

The Alumni Link

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

January, 2020

Annual alumni brunch to be held April 25

The 2020 alumni brunch will be held at Heritage Oaks Banquet Center in Sebring on Saturday, April 25. The doors will open for socializing at 10 a.m., and brunch will begin at 11. The cost of the brunch is \$18 per person. Alumni and guests can mail checks with the reservation form in this newsletter to SHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 141, Sebring, Ohio 44672.

The newsletter can also be downloaded from the Sebring Local Schools' web site www.sebring.k12.oh.us.

The meal will be followed by a brief business meeting, Distinguished Alumni awards, and then another hour for socializing.

All alumni and community members are welcome to attend.

Contact some classmates, come enjoy some great food, and celebrate some long-time friendships! The deadline for reservations is April 15.

Distinguished Alumni deadline is Jan. 31

The Distinguished Alumni committee will soon choose Distinguished Alumni honorees to be honored at the April 25 brunch.

If there is someone you feel is deserving of the honor, please send a letter of nomination by Jan. 31 to the association at P.O. Box 141, Sebring, OH 44672-0141. The letter should include reasons for the nomination so that the committee can consider it, but it does not have to include details that can be given later if the nominee is chosen.

We know there are many alumni deserving of this honor, but we cannot recognize them without a nomination. Please consider nominating a friend or relative who has made an impact on his or her career or community.

Donations needed in order to continue awarding two scholarships

Following the 2019 banquet, association officers took a close look at finances. The officers found that our annual expenses are greater than the donations that have been coming from alumni.

Each year we give two senior \$1000 scholarships, four Outstanding Eighth Grader \$25 awards, and four Outstanding Sixth Grader \$25 awards (that will now be fifth grade awards since the sixth graders have moved to the middle school/junior high). In addition, we have expenses for the banquet and mailing of the newsletter. We may have to consider giving only one scholarship.

We have money invested that we don't want to use unless we have to. We will be watching the finances closely. If you haven't donated in a while (or never have), we would appreciate your considering a donation.

Donations through December, 2019

John '50 and Jean '51 Chambers
Mary Lou Gindlesberger '47
Tracy Ferguson '78
Tim Snyder '80
Class of '58 (remaining funds)
Mary Borton Virden '54 and Cliff Virden
Marilyn Gartrell Fouss '49
JoAnn Warren Jones '72 IMO Margaret Eaton '57

Class of '69
Class of '44 IMO Irene Safkow Sams '44
Jennifer Muerth Ripley '70
Joyce Warren Covert '81
Jan Muerth Weingart '61
Sue Runyon Risbeck Sanor '73
Class of '44 (remaining funds)

Students receive alumni awards

The following students received monetary awards from the association in May. Since the sixth grade has moved to the high school, only fifth grade and eighth grade awards will be given in May, 2020.

\$1000 scholarships: Gabrielle Hill, Brenna Soules

Outstanding Fifth Graders: Lillian Dorian, Raelyn Walker, Alayna Braham, Kristal Giron-Perez

Outstanding Fifth Grade Artist: Katelyn Garces

Outstanding Sixth Graders: Carter Shepherd, Abigail Stuller, Walker Poorbaugh, Dustin Harvey

Outstanding Sixth Grade Artist: Abel Laney

Outstanding Eighth Graders: Sadie Barker, Hunter Coss, Lauren Haas, Brady Whaley

FAQs about your alumni association

Q: Do we pay dues?

A: No. We are supported totally by donations. Some people donate every year; some donate in memory of a loved one; some donate to support the scholarship fund. We welcome donations at any time. As you can see in a related article, we are in need of donors as our annual expenditures are more than our donations.

Q: When and where are the meetings?

A: Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday in February, March (third Wednesday in 2020), April, May, August, September, October, and November in the library at the high school. The annual business meeting is at the banquet in April, and officers are elected then.

Q: Who are the current officers?

A: JoAnn Warren Jones '72, president; Trista Evanitcka Bates '04, vice-president; Evelyn Ferguson, '72, treasurer; Jill Ferguson Puhl '80, secretary. Samantha Kerns Phillips' 04, along with Trista, takes care of the publicity and social media. Ken Roberts '46 picks up the mail at the post office.

Q: When and where is the annual banquet?

A: The banquet/brunch is on the last Saturday in April at Heritage Oaks Banquet Center in Sebring.

Q: How do I get a newsletter?

A: We no longer do a mass mailing of the newsletter. Our mailing costs were too high, and many alumni moved without notifying us so those newsletters were just trashed by the post office. Alumni can access the newsletter in various ways:

1) Through providing an email address; 2) Asking that the newsletter be mailed first class; 3) Accessing the school district's web site www.sebring.k12.oh.us 4) By picking one up at Leonard Hardware, Gromoll Drug, Ashton's, or the high school.

Alumni News

John Bacon '02 made his Major League Baseball umpire debut on May 2 at Citi Field in New York at a game between the Mets and the Cincinnati Reds. At the SHS Alumni Speaker series in November, he emphasized to the student body that he was a substitute last summer and will return to the minor leagues next season, but he never knows when he will be called up again. He has been a professional umpire for the last 13 years.

Erin Eaton '01 was named the head women's basketball coach at Muskingum University. Erin was formerly a head coach at Pitt-Greensburg and Bethany (W. Va.) College.

Cory Schneider '02, director of instruction at The Pointe Club in Powells Pointe NC, qualified as one of 20 club pros for the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black in New York last May. An Athletic Hall of Fame member at SHS, Cory shot an opening round 74, only two strokes behind Tiger Woods.

Athletic Hall of Fame inducts three, two posthumously

The Sebring Athletic Hall of Fame inducted three new members on Dec. 20 before the varsity basketball game with Jackson-Milton. Matt Ferguson '05, Bill Youmans '82, and Jerry Billingsley '62 were selected by the HOF committee in November.

Matt, a member of the 2004 Final Four team for boys' basketball, was inducted for basketball, golf, and baseball. He lettered in baseball his sophomore year, golf his junior and senior years, and basketball his last three years of high school. (continued next page)

In basketball he was named to the second teams for the Tri-County League and for All Mahoning County his junior and senior years. Matt received honorable mention All Northeast Ohio in 2004 and second team in 2005. As a senior he was named to the Special Mention team for All-Ohio.

Matt played on three TCL title and three district title teams as well as on teams that won regional and regional runner-up titles. His career totals include 438 rebounds and 632 points. The 2004 team reached the state tournament, and the 2005 team went undefeated in the league.

Matt's father Steve '76 presented his plaque.

Bill, who played basketball, golf, and football for Sebring, was inducted posthumously. Bill received seven varsity letters during his last three years of high school. He golfed during his sophomore and junior years while he also played football and was named Best Defensive Player his senior year.

Bill played basketball for all three years, being named the Most Improved Player as a sophomore. As a junior he was named Sebring's Best Offensive Player, averaging 18 points per game, as well as being named to the All-Area honorable mention team. As a senior, Bill was named to the Tri-County League first team and All Northeastern Ohio Inland District team. He was the All-Area second leading scorer with 21 points per game and was a Class "A" honorable mention selection. He received an athletic scholarship to attend college.

Bill passed away in 2016. Bill's good friend Dan Jackson '83 presented his plaque to his son Kyle '17.

Jerry was inducted posthumously as a contributor. As a high school student, he was named the Outstanding Athlete in Varsity "S" and was voted Most Valuable Player in basketball. The high point man in his first year of track, he also received the American Legion Athletic Award.

The committee inducted him for his contributions in his post high school years. Following a brief period at Mount Union College, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, leaving with an honorable discharge in 1968. Jerry

continued to support his alma mater as secretary-treasurer of the Athletic Booster Club and a member of the Band Boosters. In addition, he announced football games for both the Trojans and the semi-pro team The Titans, which had several Sebring players on its roster. Jerry also helped Ken Penrose coach the baseball team for two years and was a member of the Sebring Parks and Recreation Board for six years. He was easily recognized as one of the Trojans' biggest fans for many years. Jerry passed away in 1989.

Jerry's son Kyle presented his plaque while his daughter Kelly and son Kevin accepted on behalf of the family. All three are Sebring graduates.

Donation Form

Name _____ Year of graduation _____

Address _____

Amount _____

Comments/Update:

BRUNCH RESERVATION FORM

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

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: MONDAY APRIL 15, 2020

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

