail.

- The "**Bernard J. Lillis Alumni Scholarship**" was awarded to Tonatiuh Hidalgo-Camacho, who is now attending The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology;
- The "**Arthur R. Kline, Jr. Alumni Scholarship**" was awarded to RHS valedictorian, Y Lam, who is now attending Lehigh University.
- The "**Ronald G. Browne STEM Scholarship**" was awarded to Maya Eshbach, who is now majoring in Biology at Temple University; and we thank Kate Belinski for her generous sponsorship of this award!

Congratulations to all of the recipients on their achievements at RHS. We are very proud of you, and extend our best wishes for your continued success in college and beyond!

ADOPT A BLOCK AT SOUTHERN: Southern principal, Andrew Kidd, and his staff have worked very hard to develop a meaningful presence within the community. Their first initiative was "**Family Night**", a time for families to gather in the school cafe for dinner each week. And now, because of Covid-19, they are delivering food packages to local families, along with information about valuable community resources. We commend Mr. Kidd and his staff on their efforts, and urge you to become involved with the "**Adopt-A-Block**" program. Please see the enclosed flyer for additional information about how you can become a contributor or a volunteer!

CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE

CONTRIBUTION UPDATE: Your contributions help to sustain the ongoing efforts of our Association, and once again, our members responded with exceptional generosity in 2020. **We are sincerely thankful to the following individuals for their contributions and memorial gifts!**

**Ronald & Edith Austin
John & Marian Boyer
Richard Debiec
Ted Jamula**

**Gwendolyn Malecki
Charles McNichol
Dr. James Nicholas
Dr. Peter Nicholas, Jr.**

**Thomas Pasko, Jr.
Judith Pelka
Linda Reedy
Mark Reichardt**

**Randy Rick
Lisa Silvia
Robert Spatz
Gloria Steeves**

**Katherine Belinski in memory of her beloved Science teacher, Ronald G. Browne
Kim Jacob in loving memory of her mother, La Rone E. Danaker
Karen Raszkievich in loving memory of her mother, Catharine Wilkinson Lerch**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Our membership numbers have dropped-off significantly in recent years, which does not bode well for the Association. One of our priorities at this time is to attract new members, and you can help by encouraging a family member or friend to sign-up on the enclosed application, or download an application from our website. **Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members!**

Lyn Jones Kelly (Coldren) Leone Thomas Reilly

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!**

**Charlotte Anastasio
Richard C. Brophy
La Rone E. Danaker**

**Richard E. Debiec
Mildred Hoffman
Dr. Wayne R. Morris**

**Edward Strunk III
Beverly J. Weiss
William H. Zeswitz, Jr.**

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 dues and/or contribution to the address below no later than Friday, March 19, 2021. **Note:** Checks must be made payable to the "Southern JH/MS Alumni Association".

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

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- **We hope that you and your families have been safe and well during these difficult times, and that our lives return to some degree of normalcy during the months ahead!**
- Since your safety is our utmost concern, we will not have the Reunion and Hall of Fame Induction this year if there are any concerns whatsoever about the transmission of Covid-19.
- If we do go ahead with these events, a Reunion reservation form, Hall of Fame candidate biographies, and a ballot will be included with our second newsletter in late August.
- Please be sure to check our website at southernalumniassociation.com for updates; and contact us with your questions or suggestions at southernalumniassoc@gmail.com.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!