

The Alumni Link

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

June 2021

Annual alumni brunch to be held October 16

With Heritage Oaks, our usual banquet site, having been sold, the 2021 alumni brunch will be held at the American Legion in Sebring on Saturday, October 16. The doors will open for socializing at 10 a.m., and brunch will begin at 11. The cost of the brunch is \$20 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 scrumptious meal will be followed by a brief business meeting, Distinguished Alumni awards, and then another hour for socializing. Please join us in honoring our Distinguished Alumni Dick Harp '67 and Bryan Snyder '86. (See related article.)

All alumni and community members are welcome to attend.

Contact some classmates, come enjoy a lot of great food, and celebrate some long-time friendships! The deadline for reservations is October 6.

Richard "Dick" Harp '67, Bryan Snyder '86 to be honored as Distinguished Alumni

A security professional turned teacher/professor and a retired Army pilot have been selected as Distinguished Alumni for 2020/2021. These two men have shown great patience since they were selected in early 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic has postponed the annual banquet for a year and a half.

Nominated by good friend Mike Pinkerton, Dick Harp received his bachelor degree in criminal justice from Ohio Dominican College, a master of science in human resource management from Franklin University, and a master of arts in business and organizational security from Webster University. In addition, he studied at North Central University in the doctoral program for criminal justice. He attended Ohio State University in the Police Executive Leadership College and the Ohio Highway Patrol Academy. Dick has also received Ohio Peace Officers Certification.

Dick has worked as a special deputy and/or police officer for Kent State University, Perry County, Fairfield County, and Franklin County. From 1972-1992 he was the Deputy Chief of Police for The Ohio State University. He has also been Vice-President/Director of Security for Huntington Banks in Columbus. In addition to being a substitute teacher in Johnstown and Reynoldsburg school districts, he has been a professor at Columbus State Community College and Hocking College in Nelsonville. In addition, he runs Harp and Associates Investigative Service in Pickerington near Columbus where he provides licensed private investigation services. Early in his career he worked for the FBI in Washington where he was a file reviewer and fingerprint technician.

Dick has received numerous awards, including The Ohio State University Police Office of the Year, while also being an active community volunteer. He is married and has two children.

Bryan Snyder pursued his dream of being an airline pilot by enrolling in Kent State University's Aerospace Flight Training Program. While attending Kent State, he enlisted in the Army Reserves and then graduated in 1994 with a bachelor degree. He was accepted into the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program and attended Warrant Office Candidate School in 1997. In 1998 he graduated from Flight School as a UH-60 pilot, later becoming a UH-60 instructor. His military education also includes courses in Maintenance Manager; Maintenance Test Pilot; Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape; Warrant Office Advanced; Warrant Officer Staff; and Unmanned Vehicle Leadership.

In 28 years of military service, Bryan's assignments included the 339 Medical Hospital in Pittsburgh; 5502nd Army Hospital in Aurora, Colorado; A Company and B Company, 2-501st Aviation in Hanau, Germany; 571st MEDEVAC Company in Fort Carson, Colorado; A Company and D Company, 2-160th SOAR in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; and the Aviation Maintenance Sustainment Office, Army Special Operation Aviation Command, also in Fort Campbell. Bryan's combat and operational tours include Operation Endeavor in 1996, Kosovo in 2000, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn from 2003-2018, and Operation Enduring Freedom from 2007-2013.

Bryan, too, is the recipient of many awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, and the Meritorious Service Medal. He currently lives in Cedar Hill, Tennessee, with his wife Dawn (Knipp) and their two children.

Complete biographies of these outstanding men will appear in the banquet program.

Alumni answer call for track team donations

For the first time in several decades, SHS sent a member of the track team to state competition. Senior Anthony Calderone placed second in the long jump in regionals and went on to finish 10th in the state. Sebring's coach of four years, Kyle Billingsley '91 asked if the alumni could help out with the final team dinner before Anthony left for competition in the Columbus suburb of Westerville.

Alumni answered not only by providing the dinner (thanks, Aaron Burd '08), but by contributing an extra \$900 so that team members could be transported and go to the competition free of cost. In addition, Kyle was able to buy commemorative t-shirts for team members.

Donations needed in order to continue awarding two annual scholarships

Your association officers having been keeping a close eye on finances so that we don't have to cash in any part of the certificates of deposits that we hold. In 2019 the officers found that our annual expenses are greater than the donations that have been coming from alumni.

This year we gave two senior \$1000 scholarships. We were fortunate to have one completely covered by a very generous anonymous donation. We also gave two Outstanding Eighth Grader \$25 awards, two Outstanding Fifth Grader \$25 awards, and a \$25 award for Outstanding Fifth Grade Artist in memory of Don Schreckengost. In addition, we have expenses for the banquet. The cost of mailing the newsletter is minimal since many read it online, have it emailed to them, or pick it up at one of the businesses downtown. Unless our donations increase, we may have to consider giving only one scholarship.

We want to continue giving two scholarships without using money from our CDs. If you haven't donated in a while (or never have), we would appreciate you considering a donation.

Donations through June, 2021

William "Bill" Baker '54 (3 times)
Mary Borton Virden '54 and Cliff Virden

Dr. Tommie Radd '68
Jennifer Muerth Ripley '70

Evelyn Ferguson '72

JoAnn Warren Jones '72

Richard Householder '78

Trista Evanitcka Bates '04 IMO Nelson "Uncle Red" Garnes '62

Mary Williams Garnes '63 IMO Nelson Garnes '62

Anonymous donation from the class of '71 in memory of Joe Rockwell '67 (husband of Sherril Lepsesty Rockwell '71 and Doris Miller (mother of Kathy Miller Schroeder '71) to the scholarship fund

Poorbaugh Family IMO Jerry Poorbaugh '59

Rhonda Schell IMO Leonard "Len" Mullett '46

Dulin, Ward, & Dewald, Inc. IMO Leonard "Len" Mullett '46

Dr. Tyler Jones '08

Tracy Ferguson '78

Students receive alumni awards

The following students have received monetary awards from the association:

\$1000 scholarships 2021: Skye Sommerville and Thomas Warrick III

\$1000 scholarships 2020: Jacob Hunter and Kendra Shields

Outstanding Fifth Graders 2021: Hunter Matea and Brittney Nagy

Outstanding Fifth Grade Artist 2021: Taylor Johnson

Outstanding Eighth Graders 2021: Kiera Weekly and Dustin Harvey

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, April, May, August, September, October, and November at the high school. The annual business meeting is at the banquet in April, and officers are elected then. This year, the elections will be in October. There were no meetings from March, 2020 through May, 2021.

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 Bates, takes care of the publicity and social media.

Q: When and where is the annual banquet?

A: The banquet/brunch is usually on the last Saturday in April. Because it had to be postponed, it will be in October this year at the Sebring American Legion. Plans are for the 2022 brunch to be held in April.

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 discarded by the post office. Alumni can access the newsletter in various ways:

- 1) 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) Picking one up at Leonard Hardware, Gromoll Drug, Ashton's, or the high school during the school year.

Alumni News and Reunions

John Safkow '74 recently moved back to Ohio after living in California. He organized a "Sebring Steps and Stroll" at the Sebring Post Office on May 22 that was attended by people in the classes from 1972 to 1980 that used to hang out on the post office steps. Even John's mom Sue Schwartzhoff Safkow attended. The 18 attendees enjoyed donuts from Sweet Buns as well as homemade treats. The group also took a stroll around downtown Sebring and visited the various stores and establishments.

The Mighty, Mighty Trojans of 1970 announce their 50+1 reunion to be held September 18, 2021 at Ezio's in Salem from 6 to 10 p.m. If you were a member of this class any time between kindergarten and senior year, you are invited to come and celebrate the Purple & Gold. The class committee strove to find everyone and mailed Invitations. But if they missed you, please email jenniferannripley@gmail.com or call/text Jennifer at 330-524-5584, and you'll get the information pronto!

The class of 1971 will hold its 50th year reunion on July 24 at the Sebring Mansion and Spa beginning at 5:30, with the class photo being taken at 6 p.m. Letters have been sent to all classmates.

The class of 1972 will begin planning for its 50th reunion soon. If you would like to be on the committee, contact JoAnn Jones at 330-428-1734 by phone or text.

Donation Form

Name _____ Year of graduation _____

Address _____

Amount _____ Comments/Update:

BRUNCH RESERVATION FORM

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021
SEBRING AMERICAN LEGION
395 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
DOORS OPEN 10 A.M. BRUNCH AT 11 A.M.**

NAME(S) AND YEAR(S) OF GRADUATION _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE \$20 PER PERSON AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

RESERVATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021

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

PLEASE INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER IF YOU WOULD LIKE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR

RESERVATION _____