



THE

Skirmisher

BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE

“RATHER BE THAN SEEM”

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

Website: www.bmicadets.org

Email: bmicadets@gmail.com



Tersina Di Pietro, Editor

SUMMER 2019

President's Message

I hope this message finds you all in good health and enjoying the Summer.

As you know, preserving the memory of Bordentown Military Institute is always the primary goal of our Alumni Association. This year we again awarded scholarships to graduating seniors at Bordentown Regional High School. We owe a sincere thank you to Executive Board members Joe Porter '67, Bob Frisbie '61, Mark Josephson '71 and Jeff Nissim '66 for all the work they did to make these scholarships a reality.

Among other projects, we also sponsor a local student to attend Boys State this summer. As many of you may know, American Legion Boys State is among the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Thanks to Executive Board Vice President J. C. Platt '74 for coordinating our contribution to this worthwhile endeavor.

As our finances permit, we shall continue to do what we can to ensure that Bordentown Military Institute will forever be remembered in the City of Bordentown not only for what it was in the past, but also for what it is still contributing to the community. With your help we can do that.

Thank you for your dues and generous contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack

Jack Harkins '67

Please Note: If you are paying dues, writing emails, or sending letters, PLEASE include your Class Year along with your name. Thank you.

CLASS NOTES

'37 We received word from Gary Sandler, son of **QUENTIN SANDLER**. Gary tells us that his Dad and his uncle, **ROBERT SANDLER '48**, are “still around and doing fair.” Quentin lives in Miami Beach and Robert is in Boca Raton, FL.

'39 Along with his dues, **H. AUSTIN MITSCHER** sent a letter bringing us up to date on his news. He wrote, “This was the third reunion in a row that I missed. It was always a nice day out to come back to Bordentown. Marching in the parade was always the highlight for me. Where were all of the alumni from the 1930's? I know where I was...home! When we get older, the next thing is where have all of my classmates gone? World War II took a terrible toll on those of my age. I have lost track of all of my college mates as well. Living abroad after retirement caused me to lose track of many of my co-workers as well. As much as I disliked my years at BMI, I have to admit that the education and discipline caused me to prosper.”

'47 **BERNARD FEATHERMAN** serves as President of the 2019 Boca Raton Shrine Club of Amara. (Turn to page 4 for a message Bernard published in the SCIMITAR, their newsletter.)

'48 **JOHN SODERBERG** wrote, “The Class of '48 was not represented in the Winter 2019 CLASS NOTES. I will do the job for the next issue of *The Skirmisher*.” He added, “John Soderberg is still chuggin' along!”

PAUL STANTON wrote, “I missed the last reunion but hope to make the next one. I greatly enjoyed reading *The Skirmisher*. I was sorry to notice that we lost more cadets, particularly several that I knew. Life marches on!”

'50 **RAYMOND “RAY” APY** sent a note along with his dues. He wrote, “All's well as can be! Thanks for reminding me (about the dues). I really need that these days.”

'51 **JOHN IMLAY** is a Broker Associate with The Bell Team Realtors in Bordentown. If you have need for his services, he can be reached at amimlay@comcast.net.

'57 **J. ROBERT HENDRICKS** sent a note with his dues. He wrote, “Thank you for keeping this important part of my life going.”

KEN SMITH paid dues for 2019 and added a note. He wrote, “I am a few years late with the dues. Sorry about that. I guess I lost sleepovers for life. I enjoy *The Skirmisher* and appreciate all your great efforts to keep us connected. Many thanks!” (Ed. Note: *On behalf of the Board of Directors, I send our thanks for your nice comment.*)

'58 **JOHN R. (J.R.) ARTHUR** sent an email stating, “Great News!! I finally got in touch with **MICHAEL SHYJAN** (initially **MICHAEL SZYJAN** in '55). He was my roommate for three years. Michael became an engineer, graduating from RPI, but, as BMI trained him, became very involved in tennis and is now (the soon-to-retire) founder and owner of the Westford Racquet and Fitness Club in Westford, MA. Mike and his wife cannot figure where to live, bouncing from snowy Massachusetts to sunny Florida semi-annually.” J.R. added, “We anxiously await your next Skirmish...but in the meantime, will be waiting by the pool.”

'59 **WALT FETTERLY**'s mail was returned but we found him. He now resides in Nokomis, FL.

'60 **BOB CONSTANTINO** is a faithful contributor to our CLASS NOTES. He wrote, “Next year, I will celebrate my 77th birthday with full trimmings, and possibly an extra glass of wine, with my Japanese family and friends. I moved to Japan in 1989 to set the restorations for a new life, with new challenges in place. I was an engineering student at Purdue, but decided on a finance career which led to membership—as a floor broker—on the New York Stock Exchange from 1978 to 1988.” Bob lives with his daughter and continues to teach. He

also keeps busy with his writing and connections to the Catholic Church for lessons directed to Bible history and theology.

BILL MIRANDA wrote, "Thank you for the latest issue of *The Skirmisher*. It is always good to read and reflect on the great years I was fortunate enough to spend there. Thank you for all the good work you do in keeping BMI alive." (For more from Bill, please turn to page 4.)

RICHARD SHIPPEN wrote, "I always enjoy getting *The Skirmisher*. Keep up the good work."

'61 **JOE CARTER** wrote, "BMI was a wonderful experience for me, both in helping me learn how to study and also helping me in sports. It was sad to hear about **TOM LONGO** and **DENNIS McCARTHY**. I keep in touch with some classmates, especially **LEO PELLERITI**. I am still working as a mfg. rep. Has anyone heard where **BOB MASCALI** is? He was my roommate and I have lost track of him. We had some great times."

"Keep up the great job please," wrote **CHET DERR, JR.** He added, "Love reading the newsletter."

'62 Along with his dues, we had a short note from **WYNN (JERRY) KIMBLE**. He wrote, "Thank you for keeping the memory and name, **BMI**, alive. Thanks a bunch!!"

We learned that **ANDREW OHLSON** and his wife moved from Bent Tree, GA, to Vero Beach, FL.

DENNY TODDINGS want us to "keep up the hard work." He added, "Reading *The Skirmisher* brings back great memories."

'63 **JACK AQUILA** is associated with Weidel Realtors. If you have need for his service, he can be reached at jaquilal@comcast.net

TOM ASHLEY wrote, "I enjoy reading *The Skirmisher* and catching up on the latest news. I find myself reviewing the 'In Memoriam' section and pausing to reflect on those classmates that have passed on. Some I knew well and fondly remember times shared. It is odd that I may not have seen that classmate for forty or fifty years, yet his memory is clearly etched in my mind. Now for the present. We are living in Virginia. We have two grandchildren who light up our life. I worked as a chemist with recovery of high enriched uranium and later in nuclear power. My first job was working as an industrial pollution control chemist and that was my favorite by far. Best to my classmates of 1963!"

EUGENE REID wrote, "Would anyone in your circle of BMI friends know the telephone number, email address, or street address for **BILL HORTON** or **PHIL THIELHELM** from the Class of 1964? I would also like to know about **TOM BRADY**. When did he pass away? Was he a vet?" If you can provide information for Eugene, you can reach him at genereidsc@yahoo.com

'64 **MICHAEL MADDEN** is a Counselor at Law with Madden & Madden in Haddonfield, NJ. Along with his dues, he wrote, "Keep up the great work!"

We received a note from **ALAN SITT** stating, "I am very happy with your efforts to keep the spirit and memories of BMI alive. Thanks."

BOB STEWART wrote, "I try to keep up with a lot of 'old boys' through Facebook. I moved to Pennsylvania in October 2018. Hope to attend the next reunion."

'65 **STEVE SETO** wrote, "All is well here in St. Louis. I am slowly edging toward retirement, likely sometime later this year. After that, I intend to be in vacation mode for about a year before I think about what, if anything, I intend to do. I have spent over fifty years in the industry, and I think that is about enough."

'68 **GEORGE THOMAS** moved to Englewood, FL. He wrote, "I hope everyone is in good health and happy. Keep *The Skirmisher* coming."

JOSEPH VRABLIK paid his dues and sent a sizable donation "to be used in the best interests of the 'Old Boys' and our Association. God bless you all." (*Ed. Note: Thanks, Joe.*)

'72 **DAVID CHATFIELD** sent a note with his dues. He wrote, "Thank you for all you do!"

FACULTY: **Steve Libro** wrote, “Again thank you for your efforts to keep BMI alive. Never a day goes by that I don't think of those men – Smith, Borst, Colby, Hartpence, and a host of others. Good, Better, Best!”

FRIENDS: **Fay Colby Dubell**, daughter of Mr. Lyndon L. Colby who taught Modern Languages for many years at BMI, sends best wishes to former cadets who may remember her. As a child, she lived in Colby House with her family.

I REMEMBER

Last November, I had the honor of being elected to another term as councilmember to the third most populated city in Los Angeles County, Santa Clarita. After a long campaign and a short period of celebration, my wife and I decided to travel back East to visit family and friends. Naturally, that also included a trip to Bordentown. We stood in front of the Cadet Statue while I bored my wife with story after story of my time there. Then we walked to St. Mary's Church taking the same route we cadets took many years ago on our way to Sunday Mass. At St. Mary's we prayed. I thanked God for the great blessing I received when He took me out of a NYC ghetto and put me in the hands of Dean Smith, Mr. Borst and the faculty, staff and cadet corps of BMI. It was at BMI that I learned the leadership skills that have served me well in life and I am truly grateful for the time I spent there.

I remember that in late 1959 the basketball team was warming up before practice. Colonel John Roosma, who had just replaced the irreplaceable Colonel Herbert T. Benz as Commandant of Cadets, walked on the court in his military uniform and asked me if he could have a shot. He was almost 60 and I hoped he would not hurt himself. He took two shots and missed badly on both. He smiled at me and said, “I'm a bit rusty.” I smiled and thought, “Here is a man who dreamed of someday playing basketball.” Many years later, in 1981, I visited the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA. To my amazement, Mr. Johnny Roosma was an inductee, having been considered the best college basketball player of his era. Colonel Roosma was a living example of “Rather Be Than Seem.”

WILLIAM A. MIRANDA '60

Recently, reflections came to me of a childhood love, Broadway star Eva Fondalier. Eva was a Follies dance and song beauty, headlining years ago in Broadway shows like *George White Scandals*, when the famous Jack Benny fiddled down lower on the same billing. But her beauty was deeper than that. One snowy winter's day, she took her six-year-old son shopping with her to a store almost a mile and a half away. To get there, she and her son had to walk through a hilly goat farm in the snow. When they arrived back home, his mother counted her money and realized she had 42 cents more than she should have had. The store owner must have given her too much change. She bundled her son up for that long walk back with her to return the over-payment. Honesty was a way of life with his mother. That integrity burned an indelible mark in that boy and in return, he taught his sons like values when they were growing up. Ethics, honesty, and transparency were the key notes in their lives. And they still are for them today. Shriners must continue to sell those ethical principles, too, like Eva taught her son. I know because Eva was my mother.

BERNARD FEATHERMAN '47

WEBSITE

Bob Frisbie '61 has full responsibility for our Website. You would do well to visit the site from time to time. In there you will find previous issues of *The Skirmisher*, Reunion news, Obituaries, etc.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

If you have read the comments in CLASS NOTES, then you know that many alumni write to tell us how much they appreciate the efforts put forth by the members of the Board of Directors to keep BMI alive. We publish these comments not because we are “tooting our own horn” but because we believe alumni want to hear from former classmates, roommates, etc., even if hearing from them consists of just a few words. The Alumni Board of Directors wants to know that alumni appreciate what we do and they are 100% behind our efforts to maintain a viable Alumni Association. When you drop us a note telling us how you feel about what we do, it gives us the incentive to continue doing it. Thank you.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

BRADLEY, JOHN A. '61

****ROSSI, MRS. CATHERINE V.**

SCHAEFFER, DONALD '63

SCHAMEL, RALPH '52

SOTTOS, ROBERT J. '42

STARK, RUDOLPH “RUDY” '49

TINDALL, RICHARD “DICK” '51

UPSON, STUART G. '62

****Mrs. Rossi was the wife of JERRY ROSSI '44, who was one of the “Original Seven” instrumental in the rebirth of the BMI Alumni Association. She was always a loyal member of the Association and opened her home to Board members for meetings, etc. We extend our condolences to her family.**

ANGELO V. CANDELORI '56

As you know, Angelo passed away several months ago. At that time, we sent a notice to alumni announcing his passing. Following are some of the reactions to that announcement:

“When I fell and broke my hip the night of the Reunion in 2012, I was all alone when taken to the hospital. I had come from Cape Cod, MA, by car and was staying in a motel in Bordentown. Angelo got some other alums and friends to visit me in the hospital. I did not know any of them. They made me laugh until I was ready to be operated on. After the surgery, they visited me again. I will never forget it. They reminded me we were truly a Band of Brothers. Angelo, by himself, visited me at rehab a couple of times. To me, he was the face of the Alumni Association. I was devastated upon hearing of his passing, but I am a living tribute to his legacy.” **BILL PARKINS '49**

“It is always sad to learn of the loss of a 'fellow traveler.' I have lost fifteen such in the past year alone. Having left BMI before his time there, I did not know Angelo but I am thankful for his breathing new life into the Institute. Such has sustained us with never-to-be forgotten memories.” **FRED HUBER '52**

“Rest in Peace, Angelo.” **ALAN SITT '64**

“So sorry. He certainly deserved the thanks of all of us for his vision and leadership.”
JEANETTE SMITH CURETON – FACULTY

“May he rest in peace.” **RONALD “DUTCH” WALDHEIM '63**

“Rest in Peace, Angelo. Thank you for all your efforts bringing us back in touch with classmates and other grads.” **STEVE McNAMARA '63**

“Very sorry to hear of Angelo's passing. Thanks to him we can connect with one another.”
PHILIP GAFFNEY '66

“Angelo connected with me around 1998 while he was visiting his son here in Northern Virginia. From that time on, I attended the reunions as much as possible. I met him at BMI when he was a cadet corporal. He was a good looking guy with black hair and was sharp in his personal appearance. We shared our Italian-American heritage. He introduced me to Elaine, his high school sweetheart. He used to bring me Italian food on several Sundays during the school year. Nothing like pasta, meatballs, sausages, etc during study period at night. Being on the 'uppies' was good. Angelo was terrific to think of me in this way. He was a terrific friend, classmate and an outstanding cadet captain, the battalion executive officer. God bless you, Angelo, and God bless your family.” **FRANK GIOVE '56**