



Florida Military School

Alumni Association



Vol. 6 Issue 2

June 2009



“Return of the Knights” Reunion

Only **2** months and counting !!!!

From the President’s Pen -

Max Elliott '58

Reunion excitement is certainly building! For example, members of the Class of 1959 had a pre-reunion meeting recently. More on that from **Thornton Ridinger (1959)** in the next newsletter. I have also heard from members of various classes that are contacting others from their classes and setting up side-meetings. We may even have a WiFi set-up for the reunion. (More info will be available on the FMSA website or in the next newsletter). Again, we hope to be able to publish one more newsletter prior to the reunion.

The FMS Book is almost ready for the publisher. It is all on schedule. Thanks again to all that submitted information to us! The pictures and articles, as well as your memories, have all been helpful.

Sue and I are also working away on the directory, using the Excel worksheet that **E.J. Jones (1965)** prepared for us. Only a few more tons of data to go!

Ms. Lillian, of the Holiday Inn Express has been busy setting up the facility and event details for us. If any wish to include “goodie bag” items, please contact Sue or me.

Please note, that if you have access, please keep up the progress of the **FMS Reunion 2009 – The Return of the Knights!** on our official web site (www.fms-assn.org). Much thanks for everything that our webmaster, **Asa Dean (1960)**, has contributed. Note also that Asa is behind the WiFi project.

We are repeating our call for assistance with this reunion. We still have a real need for volunteers, donations, sponsorships, and

patrons. See below for details. We want this event to be special for everyone!

I know that Thursday, July 30th 2009 seems a long time away, but, it is now **LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AWAY!** Start making plans, **MARK** the dates on your calendar, make your Holiday Inn reservations and register with FMSA!

FMSA Official Website:

www.fms-assn.org

FMS COFFEE TABLE BOOK

(“The History of FMS”)

The book is a reality! The writing is complete and the final proofing is underway. The final product will soon be in the hands of the printer. Thanks to the generous support of a group of cadets, this **limited edition** volume will be ready for distribution at the July reunion. As mentioned, it will be a limited edition so once the books are sold there will be no more. Cadets registering to attend the reunion this summer will receive a copy as part of their registration. We feel this will be a book that you will be proud to display and it will become a collector’s item. There will be 32 color pages included in the 136 page volume that contains well over 200 photos.

If you are not able to attend the reunion and would like to reserve a copy of the book for yourself, you will find an order form later in this newsletter. Because of the limited number available, a quick response would be advisable.

This coffee table book will be a living memory for our school.

ONLY 2 months to go –

Bigger and better

And the last one for three years ...

So plan to attend...

Don’t miss the FUN!!!

FMS Reunion 2009

“The Return of the Knights”

**July 30, 31, August 1, 2
(Thurs. – Sunday)**

Reunion Registration fee:

\$60* per cadet and **\$40** for guests and spouses

* Includes a copy of the Coffee Table Book.

We have not increased the registration fee since our first reunion in an attempt to keep the reunion affordable to all. The \$60 per cadet includes a tote bag complete with a copy of the current Cadet Directory, a copy of the coffee table book, program and ticket for the buffet Saturday night. The \$40 spouse or friend fee does not include the books or bag. Each attendee will receive a reunion nametag. The deadline is quickly approaching so don't delay. **Send in your registration form today! Avoid the late fee.**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please do not confuse your hotel reservation with your reunion registration. They are not the same thing. You must make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel, but your reunion registration needs to be made with FMSA. A registration form is included for your convenience. We have already received several and the hotel reports that many have called in for their hotel reservations. Don't delay in making your reservations so that you do not get closed out.

Holiday Inn Express – Daytona Beach, FL

(note the change of venue)

**2620 International Speedway Blvd.
(I-95 exit 261A south or exit 261
north)**

Room Rates:

Double: \$59 per night plus tax
King: \$59 per night plus tax
Suite: \$89 per night plus tax

A block of rooms is reserved for FMSA so be sure to mention FMS when making your reservations. Holiday Inn Express will honor the rates for three days prior and three days after the scheduled reunion if you would like to make it an extended vacation.

Director of Sales: Lillian Hess

(Formerly our contact at Holiday Inn Deland)

Phone: 386-258-6333, or doshiexpress@elitehospitality.com

Amenities include: Complimentary Full Breakfast Buffet daily, Business Center, Olympic Swimming Pool, 6 Lighted Tennis courts and fitness room. In room coffee-maker, ironing board, hair dryer, complimentary wireless high speed access, and private balcony. A **Free shuttle** is available for the nearby Daytona International Airport.

REUNION REGISTRATION

A downloadable form is available on the FMSA website, or you may use the one included in this newsletter. All registrations must be received **by June 30th 2009**. **Late registrations after June 30th, will include a \$20 late fee.** Make your reservations **EARLY!!!!** No refunds available after July 15th.

Reunion Registration fee:

\$60* per cadet and **\$40 each** for guests and spouses

* Includes a copy of the Coffee Table Book.

(Additional copies available for order.)

Coffee Table Book ORDERS

As mentioned before, a copy of this book is included with each cadet reunion registration. If you are unable to attend the reunion, or if you would like an additional copy of the book, it will be necessary for you to pre-order it as we will only print a limited number of copies. For your convenience, an order blank is included in this newsletter and it does need to be returned **ASAP**. The cost of each additional book is **\$50**, and this price includes shipping.

This will be the **only** opportunity for ordering your copy. Our printing order will be submitted **June 20th** so mail orders will be filled by the postage dates, until the book supply is exhausted. Additional copies of the **2009 Directory** will also be available for order.

HELP STILL WANTED –

In these trying times, that is a sign that gets attention more than ever. And we are hoping that it will get yours. **Seriously, we do need help.** This reunion can not be a “two man” job. Yes, we have done it several times and it does get easier each time but **we still need others to assist.** (Especially those areas in larger print below)

There are so many areas that we can use your assistance. Some people have stepped forward already to volunteer but there are still **jobs that need you.**

- **Registration** – short shifts, could be combined with hospitality. We need a coordinator, and people to work the shifts.
- **Greeters** - Jim Turner will coordinate this group who will act as our official greeters . Volunteers needed to assist him on Thursday and Friday.
- **Raffle** – selling tickets, conducting, etc. Trudy Bulat has volunteered to be coordinator. This lady with her “Purple Pumpkin” was hard to say “No” to at our last gathering. She has several fund raising activities planned and would gladly accept help.
- **Duck Race** – selling tickets, assisting with the race. David Tooker did such an outstanding job last time that we have recruited him again. This year it will be bigger and better and remember the prize is \$\$\$\$. He will need assistants to pull it all off.
- **Ghost Tour** – Harry Silvis has prepared our Ghost Tour posters, but he can use help in the set up, etc.
- **Hospitality** - shifts maintaining the room. We do need a coordinator to oversee the operation of this room. And we also need hosts and hostesses to man a shift or two during the weekend. (**NOTE:** any class group that would like to sponsor any hospitality event would be welcome.)
- **Memorial Service** –Thornton Ridinger is coordinating this event. He will need help with the set up, and people to participate in the service, or to give out the programs, etc.
- **Sports** - a **coordinator** to work with Lillian Hess in organizing the following activities, plus others to coordinate the specific sport.
 - **Tennis** – organize matches, etc.
 - **Golf** – organize pairings, etc.

- **Ladies Coffee Hour** – A coordinator is desperately needed for this special event. Other hostesses to assist are needed as well. (**NOTE:** a class group might want to sponsor this event, provide coffee, and get doughnuts or cookies donated, etc)
- **Meet & Greet coordinator** – A coordinator is needed to oversee sign-ups and set up for these sessions with the Colonels. The place is arranged, but sign up for the various times is needed. Some work on logistics as well.
- **Goodie Bags** – someone to gather items and prepare the bags. The gathering should be done prior to the reunion and perhaps some local cadets could handle the preparation of the bags, so they are ready to distribute by Thursday afternoon when registration begins. Items are also needed.
- **Auctioneer** – **Lee Hansen** did such an outstanding job that we have enlisted him again for our Auction Sat. night.
- **Auction** –Prior to the reunion, we need a Coordinator, and possibly assistants, to gather or solicit items for the auction. The possibilities are endless...single items, perhaps a weekend in someone’s timeshare or beach house; items from businesses, etc. The auction can only be fun and productive if we have good things to auction.

FMSA operates entirely by donations and monies we can raise with various fundraising activities, such as the Raffle, Duck Race and Auction. Without those activities we would have ended our last reunion well in the red. But thanks to you all, we had enough money to keep the association operating for these past few years and allow us to continue publishing the newsletters. The reunion itself is not a money making event. In truth, we are really lucky if we can break anywhere near even after all the unforeseen incidentals are covered. We would have been almost \$4000 in the red after the 2006 Reunion if it hadn’t been for the results of the various fundraisers at the reunion.

After much discussion, it has been decided that another sword will be made available as a Raffle item. So for those of you that missed out last time, you now will have another opportunity to possess your very own sword.

Several events at the 2006 reunion were sponsored by individuals or class groups. The D.J., the cocktail hour, the coffee hour and the videotaping of the weekend were some of the events sponsored by cadets. This time we would welcome

sponsors for the Hospitality Room, and the Ladies Coffee Hour. The cocktail hour this time will be a cash bar, but if a group wanted to sponsor cocktail nibbles that would be nice. We will use a DJ for our Saturday night music and a sponsor is always welcome for that as well.

We have sponsors for the videotaping of the major events again this year, but we still need sponsors for some of the other "biggies". Please let us know soon if you or your group are willing to sponsor an event.

It seems we are always asking for help but we are totally a non-profit organization and have been kept afloat only by your generous support.

SPECIAL 50th Classes'

'57, '58, '59, '60, '61

ACTIVITIES

Thornton Ridinger, coordinator

After arrival on **Thursday, July 30th**, we hope everyone will take time to relax, mingle and get re-acquainted. This would be a good time for the representatives of the respective classes to plan a special activities for each class will be planned through out.

Our cocktail gathering will be at **6 pm at Gene's** (see daily schedule) followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Rather than a set banquet, you will be able to order what you would like off the regular menu. This will be our main event for the reunion classes.

On Friday morning and early afternoon, arrangements are being made for us to participate in breakfast at the Sugar Mill at DeLeon Springs and the opportunity to take a short boat trip on the river. The boat accommodates 21 people per trip so it will make several trips. The cost is \$12 per person. The visit to the Sugar Mill is fun and you get to cook your own pancakes right at your table. For those who wish, you can also have a swim in the Springs.

Time will still be available for visits to the FMS Museum, downtown DeLand and the former campus before heading back to the Holiday Inn to join the others who are arriving for the general reunion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance January 1, 2009:
\$2,449.52

Deposits:	
donations	\$5,565.00
reunion registrations	\$2,360.00

Withdrawals:	
Annual Corporate Fee:	\$61.25
newsletter expenses:	\$939.00
reunion expenses:	\$5,369.00

This leaves a balance on May 15, 2009 of \$4,005.27

Respectfully submitted,
Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer

THE CLASSES OF '65 & '66

To Gather.....

Harold Kaniaris & Robert Mouro '66

The Classes of "66" and "65" request the presence of you and your guest for a social and dinner at **7 P.M.**, on **Friday** the 31st of July in Daytona Beach. Any other class that wants to come will be more than welcome. Buffet or order off menu and drinks. You pick the cost and time you want to spend with us. Buca Di Beppo Restaurant just a short walk from the hotel. We will break and resume at the hotel for more social time. Even the one and only Harold Kaniaris will be present as he is the one that found the restaurant. We all look forward to seeing you at the reunion this summer. This is scheduled for the time set aside for class gatherings at the general reunion so you will not miss out on any of the reunion activities. The social time will go on all wee hours of the night and **NO DEMERITS** will be issued for being up after TAPS.

2009 REUNION **Schedule of Events**

THURSDAY, July 30th

Focus Day of the 50th Reunion Classes

50th Reunion Classes – **1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961**

It is hoped that special activities for each class will be planned through out the day by respective class representatives. Members of the various classes are being contacted for these activities.

GENERAL REGISTRATION for the Return of the Knights reunion will be available Thursday for the convenience of those arriving early.

There are any number of relaxation activities in the vicinity. For the sports minded there are six tennis courts on site, and golf is available at nearby Indigo Lakes or LPGA courses. Some may wish to relax by the pool, visit the beach, or take a boat trips in Deland or the Daytona Beach area. Deep Sea fishing can also be arranged. If shopping is your interest there are the near by Volusia Mall and other centers. Daytona USA and the International Speedway are close by, and also the Dog Track and Gaming (Poker) Room.

Those wishing to venture a bit further may wish to explore the Deland area, visit FMS Museum and the old school site, or even venture off to Disney World, Sea World or the Spaceport. All are in easy distance from your hotel location.

Special 50th Reunion Banquet

A special banquet for the reunion classes is being planned for this evening. All of the reunion classes will meet together at **Gene's Steak House** at **6:30 p.m.** for a cocktail hour prior to the dinner at **7p.m.**

This was a popular watering place for many of these classes and the food is outstanding. Gene's is only 4 miles west of the Inn and carpools can be arranged. The meal will be a "pay as you go" affair to allow for individual tastes. A separate room is being provided for our group. It is hoped that as many of the class members as possible will attend. You only celebrate your 50th once!

FRIDAY – July 31st

GENERAL REGISTRATION will be available during the day. Attendees will receive their nametags and goodie bags at this location. We are seeking volunteers to work the shifts at the registration desk.

This day is ideal for the many relaxation activities we listed for Thursday or for just sitting and visiting with old friends, and maybe some new ones.

The late afternoon/early evening time is a great chance for a group to sponsor a cocktail party or various groups may wish to plan an outing or dinner together. We purposely did not over structure this evening for the convenience of those who wish to relax and visit.

SATURDAY – August 1st

Registration will continue for those late arrivals.

A Ladies Coffee Hour is planned for **10:00 a.m.** in the Hospitality Room. This will be a time for the ladies to visit and we will have a special gift bag for them at this time.

We have changed the **MEMORIAL SERVICE** to a new day this time. We will hold our service at the the Holiday Inn Express at **11 a.m.** (Room location to be announced later)

In response to the requests that many made at the 2006 reunion, we will attempt to arrange a series of **"Meet & Greet" gatherings.** These will be small group visits with the Colonels and other faculty members. These will be held in The Board Room and the Upper Deck area at various times on Saturday and available on a sign up basis so as not to overload any session. The sign up sheet will be available at registration table.

Lunch will be at your leisure. There are s many possibilities to choose from so everyone should be happy, from fast food to more formal restaurant fare.



After lunch you may wish to continue the relation activities or plan to join us for a **POOL PARTY** from **2 – 5 pm**. A cash bar will be available.

The culmination of the activity will be our infamous **DUCK RACE**. There will be more ducks available for purchase this year and the course is longer so we should have an exciting race. Remember it is to help defray our expenses as well as for fun.



After an hour and a half break for those that wish a quick rest and refresh, we will return for a **COCKTAIL HOUR** – by the pool from **6:30 – 7p.m.**

NO formal banquet this year, stuck at crowded tables. Instead we will have a **Buffet by the Pool** beginning at **7 p.m.** and casual dress is encouraged. Even bathing suits will be acceptable for those who wish to continue enjoying the lovely pool.

We will have **dancing** in the poolside Indigo Lakes Room, with music provided by a DJ. During this evening of fun and socializing, we will also hold our socializing, and our famous **Auction**. We are soliciting items for this auction now so if you have something you can contribute please let us know. This auction helps us “pay the bills” and also funds our newsletter for the future.

SUNDAY – August 2nd

After a leisurely breakfast, we will gather in the Indigo Lakes Room at **10 a.m.** for our **Business**

Meeting. An election of new board will be part of the business. This board will be installed at the Annual Meeting in October.

Following the General Business, and Election of New Board Members and Officers, we will have our **RAFFLE** drawing. More details about this meeting and the raffle will be released in the next newsletter.

Our final official activity will be a **FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR** in our hospitality room. There will also be one last opportunity to visit our displays and make a purchase of a piece of FMS memorabilia provided by our official vender, Harry Silvis ('65).

For those departing – have a safe trip!
We'll see you in 2012 !

To those fortunate ones who are able to extend their vacation - ENJOY and we'll see you in 2012 as well!!

Reunion Notes –

FMS GHOST TOURS will be available throughout the reunion in the Lobby of The Indigo Lakes Room by the pool.

A STATIC DISPLAY and SALES AREA will be in the Verandah Room next to the Hospitality Room. This area will be available throughout the reunion at posted times. If you have something you would like to display during the reunion this is the area to place it. As before, we will have various CDs and DVDs running and available for sale.

A larger **HOSPITALITY ROOM** will be open in the Plantation Room overlooking the tennis courts and pool. This is a great place to gather and visit or relax with friends throughout the reunion. Hosts and hostesses are needed to staff this room for various shifts.

PLEASE volunteer to assist with some aspect of our reunion!

Help balance the burden so we can all enjoy the festivities.

Also, **contributions are desperately needed for both the Auction and the Goodie Bags.**

See you in less than 55 days!!!!!!

REUNION 2009 REGISTRATION

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Guests Names: _____
(as you want them to appear on nametags)

Registration fee: (\$60 per FMS cadet and \$40 for each guest prior to June 30th, 2009.) (Late fee of \$20 after June 30th) (Each cadet registration includes a copy of the FMS Coffee Table Book and a 2009 FMSA Directory)

@ \$60 _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____ included

\$20 Deposit per person reserves your places. Final payment due by July 1, 2009.
No refunds after July 15th.

TOTAL DUE = \$ _____
Deposit = \$ _____
Due by June 30th = \$ _____

Make checks payable to : Florida Military School Association

Send to: FMSA c/o Max Elliott, PO Box 5 , Pierson, FL 32180

..... **COFFEE TABLE BOOK ORDER FORM**.....

FOR THOSE NOT ATTENDING REUNION OR FOR THOSE ATTENDING REUNION TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL BOOKS

NAME _____ CITY _____

ADDRESS _____ STATE/ZIP _____

copies _____ @ \$50. each
(includes shipping)

Total amount _____

(Make checks payable to Florida Military School Assoc.)

Send this order form to:

FMSA
c/o Max Elliott
PO Box 5
Pierson, FL 32180

**ONLY 250
BOOKS TO
BE PRINTED !!**

Orders must be received by June 20th.

FMSA

c/o Max Elliott
Post Office Box 5
Pierson, Florida 32180

CALLING ALL CLASSES!

It is not too late to organize your group and plan a special activity or dinner for Friday evening. If you need contact information for your class members or suggestions for a meeting place, contact Max or Sue Elliott and they will be more than happy to assist you.

SPONSORS NEEDED!!

The Hospitality Room and the Ladies' Sat. Morning Coffee Hour need a sponsor, and registration needs to be manned. Time is flying by and we do need coordinators for so many of the activities. Please step up and help us. Also any donations for the auction can be directed to the Elliots.

