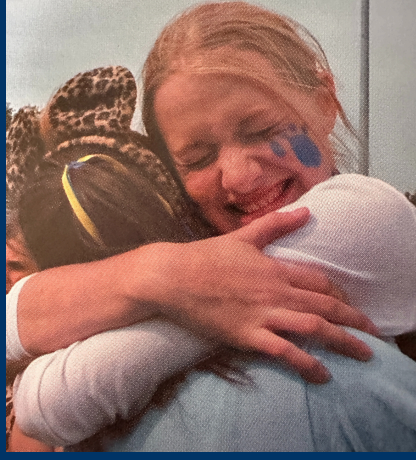






ONCE A LION, ALWAYS A LION

Alumni Newsletter

FALL 2025

- Stay Connected
- Class Reunion Support
- Alumni News and Events
- Build Scholarships
- Mentor Opportunities

WWW.LTHS.NET/ALUMNI

Join the Alumni Association!



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow LIONS and LIONESSES,

We just got through a remarkably busy weekend with LT Alumni Association events, our annual LT Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and 7 class reunions all joining together for our 99th LT Homecoming celebration. I would estimate that over 1,000 of our 75,000+ alumni came home to remember the old days, celebrate the present and talk about the future. Congratulations & a HUGE thank you to all the reunion organizing committees and to the Alumni Office staff for putting together another outstanding weekend. Next up…. our 100th Homecoming in 2026!

As an organizer of my Class of 1975 50th reunion, I could not help realizing that the dynamics of bringing together a class of 1300+ alum has changed dramatically since I first served on the committee for my 10th reunion. From discussions with the other reunion organizers, I can tell you that I am not alone in recognizing these changing dynamics: A reunion/Homecoming committee before the year 2000 used the following to invite their class back to LT using a class list provided by the LT Alumni Association: Mail to home address, a phone campaign to "find" lost classmates, all followed by a heavy reliance on word-of-mouth messages amongst friends. RSVPs & entry fees were all made via the US Mail with enclosed personal checks. From the year 2000 and especially in the past 10 years, a reunion committee will use the following starting with a class list provided by the LT Alumni Association: E-Mail to send "save the dates" and invites/RSVPs, cell phone texting, heavy use of the FACEBOOK and other social media groups. They THEN may choose to use the now expensive US Postal mailings to addresses on record to catch the alum who do not use social media. Alum RSVPs are now made using email or invitation APPS while payments are made using ZELLE, VENMO, PayPal and lastly US Mail/checks.

To reflect the reality of today's communication between our various class leaders and their classmates, the LT Alumni Association is embarking on the development of a progressive alumni communication system. The system will enhance Alumni Association and class leaders' ability to connect with LT Alum quickly, efficiently, and economically. It will obviously rely less on US Mail and take full advantage of all forms of electronic communication. With annual savings of over $35,000, this newsletter will be delivered electronically in the future. Through this program, we will increase our communication with all of you in future years. Organizing a reunion in the future will be simplified and economical.

To update our database and our communication system, we obviously need EVERY LT Alum to participate in the various social media groups we will be using. These include the FACEBOOK sites titled "Lyons Township High School Alumni Association," "Lyons Township High School, Past and Present," and "Lyons Township Alumni." Every alum should also update your personal information with us by going to: LTHS Alumni Update Your Alumni Information and taking just 1 minute to complete your profile information verification/update. Please help keep the LT Alumni Association your #1 source of LT information and reunion updates.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER GOES DIGITAL

If you'd prefer to continue to receive in your mailbox, please fill out **this form**.

Thanks to all for your past support and anticipated interest in our future.

Jay Cozza, President
Lyons Township Alumni Association
jayfcozza@gmail.com | 847-525-1651 cell

Meet our Alumni Board



JAY COZZA
BOARD PRESIDENT



CHARLES MUDD
VICE PRESIDENT



LYNN BUSH
SECRETARY



AMANDA CELENTANO
TREASURER



REGINA MCDOUGAL
AMBASSADOR



MARY YENA
AMBASSADOR

ERIN CALLAHAN

PHIL CARUSO



LINDA JOHNSON



ANNE STRICKLAND



WILLIAM WILSON



MARY PACEJKA-PALACIOS

JEAN CALLAGHAN-MCQUILLAN



MATT YENA

LT Alumni Inducted 2 New Hall of Fame Members













Congratulations, Grace & Don!

GRACE HOU-OVNIK CLASS OF 1988



A member of LT's 100th graduating class, Grace has dedicated her life to strengthening Illinois communities. Today, she serves as Deputy Governor for Health and Human Services, advising Governor JB Pritzker and leading 12 agencies that touch the lives of nearly every Illinoisan.

Her leadership has driven powerful initiatives—erasing medical debt, expanding services for older adults, welcoming migrants safely, creating the state's first gun violence prevention office, and guiding Illinois through the COVID-19 response.

Beyond government, Grace has led nonprofits, championed immigrant rights, and serves on several influential boards.

Grace and her husband, Paul Ovnik ('88), are also proud LT parents—sons Paul ('21) and Benjamin ('24) both played for the LT hockey team. Join us in celebrating Grace's incredible impact and welcoming her into the LT Hall of Fame on September 20th!

DON KUHL CLASS OF 1963



Inspired by his LT English teacher Kay Keefe, Don turned his love of words into a remarkable career in publishing, leadership, and social innovation. In 1988, he created Interactive Journaling®, a process that has helped more than 30 million people make positive life changes. That same year, he founded The Change Companies®, which grew to serve over 5,000 organizations nationwide—from the Salvation Army to the Federal Bureau of Prisons—supporting people in recovery, education, justice services, and healthcare.

Don later founded Train for Change, an international training and consulting company, and most recently launched Connections Central, an organization dedicated to building community and well-being through storytelling and conversation. An accomplished author, Don has written two books and is working on his third.

Throughout his career, Don has partnered with leading voices in behavioral health and has been recognized for his expertise in healthcare improvement, marketing strategy, and social innovation.

Together with his wife, Sherry, he has also supported numerous local and national organizations—as well as animal sanctuaries in Nevada.

A look at

Progress on Construction Project

LTHS Facility Assessment and Long-Term Plan





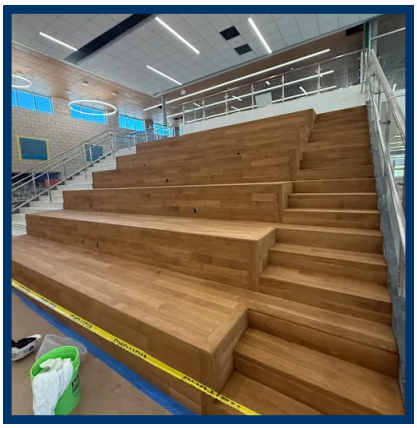






Softball field construction begins at Baker Field





We're excited about Groundwork for a Brighter Future, which will serve as a multi-year journey to modernize our two campuses and enhance the learning environment for all of our future Lions.

To see the future of South Campus,
or see the progression, **visit our website**.

2025 Reunions















LTHS in the Community

LTHS is proud of our impact in our community with participation in a number of volunteer and civic opportunities for students and staff.

Our holiday gift donation program provided gifts to 125 children

There are 332 NHS students volunteered 14,000 hours this year



Peaceable Schools Initiative Club made 127 Easter baskets for local children.

Versiti Blood Center of Illinois honored LT for saving the most lives among its school partners. Last year, LT collected 96 units of blood — enough to save 288 lives — the largest amount among Versiti's school partners.





Older Adult Connections Club made valentines for our senior friends.



Young Community Changemakers (YC2) is a youth philanthropy program offered to juniors and seniors from LT and other area schools. The leadership development program is designed to educate and empower local youth to become our community's next generation of philanthropists—those who give their time, talent, treasure and ties for the common good. LTHS had 21 students accepted into the program.

Our community has many ways to participate and share a voice including Bilingual Parent Advisory Council, LT Community Conversations, and more.





Congratulations!

Plymouth Place Senior Living







LT is proud to partner with Plymouth Place Senior Living in supporting our community. Superintendent Dr. Brian Waterman was honored to present a Vita Plena Award to retired LTHS teacher and Plymouth Place resident, John Weber. John served LT with distinction throughout a long career and, among many roles, served as a leader in the "Learn to Swim" program for over 30 years. Congrats to John and his wife, Helen, for making such a positive impact on the LTHS community!

Alumni Notes



At the Young Hearts 4 Life EKG screening at LT, Class of '66 classmates volunteered and were still smiling after a long day. Thanks to Jon Mills, Gary Rickert, Jim Rupert, Nancy Breuss Weiler, Ellen Houck Busch and Kim Frischkorn!

Anthony Accettura Class of 2017 officially qualified for the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship and will be competing next month in Arizona! Even more exciting—the top 2 finishers earn a spot in the 2026 U.S. Open AND an invite to The Masters at Augusta.



Send Alumni Notes to
Jen Pasko
jpasko@lths.net
(708) 579-6460



We were honored to welcome Hall of Fame inductee Chris Bowers (Class of '65, HOF '06) back to LT this week, along with fellow alumni Dinah Bowers ('67), David Williams ('65), and his wife Sandy.



Leslie LaForce (Class of '74) stopped by LT for a tour of the Vaughn Building. She especially loved seeing the banners on display and shared how her visit brought back some of her happiest memories from her time at LT.

LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

$_____ Annual membership $10 each
$_____ LIFETIME Membership $150
_____ Yes, as a Lifetime Member I'd like a free 14" X 18" print of The Clock Tower by Charles Vickery, Class of 1931
$_____ Additional donation to LTHS Alumni Association

First Name (Maiden name) Last Name Class year

LTHS Spouse: First Name (Maiden name) Last Name Class year

Street Address City State ZIP

Cell Phone E-mail address

_____ Yes, release my email to LT's Find a Classmate webpage
Check enclosed (Make payable to the LTHS Alumni Association)
NOTE: You may also pay online at www.lths.net/alumni. Click on Online Registration and LT Web store, then LTHS Alumni Association Membership, this will take you to the payment page, and follow the prompts from there.

Form can also be found online.

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 100 S. BRAINARD AVENUE LA GRANGE, IL 60525

In Memoriam

1939 Dale Carpenter

1939 Helen R. DeWitt

1948 Walter Henry Finn III

1954 John Ebbert

1955 John Peterman

1955 Beatrice Buchal Bell

1956 Barbara Riggs Gervase

1957 Roger Irwin Sekera

1957 Richard George

1957 David E. Wagner

1958 Marsha Kay Kuehl Velders

1960 Jerry Edward Andrlik

1960 Judith Charlene Carlson Gaunt Kurinsky

1961 Mary Mogge

1961 Victoria Osterling

1962 Paula Kay Wiest

1962 Robert “Bob” Bock

1962 Mary Mock Harroun

1963 Gary Lee Anderson

1964 Dennis Stanley Tierney

1964 Gregory F. Hengels

1966 Thomas James Tydeman

1968 James R. Waters

1971 David Dennis Smith

1974 Karen McConiga

1975 Carol Curda Hook

1975 Peggy Kaptur

1975 Eric Slezak

1980 James A. Walsh

2015 Matthew Richard Janicki

2020 Ben Morales

2028 Emily Romo

Lyons Township High School Faculty

Maxine May Secretary at Lyons Township

Raymond Burtner Special Education Teacher

In loving memory



Stay Connected!

708.579.6300

alumni@lths.net

www.LTHS.net/alumni

100 S. Brainard Ave., La Grange, IL 60525

Thank you for your support of our Alumni Association and Community Relations. We're proud to be a part of such an amazing community!