

The Southern Junior High/Middle School Alumni Association

January Newsletter

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Donna Bird; Harry Eisenbise (President); Thomas Gajewski, Sr.; Linda Greth; Ted Jamula (Treasurer); Lynn DeAcosta (Secretary); Kelly Leone (VP); Charlie Randazzo; and Mark Reichardt.

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.

HALL OF FAME RESULTS IN 2023: The following alumni were elected to our Hall of Fame in 2023: Luther Ammarell, Andrea M. Carabello, Christopher D. Nein, and Clayton Taylor. They were introduced to our members at the Biennial Reunion on May 13, 2023, and were formally inducted into the Hall of Fame during a ceremony at Southern on Friday, May 19th. **We congratulate the inductees for their lifetime achievements and for providing inspiration to the current students at Southern Middle School.**

REUNION REVELRY IN 2023: We were able to have our Biennial Reunion last year at the DoubleTree Hotel on Saturday, May 13th, and despite a lower-than-expected turnout, a fun time was had by all who attended! The festivities included a 'Top Ten Favorite Southern Memories' activity; a slideshow of Southern memorabilia and East Reading landmarks; musical entertainment provided by our own Charlie Randazzo; and presentation of our Hall of Fame Inductees, who spoke proudly of their years at Southern. The DoubleTree Hotel provided excellent food and service, and we look forward to returning there for our next reunion.

HOF INDUCTION & REUNION PLANS: Our next Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Biennial Reunion are planned for May of 2025, and details will be provided in next January's newsletter. **Please submit a Hall of Fame Recommendation on the enclosed blue form and mail it by Friday, March 24, 2024.**

BREAKFAST UPDATE: Due to its popularity, we are planning to have a breakfast for our alumni every Spring, and thanks to the efforts of Lynn DeAcosta and Tom Gajewski, we have scheduled our next breakfast for Saturday, March 16th, at Wegman's Restaurant on Route 61. We're looking forward to another fun time, so **please be sure to complete the enclosed yellow form and note that reservations are due by March 8th!**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS IN 2023: Note that each recipient is an RHS graduate who attended Southern, and that the scholarships were awarded at the RHS Awards Program last May.

Bernard J. Lillis Scholarship (top ranked male) - Daniel Ramos-Medina, Albright College

Arthur R. Kline, Jr. Scholarship (top ranked female) – Taina Marie Santana, University of Pennsylvania

Ronald G. Browne STEM Scholarship – Lelya Ponce, studying Biology at Drexel University

We are truly proud of these graduates and extend our best wishes for continued success in college and beyond!

S.O.M.S. AWARDS IN 2023: We are also pleased to recognize the achievements of current Southern students with the Southern Outstanding & Motivated Student (S.O.M.S.) Award, which is given to the top all-round student in each of the fourteen teams. The recipients were presented with plaques at the Southern Awards Program on May 19th by Interim Southern Principal Joy Post, Teacher Kym Downer, and President Harry Eisenbise. We expect that one of these students may very well be a scholarship recipient or Hall of Fame inductee in the years ahead!

Continued 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 2023. **We are sincerely thankful to the following individuals for their contributions and memorial gifts!**

Dr. Anthony G. Baxter	Douglas C. Greth	Thomas J. Pasko, Jr.	Lisa A. Silvia
Ronald S. Bortz	Ted Jamula	Charles M. Randazzo	Robert A. Spatz
John & Marian Boyer	Lyn Ann Jones	Linda L. Reedy	Clayton B. Taylor
Bonnie J. Brennan	Gwendolyn E. Malecki	Mark S. Reichardt	Mary Jo Weishampel
Harry G. Eisenbise	Dr. James D. Nicholas	Mark E. Schlott	Mary Ann Zerkowski

Katherine Belinski in memory of her beloved Science teacher, Ronald G. Browne
Karen E. Raszkievich in memory of her mother, Catharine Wilkinson Lerch
Candace F. Stitzman-Duley in memory of her father, Major Franklin V. Stitzman

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: One of our priorities is to attract new members, and you can help by **encouraging a family member or friend to sign-up on the attached green Membership Application** or by downloading an application from our website. **Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members!**

Luther Ammarell, Jr.	Samuel D. Di Blasi	Bobbi L. (Hitch) Ortiz
Marie M. (Meredith) Buterbaugh	Sandra (Eshelman) Fegley	Laura (Soltys) Roberts
John S. Coco	Jami (Coldren) Fry	Sandra Sands
Callie J. (Godshall) DiBlasi	Charles "Chuck" Sonon	Chan Tieu
	Harold J. Miller	

IN MEMORIAM: 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!**

Terri L. (Weller) Boady	Naomi (Segner) Pritchard	Ferne A. (Fidler) Wentzel
Betty (Mittower) Nowotarski	Eugene Taras	D. Erma (Vakis) Wernicki
	Nancy L. (Schaeffer) Walker	

YOUR DUES STATUS: Our dues records for you, _____, are shown below. Note that our policy of removing members who have not paid dues for more than three (3) consecutive years has been reinstated, so please consider making any back payments if that applies to you.

- 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 15, 2024. **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 REMINDERS:

- Reservations for the Breakfast are due by Friday, March 8th and should be mailed to Lynn DeAcosta, 4525 Delmar Drive, Reading, PA, 19606. See the enclosed yellow flyer for details.
- Your Hall of Fame Recommendation Forms are due by Friday March 24th and should be mailed to Southern JH/MS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 12662, Reading, PA, 19612. The blue form is enclosed.
- Please be sure to check our website at southernalumniassociation.com for updates, and to contact us with your questions or suggestions at southernalumniassoc@gmail.com.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!