



## **Class of '56 Encourages Other Classes to Stay Connected With Zoom. Here's How They Do It!**

***By Bill Payne, '56***

Our BHS Class of '56, held its only reunion in 1997 (it was to be our 40th...but took longer to arrange than initially thought). But, years later, Ann Zimmerman, Bob Alvine, and Sal Accardo began an email chain, before holidays, wishing their small cadre of alums, Happy Thanksgiving, etc.

Then, in early 2021, the idea began to add more alums to that list, eventually growing now to 84 living classmates (and 110 found deceased), and to explore the virtual reunion idea, via Zoom. To date, we have had 7 reunions by Zoom, generally 6 months apart. A highlight of each has been to hear from a current BHS administrator or teacher to give an update as to how things are running now (principal, head football coach, drama teacher, director of bands, etc.). We even found the former band director, Ray Hartman, who was then 103 years old, who played his trombone for us.

Meetings run between 1.5 to 2 hours, folks log in and drop out as schedules allow. The most attendees we've had was 35...which required 2 screens (classmates had to switch back and forth to see everyone)

### **How We Did It**

Free Zoom has a limitation of 40 minutes, and the Zoom coordinator should have a real

power of concentration to get mostly electronically-challenged 85 year olds to hear/see and to be heard/seen, plus inserting remembered (not married) names, and muting out those not speaking for optimum audio clarity. So hiring a qualified Zoom master is strongly recommended.

While there is an Agenda for structure, and Alums are admonished not to talk of ailments (we all have those) and grandkids (they all are smarter and earn far more money than we ever did), often that is the only news some seem to have to report! Structure gives way to random discussions, but that's the fun of all this: reminiscing about shared good times, teachers, dances and relationships.

Have your own Class give Zooming a try, you'll be pleasantly surprised at the outcome. For encouragement, reach me at 626.252.9505 or [bill.payne10@gmail.com](mailto:bill.payne10@gmail.com).

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*Bob and Susan Mooney (left and Roland Foster and family).*

### **Tip Off Event Tips the Cap to Two Deserving BHS Basketball Supporters**

Over 60 BHS alumni and friends gathered at a Season Tip Off event on Nov 14th at Bella Napoli Restaurant, arranged by BHS alumnus, Jeff Lichter.

This year's event featured awards to Coach Bob Mooney in grateful appreciation and longtime support of the Bloomfield High School Basketball Programs, and to Coach Roland Foster for his dedication and longtime support of the Bloomfield CYO and Recreation Basketball Programs. Family and friends of the awardees were on hand to congratulate Bob and Roland.

"Each year we gather at the start of college basketball season to reminisce and catch up with one another. We have been fortunate that the current BHS coaches attend and give us an update on the boys and girls basketball teams. I'd like to thank Sal Siconolfi, Bella Napoli's owner, along with his friendly staff for providing excellent service and hospitality. The sumptuous buffet, of course, adds to the evening," Jeff explained.

In the 1970s Bob Mooney coached multiple sports as an assistant and head coach and served as assistant athletic director in charge of facilities. Upon leaving BHS he continued his career as an educator, ascending to a number of principal and superintendent positions in North Jersey.

Roland Foster helped shape the athletic achievements of many Bloomfield youth as a

coach, founder, and booster for many programs that benefited both boys and girls. From baseball and basketball to soccer and wrestling, Roland proved more than willing to give his time, energy, and spirit to help kids succeed.

The evening featured the buffet dinner, the Michigan State vs. Duke game, and updates by the current high school basketball coaches about the girls and boys teams. Free give aways, raffle prizes and a 50-50 raffle rounded out the festivities.

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## Mark Your 2024 Calendars

Don't miss these events coming in 2024!

### January 12, 2024

BHS Alumni Basketball Game, BHS Gym, 7PM  
\$20 to play



Donations accepted at the door for spectators. All proceeds benefit The Theodore Jasieniecki Scholarship Fund.

If you would like to sign up to play or attend, or know someone who would, email [info@bloomfieldeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:info@bloomfieldeducationalfoundation.org)

### April 24, 2024

BEF Annual Gala, Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, NJ, 6pm

Honorees:

BHS Alumna of the Year - Lenore Imhof '84  
BEF Alumnus of the Year - James Johnston '78  
BEF Educator of the Year - Steve Jenkins, BHS AD  
BEF Community Organization of the Year - Bloomfield UNICO  
District Teacher of the Year - To be determined.

If you would like an invitation mailed to you, email [info@bloomfieldeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:info@bloomfieldeducationalfoundation.org)

### June 27, 2024

Brookdale ShopRite Tom Fleming Sunset Classic Race

7:30PM - 5 mile race starts on Broad St and finishes in Foley Field

6:30pm - Kids' Sprints - Foley Field

7:00pm - One Mile Fun Run - Timed event! Starts on JFK Pwky. near Foley Field.

**Keep watch for more BEF events coming in 2024!**

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