



THE

# Skirmisher

BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE

"RATHER BE THAN SEEM"

BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505

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Tersina Di Pietro, Editor

**WINTER 2018**

## President's Message:

I am pleased to announce that planning for BMI Reunion 2018 has begun, and on October 26 and 27 we will bring our school back to life. The Friday night cocktail party will be at the Bordentown Yacht Club and the banquet on Saturday night will be at the Scottish Rite building on Dunns Mill Road. At both events, the food will be provided by Toscano's Ristorante.

So spit-shine your shoes, polish your brass, and have your uniform taken in because of that diet you will start next month. The Executive Board is looking forward to seeing you in October.

Respectfully,

*Jack*

Jack Harkins '67

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## YEARBOOKS

We have yearbooks available for years 1965, 1967, and 1968. Requests will be handled on a first-come first-served basis. Some have writing in them but they are all in good condition. If you are interested in receiving one of these yearbooks, email us at [bmicadets@gmail.com](mailto:bmicadets@gmail.com) or send your request to BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. We are charging \$5.00 to cover mailing costs. Please do not send this amount until you receive the yearbook.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues and other contributions, although much appreciated, are NOT tax deductible. Dues cards were mailed recently to home addresses. Several have been returned for bad addresses. The Post Office attached a corrected address that unfortunately in some cases was not legible. If you moved recently, please send us your new address so that we do not remove your name from our database.

Dues are \$20 per year payable to BMI Alumni Association. Send to P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Thank you. Remember, payment of dues is not a requirement for membership in the Alumni Association.

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## CLASS NOTES

**'44 SID BENJAMIN** wrote, "I was one of the seven members to help develop the current BMI Alumni Association to help maintain our love of BMI. We were very pleased to see how well it existed over the years. I appreciate receiving *The Skirmisher*. I shall never forget my football programs at BMI when we spent great years in winning our games."

**'46 FRANK DUMONT** wrote, "I have fond memories of my years with treasured friends at BMI. Regards to **TONY FERRIGNO** and **GENE GUAZZO** with whom I have been in touch in recent years. I am preparing for my 10<sup>th</sup> decade. Aloha!"

**'47 FRED HUBER** attended BMI from 1945 to 1947. He wrote, "As I approach the sixth Christmas without my Soul Mate and Shining Star, I have been musing on the six that preceded our first together. Brings me back to toting a rifle at Bordentown Military Institute, celebrating the end of the war and not yet old enough to be a Boy Scout! But the sixty in between, many shared with many of you, serve to brighten my life and ease the gloom. Let the record show that a lot of things in this kid's two years rubbed on and stuck to this day. Am thankful for it." Fred added he is grateful to the BMI Alumni Association Board Members for "keeping us alive."

**'48 JOHN SODERBERG** wrote, "Great to receive *The Skirmisher*! My viewpoint is that each class year is a 'last-man-standing' group. I hope to be the last-man-standing of the Class of 1948. The only contestants would be those whose dues are up to date. If I get around to paying my dues, I will be eligible to join the group."

**'50 RAY APY** lives on Marco Island, FL. After the hurricane, he wrote, "We stayed through the hurricane: no way to start out at the last minute; no plane tickets; roads jammed, etc. We had no major damage to our house but the pool cage is gone and some roof damage. There was also some tree loss. Not a nice scene. My wife and I swear we will not do it again."

**'60 BOB CONSTANTINO** sent greetings from Japan. He wrote, "All is good here."

**'61** Whether or not you believe lumberjack Paul Bunyan actually existed, you can believe that amateur lumberjack **BOB FRISBIE** does indeed exist. Bob enjoys his home in Goshen, VA. He spends a great deal of time attending to his ten acres of land: chain-sawing trees that are standing dead and cleaning up fallen trees from windstorms. The wood is given to a neighbor and also to a Vietnam veteran in Goshen, VA, both of whom heat their homes with wood burning stoves.

**GEORGE FOX LANG** wrote, "I am a retired Engineer. For over forty years, my 'hobby job' has been writing and editing for *Sound & Vibration* magazine. While I earned beans and bacon elsewhere (at a variety of places), writing for S&V gave me untold pleasure over the years. It probably also saved me tens of thousands of dollars in psychiatric fees, as writing about something that bothers you is a wonderful outlet."

We received a letter from **JOHN S. RUFFING** in which he informs us that he has changed his name to **JOHN P. STIEF**. He added, "I remain in Arizona and have noted the announced reunion dates. Since Arizona is a state that is free of natural disasters and if my health holds out, I hope to attend."

**'63** We received an email from **JOSEPH DeFIGLIO** who attended the BMI Summer School in 1963. Joe lives in Santa Barbara, CA.

**'64 MIKE MADDEN** wrote, "Thanks for keeping me up to date on the alums. Sorry to hear that **RICH GUIDETTI** passed away. Rich, **PETE BAIR**, and I graduated at BMI together and then went to William and Mary. By the way, great work on scholarship program!"

Along with his dues and an added contribution, **JOHN ROSS** sent a note stating, "Thanks for all the great work you are doing. The newsletters are terrific! Am planning on attending Reunion 2018."

**'67 STEVE SMITH** wrote, "I was one of the lesser stars of the BMI story as my claim to BMI stardom was cut short by Special Orders for drag racing. Boys and their toys! Took me years to outgrow my fetish for fast cars."

**'68 TOM O'DONNELL** wrote, "I want to thank you for your wonderful updates to keep us cadets informed of the BMI Alumni Association events. I will be attending the 2018 Reunion and looking forward to uniting with past cadets. In July 2017, I retired after forty-seven years in higher education. My best and latest role was Dean of our Nationally Acclaimed Veteran Affairs Program at Stockton University. It was what I learned at BMI that gave me the skills to be successful in my academic and professional life. I continue to help our veterans on a national level as a Senior Advisor to the Veteran Education Committee in Washington, DC, through Operation College Promise." Tom was awarded a Proclamation by the New Jersey State Senate in recognition of his outstanding tenure of service at Stockton University, and for his exceptional efforts in the creation of the Veteran Affairs Office which is dedicated to supporting and assisting the men and women who served in the armed forces with their University experience.

**'69 ARTHUR SAWL** sent an email stating, "My wife and I moved to Santa Fe, NM, in November 2017. To say that we love it here would be understating it. The breathtaking sunrise/sets, the incredible blue color of the sky (provided by a lack of pollution), the friendliness of the people, the mixing of the cultures (Native American, Latino, and Anglo), the history of the area itself (occupied by the Natives for over a thousand years and by Europeans since the late 1500's), the fabulous cuisine, the lack of traffic, the vibrant art scene (third largest art market in the U.S., behind NYC and LA) all combine to make this area the place we were born to live in. Any BMI alums visiting the area feel free to look me up."

**FACULTY:** We received a letter from Fay Colby Dubell, daughter of Prof. Lyndon Colby. Fay recalls living in Colby House during her growing-up years. She wrote, "I remember attending chapel services with my father. We enjoyed Dr. Smith's inspiring messages to the cadets. I also enjoyed attending the track meets, basketball and football games."

Leon Papir, Spanish teacher and soccer coach from 1969 to 1972, wrote to say, "Excellent Skirmisher. You deserve immense credit for keeping the BMI spirit alive."

*Please note:* If your class is not listed above, it is because we have not received notes from members. So get busy and let us hear from you!

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## BMI's Website

**BOB FRISBIE '61** spends a great deal of time updating our Web site and he encourages alumni to check it out from time to time.

## WEST POINT CONCERT BAND

Our BMI Alumni Association and the City of Bordentown co-sponsored an evening of music on January 12, 2018. They were instrumental in bringing to this area the United States Military Academy Concert Band to perform at the local high school, following a performance by members of the Bordentown Regional High School band. Mayor **JAMES E. LYNCH, JR.** (BMI '73) invited the West Point Band members to come to Bordentown "not just to entertain us but also to be thanked by us for their service to our Country." Mayor Lynch presented a Proclamation to the Band in which he included the Bordentown Military Institute Alumni Association and its place in Bordentown's history. As the evening's concert came to a close, **JACK HARKINS**, President of our Alumni Association, spoke briefly about BMI and reminded those present that the Association is working to keep the spirit of BMI alive in the City of Bordentown.

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## IN MEMORIAM

The officers and members of the Executive Board join with the entire membership of the BMI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION in extending sincere sympathy to the families of:

**DUNN, DONALD A. (FACULTY)**

**EVALT, WILLIAM "GERRY" '68**

**FIORITO, VINCENT J. '51**

For a complete list of deceased alumni, go into our Web site ([www.bmicadets.org](http://www.bmicadets.org)) and click on "In Memoriam."

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