



Bedford High School Alumni Association

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Bedford High School Alumni Association Accomplishments and Goals (July 2008)

When the association was formed in 1996, the primary purpose was to be the sponsoring organization for the Bedford Community Stadium Project. The secondary purpose that spun off the original was to encourage and promote camaraderie between all Bedford High School Alumni.

The Stadium has been built, and has been operating since the fall of 1997. We have an Alumni Association web site page on the Bedford Public Schools Website, and it is a most sought after place to post reunion information. We also have stadium information there as well. Working with Harris Connect, an Alumni Directory is published every 5 years and a database of this information is on file with the association. People contact us all of the time for information on lost classmates and for a copy of the database as it pertains to their particular class year to help them at reunion time. Harris Connect also maintains a web site where alumni can update their information and receive information as well. The two original purposes of the organization have been met, and beyond.

The Stadium Project was originally scheduled to be done in three phases, as funds would allow. The first stage was the completion of the field and spectator areas, and while it opened in 1997 with a little work to be finished, this part was completed in 1998. Bathroom facilities were portable restrooms and portable hand washing stations, and remain that way today. Concessions were prepared off site, and were sold from tents and tables inside the facility.

The second phase was to be permanent concession stands, and that was taken on by our Band and Orchestra Booster Organization. Three concession stands of outstanding quality were built using local contractors where necessary and volunteer labor wherever possible, and the stadium patrons are served well with a very reasonable wait time because of them. The Band Boosters make the payments on their loans from the profit made on the stadium concessions.

The third phase of the project was to be permanent restrooms and locker room areas under the home and away stands. This part of the project has not been accomplished yet, and will in all likelihood remain uncompleted until financial conditions improve. We have not had any other organization step up to date, and the Alumni Association simply cannot take on any more major financial commitments until the original stadium loan has been retired.

The stadium had been an overwhelming success in our community. Not only does it provide a premier venue for our football and track teams to compete in, it also has been a blessing for the community at large. Most evenings you will find area residents running or walking the track. Sometimes people will simply sit on the bleachers, reading in the sun. The Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society has been a huge success at the stadium, and everyone who participates is impressed by the facility. Gym classes from both the Junior and Senior High Schools have used it in the past, and the list of uses goes on and on. The Senior Relays, Junior and Senior Girls Big Ball Game, Bedford Township Fireworks Display, and Elementary Schools Field Days are all hosted at the stadium. Bedford Community Stadium is also the home of The Toledo Reign, a local women's professional football team.

There is absolutely no question that Bedford High School and our community are better places because of the Bedford Community Stadium.

The Bedford High School Hall of Fame is a project of ours that we are extremely proud of. We began in 2000 with our first induction ceremony as a way to enshrine those who have contributed significantly to the pride and tradition of Bedford High School. The annual Hall of Fame Banquet has been recognized as one of the most prestigious events of the year in Bedford.

In the past we have offered two scholarships annually, but lack of funding this past year caused us to withdraw them for the year. When the stadium debt is retired, working toward an endowment scholarship fund is our next goal. Helping kids at Bedford is one of the primary reasons that we should even have an Alumni Association. We also participate in the "Adopt-A-Road" program sponsored by the Monroe County Road Commission. Our association adopted the two mile section of Dean Road between Lewis Avenue and Douglas Road.

Over the years we have hosted many fundraising events to help our cause: Spaghetti Dinners, Reverse Raffles, Stadium Brick Sales, Candy Bar Sales, and basketball games between the staff of Bedford Public Schools and the TV-13 All Stars are just some of the things we have done to raise funds for the organization. We also became an Internal Revenue Service recognized 501- C-3 charity in 2004 to make donating to the organization more appealing and easier for our donors. We have also been an active member of the Bedford Business Association and have staffed a booth at our local trade fair for many years as well.

We continue to work diligently toward meeting our financial obligation to the stadium payment each and every year. With the economy being a little soft, donations and fundraising has been difficult. It is our plan to continue working hard, ride out the soft economy, and then be prepared to take the association forward in a positive direction toward doing more for the students of Bedford High School. We continue to strive to provide excellent service to our Alumni, whether it is finding a lost classmate, speaking at a class reunion, or conducting a tour of the school and facilities. It is a labor of love for those of us who are actively involved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Faller
President