

The Afton Rainbow

The Afton Central School Alumni Association
Newsletter

Volume Number: 5 Issue Number: 1 Date: April 2009

www.aftonnyalumni.org



Message From the President

I hope this message finds you and yours well! Spring will soon be upon us. The seeds we have sown together to build this organization continue to help us grow. We have come far since becoming an all-inclusive Alumni Organization. Many people have given much and worked hard to help us reach our goals. I would like to take time to thank them and you our Alumni body for our continued success. Together there is no obstacle we cannot overcome.

This is our large mailing, going out to all Alumni to help reacquaint those who may have forgotten about us. We all encourage you to join us. Membership is only 5 dollars per year. Our year runs from our Banquet in July to the Banquet the next year. We provide you with two newsletters, updates on our web page, the ability to reconnect with your classmates and to join us in our most important effort, providing scholarships to graduating seniors at Afton Central School.

Our Scholarship effort continues to grow and our tremendous success can only be achieved with your continued support. In these tough economic times our graduates need this crucial effort to aid in their success. Records of your donations are maintained. They continue to accumulate year after year and can move you from our Rainbow Honor Society (\$99.00 or less) to our Old English A Society (\$100 to \$499), to our Crimson and White Society (\$500. dollars or more). Accumulated contributions of \$1,000 or more give you life membership in our organization. We maintain a list of our donors on our donors on our web-site.

We continue to look to technology to make our efforts more efficient. We are looking to provide you with an electronic newsletter. This would save money from less printing and postage. Our delegate chairperson, Wendy Doing-Poyer, recently began contacting many of you on Facebook.com. Facebook is a free social site that members can use to connect with other classmates. You will see more on Facebook in this newsletter.

Our Annual Banquet continues to be well attended. It is a great time to socialize and catch up with classmates. We will once again offer a Friday night Icebreaker. We hope to hold the Ice Breaker at the Afton Golf Club. This event is being sponsored by the Class of 1984. We will hold our annual Golf Tournament on Saturday Morning at the Afton Golf Club. We hope to again have a tour of the school for those "coming home". Our Annual Banquet will be held at the Sidney American Legion. It promises to be a fun filled weekend. I look forward to seeing you there.

Again, I would like to thank you all for our continued success. I hope to see you soon!

Ernie Cutting

Mission Statement:

Afton Central School Alumni Association is a social and service organization inclusive of all alumni of Afton Central School. Its social mission is to continue and to enhance the social bonds of the alumni with their school mates, family, friends and the community.

Its service mission is two-fold:

- a. to support the role of Afton Central School in educating our future alumni.
- b. to support the continuing education of our current alumni to cope better with the challenges of this ever-changing world.

How to Contact our

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Class Delegates:

1939 Howard C. Butler
1940 Glenn Swart
1942 Shirley Fisher Davy
1944 William Little and Harriet Sheppard Snell
1945 Robert Robinson
1948 Raymond Decker
1949 Mary Birdsall Decker
1950 Fred Parker
1951 Beverley Lashway Doughty
1952 Rudy Schuster
1953 Ruth Riley Jameson
1954 Audrey Pratt Bartlett and Betty Rowe Benfatta
1955 Melrose Sherman Kelly
1956 Carol (Kay) Williams Vail
1957 Roberta Riley Snow and Thomas Vail
1958 Joanne (Jody) Crosby Strong
1959 Carolyn Tryon Davies
1960 Sharon Eldred Hulburt
1961 Dennis Westhoff
1962 Judy Still Fothergill
1963 Judy Vail Giblin
1964 Virginia (Jenny) Morin Webb
1965 Sharon Hammond Mortz & Cheryl Shupe Barbasch
1966 Barbara Decker
1970 Gloria Baciуска Harvey
1971 Elizabeth Briggs
1973 Kim Hadden and Ed Ramsey-Lewis
1974 Linda Buman
1975 Cindy Maloney Manderville
1976 Trudy Harris Irons and Mike Lurenz
1980 Glenda Butts
1983 Gina Caratelli McManus and Ernie Cutting
1984 Judy Naab June
1986 Pat Dedman
1987 Wendy Doing Poyer and Rebecca Vroman
1991 Dan Vail, Kenneth Moisan, Amber Drachler-Blumenberg
and Seth Neumann
1992 Jamie Baciуска
1993 Donna Lockwood
1997 Kerri Insinga
1998 Karen Baciуска Rought

Treasurer's Report

By: Kay Vail

Because of your memberships and your contributions to the Scholarship Fund and Expense Fund, you made it possible for us to write checks for four \$1000 scholarships recently. The most recent winners, Kyle Daly, Rachel DeVona, Jacob Metch, and Hannah Westfall are completing their first year of college and each has received his or her award. The Afton Alumni Association will again be able to award scholarships to four members of the Afton Central School Class of 2009.

We hope that current members will continue and that we will continue to receive new memberships. Since your last newsletter, we have welcomed only one new member from the Class of 1973.

When comparing our current balances with those of a year ago, our assets are currently approximately \$5000 more. That figure is encouraging because it reflects the money left AFTER paying a total of \$4000 in scholarship awards. Please continue to support the missions of the Alumni Association through your memberships, expense, and scholarship contributions. You can designate the fund or funds you wish to have your contributions support. We have a Scholarship Fund and a separate Expense Fund. Of course, the Scholarship Fund is important, but any contributions you make to expenses are also vital. With those funds, we can participate in or sponsor activities such as the graduation reception, the Christmas Parade, and advertising in community publications. We can prepare our newsletters and cover the expenses of the annual banquet. Thank you for your generosity so far!

If you are unsure when your membership runs out, check the mailing label on your newsletter. Many of you renew your memberships when you send in your banquet reservations. You are encouraged, any time you send a membership, contribution, or reservation, to give us some news about yourself. So often we hear from members who enjoy reading about others accomplishments, careers, travels, interests, memories of ACS, etc., and would like more of that. We would love to include more personal interest stories in the newsletter. Feel free to tell us your stories so that we can include them in a future newsletter. Along the same line, we have often discussed how important it is for current students

and recent graduates to hear about the accomplishments of YOU, Afton Central School graduates! Send us any information you would like included in the newsletter, or BE A GUEST COLUMNIST who writes and submits his/her own article!

If you have questions about the specifics of our finances, please contact us and/or attend one of our committee meetings. If you have ideas that will help us grow stronger and improve our financial condition, contact any of your officers or committee members.

Respectively submitted,
Kay Vail, Treasurer

Class Delegate News:

Happy spring to everyone! With the coming of spring, there also come new ideas.

Two years ago I took it upon myself to go through the alumni database calling and emailing every person that had either a phone number or email address on file. I personally added over 1,900 names, addresses and email addresses to the alumni database. I've recently begun that search again by either emailing all alumni with email addresses or by searching for them on my new favorite website, Facebook.com. This website has been a great tool in finding former classmates. I've started an Afton Alumni Association group on the site and in just about one month have already gotten about 350 members to join.

If you do not already have a Facebook profile, please consider creating one. Once you do, search for my name and I will add you as a friend and direct you to the group. Your never too old for new sites like this. We have members that are from the early classes of the 50's!

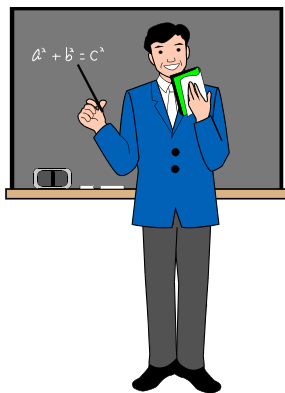
Hope to see you on there soon. If you have any questions, you can email me at: WpoohP@aol.com
Thanks~Wendy Poyer-Class of 1987



Helping Current ACS Students

Our planning committee continues to explore ways to expand our effectiveness. To achieve our goal of mentoring current students of ACS, we are asking members to let us know what their current occupation is, or former occupation, if retired. The individuals who respond could personally inspire young students, who may not have set personal career goals. Students could seek out ways to accomplish them by contacting alumni who have experience.

Although many students think or feel that because we are a small school, they won't be able to accomplish successful things, Afton has contributed to the nation and beyond, through the students. We want to show them, by example, some of the accomplishments of former alumni. Please be willing to provide us with a thumbnail sketch of "your story" if you are interested in helping us. We want to utilize these by sharing it with the students.



Honorary Membership Nominations

Our planning committee is currently looking for nominations of outstanding faculty, staff, etc. (non-alumni) who you feel to be worthy of an ACSAA Honorary Membership Award at our 2009 banquet. If you feel there is someone worthy of this honor, please email Ernie or Susan to get their name on our list.

Afton Central School Class of 1989 Plans 20th Class Reunion



Sally (Miner) Griffith and Sherry (Brooks) Bullis are currently planning the 20th class reunion for the Class of 1989 and are looking for some feedback. We have a target date/weekend (not firm) of the 2nd week of July (same as the Afton Fair and the Alumni Banquet), venue TBD. Please email or drop a note in the mail to Sally at: Roostersroost660@tds.net or Sally Griffith, Class of 1989 Reunion, 633 Blakesley Nurse Hollow Rd., Afton, NY 13730 . Please be sure to include all of your contact information and any information that you might have on classmates.

Our Banner at Work:

The Alumni Association Banner was on display at 2 events in December.

The new banner was seen for the first time at the Afton Holiday parade, Saturday, December 6, 2008. A few alumni decorated Ernie's truck with holiday lights, garlands of flowers and posters about alumni activities. The Parade was sponsored by Janice and Steve Nickerson (class of 1970)

The banner also floated over a table laden with wonderful gift baskets on December 20, 2008. Marge Secrest chaired a committee and helped raffle the gift baskets at the winter arts, crafts and gift show. Her committee collected \$98.00 for the alumni scholarship fund.

We will see the banner at several more events this spring, including but not limited to, Memorial Day parade, the Afton Fair parade, and, of course, the reunion weekend held the second Saturday of July. _ _ _

Written by Susan Kopyar Vice President (Fenner class of 1966)

Afton's Winter Arts, Crafts Show supported by Afton Alumni

Afton's fourth Winter Arts & Crafts and Gifts Show was Saturday, December 20, 2008, at the school gym. It was coordinated by the Afton Alumni Association under the direction of Susan Kopyar. Kay Vail, Mike and Holly Lurenz assisted with finances, publicity and vendor coordination. Kathy Decker and the 8th and 9th grade classes supported the activities as school sponsors and received over \$900.00 for their efforts. The gym was packed with a wonderful selection of Arts, Crafts, and Holiday gifts from vendors representing eight counties in New York and Pennsylvania.

The Class of 2013 raffled a large porcelain handmade doll that was handmade and donated by Susan's Porcelain Creations. Chicken BBQ and doorprizes were another money making activity by the Senior class and 8th grade.



Santa Claus, was a real hit with the little ones and few alumni too. Shown here is alumni (class of 1959) George Palmiaier's granddaughter on Santa (Rich Cuthbertson)

Written by Susan Kopyar (Fenner class of 1966)

The Afton Alumni basket raffle table:



Judy June, Susan Kopyar, Marge Secret and Heather Reynolds



Phyllis Lerwick, Marge Secret, Mike Lurenz



Be an Honoree!!

The Banquet Approaches!

by Kay Vail

The Year is 1959! You have graduated from Afton Central School! Now we would like to honor you. At our banquet in July of 2009, we want to especially invite any members of the class of 1959. Yes, it **has** been **50 years**; and we would like to honor your class. If you are a member of that class, please encourage your classmates to join all of us!

The banquet will include other honors. Be the man or woman who travels the most distance to attend the banquet. Our winners in 2008 for distance traveled were Barbara Merritt Tucker, Class of 1972, from Miami, Florida, and Louis Cooper, Class of 1943, Cutler Bay, Florida.

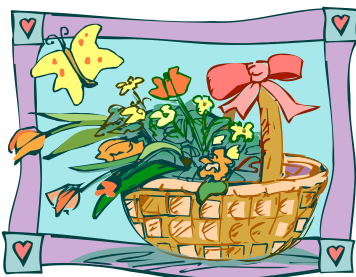
There will also be an award for the person from the earliest class. The winner in 2008 was James Cooper from the Class of 1940.

There are other awards and honors that you are not going to want to miss. Help make this banquet the biggest and best ever! See you in July

Frank Faulkner

Apologies for inaccurately listing the source of the report in the last newsletter. Katherine Snape contributed the story of her Dad's career. She lives in North Yorkshire, England. Her sister, Carolyn, lives in Antalya, Turkey. In writing the particulars, Carolyn was given credit for the source of information.

If anyone wishes to be in contact with the family, Katherine provided specific addresses for family members & we could put you in touch with them including Ruth Faulkner, Frank's widow, who is now in Kokomo, Indiana.



A Graduate Honoring His Family

by Kay Vail

To honor him and thank him, we want to highlight Dr. Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., and his financial contribution to the Afton Alumni Association this year.

Of most importance, his contribution was in honor of his sisters, Claire Herkimer Anwyl and Barbara Herkimer Seibold. Claire was a graduate of Russell Sage College in Troy, New York. She died several years ago while living in New Mexico. Barbara has lived in Las Vegas since 1964 and has been ill for some time. At the time of Dr. Herkimer's last note to us, he was planning on visiting Barbara on a trip from Los Angeles back to Texas. With his contribution, Dr. Herkimer honored his sisters with the words, "They have been great sisters!"

Dr. Herkimer acknowledges that he has always had a soft place in his heart for Afton Central. He especially noted Fred (Tubby) Crane, Russell Nygren, and Jack Pluta. The school and the people made those great years, in his words.

After WWII, Dr. Herkimer went back to Syracuse University and graduated in '49. He had graduated from Afton in 1942 and proceeded to Syracuse University. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Herkimer was discharged in April, 1946, at which time he returned to Syracuse University that fall. He also mentioned that during that time, Walter Rose, Peter Vail, and others asked him to assist organizing a dance band.

Dr. Herkimer has written a number of academic books and four historical books about the Mohawk Valley. Those books were written under the name of Gil Herkimer. At age 84, Dr. Herkimer is now trying his hand at writing plays.

In preparing this article, I found online at www.authorhouse.com, some of Dr. Herkimer's books for sale and more of his biography. There were many other websites with information about his works. Many books were also shown at barnesandnoble.com.

Thank you, Dr. Herkimer!

Remembering Harold Kaufman

Harold Kaufman, class of 1959, passed away on January 30, 2009. After graduating from Afton, Harold continued his education at the University of Michigan, then graduated from Fredonia State University in 1964 with a degree in Chemistry. He later received an MBA from Rutgers University. He originally worked in Binghamton, NY, for Dutch Boy Paints. Later, after moving to Long Island, he worked in executive recruiting for a number of years. Finally, using his knowledge of chemistry and other science, he did sales for specialty oils and greases.

Harold is survived by two children, Naomi and David, and four grandchildren, as well as his sisters Barbara (class of '56) and Dorothy (class of '65). Many of you know that Harold contended with multiple sclerosis since 1976, and he put up an incredible struggle. It ultimately caused his untimely death. Donations in his name may be made to the National MS Society of Upstate NY.

ACSAA Gives Scholarships

Our scholarship efforts have far exceeded our original goals. Several \$1,000.00 scholarships have been awarded to graduating seniors. Our scholarship funds continue to grow. In 2009 we will again be giving out four \$1,000.00 scholarships. This is a remarkable achievement in only five years time.

We could not have reached these milestones without your help. Your donations no matter how big or small play an important role in our success. What does it all mean? We, past alumnus of Afton Central School realize the importance of education. Standing together we, as one association, are saying we support our outstanding youth. By placing our combined financial efforts together we are here to reinforce our youths' desire to succeed. Their success is our success.

Please take a minute and consider a donation to our scholarship fund. We acknowledge your efforts on our web page. Donations of \$1,000.00 or more offer you a lifetime membership in the Alumni Association. Donation of \$500.00 or more list you in our Rainbow Honor Society. Donations of \$100.00 to \$499.00 list you in our Old English A Society. Donations of \$99.00 or less will list you in the Crimson and White Society. Your donations are

cumulative, so by offering even small amounts of scholarship dollars you may move into the higher listed Societies over time. Your donations to this important effort are greatly appreciated. Thankyou !



ACSAA Website

<http://www.aftonnyalumni.org>

We have been weighing the convenience of publishing alumni email addresses on our website against concerns over privacy and spam.

On one hand, it's great to be able to contact a classmate or teacher as easily as looking them up in our online directory. I'm sure a lot of alumni have used this feature to get in touch with old friends.

On the other hand, there's a good reason why most social networking websites do not publish members' email addresses. There are "bad" people out there harvesting email addresses so they can sell lists to marketing companies and/or flood us with spam. Other websites often force you to login to see sensitive information or send messages to others through a form...no email addresses are ever displayed.

Facebook, eBay and MySpace are good examples of websites that use a form as a "middle man" to send a message from you to the other party. These companies have a staff of IT professionals dedicated to writing code to enable this to happen. Unfortunately, our resources are much more limited: just one guy who tinkers with this stuff when life slows down once in awhile.

So here are the options I've been studying lately. The first is to simply remove the email address entirely from our website. That's the easiest, fastest and most effective option. It's also the most debilitating, as far as communicating with each other.

The second option is to let alumni fill out a form, without showing the recipients' email address, and then let our web server do the sending on their

behalf. The sender's email address is shown to the recipient, so they can reply directly.

The third option is create a user account system, based on active membership status, forcing us to login with username and password. Once verified and logged in, alumni would have full access to email addresses and possibly other information, like electronic versions of our newsletters.

These options are listed in order by amount of effort involved, from easiest to hardest. The third option would be "sweet" (as my kids say), once created. It would be a great incentive for internet-savvy alumni to join our ranks. They could access both classmate email addresses and an ever-growing archive of newsletters. ACSAA revenue would increase, and printing expenses could decrease. Bottom line: more members and more scholarship money.

The only problem with this approach is the hours of writing and testing code, and hours more setting up accounts for all active members. With spring coming, other requests in the hopper and that life I alluded to above picking up speed, it's going to take a while to get this new system up and running.

Your ACSAA committee members will be discussing these options and may even come up with some more in the coming weeks. If you want to weigh in with your opinion, please email me directly at...oops, never mind. That's private!

Your webmaster-at-arms,

Scott Latsha '83

Box Tops For Education

We began contributing to the Boxtop program three years ago by asking that alumni save theirs from any products that had them available. Now, to report directly from the numbers on Boxtop's website, Afton is rated 3rd most successful in claiming rewards for submitting them. This covers a 25 mile radius of school in our area. So far, prior to this year and beginning in 2002, Afton has been the recipient of \$7218 from this program. In the last year, Afton claimed \$902, placing the school in the third spot. The average redeemed by the total schools was

\$245. This is astounding to see that the Boxtop program is so beneficial. The goal for ACS this year, is \$1000. Let's help them achieve it! Reporting this good news in the newsletter, is to benefit those who do not have access to a computer. About 2 years ago, Elaine Douglas of Florida, class of '53, mailed \$17 to us to be passed on to the school. This past Spring, Betty (Stohner) Sears of Massachusetts, also class of '53, sent a whopping \$32 worth of the Boxtops. Alumni who now live a distance away can still recognize the needs of our small school in the same way, if they desire. It goes to show that we are making a definite contribution to the school. Anyone who wishes to submit them directly to ACS, may mail them to the school to the attention of Karen Ludwig, who is in charge. Once again, a huge thank you to everyone. At the July reunion, it was great to see the number of alumni who deposited the saved Boxtops.

Please consider joining us:

Our next committee meetings will be at the Jack Bolster (Afton) Community Center on May 19th and June 16th.

We would love to have more members join us. We are always looking for people to help plan events and share ideas.

We also are looking for a new membership chair

A Fun Weekend is Being Planned For YOU!

The Class of 1984 is sponsoring an ice-breaker mixer for all classes. It will be at the Afton Golf Course on Friday, July 10th at 6 p.m. Please join us for some casual fun, good food and good times.

Don't forget the Afton Fair is running from July 8th through July 12th with many fun events that your family could attend. Check out their new website at www.theaftonfair.com.

Mrs. Secrest gives a great tour of the school each year around 10 a.m. Meet her at the new front entrance and she will show you all of the changes. It really is a beautiful facility.

The golf tournament and the basket raffles at the banquet raise funds for our scholarships.

Accepting Nominations For Officers:

Please e-mail

Susan Kopyar at

Skopyar@stny.rr.com

With your nominations

For any officer positions

By May 30th.

Don't forget we need a

New Membership Chair!

Join us for a Golf Tournament

July 11, 2009

Start time: 8 a.m.



Proceeds to benefit the ACSAA Scholarship fund. Be sure you check your interest on the reunion registration form or contact Ernie.

New Location For the Banquet This Year: American Legion

You will find it at 22 Union Street in Sidney, New York and we think you will be happy with the new lower banquet prices: only \$18 per person! See the map below:





You're Invited

To Our

Annual Reunion Banquet

Saturday, July 11, 2009

Sidney American Legion

22 Union Street, Sidney

563-8061

3:00 Registration/ Socializing

Cash Bar and 50/50 raffle

4:45 Welcome and Invocation

5:00 Dinner: Full Buffet

6:15 Program

Short Business Meeting

(Voting on officers by a class delegate from each class attending)

Drawings for 50/50, Gift Baskets, Door Prizes

Dinner Menu:

Roast Pork

Roast Turkey

All the trimmings

Dessert

Other Activities: 50/50 Raffle to benefit ACSAA, Collection of Boxtops labels to benefit Afton School, Awards for the class with the largest number in attendance, gift baskets, door prizes

Cost: \$18 per person (includes meal and gratuity)

*Due by June 20th



Please detach and return this half of the sheet to make a reservation for the banquet.

Name: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Number Attending: _____

Banquet, \$18 per person: _____

Voluntary Donation: _____

Voluntary Membership (\$5): _____

Total Amount enclosed: _____

Are you interested in attending an icebreaker on Friday? _____

Are you interested in going on a tour of Afton Central School? _____

Are you interested in participating in our golf tournament? _____

Make checks payable to: Kay Vail

Mail to:

Afton Central School Alumni Assoc.

c/o Kay Vail

33 Broughton Drive

Apalachin, NY 13732



**Afton Central School Alumni
Association
2009-2010**

*Membership Application and
Donation form*

If you wish to sign up for another year or more, this will give you the opportunity to remain in touch, get the bi-annual newsletter, and participate in the school's Alumni activities. There will be a winter edition in November, and a spring edition in April. In the spring edition you will receive an application for the annual reunion to be held each year on the second Saturday in July.

As a graduate or past member of the Afton class of _____, I wish to stay informed of school happenings, and news about people who attended my school. Therefore I wish to join the Association by donating _____ (annual minimum \$5) for _____ years membership. (Membership is from July to July)

If donating more than minimum, how should we direct the remainder?

Scholarship fund (Y or N) _____

Expenses _____

Other _____

Please mail your check to:
**Kay Vail, Treasurer ACSAA
23 Broughton Drive
Apalachin, NY 13732**

Donation or not, please submit (Snail mail or Email) the following for our records.

NAME : (First, maiden & Current last)

SPOUSE'S NAME (if married)

ADDRESS:

PHONE #

EMAIL ADDRESS:

_____ Check this line if you do not wish to have your e-mail published on our website

Mark Your Calendars!
You're Invited
To Our
Reunion Banquet
July 11, 2009
Sidney American Legion



Remember to let us know what events you would like to have happening during this fun-filled weekend. We would love to have as many alumni as possible involved in the planning of this annual event. We want everyone to come and have a great time!

Afton Central School
Alumni Association
c/o Afton Central School
PO Box 5
29 Academy Street
Afton, New York 13730

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