

# The Onargosy

Onarga Military School Alumni Association

Volume 11 >:< Issue 4 >:< Winter 2009

## ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER 2009

Considering everything, we had a great turn out - "THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING!"

The weather was on the cool side, so the Onarga Academy provided lunch for all those present in the auditorium.

Following lunch, prior to our meeting Mike Tilstra gave a tour for first timers thru one of the dorms explaining what they do and how they do it. A second tour was thru the new transition house. Mike advised that the school building and the gym were open and that anyone was welcome to visit them. Mike also mentioned that plans were in the process of being approved for the new school building which will be on the now vacant corner between the auditorium and the gym.

Onarga Academy had some of their boys help in getting all the various pictures and other memorabilia out of storage and arranged in a very nice display for all to see and to bring back memories. For that we "Thank" them very much.

One of the highlights of the day was the raising of our new "OMS" flag. Onarga Academy advised that the flag would be flown Friday-Saturday and Sunday on the weekend that the alumni were in attendance. The new flag was the suggestion of the Academy. Our other highlight was welcoming Brigadier General Wilson Reed, Class of 1936.

We gathered all the alumni present on the front steps of the auditorium for a group picture. Such a distinguished group of individuals. The group picture is inside this newsletter. Following the picture, everyone went back into the auditorium for our business meeting.. Thirty-four alumni and their ladies attended the business meeting and forty-five attended the dinner. In the group picture, Brig. Gen. Reed is seated center front.

For information as to what happened in the business meeting - read on as our Secretary John Friebel has again done a super job of recording the events of the day.



OMSAA ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 10, 2009  
CAMPUS OF ONARGA ACADEMY, ONARGA, ILLINOIS

**Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order by OMSAA President Robert Gillfillan, in the OMS Alumni Room, lower level, of the Auditorium at Onarga Academy.

**Introduction of OMSAA Officers:** Robert Gillfillan - President; John Friebel - Secretary; R. Gregg Dodson - Treasurer.

**Introductions of Onarga Academy Staff:** Mike Tilstra. Mike gave us an update on The Onarga Academy. Brought us up to date on the new Transition Home, future Group Home, Updating of the New School Building. Renovate the Old School Building.

**Introductions:** All Alumni and their Ladies. Two of which introduced their Guests as their Fiancées. Carlos Sucharetza '58 & Marlene Waller; Gregg Dodson '57 & Diane Sell. A special welcome was made for Brig. Gen. Wilson Reed '36.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's minutes from October 9, 2008 Alumni Reunion were read to assembled Alumni. Request for motion to accept the minutes by Robert Gillfillan, Motion by Victor Whitney '64, Seconded by Kenneth Butterly '64 and passed by a unanimous vote of the Alumni in attendance.

It was also reported that to date there are 288 listed members of the OMSAA.

74 Life Members, 66 Paid to Date Members, 72 Members that have paid in past, 76 Non Paid Members.

**Treasurers Report:** R. Gregg Dodson, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report of the OMSAA Finances as of October 5, 2008. Balance total of \$7392.37. Currently the outflow of funds is greater than incoming. Motion to accept by Steve Templeton '64, seconded by Kenneth Butterly '64, and passed by unanimous vote of the Alumni in attendance.

**2009 OMSAA Golf Outing Report:** Gregg informed attendees that there were only 4 people scheduled to play golf but that due to the recent bad weather had to be cancelled after arriving at Golf Course.

**OtMSAA New Business:**

**Election of Secretary & Treasurer.** President Robert Gillfillan requested nominations for the positions of OMSAA Secretary & Treasurer for the next three years. John Friebel was nominated to continue as Secretary and Gregg Dodson nominated to continue as Treasurer. Motion to accept nominations by Steve Templeton '64, Seconded by: Alex Keefe '57, and passed by a unanimous vote of the Alumni in attendance.

**Newsletters:** Mailed out quarterly March, June, September, December. Robert Gillfillan requests input from Alumni to be placed in the Quarterly's. A discussion was held regarding the use of the Internet to send out Quarterly's to those who have e-mail addresses in order to try to reduce the postal and printing costs. An attempt will be made to get current updated e-mail addresses. More work to implement this process.

**Holiday Gift Funds:** It was agreed to keep the holiday gift of \$20.00 to each student of the Onarga Academy. Presently there are 80 students at Onarga Academy. This would be a gift of \$1600.00 from the OMSAA Holiday Gift Fund for Christmas 2009. Request for motion to accept the agreed gift amount the same by Robert Gillfillan, Motion by Kenneth Butterly '64, Seconded by Michael Lynch '64 and passed by a unanimous vote of the Alumni in attendance.

**Dues:** Alumni Association to keep dues as follows: Annual Dues \$20.00. Life Membership \$150.00. Motion to retain present Dues made by John Egan `68, Seconded by John Cripliver `68, and passed by a unanimous vote of the Alumni in attendance.

**Poster Rack:** The OMSAA Wall Mounted Poster Rack, which was added 2 years ago now has five of the panels filled with pictures. Five more need to be filled with pictures. Robert Gillfillan requested help from the assembled Alumni to help complete this project.

**Regional Directors:** Robert Gillfillan brought up the idea of trying to have Regional Alumni Gatherings.

Region I: Texas (17)

Region II: Arizona (16), New Mexico (1), Nevada (1).

Region III: Florida (20).

Region IV: California (14), Oregon (1), Washington (2).

Region V: Colorado (8), Wyoming (1), Utah (1), Idaho (1), Montana (2).

Region VI: South Atlantic: North Carolina (7) , South Carolina (2), Virginia (1), West Virginia (-).

Region VII: Michigan (20).

Region VIII: Indiana (15), Ohio (5), Kentucky (5), Tennessee (1)

Note: (Number after State indicates number of Alumni residing in that state).

**Onarga Military School Web Site:** Introduction of Alan Fethiere [Webmaster] who has been helping us update the Website. A discussion was held to find what the attending Alumni would like to add to or remove from the Website. Some ideas considered were: Removing any addresses & phone numbers which may be on website other than Robert Gillfillan and John Friebel. Pictures. Quarterly Onargosy Newsletters (Omitting any addresses and phone numbers).

**Battalion Review, Parade, Yearbooks & Onargosy Newsletters CD's:** It was again reported that we now have 3 CD's available which have: 1) 1925-26 thru 1927-28 Battalion Review Yearbooks; 2) 1941-42 thru 70-71 Parade Yearbooks; 3) Many years of Onarga Military School "The Onargosy Newsletters".. Please contact OMSAA Secretary John Friebel for information. Price of each CD is \$6.00. (Note: the cost is only to cover the cost of CD, label, and postage).

**Taps:** The following named Alumni were reported to us this year as having been deceased or died during the year. Robert J. Canick `59; Paul H. Childers `46; Erwin Elies `45, Edmond K. Irps `55, Lonnie Earl Hoffman `65, George Kitsos `45, Hermes Kitsos `46, Peter Kerkaik `66, Jack Rausch `46, Earle E. Zatt `46.

Those assembled Alumni stood for a moment of silence for our dear departed Alumni.

**GPS Update:** Steve Templeton OMSAA Liaison with Grand Prairie Seminary reported updates regarding the Onarga Academy Transition and Group Houses. Renovations the older buildings on the Onarga Academy campus. Construction of New School Building on the OMS Campus. Also announced that Randy DeLordo `64 is now a member of the Grand Prairie Seminary Board of Trustees. This makes 2 OMS Alumni now on the Board.

**2010 Reunion:** The OMSAA Reunion to be held in Onarga, Illinois on October 9, 2010. A block of rooms are reserved at the Super 8 Motel in Gilman, Illinois. Proposed Dinner location: Red Door, Gilman. (More Information to follow in later Onargosy Newsletters).

Motion to conclude OMSAA 2009 Reunion. Motion made, and seconded. Passed by all in attendance.

Recorded by:

John Friebe / Secretary / Johnfsc74@aol.com

In addition to the general OMSAA meeting and the evening Banquet, the alumni were invited to:

- 1). Participate in the Onarga Lions Club Pancake Breakfast.
- 2). Visit the Onarga Heritage Society Building which included items from OMS, including pictures, School Uniform, School Sweater, etc. This building is open from 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon, each Saturday.
- 3). Have lunch on the campus of Onarga Academy furnished Onarga Academy.
- 4). Take a guided tour of the new Onarga Academy Transition Homes. Etc.

**Committees:** Dinner Committee --- Randy DeLordo `64.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee --- Ed Stark `48, Alex Keefe `57, Steve Denney, (Vice Pres.)`57.

Memorial Garden Liaison --- Dick Oakwood `57.

Membership Committee --- Alex Keefe `57, others to follow. (New & Retention)

## ATTENDEES...

| Name                | Class | Spouse<br>(G) Guest | Meeting | Dinner | Where<br>From |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------|---------|--------|---------------|
| ADAMS, John         | -     |                     |         | x      | IL            |
| ADAMS, Kerry        | 68    |                     | x       | x      | IL            |
| ADAMS, Michael      | 64    |                     | x       | x      | IL            |
| AKERLY, William     | 49    | ( Bruce)            | x       | x      | FL            |
| BATSON, Donald      | 49    |                     | x       | x      | MI            |
| BUTTERLY, Kenneth   | 64    | Rosetta             | x       | x      | IL            |
| CRIPLIVER, John     | 64    | Anna                | x       | x      | IN            |
| CZAPSKI, Stephen    | 63    | (Patty Forbes)      | x       | x      | MI            |
| DODSON, Gregg       | 57    | (Diane Sell)        | x       | x      | AZ            |
| DELORDO, Randy      | 64    |                     |         | x      | IL            |
| EGAN, John          | 68    | (Carol Vanderveen)  | x       | x      | IL            |
| FRIEBEL, George     | 62    | Eldora              | x       | x      | KY            |
| FRIEBEL, John       | 57    |                     | x       | x      | TX            |
| GILLFILLAN, Bob     | 47    |                     | x       | x      | IL            |
| GRECO, Richard      | 60    |                     | x       | x      | IL            |
| KEEFE, Alex         | 57    |                     | x       | x      | TX            |
| KENTON, John        | 62    |                     |         | x      | IL            |
| LILLY, Gerry        | 59    |                     | x       | x      | IL            |
| LYNCH, Michael      | 64    |                     | x       | x      | TX            |
| PURO, Tom           | 63    | Linda               | x       | x      | MI            |
| REED, Wilson        | 36    | (Scott Hoyer)       | x       | x      | IN            |
|                     |       | (Lynn Hoyer)        | x       | x      | IN            |
| SHERIDAN, Robert    | 67    | Judy                |         | x      | IL            |
| SUCHARETZA, Carlos  | 51    | (Marlene Waller)    | x       | x      | OH            |
| SUZUKI, Philip      | 66    |                     | x       |        | OH            |
| TEMPLETON, Steve    | 64    |                     | x       | x      | IL            |
| THIEDE, Jeff        | 64    | (Erin)              |         | x      | IL            |
| WHITLEY, Victor     | 64    |                     | x       | x      | AZ            |
| ADAMS, Ms Annaliese |       |                     |         | x      | IL            |
| FETHIERE, Alan      |       |                     | x       | x      | IL            |
| IHRKE, Charles      |       | Carol               |         | x      | WI            |
| McCOY, Robert       |       | Pat                 |         | x      | WI            |



## A NOTE FROM MIKE TILSTRA

Bob:

Please be sure to let everyone know how much we appreciate their return each year and being part of what we do. Thank everyone on my behalf who made the trip this year and we hope to make it more and more interesting each year.

Mike

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

While visiting with a friend (fellow alumni) last spring, an idea was presented. The idea was to try and get fellow alumni living in a particular area together for a bull session in the hope that they will start talking about their experiences while at OMS. Once the talking starts,

maybe they will become interested and will join OMSAA and pay dues.

The idea was presented at the reunion and was approved.

To start, areas were identified as listed below:

|        |      |  |
|--------|------|--|
| Region | I    | Representative - Alex Keefe<br>Texas (17)  |
| Region | II   | Representatives - Max Newman and Victor Whitney<br>Arizona (16) - New Mexico (1) - Nevada (1)            |
| Region | III  | Representative - Bill Akerly<br>Florida (20)   |
| Region | IV   | Representative - ??<br>California (14) - Oregon(1) - Washington(2)                                       |
| Region | V    | Representative - Ed Stark<br>Colorado(8) - Wyoming(1) - Utah(1) - Idaho(-) - Montana(2)                  |
| Region | VI   | Representative - ??<br>North Carolina (7) - South Carolina (2) - Virginia (1) - West Virginia (-)        |
| Region | VII  | Representative - Don Batson<br>Michigan (20)   |
| Region | VIII | Representative - ??<br>Indiana (15) - Ohio(5) - Kentucky(5) - Tennessee (1)                              |
| Region | IX   | Representative - ??<br>Wisconsin (8) - Minnesota (3) - North Dakota (-) - South Dakota (2)               |
| Region | X    | Representative - ??<br>Nebraska (-) - Kansas (2) - Oklahoma (-) - Arkansas (3) - Missouri (1) - Iowa (1) |
| Region | XI   | Representative - ??<br>Louisiana (1) - Mississippi (1) - Alabama (1) - Georgia (8)                       |

Region XII Representative - ??  
Maine (-) - New Hampshire (-) - Vermont (-) - Massachusetts (-) - Connecticut(-)  
Rhode Island(-)  
Region XIII Representative - ??  
New Jersey (1) - Pennsylvania (1) - Delaware (-) - Maryland (1) - D.C.(1) New York(4)  
Region XIX Representative - ??  
Illinois(104)

We are looking for a representative for the following areas. The main thing is that there is no time schedule, do it at your rate of speed. A "Bull Session" somewhere at a mutually agreeable location and time.

Areas IV - VI - VIII - IX - X - XI - XIII - XIV

If you would be interested in becoming the representative for any of these area, please let the President or Secretary know and we will send you a listing of all the alumni in your area of interest and copies of any letters sent to prospective alumni members.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

William H. Vickers

From: Canon City, Colorado

To: 316 West Main Street - Portland, Indiana 47371

Phone: (cell only) 719-423-0765



*"Across the rolling green hills  
I hear the faint sound  
of the lonely bugler and TAPS"*

TAPS

Dean Newberg

Class of 1949

October 2009





## ONARGOSY BY E-MAIL

This will be the first issue of the Onargosy that is being sent by e-mail to those with e-mail addresses. By doing this we will reduce, greatly, our postage bill. It is very important that you keep the Secretary and/or the President apprised of your e-mail address should it change or you get a new one

The Onargosy is published on a quarterly basis for and about the happenings of the OMS Alumni

Association. The Onargosy will contain both official and unofficial information. Officers of the OMS Alumni Association are: -

|                |                      |     |
|----------------|----------------------|-----|
| President      | Robert W. Gillfillan | '47 |
| Vice President | Steve Denney         | '57 |
| Secretary      | John Friebel         | '57 |
| Treasurer      | Gregg Dodson         | '57 |
| Director       | John E. Stark        | '47 |