

Due to the COVID-19 event - spring 2020, the alumni banquet was not held. Below are three items related to that cancellation.

- News Item Article
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- Welcome to Seniors

# Banquets for Shamokin, Coal Township alumni associations canceled for first time in their history

By LARRY DEKLINSKI THE NEWS-ITEM larry\_d@newsitem.com

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COAL TOWNSHIP — The Shamokin Area and Coal Township high school alumni associations have canceled this year's banquets for the first time in their stoic histories.

Association representatives, while expressing disappointment, said concerns for students and guests during the coronavirus pandemic was the reason behind the difficult decisions.

A combined 16 educational scholarships, totaling \$45,200, from the associations will still be awarded to accomplished seniors on a later date, according to Shamokin alumni association President Jeff Schlader.

Schlader said the scholarships from both associations would have been presented during the Shamokin banquet, which had been scheduled for Saturday, May 23, at Masser's Banquet Hall. It would have marked the 137th gathering of what is locally regarded as the oldest continuing active high school alumni association in the country.

"The annual banquet, which has occurred every year since 1884, when 35 graduates first met, has never been canceled — not even during the time of war, including World War I and World War II," Schlader said. "The COVID-19 (disease) continues to change the activities of our daily lives through health concerns, no travel orders and the canceling of events."

Schlader, a graduate of the Class of 1973, remarked that the annual banquet is a time to reminisce about the past with dear friends, celebrate present relationships and look forward to the future of those classes yet to come. The graduates of the Class of 2020, he said, would have been celebrated, and the highlight of the night was to be the announcement of this year's scholarship winners.

"(The association) wants to take care of the graduates this year because their school year ended so abruptly," he added.

In lieu of the banquet, Schlader encouraged Shamokin alumni to visit the alumni website at <http://www.indians.k12.pa.us/alumni> where information can be found about the association and instructions on how to donate.

Schlader said, "Ongoing contributions help make a difference, they allow alumni expenses to be funded and the continuation of awarding scholarships to future graduates of the Shamokin Area High School."

Coal Township Alumni Association President Sam Weaver said the association's 84th annual banquet was to take place at Brady Fire Co., also on May 23.

Weaver said the township alumni plans to present nine scholarships ranging from \$3,500 to \$2,500. The James Gresavage Sr. Scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled at the Northumberland County Career and Technology Center. The Knopoka Scholarship will go to the third-ranked student of the Class of 2020.

The seven remaining township scholarships as well as nine others from the Shamokin association are awarded based on the results of an annual comprehensive exam administered to participating seniors by the high school guidance office. The score obtained on the test determines scholarship ranking.

Weaver said the township association has been in contact with guidance counselor Matthew Weller on how to proceed with the tests, which were originally scheduled to take place in late March.

"We will be giving the awards when (the school) administers the test," Weaver said. "Once the test is done, (Weller) will give names of scholarship recipients."

The test is corrected by the administering guidance personnel. The students put their names in a prenumbered envelope. The envelope is sealed and, for identification purposes, the student places only their number on the test.

The names of the winners of the Coal Township awards are given to the Coal Township awards committee prior to the banquet so that they can be announced at their annual meeting.

Weaver, a member of the Coal Township Class of 1964 and a former educator and coach at Shamokin Area, remarked that the Class of 2020 has a bright future ahead of them, despite the loss of in-class instruction time and extra-curricular activities.

"It is a situation that is unprecedented in history," he said as his message to seniors. "We have to realize that this, too, shall pass."

This past year saw the passing of two former presidents of the Shamokin Area High School Alumni Association. It is customary for the association to memorialize past presidents on the back of the banquet program. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the annual banquet, the association has chosen to memorialize these two gentlemen on the webpage.

**Walter E. Fidler, Jr.**  
**Class of 1939 Graduate**  
**1965 Alumni Association President**



Walter E. Fidler, Jr., passed away on March 11, 2020 at the age of 98. Walter was a proud member of the Shamokin High School Class of 1939. Following graduation, he entered the family business, W.E. Fidler and Sons, as a painter and paperhanger. Upon his retirement from the painting business, Walter became the foreman for the Shamokin City Street Department. Walter served in the United States Army from 1942 until his discharge as a tech sergeant in 1946. His service was with the infantry in France and Germany under General George Patton.

Walter became president of the Shamokin Area High School Alumni Association in 1965. During his time with the association, he served as chairman of the program committee and in many other capacities. He was an elected member of the Shamokin Area School Board for 18 years, holding all of the offices at one time or another, but most notably as president of the board during the construction of the present high school. In addition, he served as the chairman, secretary and treasurer of the Northumberland County Vo-Tech Board.

Walter was a life member of the Calvary Bible Fellowship Church, where he served as an elder. Additionally, he was a Blue Lodge member of the Fraternal Order of Free and Accepted Masons, the American Legion and the Liberty Hose Fire Company.

**Myron M. Moskowitz**  
**Class of 1942 Graduate**  
**1990 Alumni Association President**



Attorney Myron M. Moskowitz passed away on Friday September 13, 2019 at the age of 93. A graduate of the Class of 1942, he went on to further his education at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Myron served in the United States Army during World War II, as a member of the First Cavalry in the Pacific. He returned to Shamokin and opened his law office in 1951, continuing to practice law into his 90's.

Attorney Moskowitz was deeply involved with the Shamokin Area High School Alumni Association for many years, serving as president in 1990. Additionally, he served on the Awards Committee and was a member of the Education Fund at the time of his passing.

As an active resident of the community, Attorney Moskowitz was a member of B'Nai Israel Synagogue, the Kiwanis, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Masonic Temple.

# Shamokin Area High School

## Alumni Association

Established 1883

**Making a difference with your help**

June 11, 2020

Shamokin Area High School 2020 Graduates:

Congratulations on reaching your high school milestone of graduation day!! That is a huge achievement and one that you should cherish and celebrate! I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome you as the newest members of the Shamokin Area High School Alumni Association. You are joining 20,700 other graduates that have also walked the hallways of Shamokin Area High School. Normally this would have been done at the annual banquet which was scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> but unfortunately it had to be cancelled.

Who would have thought that at the beginning of the school year or calendar year for that matter that we were going to face the life changing events that have affected each one of us? Hopefully these events will never occur again. But my challenge to you, when faced with life's obstacles, is to recall the high school friendships you have made, values that you were taught, and the mentoring given to you by your teachers. Those are the items that will help you persevere and travel through life's journey. Share your success with others and help make a difference in other people's lives! May God bless you in all you choose to do and to reach the goals you have established for yourselves.

One final comment, as alumni members there is one way you can play a significant role to ensure the continuation of our association that was started 137 years ago by its founding members. There are many committees that need extra hands to do the planning from year to year. If you could invest a small part of your time that would provide the ongoing life blood to continue the awards and scholarships for future graduates of Shamokin Area High School. Please visit our website at <http://www.indians.k12.pa.us/alumni> for more information and to see how you can be involved.

With devotion deep and true..... We'll always be loyal and true!

Jeffrey F. Schlader  
President, SAHS Alumni Association  
Class of 1973