



# 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

**SUMMER 2018**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

June was a very good month for our Alumni Association. On the evening of June 15, we were at the Bordentown Regional High School Award Ceremony giving out scholarships. On the evening of June 16, at the City of Bordentown Street of Dreams car show, I was called to the podium to speak briefly about BMI. Even more exciting, the car show tee-shirt featured the BMI crest, cadet statue, and our school motto. We seize every opportunity to be certain that the citizens of Bordentown remember Bordentown Military Institute and its prominent place in Bordentown's history.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Reunion 2018 on October 26 and 27.

Respectfully,

*Jack*

Jack Harkins '67

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## **CLASS NOTES**

'45 **ARNOLD WOLFE** sent a note informing us of his new address in Delray Beach, FL. He asked if we could put him in touch with any of his war time buddies. (*Ed. Note: Let us know who they are, Arnie. We might be able to help.*) He added, “Keep up the good work!”

'47 **BERNARD FEATHERMAN**, Mayor of the Town of Highland Beach, FL, retired as a business leader and became the president/CEO of the Chamber of Commerce for two cities in Maine prior to moving to the Town of Highland Beach as a full-time resident. Among his many accomplishments, both past and present, he is

past chair of the County of Philadelphia Mental Health/Mental Retardation Board, and has served on numerous charitable, educational, and civic boards. Although Bernard is originally from Philadelphia, he spent much of the last fifteen years in Kennebunkport, ME, where his wife was the president of a university in a nearby town.

'51 **DON CHARBONNIER** is planning to attend our Reunion in October. He added, "I hope other members from my class will be there also."

'56 Along with his dues, **FRANK GIOVE** attached a note stating he is "alive and crawling." Frank makes his home in Reston, VA.

**LEONARD KOHN** wrote, "I was saddened to see in the last newsletter of Mr. Dunn's passing. I was in his house (which I believe was called the Mitchell House). Before I started in 1955, he became a father and the cadets nicknamed him Daddy Dunn."

'57 **BOB HENDRICKS** sent a note stating, "Thanks for keeping it going."

**MARSHALL TILDEN, JR.** sent an email. He wrote, "I have been threatening my wife to come to one of these reunions but have not attended in the past. I am definitely going to try to attend for the latter part of October. The last time I came back to BMI was in October of 1967. I hope to make it for 2018."

'58 We heard from **J.R. ARTHUR** (formerly Art or Artie). He wrote, "I am writing each (and all) of you to see if you would be coming to our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion. I know, time has relentlessly passed! And, so quickly!! These round-numbered reunions only happen every ten years, and if you are waiting for the 70<sup>th</sup>, you are going to have to wait another DECADE. You will have to wait even longer if you intend to attend the 75<sup>th</sup>. While I do plan on attending both of those and hope each of you do also, please consider attending this one while we still have the mental faculties to tell fascinating stories of our lives and exploits. I would tell you of mine, but I think I will leave that for late in October. By the way, if you are in contact with other members of our class or the classes of '57 and '59, please pass this or your own invitation to each of them. Be on the GOOD LIST and sign up with Tersina today!" (*Ed. Note: You heard it from Santa Claus himself. If you have read previous newsletters, you will understand that statement.*)

'59 **J. R. ARTHUR '58** sent us a message to convey to the members of the Class of 1959. Here it is. "Hey, you guys from the Class following '58! You know that this is the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your graduation from BMI. Imagine that--59<sup>th</sup> of Class of 59- kind'a poetic, no?? I am writing each (and all) of you to see if you would be coming to the celebration of your 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion (only a year EARLY)."

**BOB DENT** wrote, "I so appreciate the opportunity to connect with BMI Alumni. I have such great memories of the cadet corps and the staff, as well as the solid preparations the school gave me for college and for life. The years spent at BMI were well worth it despite moments of anxiety and stressing out. So many faces pass through my mind as I remember the encouragement and support each one gave to me and to so many others. Blessings on you each one."

**PETER KOENIG** sent an email stating, "Please let me know of reunions so I can attend."

'60 **BOB CONSTANTINO** wrote, "I have a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/bob.constantino.33](http://www.facebook.com/bob.constantino.33)) My ministry is LETSGOREADTHEBIBLE."

**BILL MIRANDA** is a Council member in the City of Santa Clarita, CA.

**LOUIS SHAPIRO** sent an email to our President, **JACK HARKINS '67**. He wrote, "After I finished reading *The Skirmisher*, I felt that I needed to let you know how much I appreciate the time and effort you and others put in to keep the BMI memories alive. Those efforts are something most of us take for granted but should not. When I first entered BMI in my Junior year, I was, to say the least, a troubled youth. Only a year earlier my father had died from a sudden heart attack, a loss which turned my world upside down. My academic

record my freshman and sophomore years in a Pennsylvania private school was just north of shameful. The fact that Dr. Smith was willing to take a chance on me still mystifies me to this day. I still remember his patience and encouragement which played a major role in my life during my two years at BMI. Were it not for BMI and its many dedicated teachers, I am not sure where I would be today. I never recognized this until later in my life when, unfortunately, it was too late to personally thank those faculty at BMI who were so helpful and supportive. I spent nearly fifty years as a partner and principal in a 40-person architectural firm, a profession which I thoroughly enjoyed. I am now retired and, although my wife and I spend three months in Florida every year, our primary residence is still Waverly, PA. A big thank you to you and the others who chip in to help. Please know that your efforts are appreciated.”

'61 Along with his dues and a generous contribution, **CHET DERR** wrote, “Thank you for keeping our tradition alive!”

On March 1, **NORMAN KIRSCHBAUM** wrote, “Retired today!” Norm now resides in Indian Orchard, MA.

'62 **J. VANN BECK** was kind enough to send us the obituary of a BMI alumnus, **EDWIN H. JOHNSON** '41. Although Vann did not know Edwin, he saw his obituary in the Treasure Coast Newspapers and passed it on to us for which we are grateful. Vann makes his home in Vero Beach, FL.

We received an email from **WYNN KIMBLE**. He plans to attend Reunion 2018. Wynn lives in Powder Springs, GA.

It has been some time since **HUMBERTO LARACH** has attended a BMI Reunion. He assures us that he plans to attend in October.

**MANUEL LAUREDO** sent an email. He wrote, “I have enjoyed reading *The Skirmisher* for years. The Association has done an extremely good job in maintaining the BMI tradition and I am proud of being a part of the history of our great school. I am planning to attend the 2018 Reunion.” Manuel hopes to get in touch with members of the Class of 1962.

We received a note from **ED PRINTZ**. He wrote, “After a long career in TV Sports Broadcasting, my wife, Dianne, and I have been living in the Houston area for thirty years. Unfortunately, I do not make it up to New Jersey very often but I have many great memories of my years at BMI: the parades, the football teams (never lost a game), weekend leaves, study hall on the 'upstairs list,' the Friday night fire drills, and the occasional dances we would have with the all-girl schools in the area. The years were unique and special. If any of you are in the Houston area, we live in Weston Lakes, a suburb...give us a shout.”

'63 We heard from **TOM ASHLEY**. He wrote, “Thank you for keeping the memory of BMI alive and well. I attended BMI for three years and met many people that I respected and who influenced my life. I was sent to BMI because my parents were concerned with my choice of friends, many of whom became lawyers or doctors so their concerns were valid! I became a chemist and spent my career in environmental pollution and nuclear power and yes, I think they are related favorably. While at BMI, I lived in White House, across the hall from **FLOYD LITTLE**. I developed a deep respect for Floyd for many reasons not just his talent as a football player. One night while awaiting a call for the outcome of my mother's open heart surgery, Floyd made sure no one used the phone until I got my call.”

**BOB CHISHOLM**, aka “**CHIS**,” editor-in-chief of BMI's 1963 award-winning *Sword & Sabre* yearbook, distinguished himself as Director Emeritus and Founder of two (2) “Compeer” Volunteer Programs, serving three Suburban Philadelphia counties. In 1992, CHIS was named Compeer International's “Program Director of the Year.” To learn about these unique, not-for-profit, community support services, which CHIS started up from scratch as a social entrepreneur, please go to [www.CompeerChesco.org](http://www.CompeerChesco.org). Since his retirement in June 2014, CHIS continues choral singing with Coventry Singers, which he learned to love as a member of BMI's Glee Club. CHIS and his wife Judy both enjoy volunteering with Compeer in Chester County, PA. Of his

five years at BMI, 1958-1963, CHIS says “It changed—indeed it SAVED—my life!” CHIS musters ‘63 classmates at [robchis44@gmail.com](mailto:robchis44@gmail.com).

We received a letter from LTC **STEVE McNAMARA** (U.S. Army (Retired)). He wrote, “I am enjoying retirement with activities from teaching firearms safety classes to maintaining a 140-year-old brick Victorian home in western Pennsylvania. My wife is still actively engaged in daily labors as a Drug and Alcohol Prevention specialist. She will not be eligible for Social Security for three years and then traveling is in our plans. GDIC (Granddaughter in charge) is a high school senior. She has been awarded a dual athletic/academic scholarship at Indiana University of PA. She is smarter than I was and I hope she never asks what my GPA was in college. Facebook has made reconnecting with former cadets so much easier. Greetings to all!”

'64 **JOHN ROSS** sent an email stating, “Great newsletter as always. Thanks to all of you who work to keep us together. Looking forward to the 2018 Reunion. **JOHN BRADMAN**, our Commandant's son, was a friend of mine. As we all know, he was killed in Vietnam. I served in Vietnam in 1970. Who else served in WWII, Korea, etc.?”

**ALAN SITT** wrote, “Many thanks for your efforts on behalf of BMI alumni. I am happy to report that **BOB STEWART** and I are in almost daily contact. Cheers!”

'65 We received a note from **PAUL GIFFIN**. He wrote, “Thank you for all your efforts with the Association.” (*Ed. Note: We never get tired of hearing that.*)

**JOHN SUBLETT** moved to Sun City in Georgetown, TX, ten months ago and was surprised that we found him there. He added, “Please change my address and keep sending the newsletters.”

'66 **HENRY BERRY** and his wife moved from New Jersey to Kansas to be near their daughters.

Along with his dues, **REYNOLDS BALDWIN, JR.** sent an additional contribution in memory of his father, **REYNOLDS BALDWIN, SR.** and his cousin, **GEORGE H. BALDWIN**, both graduates of BMI.

'67 **MICHAEL EATON** paid dues and included an extra donation in memory of his father also a BMI graduate.

**BILL ROYLE** sent an email to our President, **JACK HARKINS**. He wrote, “Kudos to you and others who keep the BMI memories alive. While I did not think so at the time, BMI was a very positive and significant influence in my life. I have been very fortunate in life and I can honestly say BMI turned me in the successful direction. I worked at Ford Motor Company for over thirty-seven years, relocated eight times, and had international management assignments in the United States and Asia. Lived for over three years in Shanghai, China. In short, I am very lucky and I know now that BMI gave me the foundation for future success. I am living in Thailand now but I also maintain an address in Birmingham, MI.”

'69 **JOE BRADLEY** wrote, “I hope to be at the Reunion this year. I look forward to seeing all those that also make the effort to attend. It should be a fun time.”

'70 **ALEX COOPER** said that he and his wife Gay will be in Paris so they will not be able to attend Reunion 2018. He added, “Hopefully we will see everyone at the next one.”

'71 **FRANCIS KIMLEY III** wrote, “Although I attended BMI in 1969-71, I would like to receive a 1968 yearbook because I think it would be nice to sit down and look at it along with the photos, report cards, and all the other BMI memorabilia that I already have.” (*Ed. Note: We were able to provide him with a 1968 yearbook.*)

## **IN MEMORIAM**

SAMUEL F. BONACCI, JR. '59

JONATHAN P. GLASBY '40

HENRY A. GRACEY '48

EDWIN H. JOHNSON '41

ROGER W. SANDS '47

\*RUSSELL SETO '53

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

\*It is always sad when we have to report the loss of a member of the BMI family. When the loss is sudden and under tragic circumstances, the sadness is compounded. **RUSSELL SETO** died in a single vehicle auto accident while driving his vintage TR-3 sports car on a road trip from Texas to Los Angeles. Russ is survived by his wife, 2 daughters, and brothers, **Stan '56, Rodney '59, and Steve '65**. We extend sincere sympathy to Russ' family as well as to the families of all those listed in our "In Memoriam" column.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Once again, our BMI Alumni Association awarded scholarships to selected graduates of Bordentown Regional High School. The Scholarship Committee reported they had a difficult task in selecting awardees because many of the essays submitted for consideration were of stellar quality. Our President, **JACK HARKINS '67**, presented scholarships to: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$1,500 – Amber Rose Muller; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1,000 – Georgia DeMas; 3 Runners-Up - \$150 each – Lauren Appleby, Evan Braasch, Sydney Wierzchowski. This is another way in which we keep BMI in the forefront of Bordentown's history.

### **YEARBOOKS**

We have yearbooks available for years 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, and 1968. Requests will be handled on a first-come first-served basis. They are in fairly 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.

### **BMI RING FOUND**

A Bordentown resident was planting flowers in front of her house when she discovered a BMI ring in the dirt. She announced it on Facebook and we contacted her. Apparently it is not a class ring because it is not gold and has no graduation date. It is sterling silver with a red stone that was sold in BMI's school store many years ago. She is willing to give it to any alumnus who is interested.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Dues and other contributions, although much appreciated, are **NOT** tax deductible. Dues are \$20 per year payable to BMI Alumni Association, P. O. Box 91, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Payment of dues is not a requirement for membership in the BMI Alumni Association. To those who have already paid dues for 2018 we thank you.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PROGRAM 1972**

If anyone is interested in this program, email or write us and we will send it to you on a first-come first-served basis.

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**REUNION 2018**

**FRIDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 26  
INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER  
AT  
BORDENTOWN YACHT CLUB**

**SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 27  
DINNER/DANCE  
AT  
SCOTTISH RITE BUILDING**

A special mailing with all particulars will be sent at a later date so stay tuned.

If you would like to contact former classmates, roommates, etc., but you do not know where to find them, let us know. We might have their information on file.

**SEE YOU IN OCTOBER.**