

# GHSAA Newsletter

Volume – I Edition – 2 March 15, 2005



**The “Kenny Classic” Gang**

A Golf Tournament played each July, organized by Chris and Tim Kenny to raise money for the *Clara Barton Camp for Girls with Diabetes* in honor of their father. Check out our website for more info on this great fundraiser. [www.greenwavealumni.org](http://www.greenwavealumni.org)

Folks in the photo are as follows - Standing, l to r:

Karen (Caouette) Conley '83, Ruth (Thomas) Kellogg '83, Bob Wolanske (I think he's a grad, but not sure of year), Carol (Simondiski - married to Mike Skorulski '79) Skorulski '83, John Merrigan '81, Jim Merrigan '82, Dave Marquis, Jeff Newton '81, Judy Kenny (mom), Tim Hanley (Deerfield '83), Rick Wilcox '81, Dan Organ '80, Dan Akey '82, Vin Melendez '81, Mike Johnson '85, John Organ '83, Mike Duclos '84 and Andy Fotopulos '81. Sitting, l to r: Andy Hamilton '81, Pat (Kenny) Gagnon '84, Chris Kenny '80, Mike Rawson '82, and Tim Kenny '81. Missing at the time of the pic was Joe Kais '81 and Kerry Kenny '83





## SEEKING HELP FROM REUNION COMMITTEES

This time of year, thoughts turn to the hope of new life called "SPRING". Folks start to plan for home improvement projects, new gardens and vacations. But in a few homes, we find some brave souls sitting around kitchen tables, daring to look back at old pictures of younger friends and trying to plan a party to bring them all together. We call these fine, hard working, fun loving people, the "Reunion Committees". Every five years they put all other plans on hold in order to find the right location, plan the perfect meal, track down lost classmates and tend to the countless other details involved in organizing this event. Whether this is your fifth or fifty-fifth class reunion, the planning and worry is still the same. Having said that, the Alumni Association would like to ask a favor before you send out those invitations. Would you consider adding GHSAA to your party?

When we began this association, it was our hope that we would be able to reach out to the alumni through their reunions. For many, this is the only time they return to the area and we thought this would be a good way to keep people in touch with GHS. The Alumni Association would like to be a part of your celebration by, perhaps, including a GHSAA registration form with your invitations and/or having a raffle at your event. The Class of 1977 raised \$2000.00 at their 25<sup>th</sup> and started a little friendly competition with the Class

of 1978 who donated \$2001.00 from their reunion the following year. 50/50 raffles, silent auctions and simple requests for donations added to the fun of the celebrations.

If you think your reunion committee could help in any way, please contact us as soon as possible so we can get the forms to you. In most cases, adding one more piece of paper to your invitation won't cost any more to mail. We know how much time and effort this takes, but please consider this very worthwhile fund raiser. After all, GHS is the reason for the party. Thanks

## **REMEMBERING AND HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

The Greenfield High School Alumni Association is now able to offer memorial cards to friends and family members of those who have passed away. We believe this is a wonderful way to remember those special people who have made a difference in our lives. Your donation will honor their memory and help the Alumni Association in its efforts to provide support for programs at GHS. Please contact Linda Smith at 413-773-5759 for more information.

### **GHSAA Accomplishments and Goals**

The GHSAA was created in October 2002 and has obtained its Non-profit and Federal Tax –exempt status. We have increased membership to over 100 Alumni and friends, received over \$7000 in donations from individuals and families, and created our own website: [greenwavealumni.org](http://greenwavealumni.org)

We have staffed information booths at local events such as the Mayoral/ town council elections, Thanksgiving Day football game, Classic Day at the Energy Park, had information available at several recent Class Reunions and should complete our second Newsletter by our April meeting.

We have purchased technological equipment for the GHS News class taught by Tom Bevacqua and we are supporting the effort to create a “wall of success” in the front corridor at GHS. This is a (student) class project coordinated by Barry McColgan, a teacher at GHS. This wall will help to create an environment that cherishes the history of GHS students. Many have accomplished their dreams and achieved goals that were founded by their educational experience at GHS. Many young students today will benefit by recognizing the success of so many alumni.

We believe we can build appreciation for the programs offered at GHS by acknowledging the achievements of GHS alumni from over the decades. So, we will foster those ideas by helping students involved in a class project that entails the history of GHS students. Betty Nee has written a Nomination letter to facilitate this process. (see the Academic section of our website) Just one of the many and varied accomplishments that Betty continues to achieve.

Linda Smith has created a Memorial Card for individuals and families to honor the memory of a loved one by donating to the Greenfield High School through the GHSAA. Cards may be mailed to you or picked up at local funeral homes.

John Spencer, Linda Smith and Cindi Bompastore are working on creating an Information Technology program that will provide willing GHS students the opportunity to gain valuable computer experience maintaining and improving our database and website. These students will receive academic credit for their services, and develop useful skills for future employment.

Deb Deskavich and Joe Lemay continue to find time to coordinate our information from meetings and tasks to general accounting of donations and expenses. Expenses which we vow to keep simple, clear, and to the penny; we will make choices that obtain the best value for every dollar spent.

Bill Smith, Peter Conway, Steve Shattuck, Tom Murphy, Debbie and yours truly have formed a sub-committee to evaluate the need and the possibility of upgrading the athletic facilities behind GHS. Specifically, an all weather track with an artificial field surface placed inside the oval with adjacent field space for soccer, field hockey, gym classes, Recreation Dept programs and other local groups (lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee) who have need for such a facility. We already have a top-notch football/baseball/softball complex with lights for night games for all sports, and a rink providing ice time for all levels of skating activities.

**We want this facility to be more than an athletic complex. We want to remember those we admire and cherish for the way they lived their lives and helped each of us better our own. We want this track project to be a labor of respect, a way to honor, and as a Memorial, to thank those family members, friends, teachers and neighbors who have given so much to our own lives and this community.**

**We believe you will help us raise the funds to accomplish this project. Envision a place you can visit, like Ellis Island, with a wall of stone etched with the names of the people we wish to cherish for years to come; which has multiple uses yet still honors those we wish to thank.**

There is much to do to achieve any and all of our goals. We ask if any of you have a little time to write an article for our Newsletter or email some information about the success of a fellow alumnus. Hopefully you find some way to support our alma mater.

If you have another idea for a project that you believe would improve the status of GHS, we have an open mind and wish to hear from you. We are trying to offer alumni and citizens who support public education various ways to be involved, locally and from a distance.

Best wishes and thank you

## **BIG Y Education Express points:**

Thanks to parents, neighbors and friends shopping at the Big Y, the Greenfield School system has accumulated over 2,500,000 Education Express points. These POINTS can be spent on technology supplies and equipment for GHS. Recently, two 27" televisions, TV cart, three overhead projectors, a projection screen and six safety goggles for science labs were purchased. So, if you haven't joined the cause yet, please sign-up at the Big Y customer service desk and you can contact Sue Ross – GHS librarian (772-1350 x-114) for more details. Sue stated that "TARGET", a retail store at the Hadley Mall also has a points program to benefit the Greenfield School System.

**GHSAA is working on coordinating two initiatives to benefit GHS** in general and potentially improve the electives offered to students. One is a *web-site and data base management* program and the second program would focus on *solar technology and renewable energy*. We are in discussions right now concerning the details and the essentials. You can provide information, hands-on guidance and financial support. John Spencer, Cindi Bompastore and Linda Smith will be coordinating the Information Technology program; Cathy Wilkins (GHS Science teacher), Sue Ross (GHS Librarian) and Steve Lepore will be coordinating the Solar Technology program. If we can create this I.T. program, maybe we can get you a newsletter twice yearly. If we can create this Solar tech program, maybe we can reduce the electricity costs at GHS.

A note from the President:

We have decided to re-arrange and increase our Membership fees. You can check on our website under *members*. We are a volunteer association; no one is paid for their efforts or time. We are working to improve our community through our connection to GHS. We ask that you understand the costs related to such an undertaking, and feel free to contact me to discuss any ideas you have that would benefit the GHSAA and GHS. **We created two ways to make the fee structure available for new graduates and those on a fixed income.** If you do not fit into those categories, please contact me and we will work something out. We are here to promote education, good will to the younger generations, make a contribution to our alma mater and public education in general. We want you to continue your alliance with the GHSAA, and hope you are able to give as you desire. Funds, time, effort and information are the four areas we need the most help with. Thank you for your contributions and membership.

Respectfully

Steven H Lepore – GHSAA President