

The Southern Junior High/Middle School Alumni Association  
**January Newsletter**  
**2025**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Donna Bird; Lynn DeAcosta (Secretary); Darren Donato; Harry Eisenbise (President); Thomas Gajewski, Sr.; Ted Jamula (Treasurer); Kelly Leone (Vice-President); Christopher Nein; Charlie Randazzo; Mark Reichardt; and Karen Sadlowski

**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.

**BREAKFAST UPDATE:** Our breakfast this year is scheduled for Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>!**

**REUNION PLANS IN 2025:** Our Biennial Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at the DoubleTree Hotel. This year's Reunion will again be a luncheon from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and we look forward to another fun time reminiscing about the good old days at Southern. **Additional information about the Reunion is provided on the enclosed pink form, and note that the deadline for reservations is Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**HALL OF FAME ELECTION IN 2025:** The biographies of our nominees are enclosed for your consideration, and the top three (3) vote-getters will be inducted into our Hall of Fame during a ceremony at Southern on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Alumni are invited to attend, so contact Harry Eisenbise at 610-775-3758 to reserve a seat in advance. **Please be sure to cast your vote on the enclosed blue ballot and return it by Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS IN 2024:** Note that each recipient is an RHS graduate who attended Southern, and that the scholarships were awarded at the RHS Awards Program last May.

- The **Bernard J. Lillis Scholarship** for the highest-ranking male graduate was presented to Brian Capellan-Santos, who is now attending Lehigh University.
- The **Arthur R. Kline, Jr. Scholarship** for the highest-ranking female graduate was presented to Dayhana Trevino-Escobar, who is now attending Haverford College.
- The **Ronald G. Browne STEM Scholarship** was presented to Kimberly Haro-Sandoval, who is currently pursuing a degree in Medical Imaging Sciences at Thomas Jefferson University.

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

**SCHOLARSHIP NEWS IN 2025:** We are pleased to announce that two new \$1000 scholarships will be awarded this year for "Academic Achievement" and "Community Service". These two scholarships will be awarded for a period of ten years and were made possible by an extremely generous contribution from Mr. Charles McKnight in memory of his brother, Morris P. McKnight. **We are truly grateful to Mr. McKnight for his support!**

**S.O.M.S. AWARDS IN 2024:** We are also pleased to recognize 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 team. Last year, an attractive certificate and \$25 gift card were presented to each recipient by Southern Principal, Hope Migliaccio, at the end of the school year; and we expect that these students will continue to excel in the years ahead. **Thanks to Tom Pasko for his financial support of this award!**

**SOUTHERN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS:** As many of you know, the original building located at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets was dedicated in 1925, and as such, Southern will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the 2025-26 school year. The principal and her staff are currently planning activities and events to commemorate the occasion, and we will provide updates for you on our website. **We are all looking forward to a memorable year, and hope that you can be a part of it!**

**Continued on the 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 2024. **We are sincerely thankful to the following individuals for their contributions and memorial gifts!**

Ronald W. Austin	John & Marian Boyer	Robert D. Orzechowski	Mark E. Schlott
Dr. Anthony G. Baxter	Harry G. Eisenbise	Thomas J. Pasko, Jr.	Lisa A. Silvia
Kathy Beeman	Ted Jamula	Linda L. Reedy	Amy L. Snook
Ronald S. Bortz	Bobbi L. Ortiz	Randy L. Rick	Robert A. Spatz

Charles McKnight in memory of his brother, Morris P. McKnight  
Candace F. Stitzman-Duley in memory of her father, Major Franklin V. Stitzman

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Please encourage a family member or friend to join our Association by downloading an application from our website. **And let's extend a warm welcome to our newest members!**

Dawn (Kendall) Banks	Donald Hart	Charles McKnight	Abigail (Garcia) Serrano
Kathy (Lauer) Beeman	Mark A. Jones	Herbert J. Mixon	Thomas Staron
Edward Carlson	Rebecca Kita	Mark J. Reese	Stephen Wade
Robert Delong, Jr.	Samuel L. Koons, Jr.	Joseph E. Sebio	Sarann J. (Dougherty) White
David Feinauer	Nicholas A. Krallis	Melissa A. (Ustaszewski) Sebio	Renee (Miller) Wolf
	Gregory Ludwig		Steve Wolf

**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!**

James A. Abraham	Samuel D. DiBlasi	Harry Glass
Luther Ammarell, Jr.	Edward J. Edwards	Hon. Albert A. Stallone
Callie J. (Godshall) DiBlasi	Ruth L (Gring) Garhammer	Gust Zogas, Ed.D.
	Evelyn (Folk) Genova	

**YOUR DUES STATUS:** Our dues records for you, \_\_\_\_\_, are shown below. Note that the Executive Board has **increased annual dues to \$5.00**, beginning this year.

- Your dues have been paid through the following year: \_\_\_\_\_.
- The amount of dues you owe at this time: \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- The total amount of dues you have paid so far: \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Please consider becoming a Life Member by reaching the \$100 plateau!  
And please make any back payments if that applies to you.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:** Please send your dues and/or contribution to the address below no later than Friday, March 21, 2025. **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:**

- Breakfast Reservations are due by Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and should be mailed to Southern JH/MS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 12662, Reading, PA, 19612. See the enclosed **yellow flyer** for details.
- Reunion Reservations are due by Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and should be mailed to Southern JH/MS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 12662, Reading, PA, 19612. See the enclosed **pink flyer** for details.
- Hall of Fame Ballots are due by Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, and should be mailed to Southern JH/MS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 12662, Reading, PA, 19612. The **blue ballot** is enclosed.
- Please be sure to check our website at [southernalumniassociation.com](http://southernalumniassociation.com) for updates, and to contact us with your questions or suggestions at [southernalumniassoc@gmail.com](mailto:southernalumniassoc@gmail.com).

***THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!***