

# *The Alumni Link*

A publication of the Sebring McKinley High School Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 141, Sebring, Ohio 44672-0141

January, 2018

## **Banquet format and date changed to attract more alumni**

The alumni association is breaking tradition in an effort to get more people to attend the annual banquet.

Get in touch with some of your classmates and spend a few hours at our banquet, which will be a brunch this year. Reserve a table and have fun socializing while honoring some of our own.

Held at Heritage Oaks Banquet Center in Sebring, the brunch begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 28. There will be an hour of socializing from 10 to 11, brunch, business meeting, and Distinguished Alumni awards, followed by another hour for socializing. There will be no speaker.

The cost of the brunch is \$18 per person, which can be paid by filling out the form in this newsletter. A two-page newsletter will be available in March with another reservation

form. The newsletter can also be printed from the school web site [www.sebring.k12.oh.us](http://www.sebring.k12.oh.us).

Association officers and others who attend our meetings regularly have been looking for ways to increase attendance. We decided that the last Saturday in June, the date of the banquet for the last 27 years, was also a time many people were on vacation or were attending weddings.

Our second consideration was for Heritage Oaks owners and alumni Joe and Kelly Igro. We felt it wasn't fair to book a banquet for only 50 people on a prime summer weekend.

So don't waste time...contact some classmates and come enjoy some great food and long-time friendships! The deadline for reservations is April 15, an easy date to remember!

## **Distinguished Alumni nominations due Jan. 31**

Nominations for 2018 Distinguished Alumni awards are due by Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Any alum, family member, or friend may nominate someone for this award. Just send a letter of nomination and any supportive information to Beth Fahnert Seavy, chairperson,

Distinguished Alumni Committee, Sebring McKinley High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 141, Sebring Ohio 44672.

If you have questions about the nominating procedure, please feel free to contact Beth or any association officer listed on the next page.

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*Remember that the newsletter will be mailed first-class only to those alumni who request it. If you know someone who wants it mailed, please have him or her write to the association at P.O. Box 141, Sebring 44672 to request a mailed copy. The newsletter is also available at the high school and in these local businesses: **Ashton's, Leonard Hardware, and Gromoll Drug.***

**Alumni also have other options to view the newsletter:**

*\*Sebring McKinley Alumni Association Facebook page administered by Trista Evanitcka Bates '04 and Samantha Kerns Phillips '04.*

*\*SHS alumni page on the school web site [www.sebring.k12.oh.us](http://www.sebring.k12.oh.us)*

*\*Alumni may also have the newsletter emailed by sending a request to [sebringalum@gmail.com](mailto:sebringalum@gmail.com) Please contact us by mail, email, or text/cell phone (JoAnn Jones 330-428-1734) so that you can get your alumni newsletter.*

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## **Association officers elected**

Each year at the annual banquet a business meeting is held to discuss the association's accomplishments, to gather suggestions from alumni, and to elect officers. Officers elected at the June 24 meeting were as follows:

**President: JoAnn Warren Jones**

**Vice-president: Trista Evanitcka Bates**

**Treasurer: Evelyn Ferguson**

**Secretary: Jill Ferguson Puhl**

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**Alumni meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. January 10, February 13 (a Tuesday), March 14, April 11, and May 9. Please join us in the teachers' workroom at the high school!**

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## **2004 team, three individuals selected for 2017 Athletic Hall of Fame**

The Sebring Athletic Hall of Fame held its induction ceremony Dec. 22 in the high school gym between the j.v. and varsity games against Lowellville. A reception for the honorees and community was held in Brook Gym following the varsity game. The 2004 boys' basketball team, John Scarpitti '79, Leigh Henderson Grisez '92, and Jessica Lepsesty Bobbey '00 were inducted.

The 2004 boys' basketball team, nominated by Geoff Jurica, was the first team that had made it to Columbus in 31 years. According to Coach Brian Clark, the story of this team began with countless hours of practice and games when the players were in elementary school. The previous year's team, with seniors from '03,

had missed a trip to Columbus with a tip-in at the buzzer and a 43-42 loss to Elyria Open Door. That loss was motivation for the 2004 team who started the season with an 11-game winning streak. With only one loss during the season the Trojans piled up wins against Salem, Berlin Hiland, Western Reserve, Youngstown Rayen, and Struthers, among others. In tournament play, the Trojans defeated Lowellville, Canton Heritage, McDonald, Windham, and Kidron to reach Columbus. The Trojans traded leads with the Marion Local Flyers and took a 38-33 lead into the fourth quarter. The Flyers, however, pulled out a 52-45 victory over one of the most successful teams in Trojan basketball history. Only Marion Local

scored more than 50 points against the Trojans that season. The team still holds the modern-day record for defensive average at 38.4 points per game. Members of the team were seniors Anthony Corbett and David Scarpitti; juniors Joe Amabeli, Matt Ferguson, Joe George, Joey James, and Dan Scarpitti; sophomores Phil Dickens, Tyler Graham, Jon Springer, and Jeremy Thomas; and freshmen Zachary Dalton, Jesse James, and Michael Weekly. Managers were Cody Dickens, George Clark, and Matt Meiter. Coaches included Dan Dickens, Ron Clark, and head coach Brian Clark.

John Scarpitti '79 was nominated by lifelong friend Charlie Springer. John lettered in basketball in 1978 and 1979 and earned a varsity letter in golf his senior year. During his varsity years, his teams, coached by Rick Brook, went 21-2 in 1978 and 22-2 in 1979. Both years the teams made it to the regionals. John made second team for the Tri-County League and honorable mention for the All-Area team. John went on to letter four years at Mount Union College, where was a tri-captain his senior year. During that year, he was also named best defensive player and received honorable mention for the Ohio Athletic Conference. Although Mount Union stopped keeping records on assists in 1987, John is listed in the top ten in careers assists with 360 and in the top ten for season assists with 135 for the 1981-82 season. John received his bachelor's degree from Mount Union and his master's degree from Miami of Ohio. He has been an investment advisor for 31 years and is currently an advisor and the managing director for Hunter Associates of Salem. He joins brother Dave, niece Nikki, and nephews David and Dan in the Hall of Fame. He is married to Kathy and has two children, Nick and Carly.

Leigh Henderson Grisez '92, nominated by her mother Susan Henderson, was a four-year letter winner in volleyball and made first team Division IV, District I as a junior. As a senior, she was named the Division IV, District I Player of the Year. She was also named to second team All-Tri-County and third team All-Ohio her senior year. Leigh also lettered in basketball

her senior year. Leigh went on to letter for four years at Bethany College, where she was named Freshman Player of the Year for the Presidents Athletic Conference. During her career at Bethany, she received honorable mention and first team honors for the PAC. After receiving her bachelor's degree in social work from Bethany, she returned to the Sebring High to coach an undefeated freshman volleyball team and later to coach the varsity team for two years. She has also coached her daughters at Alliance and currently coaches JO volleyball for Elite Sports where her three daughters play. All three—Riley, 17; Regan, 16; and Reese, 13 play interscholastic volleyball for Alliance. A resident of Alliance, Leigh was employed for 18 years at her family's business, Henderson Electric in Sebring, until her father's retirement in December. She now works as an administrative assistant for First Choice Electrical Solutions.

Jessica Lepsesty Bobbey '00, nominated by her grandfather Richard Lee, was a member of Sebring's most successful girls' basketball team that reached the regional finals in 1998. A four-year letter winner, Jessica received honorable mention All-Northeast Ohio during her sophomore season. As a junior and a senior, she was named to second team for the Tri-County League as well as to the All-Area team for The Review. Jessica also received honors from the Salem News and the Morning Journal. As a senior she was named to the All-Ohio honorable mention team for Division IV and was named to the second team for the Northern Inland District. Jessica scored 790 points during her four years at SHS and made 107 three-pointers. A recipient of the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award and the NBA-WNBA Sportsmanship Award, she also played in the Tri-County League Senior All-Star game and was named the Most Athletic Senior. Jessica continued her academic career at The Ohio State University, where she received her bachelor's degree in radiologic technology. A resident of Columbus, Bobbey was formerly employed at The Ohio State Medical Center as a radiologic technologist for eight years. Married to Adam, she is now a stay-at-home mom for Louis and Lillian.

## Reunion News

The **class of '67** held its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion Sept. 16 at the Sebring Mansion Inn and Spa. Fifty-eight people, 33 of whom were from the class, attended. Guests traveled from Michigan, Illinois, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Nevada as well as all over Ohio. Before dinner, class president Terry Speck read the names of 22 deceased classmates. Kathleen Kapalko, widow of recently deceased classmate Dennis Kapalko, presented the class with a check in his memory. Kathy Vavrock Sherwood won the 50/50 drawing and donated a portion of it to the class. After dinner, Lynne Biery, the owner of the inn, showed a PowerPoint slideshow about the history of the mansion and its restoration. A mixer was held on Friday evening with 46 people, some from the class of '68 attending. The reunion committee consisted of Keith Kilkenny, Sally Scarbino Ford, Cathy Jordan, Randy Brown, Judy Bohecker Snyder, Terry Speck and Kathy Vavrock Sherwood.

The **class of '72** held its 45<sup>th</sup> reunion at Chives Grille Dec. 9. Twenty-three classmates and guests enjoyed dinner and socializing. The class also helped plan the '70's reunion mixer, which was held Sept. 1 at the Sebring American Legion. **Classes from 1970 to 1979** enjoyed an evening of meeting old friends and lots of fun. Estimates of the number of people in attendance were 150 to 180. Many people had an excellent time and suggested the classes do it again...soon.

The **class of '82** held its 35<sup>th</sup> reunion at Chives Grille in Alliance on Sept. 23. Forty people, including 25 classmates, enjoyed an evening of good food and fun.

On Sept. 9 the **class of '07** also held its reunion at Chives Grille. The 20 attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

**Thank you so much for your generous donations from May to December of 2017. We appreciate your support.**

Will Aebi '44 IMO Barbra Greene Aebi '45

Irene Safkow Sams '44

Cliff and Mary Virden '54 IMO Merritt A. Hindall '62

Cliff and Mary Virden '54 (second donation)

Ron Neafie '51

Leonard Mullett '46

Dorothy Allcorn and family IMO of Earl Allcorn

### Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Update:

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**BRUNCH RESERVATION FORM**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018  
HERITAGE OAKS BANQUET CENTER  
DOORS OPEN 10 A.M. BRUNCH AT 11 A.M.

NAME(S) AND YEAR(S) OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ENCLOSE \$18 PER PERSON                      AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: SUNDAY APRIL 15, 2018**

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO SHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION; MAIL TO P.O. BOX 141, SEBRING OH 44672**

S.H.S. Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 141  
Sebring OH 44672-0141

**Newsletter committee:** JoAnn Jones, Editor

**Mailing & Distribution:**

Trista Evanitcka Bates                      Ken Roberts  
Evelyn Ferguson                              Samantha Kerns Phillips  
Fred Schriener, SHS Technology Director