

ST. LOUIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Comments- In kicking off our 75th anniversary commemoration back in June, the Board of Directors set two goals for the upcoming year “broaden membership opportunity” and “expand community relations and public affairs”. I am pleased to report that we are on target to meet both goals. Approving membership eligibility changes to our Constitution and By-Laws in December has resulted in adding 25 new members to our roles. And, we hope to increase that to 30+ members by our annual meeting this summer. Thanks to you, and to the efforts of our new membership chairman Roger Normand, class of '70, we have added more new members to our roles than we have in over 20 years.

Our efforts to remain visible through “expanded community relations and public affairs” included newspaper articles on our \$3000 contribution to the St. James School athletic program, a feature story on the Alumni in the Courier newspaper and the induction of 4 members into the Biddeford High School Hall of Honors (see article below). You can help promote awareness by talking up the Alumni and spreading the word on our recent growth and activities. Here is an update on other on-going Association activities;

Membership committee. Roger Normand, Class of '70. I have been a member of the St. Louis Alumni Board for three years, and recently volunteered to set up and chair a new membership committee. My classmate, Tony Curro has agreed to join me on the committee.

Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. A successful organization must be able to attract new members, especially those willing to contribute time and energy to directly support the organization. The Saint Louis Alumni Association has a storied 75 year history of community support to area youth, made even more remarkable since our beloved St. Louis High School has been closed for 45 years. We have for many years faced a loss of members and volunteers due to age and death, and a persistent inability to attract younger members. The overwhelmingly positive vote to welcome women into the Alumni Association has already helped turn the tide on membership. We are very pleased to have received 25 new membership applications since the December 2015 vote! That's a remarkable turnaround! Several new members have begun volunteering at our weekly Bingo game, our primary fund raiser.

Our membership process has become creaky from age and lack of use! Tony and I are working together to recast our membership policies and practices. Opportunity abounds. We must address the most fundamental membership question: how many members are there? The answer is not clear, since most members had attained “Lifetime” status, no longer paid dues, and over time we have lost contact with

them. Are they still alive? Do they still support the goals of the Alumni? We need to prune our membership rolls to identify our core constituency.

We must also broaden our recruiting approach, revamp the application form, formalize the screening criteria and approval process, standardize how we notify applicants, rethink our membership database structure and management reports, to name but a few.

For our new applicants and long term members, please bear with us as we tackle these issues. Let me know if you have any suggestions, and if you would like to join the membership committee. As of this writing here is a list of new members. Welcome to the Association!

Class of 1967- Linda L. Petit-Namm

Class of 1968 - Rachel Rioux , Joanne J. Eon, Madeleine Paquette Roy

Class of 1969-, Marquerite "Peggy" Belanger, Diane Crepeau-Desrosier, Sue Crepeau Goulet, Sharon Mrowka, Jeanne Gavin Cyr, Beverly Frost, Diane Thibault, Jeannette Guilbeault Cyr

Class of 1970- Katherine Rielly, Patricia A. Boston, Sandra Curro, Joanne B. Valliere Gall, Carol A. Roy, Elaine L. Roberts, Carol Ann Cadorette, Diane M. Millette, Aline T. McDonald, Dennis K. McDonald, Suzanne D Caron Wingate

St. Joseph High Graduates- Jo Ann Lapointe, Janice Lebrun Presby,

Update of our Alumni Constitution and By-Laws. Ben Chretien '63, has drafted a revision to bring our key Association documents to modern day standards. Guy Roy '65 is assisting in the revision also. The original document, written back in 1950, has been edited several times over the years. This update will incorporate all previous changes along with recently edited changes on membership criteria adopted at the December 2015 meeting. Plans are to have a final draft available for the Directors to review by early May and presentation to the full membership to vote on at our annual meeting this summer.

Update of our St. Louis Alumni website. Roger Gobeil '63, continues to work on improving our website and creating a new electronic form for new members. If you have some internet technology savvy or interest in helping Roger work the website, please contact him at gobe100@gmail.com. And, if you have photos or general information on alumni that you believe is of interest to the membership, send it in and we will review it for posting to our website. We have alumni all over the country and world who enjoy hearing about classmates and the Alumni. So send us newsworthy stuff and check out our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/stlouisalumnibiddeford/> for ongoing Alumni activities.

Update of St. Louis Alumni membership role. As noted above by Roger Normand, exactly how many active or interested members do we have in the Association? That is a question often asked of me when I talk up the Alumni. My answer is I don't really know!! So within the next couple of months we will canvas the total membership of the Association to update our records database. In order for the Association to continue meeting our goals and aims supporting youth athletic programs as well as sustaining the operation of our facilities, we need the support, involvement and participation of "active" members. The goal of this membership update will be to classify lifetime members, or former members who are not lifetime, as either "active" or "inactive" members. In other words we want to determine which St. Louis alumni members are members in "name" only and which members can and will support

us through donations, service on the board or on committees, volunteering and participation in Association social events. The membership update letter will go out in April.

Golf Fund Raiser 2016. We have a team working on the possible return of our St. Alumni Golf Tournament. This event was always well attended and resulted in several thousand dollars being added to our finances each year. Hopefully details can be worked out for a fun golf fund raiser in the fall.

Scholarship committee. We will have \$12,000 available to award to deserving seniors this spring. Chairman Roger Tremblay and his committee will be publicizing and contacting area schools in the next month or so.

Biddeford High School Athletic Hall of Honors. Three St. Louis graduates were among the 2016 inductees into the BHS Hall of Honors in early February, Dick Dion '62, Donald Wilson '65, and the late Richard "Dick" Dutremble '50. Also inducted was long time Alumni member Paul Twomey. The Hall of Honors is an avenue to pay tribute and honor outstanding student athletes, coaches and contributors for their achievements (to community youth) and/or contributions to Biddeford High Athletics.

Richard "Dick" Dion. Dick was a standout baseball and football player for St. Louis earning recognition statewide for his athletic accomplishments. Dick has been committed to Biddeford athletics through his involvement as a member of the St. Louis Alumni. He spent many hours volunteering as a member of the Biddeford Athletic Association. Dick served on the committee that secured funding and placement of lights at the Waterhouse Field. He was very active in his two children's athletic careers at Biddeford High School and continues to be a fan of Biddeford athletics by cheering on his grandchildren. Dick is a current member of the Board Directors and still heavily involved in Alumni activities.

Richard "Dick" Dutremble. Dick was a 1950 graduate of St. Louis High School where he was a three-season standout athlete (football, baseball, basketball) from 1946-1950. Dick was a talented athlete who gave back to his community, county, state and country as an athlete, law enforcement officer, and coach of his son's East Biddeford Little League teams and other community organizations. He was a respected leader in the community and willingly gave back in many capacities.

Donald Wilson. A 1965 graduate Don participated in football and basketball. He worked at Biddeford High School as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and athletic director from 1970 to 2006. He served as Athletic Director for 23 years. As the school's athletic director, one of Don's greatest contributions was expanding the athletic offerings to student athletes. In his 23 years he added six varsity programs and several sub-varsity offerings. Don was instrumental in the development of Waterhouse Field. He was the co-chairman of the Waterhouse Field Lighting Committee, which allowed the return of night football in 1985, and played a major role in the installation of bleachers in 1985 and 1999. Don was also instrumental in bringing the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl game to Waterhouse field and was honored by the Lobster Bowl Classic Board of Directors following the 15th anniversary at Waterhouse field.

Paul Twomey. A 1964 graduate of Biddeford High School Paul reached varsity status 10 times (four in baseball, three in basketball, and three in football). His senior year he was named captain in all three sports. A tremendous quarterback, Paul was instrumental in leading the Biddeford Tigers back to Class A

football. As a senior, he was named the York County Class A Player of the Year and the Steve White Award recipient, presented to the top male athlete in his graduating class.

After graduating from Springfield College, Paul served a tour in Vietnam with the US Army. Upon his return to Biddeford in 1972 he became involved in the community developing numerous recreational programs while employed by the Parks and Recreation Department; many are still in existence today. Paul also became a physical education teacher and developed the first curriculum for kindergarten in the Biddeford School District.

Five other St. Louis High graduates were inducted into the BHS Hall of Honors in previous years. They include Bob Cote '51, Ron Cote '68, Al Daigle '58, Dr. Charles Belisle '63 and the late Richard "Doc" Labonte '57. Congratulations to all of you.

Volunteers. For the past 3 years the Alumni has been asking members to consider volunteering for Alumni activities. I'm pleased to announce that our efforts are slowly paying off and we've had several new members step up. We still will have openings on the Board of Directors and committees to fill so please consider helping us out even if it's for only an hour or two a month. The Alumni is blessed with tons of members with professional, technical and all other types of skills and experience that can be put to excellent use as a volunteer. Please contact me at jtebow443@gmail.com and see how you can help. To volunteer or get more information on Bingo operations contact Mike Dion, '70 at mgdion@fairpoint.net.

Spiritual Support. In recent months the following former members have passed: Robert Morrison '63, Raymond Audie '47, Ronald G. Cote '68, Richard "Doc" Labonte '57, Robert Sevigny '52, Robert "Spike" Cote '63 and Raymond A. Cote '44. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

In closing your Board of Directors is working to keep the Alumni Association vibrant and moving forward supporting youth sports programs and academic endeavors. Our long term goal is to be around for many years to come serving the community and enjoying the comradery and friendships of Alumni members. We look forward to your continued participation and support of our great Alumni Association.

Upcoming Events.

Wednesday 25 May- Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday 15 June- Board of Directors Meeting and Strategic Plan Review

Friday July 22- Annual Meeting Alumni Hall

JOHN THIBAUT
CHAIRMAN
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION