

SHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

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<http://www.stowhighalumni.com> E-mail - admin@stowhighalumni.com

Thoughts from the President

By Tony Cocozzo

Dear Alumni,

As we approach the end of our second year of existence, I want to let you know that your Association is doing very well. I was thinking back to our first meeting at the Stow Library in May of 2005 and remember sitting there thinking, OK, we have nine people in attendance. Is this something that will take off and grow? Today, we have 195 members and still growing. We have certainly exceeded my expectations.

Your Association has sponsored a number of projects, including two all-class picnics, sock hop, Valentine's Day dance, and two homecoming socials, supported a number of individual class reunions including the Class of 1931, and supported needy families during the holidays. The social activities are planned for a "break even" so as to keep the costs down so more Alumni can attend.

For those of you not in the Stow area, I hope you are enjoying your spring. We here in Stow have not had one yet and probably won't this year. But, the Association must work off of the calendar, not the weather, so with the coming of spring, we look forward to our summer and fall activities; Adopt a Spot, Grand March, Scholarship awards, Fourth of July Parade, All-Class picnic and of course, homecoming. We encourage you to check your calendars and see if you can squeeze in a few hours for one of these activities. Each of the activities and dates are posted on the web site.

On April 18th the officers went through the selection process for this year's scholarship recipient. We use a predefined checklist and ranking system to ensure

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Thoughts from the President	1
Alumni Picnic	2
Teacher Profile - Tom Stephan	3
Alumnus Profile - Fred Long	4
Upcoming Reunions	5
Valentine's Day Dance	6
Bulldog Scholarship Donors	7
Alumni Association Officers	8

each judge follows the same procedures for each and every candidate. The Board decided to allocate \$1,000.00 this year, up from \$500. The scoring ended up in a tie between two quality candidates. The decision was made to present each with a \$500 scholarship. After the award of this year's scholarships, the scholarship fund will be dangerously low so we will either have to gain a significant number of new members or, schedule a fund raiser earmarked for the scholarship fund. We also hope that our tax exempt status will encourage alumni to make a tax deductible contribution to the scholarship fund.

In closing, participating in the Association is a rewarding and fun experience. To watch it grow from virtually nine people to where it is today is nothing short of amazing. JFK said "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country". We each graduated from Stow High. The school, teachers and classmates all helped build the foundation for who we are today. The Association is a way to give back a little something.

I hope to see each and every one of you at one of our events. Enjoy your spring; someone out there must have one!!!

Tony

Stow Alumni Picnic

By Bob Cooper '63

Greetings Stow Alumni,

It's time to start making plans for this year's annual Alumni Picnic at Silver Springs Heritage Barn! 4:00 to 11:00.

As usual, we will have food, beer, wine, soda and live entertainment! Advance tickets are \$18.00 for members and \$22.00 for non-members. All Stow High alumni and guests are welcome. Not a member yet? Again we are offering a special package price for non-members. Membership + two picnic tickets is only \$50.00 (a \$72.00 value!). Membership + one picnic ticket is only \$35.00 (a \$50.00 value!). Ticket price includes food, beer, wine, soda and food. You can even get up and dance if you want to. How can you beat that?

This year we are starting something new ... a "Cruise-In" for all of the alumni who are car and bike nuts! Last year Gerry Warren drove his Model A hot-rod to the picnic and I know there are a lot more alumni out there with collector cars, hot-rods and bikes. We will rope off a special area in the parking lot, so let's get the word out and get a lot of rides to the picnic. Should be fun!

Also this year, the class of '62 is joining us for their 45th reunion! How cool is that? The class of '62 reunion is being led by Dave Cueni and Bob Platt. Any '62 class members wishing to help Dave (330-208-2684) or Bob (330-688-2164); please give them a call. They need help with this reunion. Step up and "Git 'er Done"!!

Everyone needs to buy tickets or at least phone in your reservation so that we have an accurate head-count for ordering food and drinks. You can call me at 330-882-3700, Tony Cocozzo at 330-338-3676, Melissa Jordan Ritterbusch at 330-923-1513 or Laurie Graham Tiffany at 330-686-1602.



Information is always available on our website at www.stowhighalumni.com. Please check out our website from time to time and review our "missing persons" page. This is an excellent way to help find people that we have somehow lost communication with - unless they are in the witness protection program. Ha ... we know you're out there! Also, please visit our memorial page. This is a really nice way to remember a friend who has passed away. You can add a new memorial, or add something else to an existing memorial. It's always nice to hear what you remember about friends.

Okay alumni ... Show up! We guarantee you will have a great time. Your alumni association is growing. You can make contributions and get a tax write-off as we are officially a charitable organization and we are doing some really good things!

Best regards,
Bob Cooper '63
Past President

Teacher Profile

By Gail Knight Moseley '73

Tom Stephan grew up in Canton, Ohio and went to college at Kent State University. He loved the area. When a girlfriend brought him to the community of Stow, he knew this is where he wanted to be. Stow schools in the only job that Mr. Stephan ever filled out an application for and many students are very thankful that he did.

Mr. Stephan started at Kimpton in 1970 and worked there for 16 years and at the High School for the next 15 years with some mixture of Lakeview and Workman thrown in there. Subjects he taught included Language Arts, English, Drama and the Performing Arts. Some of his favorite memories came while directing 11 years of the all school musicals. He had to say all of his memories are good except for that girl dancing on the desk in Mrs. Denton's room!

Throughout Mr. Stephan's teaching career, he won many awards. Some of his awards included: Outstanding Educator in 1982, Saltis Outstanding Educator Award in 1989, Teacher of the Year in 1996 and Martha Holden Jennings Scholar in 1999.

Although Mr. Stephan retired in 2001 from Stow Schools, his love for Stow and acting continues. He was recognized as a "child star" at the age of seven when he first appeared onstage in Canton, Ohio, but it was actually at the age of 21 when he began teaching school that the drama bug bit once more. He started with a supporting role in a Stow Players production, and has now been seen in over 75 major productions in the greater Akron-Canton area, including Actors' Summit, The Ohio Shakespeare Festival, The Largely Literary Theatre Company, The Weathervane Playhouse, Coach House Theater, Goodyear Theater, the old Bath Players, and the Players Guild of Canton.

Mr. Stephan has won five Best Actor and two Best Supporting Actor Awards from various area theaters, and was honored by the State Department of

Education for implementation of a middle school



Tom Stephan

program called "Drama in the Classroom." For 22 years he has either succumbed as murder victim or triumphed as scoundrel in numerous "Mysteries by Moushey," audience interactive murder mysteries, in the Akron/Cleveland/Canton area.

His host and MC work began on local levels many years ago, and Mr. Stephan is now dubbed "The Voice of Stow" for his announcing work with nearly all local activities such as the 4th of July Parade, Aviation Heritage Fair, Community Showcase, the Great Pumpkin Festival, and various events at Stow-Munroe Falls High School. Several years ago he also branched out into radio and TV, serving as spokesman and voice-over talent for commercial and industrial work. As a retired teacher, he pursues acting, voice work, radio/TV, commercial work, and all other performance ventures that look both interesting and lucrative.

Community service is also important to him: Mr. Stephan sits on the boards of the Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce; the Stow-Munroe Falls Community Foundation; the Stow-Munroe Falls Kiwanis Club; the Stow-Munroe Falls Leadership Program; he is also a member of the 4th of July Parade Committee, and has been a member of Stow Players for 37 years. If this doesn't sound like enough, he is also on the Weathervane Playhouse Board of Directors and the head writer for Broadway Buzz at the Playhouse Square Theater.

It was so fun talking to Mr. Stephan; I really understand why so many students enjoyed his classes. If you ever see a production that he is in, make sure you make every effort to go see it, you will not regret it!

Alumnus Profile

By Linda Coleman Berthold '67

Fred Long is a lifetime resident of Stow, Ohio. His parents were Robert and Anna Louise Long. His paternal grandparents, Nathan and Ethelyn Long, moved to Stow in 1929–1930 from Akron and bought a home on Oak Road, which then was called Paradise Park. In 1946, Fred's grandparents sold land as the site of the new Holy Family Church and school. Later in 1951, they sold their house to the Church as Holy Family's first rectory. Fred then moved out on Kent Road, across from the Kent State Airport, with his grandparents and had a small farm.

Fred married Dolores Arlene Stebbins from Cuyahoga Falls and they first lived on Hiwood Avenue in Stow; in 1973 they moved to Edgewood Drive and later moved to Silver Lake Towers where they reside presently. Fred and Dolores have raised three children: Larry Long, class of 1977, Jennie Long, class of 1979, and Paul Long, class of 1983.

Fred went to Stow Grade School (Highland School) 1942–1948 and then to Stow High School (Workman Building and it was located where Marc's stands now) where grades 9–12 were held. Stow High School was later named Workman Jr. High School. Many changes have occurred since Fred went to school in Stow, now a student would go to four different schools in Stow, instead of two. Fred graduated in 1954 from Stow High School; the ceremony was held in the auditorium and the prom was held at Lake Forest Country Club in Hudson.

Fred Long has written two books about his growing up in Stow and also stories of historical interest of Stow. His first book was "Recollections of Living and Working in Stow 1936 to". His second book was "Stories from a Stow Native" with over 125 photographs of Stow. Fred signed over all privileges for the rights to these books to Stow Historical Society as a fund raiser.



The Stow Historical Society's hours are limited, Sunday 1–3 pm, April–October and the building is located off Young Road. If anyone is interested in obtaining one or both of these books, you can contact Fred Long at 330–688–5357 or stop at the Stow Historical Society. (\$14 for his first book and \$19 for the second one.)

Fred Long's favorite teachers were Mrs. Ackworth, a Stow native, who taught first grade. Frankie Patch, a 6th grade teacher, who later became Frankie Denning (married to John Denning who was the Superintendent of Adell Durbin Park and later the John Denning Lodge was named after him.) A fifth grade teacher, Nina Parpart, who was dedicated and multi-talented and always did fun things in her classroom. Another favorite teacher who taught 7th grade and later was a principal of Workman Jr. High School, was Larry Saltis, who was also a Stow Councilman. When Fred Long was appointed to the Stow Police Dept. in 1960, Mr. Saltis said to him, "Fred, I hope you're a better cop than you were a student in my science class." Velma Workman, who taught 11th grade, was another of Fred's favorite teachers, also, Eldred Saviers, who taught 10th –11th grade, Raymond Ganyard, who was a principal in Stow 1920–1950, and Dale Stanford, was Fred's Stow Band Director 1950–1954.

Fred Long was honored to be chosen as the Grand Marshal of the Stow Parade last fourth of July, 2006. Thank you, Fred, for granting an interview for the Stow High School Alumni Association newsletter.

Reunion Events

All Alumni Picnic Saturday, Aug. 11, 2007 at Heritage Barn – Silver Springs Park in Stow
4:00 –11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18.00 for members and \$22.00 for non-members. All Stow High Alumni and guests are welcome! Includes food, beer, soda and entertainment! Dancing, fun, prizes, raffles etc!

Class of 1957 50 year reunion

Saturday September 15, 2007 at Roses Run Country Club Stow, Ohio

Dinner with cash bar Casual Dress

If you haven't been contacted, please e-mail Gary Swartout at GLSwartout@aol.com

Class of 1962 45 year reunion

Saturday, August 11, 2007 In conjunction with Alumni Association annual picnic

If you haven't been contacted, please e-mail Bob Platt at bplattstow@earthlink.net or Dave Cueni at dcueni@aol.com

Class of 1967 40 year reunion September 21–22, 2007

Informal Mixer Friday, September 21, 2007 – 7:00 pm

Sto–Kent Family Entertainment (Formerly Stow–Kent Lanes) 3870 Fishcreek Road ,;Stow, OH Cash Bar

Reunion Dinner & Dance Saturday, September 22, 2007 at Silver Springs Lodge, 5027 Stow Road, Stow, OH

Please sign up on our website: <http://www.classreport.org/usa/oh/stow/smfhs/1967/>

Class of 1977 30 year reunion

Saturday, June 30, 2007

Roses Run Country Club Casual Dress

Class of 1987 20 year reunion

Saturday August 11, 2007 6:00 PM 'til Midnight at Kent State University Ballroom

Class website: <http://www.stowclassof87.com> Email contact: stowclassof1987@yahoo.com

Class of 1997 10 year reunion

6–11 p.m. Saturday, July 21, 2007

Dinner/Dance Stow Heritage Barn @ Silver Springs Park Stow Road in Stow

Cost: TBD. Please visit our website at: <http://www.classreport.org/usa/oh/stow/smfhs/1997> Contact Jennifer (Gaylord) Kramer @ jenkramer1@yahoo.com

Send us your reunion photos ... we'll include them next time!

Valentine's Day Dance

By Tony Cocozzo '64

The Alumni Association sponsored a Valentine's Day dance on February 10th at Silver Springs Lodge. Music was provided by the Santi Marino Eisenbarger Trio. The lodge looked absolutely wonderful thanks to Melissa Jordan Ritterbusch and her team of decorators. There was a fire blazing in the fireplace, hearts, candy, streamers, other decorations, prizes and of course, great food and drink. Bob and Judy Cooper provided a wonderful array of food. Although we ran out of wine, thanks to someone that won't be mentioned by name, there was plenty of food, beer and soft drinks. Bob Platt solved the wine problem by making a fast run to Giant Eagle for replacements.

Almost 70 people attended the dance, of which approximately 35 were non members. We opened the dance to the public and they responded. We placed forty posters around the city and had some great articles in the local paper and Beacon Journal. Each and every person we spoke to was very pleased with the event and asked that we sponsor it again next year. The board will recommend to the new officers that this become an annual event.

I believe we made a seven dollar profit on the event. The Association is trying to build membership and name recognition so we price all of our events to cover our costs so that we can keep the cost of attendance reasonable. A seven dollar profit is a plus. We hope to see you at next years dance.



The Association has achieved the Federal 501(C)3 status, meaning all contributions to the Association are now tax exempt. Our tax exempt number will be provided to anyone making a contribution and the number must be recorded on your federal tax return in order for the contribution to be tax exempt. It is our hope that this status will encourage contributions to the scholarship fund so that we can continue to grow not only the value of the award but also the number of scholarships awarded. Please consider the Association if you have spare contribution budget as we are certainly a worthwhile cause. Contributors will be listed on our **Bulldog Scholarship Donors** section of the web site and newsletter.

Bulldog Scholarship Donors

Bulldog \$20-499

Bob Cooper '63
 Gary Swartout '57
 Thomas Moyer '72
 Diana Leach Garmendia '64
 Karen Biedler Alexander ' 62
 William C ("Willie") Lee '41
 SHS Class of '95
 Bill Pickering '64
 Heather West Maldonado '88
 John Oblak '58
 Patrick Flaherty '59
 Paula Sue Ellis Galistel '59
 Patricia Horn Box '57
 Larry Cross '59
 Bill & Penny Jackson Gray '57
 Elvin & Judy Franklin Lichty '54
 Donald Powell '58
 Ted & Laura Roberts Root '59
 Carol Wyle Wolfe '58

Maroon Bulldog \$500-999

Ron Marhofer '64

Golden Bulldog \$1000-9999

Platinum Bulldog \$10,000 and up

SHSAA OFFICERS 2006–2007

President	Tony Coccozzo '64
1 st Vice President	Bob Platt '62
2 nd Vice President	Jennifer Lee Huffman '88
Secretary	Melissa Jordan Ritterbusch '65
Treasurer	Laurie Graham Tiffany '65
Past President	Bob Cooper '63

2007–2008

President	Bob Platt '62
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Secretary	Melissa Jordan Ritterbusch '65
Treasurer	Laurie Graham Tiffany '65
Past President	Tony Coccozzo '64



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stowhighalumni.com

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