



SEAGULL SENTINEL

Volume 13, Issue 1

Spring-Summer 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well let's see, what happened since my last report, oh yes, we had an unwelcome visitor. It just so happens a female named Sandy blew in, an experience like 9/11, one I'll never forget. This hit home for me as my son Tim's church was all but uprooted, and his house was under water, basement and a foot and a half on the first floor. They lost everything, but with the help of God and a lot of good people from all over these United States the church is up and running and the house is done also.

I will never forget the love and generosity from all the people from the surrounding areas of Staten Island, especially the many people and restaurants that donated food and clothes and cleaning supplies, not to mention the tractor trailers that came up from down south called "Convoy of Hope" among some dozens of others. Volunteers from all over came to help and being an inquisitor I asked them why they came especially the ones from out of state. I would say ninety percent said, "to serve the lord," made me breathless. Now here we are some six plus months and people are struggling. Some still have no homes, a sad state of affairs when we can't take care of our own. I could go on for four or five hours on the more than two months I spent there. I'm going to write it all down one day soon.

On a lighter note, our Christmas luncheon went well as always; we have the best 50/50 of any function that I have attended, nearly one thousand dollars and that is great news for the school. This year we will be donating money to the school to

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ONE OF OUR OWN

(Al was to be our candidate for this column. Unfortunately, he died before publication. We are, therefore, reprinting his obituary with the permission and courtesy of the Staten Island Advance.)



Adalbert M. Zawada, 81, of Randall Manor, a lifelong Staten Islander and a teacher and sports referee known to generations of borough students and athletes, died Wednesday in Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze.

Known as Al, Mr. Zawada was born in Elm Park, and moved to Randall Manor in 1965.

Mr. Zawada was a history and social studies instructor, and taught at schools throughout the borough for more than 30 years.

He taught at Egbert Intermediate School from 1965 to 1970; Susan Wagner High School from 1970 to 1979, and Port Richmond High School from 1979 to 1991, when he retired.

Mr. Zawada taught at the evening education center at Port Richmond from 1966 to 1976. He was also the teacher in charge of the "Big Apple" program at Wagner and New Dorp high schools, from 1976 to 1995.

Mr. Zawada received his bachelor's degree in education from Wagner College, Grymes Hill, and his master's degree in education from Hunter College, Manhattan.

He was a 1950 graduate of McKee High School, where he was consistently on the honor roll and played basketball.

Mr. Zawada refereed school basketball games for 40 years, and was a former president of the International Association of Approved Basketball

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President's Report (continued from p.1)

buy an inspection machine. The auto shop will be able to do inspections for the public.

The days are going by quickly, just like all the days in our life. Now seems as we get older the good Lord speeds up the clock. I heard Congress has a bill at present to make the days twenty-five hours long, hope they pass that one.

We lost one of our teachers recently, Ida Grober. Ida and her sister, Josephine, always attended our functions. She will be greatly missed.

We're looking forward to "Dancing through the Decades" dinner dance on October 5th. Entertainment will be provided by The Generation Gap. Put your dancing shoes on and join us. It's guaranteed to be lots of fun.

Stay happy and healthy.

Ken McIntyre
President



(Al Zawada's Obituary (continued from p.1)

Officials. He belonged to the New York City Board of Officials for Men's and Women's Sports - Basketball Division.

He was a member of the National Association of Sports Officials, and was an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference official.

He also refereed girls volleyball games at high schools in New York and New Jersey, and was a softball umpire for the Public School Athletic League. For many years, he ran the Just for Kicks Co-Ed Softball League on the Island.

By 2007, it was estimated that Mr. Zawada had officiated more than 10,000 games.

Mr. Zawada had a deep interest in American history and also enjoyed visiting national historic sites around the world.

He spent his every birthday in Alaska, fishing for salmon and halibut. He was an avid crabber.

Mr. Zawada also liked to work with his hands, and made many of his own tools. His daughter, Nancy Zawada, said her father often quipped that he could "fix anything except a broken heart."

Mr. Zawada was a veteran of the Army, serving as a corporal with the 43rd Infantry Division in Nurnberg, Germany during the Korean War. He also played basketball during his time in the service, and was a member of the American Legion on Staten Island.

"He was a sturdy oak tree whose branches touched many lives," said his daughter, Nancy. "He was honest and was always there to give advice and share his wisdom."

In addition to his daughter, Mr. Zawada is survived by his son, Mark; two brothers, Michael and Frank; two sisters, Sister Rosemary Zawada and Irene Bilcher, and one granddaughter.

The funeral will be Monday from the Harmon Home for Funerals, West Brighton, with a mass at 9:45 a.m. in St. Adalbert's R.C. Church, Elm Park. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery, West Brighton.

DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Lou Motola

John Pietromonico

Robert Superti

Bob Steele

THE POWER OF ATTORNEY

by Duane C. Felton, Esq.



A Will, a Living Will, a Health Care Proxy and a Power of Attorney are all of the important documents that senior citizens are told they should have prepared and filed away safely. While all of these documents serve an important purpose, I have found that the Power of Attorney is the most powerful, the most important and now the most abused and misused of these documents.

The three essential parts of a Power of Attorney are:

1. **The principal.** This is the person who is giving the power to one who will handle their affairs. Let's call the principle "you."
2. **The agent or agents** (there can be more than one). This is the person or persons who are given the power to act on behalf of the principle. Let's call the agent "child."
3. The **enumerated powers** themselves. These are the personal or business affairs that the child will be authorized to handle if you, the principle cannot.

In 2010, the New York State Legislature modified the statutory power of attorney form in two important ways: First it required the signature of the agent on the document. Secondly, it included a provision for the designation of a monitor, that is, someone who would oversee the actions of the agent.

A power of attorney is so powerful in fact that some seniors avoid them because they don't have a relationship with anyone whom they trust enough to give the power to.

This fear is justified because sometimes, individuals with a power of attorney misuse the power bestowed upon them.

On the other hand however, a power of attorney in the hands of a trustworthy and loyal child can prove to be a valuable aid for one who has suddenly or slowly lost the ability to handle their daily business or personal affairs. The power of attorney allows the child to put finances in order and to settle all loose ends when it becomes apparent that you are permanently unable to handle the activities of daily living.

That Brings Us to Long Term Care

Live too long as many of us are doing these days and the prospect of the need for 24 hour living assistance becomes more of a reality. So what are the available choices?

1. Move in with your child and hope that he or she will have the patience, time and resources to care for you, or
2. Stay in your own home and use your retirement and savings nest egg to pay for private duty nurses and health care workers to attend to your daily needs, or
3. Turn your assets over to a nursing home, qualify for Medicaid and check in, or
4. Activate your long term care policy and use the benefits for in home care or find an upscale nursing home and apply.

The best choice obviously is number 4 but getting to number 4 takes some advance planning and consultation with an insurance broker who can provide you with the long term care insurance options you need.

Have a great summer!

POPP'S PERSPECTIVE



If you were a friend of Ida Grober, you were indeed privileged. To have been her student, you were truly lucky. I was especially endowed having Ida as one of my long-time and favorite friends. McKee High School brought us together. Her recent passing has saddened everyone who knew her.

Our students were fortunate to have Ida as their teacher of English, Spanish or Russian. Yes, she was an educator with outstanding skills in the classroom, one who cared deeply for her students. They, in return, respected her for her many admirable traits.

My friendship with Ida grew beyond our being part of the McKee staff. Her sister Josephine, was an essential part of our trio. I feel privileged to have been part of their wonderful Seders and to have shared not only their fabulous food but also getting to know their many true and devoted friends. Yes, I was privileged as were my sister Dawn and brother-in-law, Tak, who were part of the gatherings.

Ida and I shared the marvelous experience of a sojourn to Russia. Her knowledge of the language, which she ultimately taught at McKee, made our visit there most remarkable.

Ida was the kind of friend who never showed impatience, never lost her charm and always maintained an enviable modesty.

Much too soon, we lost a human being the likes of whom the world truly needs.

Yes, Ida Grober was a modest, intelligent, remarkable human being who inspired her students, gave happiness to

her friends and acquaintances and left an indelible mark on all who knew her as she did on me.

I shall never lose the sadness brought by her passing, but neither will I lose the happiness that was part of being in her company.

A remarkable woman, inspiring teacher, devoted sister, and loyal friend – Ida has left a remarkable heritage to all who knew her. Ida is gone but she will never be forgotten.

It's always a good experience to hear from former students and staff from my favorite school. John De Palma, the fabulous Sheet Metal Shop teacher is always up beat and still projects a great sense of humor. He and his lovely wife Lee are loyal attendees at the McKee functions.

Ken McIntyre, our esteemed President, helped restore The Oasis Christian Center which was badly damaged by Sandy. His son, is the Pastor of the Church and a McKee graduate, just named to the McKee Hall of Fame.

Roberta Sparandera keeps in touch and her husband Mike keeps busy in New Hampshire where they reside.

Millie and Joe Del Bove are stalwarts of the Alumni and keep me posted on happenings in Stapleton.

Always cheerful and fun to be with are Catherine and Al Balossi. Al is a valued member of my Snug Harbor Book Club (which I have enjoyed leading for over 30 years). I also appreciate having John Carew (a Brooklynite!) as a stalwart! John took the ferry every day from Brooklyn to attend McKee! Now, that's loyalty!

As an Islander, I enjoy reading the names of my former students as heads of many businesses on S.I. I think I'll make a list starting with "A"!

I'd love to hear from any McKee grads who are in business (make that "any" student).

All the best,
Lilian M. Popp

THE WOODCARVER

If you tend to forget holidays, just drive by Joe Bertolini's house and you will be reminded. Joe has a large wooden sign on his lawn which he changes every few weeks to display holidays and season changes. When there isn't a holiday or season change - no problem - Joe has a big yellow smiley face which decorates his sign.



(Photo courtesy of the Staten Island Advance)

Joe, a retired carpenter, graduated McKee in 1955, where he took up woodworking. He has always had a love for wood and now has turned that love into a hobby. He carves and paints shore birds and wooden duck decoys. During the colder months, Joe also carves and paints snowmen and pumpkins for neighbors.

Cold weather finds Joe in his basement in his man cave which is decorated with fishing poles, paint and other tools necessary for his work. He also has a carving bench that he built based on a 300 year old German design. In warm weather Joe moves his whole operation, including bench, outside.

In fact, Joe carved our mascot. Many of you who attend our events have seen the seagull perched on a table amid the baskets. So far, the seagull does not have a name. So if you have an idea for a name just email us at McKeeassoc@msn.com.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

James Burns
Class of 1963

Esther Cruz-Hannan
Class of 1959

John Hodgens
Friend

SAVE THE DATE

DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013

at the

The Old Bermuda Inn
2512 Arthur Kill Road
Staten Island, New York



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, Dec. 6, 2013

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Staaten
695 Forest Avenue
Staten Island NY

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance July 1, 2012 \$5,299.46

Income

Dues/New	160.00
Lifetime	600.00
Renewals	790.00
	1,550.00

Events	
Picnic	
Reservations	3,080.00
50/50	485.00
Lifetime	30.00
	3,595.00

Christmas Party	
Reservations	5,260.60
Raffles	660.00
	5,920.60

Spring Luncheon	
Reservations	3,855.00
Raffles	605.00
	4,460.00

Donations	530.00
Total	\$21,355.06

Disbursements

Florist	422.43
Accountant Fee	300.00

Oasis Christian church/ general & board meeting	150.00
Postage/Bulk mail/ supplies	681.79

MSIT Sports dinner	100.00
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Events

Picnic	
Taste of Honey	1,886.00

Christmas Party Staaten 2012	4,758.90
Christmas Party 2013 Deposit	300.00

Donation to school	2,470.00
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Total	\$11,069.12
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Credits	\$21,355.06
Debits	-11,069.12

Check book balance May 3, 2013	10,285.94
Certificate of Deposit Account	+13,102.90
Total	\$23,388.84

Donation to School (2002-2013)	\$38,522.25
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Millie Del Bove,
Treasurer

McKee Career-Tech High School
McKee Alumni and Friends Association, Inc.
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Staten Island, NY 10301
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Happy Birthday

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