



## 2015 ALUMNI REPORT

### 136<sup>th</sup> ALUMNI DINNER JUNE 6, 2015

On June 6, 2015, 160 Alumni and guests met for the 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Dinner Meeting.

The meeting began with a Social Hour in the gymnasium of Tallmadge Middle School at 5:00 PM with live music by the band, Coach. At 6:00 PM, the dinner, catered by Yummy's Bakery & Catering, was served. The menu included Mixed Greens Salad, Honey Glazed Ham and Pineapple, Teriyaki Chicken with Seasoned Rice, Pasta with Sweet Italian Sausage, Tomatoes, Onions and Green Peppers, Roasted Vegetable Medley with Balsamic Glaze, Dinner Rolls with Butter, and Assorted Dessert Bar. The decorations were the traditional Blue and Gold.



A welcome was given by President Mary Rzewnicki Cushing (1974) which included the introduction of Superintendent Jeff Ferguson, the 2015 officers (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Bill Hilbish (1974); 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Patty McNeal Hartshorn (1983); Secretary, Gayle Bross McMillan (1974); Treasurer, Mary Black Overholt (1963)). The invocation was given by Bill Hilbish. After dinner, the Annual Meeting was called to order by Mary Cushing and the 2014 minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report for the calendar year previous was given by Treasurer, Mary Black Overholt (1963):

#### TREASURER'S REPORT – DECEMBER 31, 2014

<b>Balance carried forward from 12/31/2013</b>		<b>\$5527.17</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
	Dinners	1483.50
	Dues	1485.00
	Scholarships	972.50
	Total Income	<b>\$3941.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
	Post Office Box	224.00
	Scholarships – 3 @ \$750	2250.00
	Arrangements Committee	174.12
	Caterer	1613.25
	Apples	65.00
	Postage	105.00
	Entertainment	250.00
	Circle Fest vendor fee	100.00
	Two dinner refunds	23.00
	Total Expenses	<b>\$4804.37</b>
<b>Balance on hand as of 12.31.2014</b>		<b>\$4663.80</b>

There being no additions or corrections, the Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted. Mary Cushing then noted that we had received special donations in this calendar year in honor or in memory of alumni. They will be reported in the treasury report for calendar year 2015, but as a matter of information, Mary Overholt noted them:

**Memorial Donations Received in 2015 in Memory of:**

Alumni	Class	Total Received
JoAnn Stem Wood	1948	\$205.00
John Scalia	1960	\$500.00
Vern Saylor	1964	\$200.00
Barbara Jean Jones Cockerell	1942	\$100.00



Mary Cushing then welcomed Superintendent Jeff Ferguson. The Superintendent welcomed the Alumni and updated them on the happenings in the Tallmadge City Schools during the past year.

Recognition of 50-Year Class:

Mary Cushing then introduced the representative of the 50-year class, Denny Jenkins:



Our next order of business is recognition of our 50-year class, the Class of 1965. Presenting for that class is Denny Jenkins. Denny tells me that his class, many of whom were born in 1947, was the front wave of the baby boomer generation. Denny attended Tallmadge schools all 12 years – at Overdale for 1st-4th grade, the old building on North Avenue for 5th-6th grade, at Central Junior High for 7th-8th grade, and then to this building when it opened. Here at the then-new high school, his class came as 9th graders and so was the youngest class in the building. The next year, 9th graders remained at the junior high, so Denny's class, now sophomores, was again the youngest class in this school.

Denny played sports in high school, basketball and baseball. He attended The Ohio State University and came home to work in the family insurance agency. He lives in Tallmadge and his children both graduated from Tallmadge High.

I now call on Denny Jenkins to speak to us for the Class of 1965.

Class of 1965 Report:

50 years! Doesn't seem possible. They went by in a blink. Certainly 50 years gives me Geezer status. I have been the chairman of our reunion committee for seven reunions now spanning over 30 years. Because I am the primary contact I often hear the good, the bad, the tragic, as well as the hopes and dreams of my classmates. Often my classmates send me jokes which I use during my presentation at the reunions. You will be my guinea pigs for some jokes recently received. *[Told some jokes.]*

Following up on my introduction there are a couple of things which are unique to my class which I will share.

- 1) We were the last 4-year high school class until recently
- 2) Senior Flick Day We were the first!!
- 3) We were the 1st class with more than 200 students.

We all have memories from high school. They seem to get better as the years go by.....here are some of mine

- 1) Drinking fountains with chewing gum all over
- 2) Hallways lined with lockers with alarm clocks going off at random
- 3) Sporting events ...most of these are good but there is one I wish I could forget but I can't

shake....the first high school football game I went to we lost 66-6 to North High (my parents graduated from North and I had many cousins there as well) 4) Nicotine Lane...I didn't smoke so I never really knew where it was but it was some mythical place where the "cool" students and troublemakers hung out. 5) Girls who could make my day simply by saying "Hi" in the hallway.

It is easy to romance those days as they were over 50 years ago. If I don't think about it too much that is exactly what I do. My class is part of the leading edge of the baby boom and we grew up during the 50's when an apple was something you ate; Rock & Roll was born; and the technological marvel was a Entertainment Console which included a huge 10" black and white TV, a turntable, and maybe even an AM radio.

Our high school years began in September 1960 at what was then a brand new high school \*\* The major national events of our high school years was the election of John Kennedy in Nov '60 (at the time it was considered a major sign of tolerance that we could elect a Catholic....can you imagine ?) and the British Invasion led by the Beatles on Ed Sullivan on Feb 9th 1964. The first blow to our "age of innocence" was the assassination of President Kennedy on Nov 22nd 1963. I would imagine that almost everyone in our class can remember the intercom coming on during the middle of the school day with no announcement playing the broadcast of the President's condition. We also remember watching the Beatles in black & white on Ed Sullivan ... only 10 weeks apart.

Change was coming!! Some of it good...much of it bad. Sputnik, The Race to the Moon, The Cuban Missile Crisis and Nuclear Bomb Drills in school, Assassinations of Martin Luther King & Robert Kennedy, Vietnam, the Draft, Marijuana, LSD, Marches on Washington for almost everything, Woodstock, and I can't leave out the Sexual Revolution. The best thing that can be said for the Sexual Revolution is that it was one war that no one went to Canada to avoid. My generation decided to reject just about everything and to trust almost no one. We actually said you can't trust anyone over 30. We also didn't trust anyone younger than us.....Not Much was left. We didn't think that through!!

Ideas have consequences and bad ideas have bad consequences. Unintended consequences....collateral damage if you will. The Sexual Revolution has put pressure on the family, 40% of all babies are born to unmarried parents, a divorce rate of approx. 50% and an egocentric view of what the pursuit of happiness means. It certainly doesn't mean the total irresponsible disregard to the wreckage we cause to the lives of those around us in that pursuit. The sexual revolution did not turn out well....but I am not sure what to do about it. How do you put that genie back into the bottle? Our parents' generation is often called the Greatest Generation. It is well deserved. They made the World a better place. It is not clear that my generation can make that same claim. Allow me for my final few minutes to change the topic.

Spoiler alert: When a Geezer says he wants to change the topic that means either he wants to talk about their operations or a concern which they have. Today there is another bad idea which is gaining traction and is becoming dominant in the media and our institutions of higher learning. This idea will not end well either. This idea is the concept of political correctness and its cousins in thought. A democracy works because you have an in depth debate about real issues and problems addressing all the points and counterpoints without fear of imprisonment, economic ruin or worse. We all have opinions and the freedom of speech is perhaps the most important of our legitimate rights given in our constitution. However, PC is used today to stifle debate...to denounce people who disagree with the "correct view". It is a culture of victimization where whomever can position themselves as the greater victim wins. We can do better.

Other facets of the PC movement include 1) the teaching that there is no right or wrong and these beliefs are simply culturally determined...All beliefs have at least a seed of truth to them and this does at well...certainly expected behavior is culturally determined but there is a right and wrong and it stands independent of cultural beliefs. 2) In a misguided attempt to correct our history books we now dwell primarily on our mistakes without balancing it with the enormous good we have done which outweighs the bad by at least a factor of 10.

To start with, all beliefs systems are not equal and should not be treated as such. At some point good intentions are not enough and results must determine the desired course. We live in a great country..... a statement not said nearly enough anymore. We are not the source of the Worlds' problems...in fact we are

the best hope to solve them. We will never be loved because of envy but we can be respected and admired and that is sufficient. We must remain strong both militarily and morally for many reasons but 2 of them are 1) We live in a dangerous world and there are many who wish us harm 2) The best leaders lead by example.

While our education system cannot accomplish this alone it can and it must play a vital role. We cannot pretend that moral relativity -- where each individual decides what is right or wrong-- is not moral anarchy. Education actually has many natural allies in this fight including 1) Involved parents 2) Churches 3) Government. Of course today there are obvious obstacles to this alliance but it is in the best interest of all to graduate intelligent individuals with high moral characteristics who have the necessary skills to compete in the world marketplace. This alliance worked for more than 150 years and it can work again.

The first 15 years of this new century have not been kind to our country. Most Americans feel we are heading in the wrong direction. It is to this need that I have addressed my comments. Time constraints prevent a more in depth presentation. Certainly my comments have not been the typical alumni dinner speech. It would be unusual for comments such as mine to gain traction at a venue such as this but it needs to start somewhere. I thank you for your time and this opportunity.

#### 50-Year Pin Presentation/Recognition of Golden Agers

Gayle McMillan then presented the 50-year pins to members of the Class of 1965 and recognized all Golden Agers in attendance including Margaret Orr Bumpass, Don Dean, Karl Starks, and Ileana Crites Williams, Class of 1944, oldest alumni in attendance. Golden Agers are the 50-year class and older.

#### Recognition of the 25-Year Class:

Mary Cushing acknowledged that the Class of 1990 is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year, but announced that as there were no representatives in attendance, there would not be a remembrance from that class.

#### Welcome of Graduating Class:

Bill Hilbish then introduced the 2015 Class representative:

It is my honor to officially welcome the Class of 2015 to the Tallmadge High School Alumni Association.

Representing the Class of 2015 is Joseph Siesel, 4-year class president. Joseph was a 4-year letterman in wrestling and a 2-year varsity captain in football with 3 letters. He is a 4-year distinguished scholar, senior mentor, and the treasurer for the National Honor Society. Joseph will be attending Kent State University majoring in chemistry. Please welcome the class of 2015, class President, Joseph Siesel.

#### Response by Class of 2015:

Thank you Mr. Hilbish, and as he said I am Joseph Siesel. I am the president of the class of 2015! I was fortunate to be elected my class president for all four years by my peers.

Our class has had another outstanding year as a whole; coming from athletics, academics, band, theater, list goes on. Just a few to list off though are:

- Football made yet another playoff appearance and had one of the best student sections at every game! Also it was the final year for the longtime head coach Vass.
- Bowling which used to be a club that is now a sport at THS, sent its first bowler to states (Jennie Kiss, 11th grade).
- Wrestling had big improvements throughout the year even when losing many wrestlers due to injuries at the beginning of the year. They had a suburban league champ this year at 106, he then bumped up

to 113 and placed 7th at states (Terrell grant). The last time Tallmadge had a state placer was back in 2009.

- The baseball team were district champs.
- We had 3 national merit scholars this year (Nick Grosenbocher valedictorian, Nick Penix, Jesse Derhemer).
- Band had more excellent and superior ratings this year, as they always do.
- Also the theater put on an amazing play for the community. *Fiddler on the Roof* was the name of the play and personally I loved how well it turned out. Lead rolls (Joey Marfy, Courtney Donavan).

This was also the first year under the new principal Mr. Householder and assistant principal Mr. Bluey. Both did a phenomenal job and will be missed by our class. There will also be some teachers leaving THS that have made such an impact on many students. Whether people are coming or going, there will always be that Blue Devil pride that lives inside one after going through Tallmadge High School. In many club activities and groups, we were always reminded and it kind of became our little class motto, that we are all One Big Blue Devil. So from the oldest alumni, to our class, there isn't any better High School to attend than Tallmadge. The class of 2015 has bright futures in front of them, but we are lucky to be Tallmadge Alumni! Thank for your time and it has been an honor for the Class of 2015 to carry on the rich tradition Tallmadge graduates experience every year.

Mary Cushing then announced that with the inclusion of the 202 members of the Class of 2015, the total number of Alumni who had graduated from Tallmadge High School was 14,610. Mary presented the Class of 2015 table placard and asked Joseph to bring classmates from the Class of 2015 to future Alumni dinners.

#### Memorial:

Mary Cushing then presented the memorial, reading classes and names. This information was included in the program along with class, date of death and age at death which is included here. Also included are names presented to us at the dinner.

### *MEMORIAL*

*We often think of days gone by, when we were all together.  
We call their names a final time, our classmates gone forever.*

**Since the Alumni Banquet in 2014, we have learned about the loss of these Alumni:**

1942	Barbara Jean Jones Cockrell	90	November	27	2014
1943	Marilyn Jones Osborne	89	April	12	2015
1943	Marjorie Lawrence Henninge	89	October	16	2014
1945	Donald Williams	86	October	18	2014
1946	Richard Grill	89	April	15	2015
1947	Norm (Pat) Pruhliere	85	November	29	2014
1947	Ronald Walsh	86	October	20	2014
1947	Melvin Woerz	84	July	17	2014
1948	Mary Richards Brinkerhoff-Vasbinder	84	April	3	2015
1948	JoAnn Stem Wood	84	December	13	2014
1949	Gerald W. Smith	83	May	25	2015
1951	Herbert Norris	81	July	22	2014
1951	Nancy Borden Deneen	81	June	19	2014
1952	Robert Fenning		January	11	2015
1953	Dorothy Dittmer	79	December	18	2014
1954	David Fair	78	February	18	2015
1956	Barbara Claflin Barrett	76	May	22	2015
1957	Bonnie Fordham Rutledge	76	April	17	2015
1959	Allan Baker	75	February	12	2014

1960	John Scalia	72	February	16	2015
1961	William Cord	71	July	9	2014
1962	John Cirullo Jr	71	April	16	2015
1963	Kenneth Sackett	69	September	13	2014
1964	Vern Saylor	68	April	25	2015
1965	John Baer	68	July	19	2014
1965	Russell W. Ilg	70	June	28	2014
1965	Harry (Tom) Holmes	68	March	4	2015
1965	Edna Riddle White	66	July	26	2014
1965	Linda Shackelford Rush	67	January	7	2015
1966	Robert Denholm	66	May	1	2015
1967	Belinda Eckenrode	65	July	13	2014
1967	Debbie Wilcox Alper	65	July	13	2014
1968	Jerry Caplinger	67	March	1	2015
1969	Gregory Kyriakedes	63	April	8	2015
1970	Anthony Commisso	62	January	8	2015
1971	Phyllis Teck Beresh	62	March	17	2015
1972	Kevin Walsh	61	March	23	2015
1973	Larry Lay	59	June	13	2014
1974	John Cardoni	54	December	2	2011
1974	Lloyd Copen	55	August	3	2010
1974	John Cornwell	58	October	14	2015
1974	Jo Ann Hudec	58	March	2	2014
1974	Howard Mallore	59	March	4	2015
1974	Michael Moyer	50	April	19	2007
1974	Brian Powell	58	August	19	2014
1974	Ronald Simone	47	November	30	2003
1974	George (Joey) Sutherland	48	March	25	2005
1974	Julie Carney Brean	51	February	4	2007
1976	Charleen Brashier	56	December	5	2014
1978	Terri Fortune Taylor	55	August	5	2014
1979	Gregg Younkin	55	December	6	2014
1980	Anthony Rodgers	52	September	29	2014
1982	Phillip Smith	51	August	15	2014
1983	Mary Ellen Maag Loudin	49	October	31	2014
1984	Jason Froehlich	49	January	7	2015
1987	David Wack	46	December	28	2014
1992	Matthew John Naska	40	July	12	2014
2006	Eric Hillyard	26	August	1	2014
Teacher	Frank Barber	78	November	21	2014
Teacher	Robert Sonnhalter	89	March	23	2015

#### Unfinished Business:

Mary Cushing stated that there needed to be a reconstitution of the Alumni Hall of Fame committee. The officers plan to work on that in the next year.

#### New Business:

Mary Cushing reported:

We received a letter from Michael Householder, the Principal of Tallmadge High School, announcing the three winners of the scholarships provided by the Alumni Association. Each winner was provided a \$750 scholarship.

The 2015 winners of the Tallmadge High School Alumni Association Heritage Scholarships are: Bayli Strub, Matt Noel and Jon Hussing. The winners are all children or grandchildren of Tallmadge High School Alumni.

I want to report on a new challenge that has arisen since the last annual meeting.

As you know, we did an updated Alumni Directory in 2012. In addition to the printed books, our alumni data was online for us to update and access to send emails or pull down lists for classes having reunions. Late last summer, I went online to pull down a list for a class only to be met with a message that the database was no longer accessible. I called Harris Publishing and was told that they had gone out of the online data business. For several months, we had no access to our own records. Eventually, they sent me a computer file that had all of our data in it.

With the data in hand, we could create lists for classes and could update the records (by hand ... no more online form update), but we had no way to use the database to send a mass emailing. Our solution was to start using an online email system called Constant Contact. Those whose email addresses were correct in our database received newsletters which we sent from Constant Contact this spring. The newsletters were colorful, had pictures from the last annual meeting and contained information about the association and the upcoming annual meeting. It also contained links right to our website. It was a big step up to make our communications more attractive to readers. Best of all, Constant Contact gives you reports that tell you if an email address is not valid. We learned that nearly 2000 of the more than 6000 emails addresses we had in our directory were not valid. We also had the ability to see how many people opened the email to read the newsletter, opened the dinner invitation or clicked on links to the website. We could see, for instance, that the link to the Reunions tab on the website was the most popular link in the newsletter.

The Constant Contact newsletter was shared onto the Alumni Association's Facebook page and, from there, onto more than 30 class pages on Facebook. This exercise certainly furthered our goal to make sure alumni know the organization exists. The downside of this issue is that we have to pay for Constant Contact where we did not have to pay to use the Harris Publishing system.

That's all I have to report, other than to mention that the Alumni Association again plans to have a tent at the Circle Fest on August 15th. Please stop by the tent and say hello.

Finally, one last item of New Business: Next year's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016. EDITOR'S NOTE: The annual meeting date had to be changed to June 11, 2016 due to a scheduling conflict at the Middle School.

A 50/50 raffle and door prize raffle was then held with prizes donated by local businesses. Mary Cushing thanked the sponsors for their donations of cash and gift certificates, Gayle Bross McMillan who donated the beautiful hanging basket and Believeland T-shirt as well as the flower arrangements on the tables, and all attending for their support of the Alumni Association.

After the singing of the Alma Mater, the 136th Annual Meeting of the Tallmadge High School Alumni Association was adjourned.





**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

\* = Donated to Scholarship Fund

1944	Margaret Orr Bumpas Don Dean Karl Starks * Ileana Crites Williams	1957	Judy Sylvester Avila Barbara Giles Murray Sandra Norton Taylor John Tuel * LaVerne Henderson Tuel	1965	Lois Goble Balogh Ron Condos Leann Fields Margaret Malcom Goodman * Dennis Jenkins Rita Claflin Meighen Lynne Alexander Penix Kathy Breiding Pifel Kenneth Smith Avis Sylvester Walkley *
1945	Betty Heiser Dean	1958	Janet Jacobs McCaulley		
1946	Bruce Detweiler * Bessie Fleming Fritz Alice Wade Gallo * James Kinney Donald Richards Theodora Scott Urban	1959	Rebecca Edwards Brand * Irene Baer Brandt * Nancy Scherer Hopkins * Rex Houze Gretchen Kalbaugh Kuhlke Pat Pifel Pander * Willard (Bill) Peters * Ronald Smith * Joyce Wilson Vercamen William D. Williamson	1966	Charlene Taylor Herstich Kenneth Herstich Linda Arnes Melia * Linda Leone Papoi Deanna Kirkhart Wilson *
1947	Shirley Sanford Booth			1967	Jim Caplinger
1948	Helen Reznik Butler Catherine Cate Detweiler * Alvin Sayre Beryl Vandersall *	1960	Terry Hale Jim Hill Ann McCoy Mickle Daisy Ilg Scalia Ralph Schley Brenda Cutlip Strebler Jim Strebler	1968	Jana Schrum Caplinger
1949	Carolyn Atwood Mackey			1971	Terry Bumpas Judy Wood Ripple *
1950	Norman George * Elizabeth Jacobs Griffith * Vernon Petty * Marian Parks Schopper * Norma Oxford Shaffer James Wharton Paul Zurschmit	1961	Kenny Anderson * Pam Mullett Coomes Brenda Croy Ebie * Mary Penny Smith Richmond * William Thrasher Tom Ward Howard Williams * Marcia Stewart Zuravel	1973	Dave Ilg
1951	Dolores Seckman Baldwin * Gloria Hughes Gooden * Fay Seevers Wharton			1974	Mary Rzewnicki Cushing * Bill Hilbish * Gayle Bross McMillan *
1952	James E. McGuire *	1962	Jim Bissett Michael Corathers * Joanne Houger Gray * Lee McCoy Hill	1975	Clifford Yeager
1953	Gale Stem			1978	Linda Rzewnicki Nasuta * Roger John Williams Susan Wood Yeager
1954	Eugene Ilg	1963	Robert Clark Bobbie Eddy * Richard Kline Jim Letvin Michael Mahaney Mary Black Overholt Bob Richmond * Randall Roberson Sandra Herstich Williams *	1979	Connie Goble Janet Grand
1955	Karl Hershberger Barbara Scherer Horvath Dorothy Fike Ilg Patricia Booker Keener Jo Ann Aber Stem Jean Jackson Whitlock			1982	Dawn Ilg Starcher
1956	Joan McCollister Buehl * William Conley Roger A. Crislip Peggy Simpson Linnen *	1964	Kenneth Penix David Pifel Karen Knapp Ritchie Bonnie Theiss Robinson Jerry Wasson *	1983	Eileen Morgan Arrington Patty McNeal Hartshorn *
				1986	Shelley Sir Louis Hargrove Kyle Klever *
				1989	Clifford Horvath
				2015	Joseph Siesel



# **MEMBERS PAYING DUES BUT UNABLE TO ATTEND:**

x = Donated to Scholarship Fund

Class	First Name	Maiden Name	Last Name	Donation
1938	Beatrice	Watts	Acken	
1939	Ellis		King	
1940	Hilda	Crites	King	
1948	Richard		Vydra	x
1949	Irby		Ballard	
1949	LaVonne	Gomoll	Dodge	
1949	Paul		Hawkins	
1949	Audrey	Jones	Woerz	x
1950	Irma	Shephard	Zema	x
1951	Donna	Zurschmit	Beard	
1951	Sarah	Jones	Bennett	x
1951	Margaret	Priest	Legg	
1951	George		Pletcher	x
1951	Lowell		Ripley	x
1951	Joan		Smith	
1952	Maryann	Bailey	Anzallo	
1953	Janet	Wheatley	Lawley	
1955	Kenneth		Keck	
1955	Annamay	Baer	Lewis	
1955	Donald		Woerz	
1956	Martha	Stephens	Gabrosek	x
1956	J. Thomas		Jones	x
1956	Jerry		Walters	
1958	Charles		Hawkins	x
1958	Ina	Oxford	Paulus	
1959	Margie	Saylor	Metcalf	x
1965	Beth	Fernella	Carroll	
1965	David		Carroll	
1966	Lonnie		Drayer	x
1970	James		Mallory	x
1971	Daniel		Brown	
1971	Bill		Neitz	
1974	Christine	Mackey	Farquhar	
1974	Renee	Peterson	Pratt	
1976	Terrie		Morgan	x
1977	Karen	Mackey	Horton	
1980	Edward		Mackey	











