



Aug./Sept.
2014

Penn High Alumni

How To Contact Us >>>

New contact information

Find the latest updates about the Alumni Association on the web in the numerous formats below.

Mailing address (same):
Alumni Association
Attn: PHMEF
55900 Bittersweet Road
Mishawaka, IN 46545

Phone: (574) 254-2893

Email: alumni@phmef.org

On the web: www.phmef.org/alumni

On Facebook: Search for:
P-H-M Education Foundation

Dale O'Connell Memorial Athletic Award Breakfast



Superintendent Dr. Jerry Thacker (left) stands with the adult children of Dale O'Connell at the Dale O'Connell Memorial Athletic Award Breakfast.

The 7th Annual Dale O'Connell Memorial Athletic Reunion was held on Sat., July 19, in the Penn High School cafeteria.

The Dale O'Connell Memorial Athletic Awards were presented to four alumni and P-H-M staff members who have distinguished themselves and who serve as positive role models for the students of Penn High School.

Thank you for all who attended this event.

Dale O'Connell Memorial Athletic Award Recipients for 2014

- Larry Correll, Class of 1964
- Ben Karasiak, Penn High School Director of Athletics and Student Activities
- Kurt Laidig, Class of 1972

O'Connell continued, page 3



A note from the P-H-M Education Foundation Executive Director
**Alumni Association now under
 the P-H-M Education Foundation**



Greetings –

This is an exciting time for the P-H-M Education Foundation as it continues to grow with the addition of the Penn Alumni Association. The transition will be complete by mid-October when Alumni President Cecil Smith and his wife, Karen, leave for Florida.

Words can't express the gratitude the P-H-M district and I share for Cecil and Karen. Their leadership have transformed the Alumni Association into a thriving group.

To allow for a thorough transition, the Alumni Association's activities will take a step back until Fall 2015. Newsletters will continue during this time on a quarterly basis, so keep sending your updates and news via email at alumni@phmef.org or call (574) 254-2893. Updates from the Foundation will be included in the newsletter,

especially those programs or events that are a direct benefit to Penn students and/or staff.

We look forward to carrying on the traditions and award ceremonies. Continue to send nominations recognizing distinguished alumni, staff, and athletes. Nominations forms can be found online at www.phmef.org under the Alumni Association tab.

As class reunions near next summer, share your reunion dates, times, and other general news. Encourage your fellow classmates to join the Alumni Association. Plans include alumni social gatherings and fundraisers that will support Penn High School students.

I look forward to reconnecting you with fellow classmates, while fulfilling the Alumni Association's mission.

Mari Linn M. Wise



Guest speaker Mr. Lou Nanni

Luncheon guest speaker

Mr. Lou Nanni is the vice president of university relations at the University of Notre Dame. In his current role, Mr. Nanni oversees several aspects of the university. Mr. Nanni is the former executive director of the Center for the Homeless in South Bend and is credited for transforming the center into a national model.

PHMEF News >>>

Dr. Thacker will share vision for the district at Superintendent's Luncheon

Nearly 375 community members and leaders are expected to attend the fundraiser at noon, October 14

For alumni who want to learn more about the P-H-M district, the Superintendent's Luncheon is an excellent event to attend. P-H-M Superintendent Dr. Jerry Thacker will give his State of the Corporation address, where he shares the successes of the past year and his vision for the future.

The P-H-M Education Foundation is thrilled to have Mr. Lou Nanni as the guest speaker. Mr. Nanni will focus on leadership and academic excellence.

P-H-M Teacher of the Year Peter DeKever of Penn High School will be honored, as well as PHMEF grant recipients. Ticket



Superintendent Dr. Jerry Thacker

information will be available online at www.phmef.org or reserve your seat by calling the office at (574) 254-2893.

Thank you to Teachers Credit Union for its continued sponsorship of this event. Proceeds support the Foundation's Fall and Spring grant cycles.

Reunions >>>

Thanks for the memories!

The Class of 1964 gathered at Bent Oak Golf Resort for an evening of fun and fellowship. With plenty of conversation and stories of old times, the event was a huge success. A committee for the 55th is

forming and plans are ongoing. As they say "If the good Lords willing and the creek don't rise," we will all gather in another 5 years. Hats off to the Reunion Committee.

O'Connell Continued >>>

- Kevin Witwer, Class of 1964

Athletes of the Decade Award Recipients for 2014

The administration of Penn High School, along with the Penn High School Alumni Association, initiated its first "Athletes of the Decades Award" in July 2011.

This annual award recognizes and honors those Penn High School athletes who achieved great success as a participant of an athletic program at Penn High School. Those recognized serve as positive role models for the current and future students of Penn High School athletes. Those recognized in 2014 included:

From the 1960s

- Richard Besinger, Class of 1961
- Bob Gunn, Class of 1961
- Doug Shanklin, Class of 1969

From the 1970s

- Sue Cunningham, Class of 1977
- Dennis Groning, Class of 1977
- Dave Sheets, Class of 1971
- Pam Thomas, Class of 1976
- Jeff White, Class of 1971

From the 1980s

- Mike Griffy, Class of 1986
- Brent Keller, Class of 1980

Penn students receive Chromebook at beginning of 2014-15 school year

Every Penn High School student received a new HP Chromebook laptop computer to facilitate instruction and communication with the teacher. Students received the Chromebooks in English class on the first or second day of school.

Students still still have traditional books, but Chromebooks to be used about 50 percent of the time in the classroom.



In Memorium

Remembering Penn High School students, staff, and administrators

- John Aller 1972 July 2014
- Thomas Morrison 1969 June 2014
- Sharon Kapsa Staff July 2014
- Pattie Mae 'Trish' (Bronstad) Buchanan 1965 June 2014
- Samuel Galloway 1961 March 2014
- Thomas M. Morrison 1969 June 2014

Welcome

The Alumni Association welcomes Richard Snyder, Class of 1962.

Encourage your fellow classmates to join the Penn Alumni Association. For only \$15 for two years, you will receive a quarterly newsletter highlighting the news throughout P-H-M and stay connected with your high school friends. Visit phmef.org/alumni to download a membership application.

News To Share?

Do you have news to share with your fellow classmates? A wedding, promotion, birth of a child, relocation? If so, we want to hear from you. Send your news to alumni@phmef.org. Share your photos along with a description.

YEARBOOK PROJECT

The Penn High School Alumni Association has several hundred yearbooks to sell from Penn's past. These yearbooks are all in new condition, but are excess orders, which were discovered in the corporation warehouse. These are not reprints! Books on hand are from the following years:

1971	1982	1990	1998	2002
1974	1983	1995	1999	2004
1978	1984	1996	2000	
1980	1985	1999	2001	

The quantities available vary for each year. The books will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The price for each yearbook is \$25 (there will be a shipping cost added, unless you pick your book up in person). The shipping cost has been calculated at \$12 due to the size and weight of the yearbooks. Now is the time to replace your lost or misplaced yearbook while they last.

To order, please state the class year of the book you wish to purchase and the number (quantity) you want. Send your request, along with a check or money order (\$25 for the yearbook and \$12 shipping/handling for a total of \$37) made payable to the P-H-M Education Foundation, and in the memo line insert "Yearbook" and mailed to:

Penn High School Alumni Association, Attn: PHMEF
55900 Bittersweet Road
Mishawaka, IN 46545

What's new in P-H-M in the 2014-15 school year

Instruction and programs

- Every Penn High School student will receive a new HP Chromebook 11 laptop computer to facilitate instruction and communication with the teacher.
- Elementary schools received 55 carts with laptops for student use.
- Kindergarten teachers have access to carts of iPad minis for use with students.
- An Early Learning Academy Preschool at Mary Frank Elementary Schyearool will serve 4--olds in a full-day program.
- A new 24/7 Safe School Helpline®: 1-800-418-6423, Ext. 359 is available for reporting student concerns about threats, suicide, drugs, bullying or anything that threatens the safety of our students and schools.
- A GPS satellite tracking system has been installed on all school buses and this will allow parents to follow the progress of their child's bus.
- A program called Young at Art will serve all second-grade students in Title I schools in partnership with the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame.
- Parents will be able to update emergency card information online.
- Schmucker Middle School will implement a weekly advisory period of 25 minutes and students will stay with the same teacher for this advisory period throughout their middle school experience.
- Schmucker Middle School will offer a new STEM/Project Lead the Way program. Students will apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students will work in teams to create innovative designs and solutions while recording research and ideas in their notebooks. Using Autodesk design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.



Reunions coming up in 2015

Are you and your classmates busy planning a Reunion for 2015? Remember, it is up to each class to plan their reunion. If nothing is planned for your class, why not think about starting your own reunion or forming your own committee? Social media has proven to be a big help with getting in touch with classmates.

Keep up-to-date on reunions planned for 2015 by visiting the Penn Alumni Reunion website at www.phmef.org/alumni. If your class is planning a 2015 reunion, please send in any information to alumni@phmef.org or contact Mari Linn Wise at (574) 254-2893.



Join the Alumni Association

Encourage your fellow classmates to join the Penn Alumni Association. Dues are just \$15 for two years and applications can be found at www.phmef.org/alumni. All members will receive the alumni newsletter and updated news throughout the year. Contact us at alumni@phmef.org for more information.

Contact at (574) 254-2893

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