



PMAAA Newsletter

POWER MEMORIAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

January 2022



PMAAA ANNUAL TRADITION HONORS CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SLAIN STUDENT THOMAS BRADY

Every Christmas season for over fifteen years, PMAAA Vice President Mike Kelly has travelled to the Christian Brother Cemetery in West Park, New York to strategically place wreaths within the cemetery. He also has journeyed to Gate of Heaven Cemetery located in Hawthorne, New York to place a wreath at the grave site of slain student Thomas Brady. Mike's mission for this annual tradition is to honor the memory of the many Christian Brothers who have inspired countless Power alumni. Mike also felt that we should never forget the senseless killing that took the life of Thomas Brady, a sixteen year old PMA sophomore, who was slain by a madman while he was watching the band practicing for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in March 1948. (See The Thomas Brady Story on page 9.)

The PMAAA has sponsored Mike Kelly's efforts over the years. Unfortunately, this year Mike was unable to distribute the wreaths. PMAAA Board member, Kevin McGeary, graciously offered to continue the tradition. After obtaining instructions from Mike, Kevin placed the wreaths, which are adorned with the purple and gold Power Memorial sash, on the gravesites of the brothers and Thomas Brady.

Hopefully this tradition will continue for many years to come.

THE ST. PAT'S PARADE TO RESUME IN 2022

Barring another onslaught of a COVID variant, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is going forward with plans to reinstate the traditional march up Fifth Avenue. The parade, which was cancelled in 2020 and 2021, will take place on Thursday, March 17th 2022.

According to Hillary Beirne of the St. Patrick's Day Committee, the 2022 parade will be the biggest in history. However, he expects some restrictions to be implemented for parade participants, including masking and social distancing. COVID protocols for the parade will be published in early 2022. The Grand Marshall for this parade will be James Callahan, president of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

If all goes as planned, the PMAAA will be marching again in the 2022 parade, keeping with the tradition that was reestablished by the Association in 2004. At this time, the line of march has not been published by the parade committee. As soon as this is known, the Association will advise all alumni of the meeting place and time. Sashes and pins will be available at the parade meeting place on the day of the parade. As in the past, there will be a Post Parade Party immediately following the march. The party is tentatively scheduled to take place at Cathedral High School located on 56th Street between First and Second Avenues.



Another perennial tradition will continue on Saturday, March 12th with the annual Mass of Remembrance, honoring alumni and faculty who have passed. Since the usual venue for this Mass, St. Paul the Apostle Church, is undergoing renovations and not be available, an alternate location has been selected. This year the Mass will be held at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, located at 457 W 51st Street (between 9th and 10th Avenues).

All alumni who intend on participating in any of the above events should register on the PMAAA website @ <https://www.powermemorialacademy.com/causes.html>.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PMA ALUM LEADS EFFORT TO HONOR LOCAL FALLEN VETERANS FOR CHRISTMAS

Jack Haren, a 1965 PMA graduate, and a veteran started the local chapter of the nationwide organization, Wreaths Across America. This organization is responsible for placing approximately 1.7 million wreaths on graves of fallen veterans at more than 2,500 sites worldwide.

With the assistance and contributions received from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the American Legion Post 59 of Morristown, the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans of North Jersey, the Knights of Columbus George Washington Council in Morristown and the Daughters of the American

Revolution, Mr. Haren organized the program to place wreaths on the graves of American soldiers who were laid to rest at Holy Rood Cemetery located in Morris Township this past December. Through the tireless efforts of Mr. Haren, the program has grown from 53 wreaths in 2019 to 750 in 2021, even with the drawbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic.



POWER'S "BOYS OF AUTUMN" RETURN



Andy Walsh, Jim Kelly, Steve Hurley, Jim Gallagher, JA Walsh, Genesius Jaromsky, Gerard Meuchner

On November 12, 2021, the CHSAA held their annual NYC high school cross country championships featuring a special event, an Alumni Race. Power Memorial's "Boys of Autumn" participated and represented their alma mater at the season's biggest meet.

Alumni, spanning the years from 1968 to 1981 (and some years in between) made the trip to cross country's mecca, Van Cortlandt Park. Jim Kelly ('71), who has made more alumni race

appearances than any other PMA graduate, spearheaded the Panther's efforts again this past Saturday. Traversing the challenging 2½ mile course with Jim were Steve Hurley ('75), Jim Gallagher ('71), JA Walsh (running for his dad Andy '69), Genesius Jaromsky ('81) and Gerard Meuchner ('81). One of Power's legendary greats, Chancy Marsh ('68), was there enjoying the day with former teammates, competitors and fellow alumni.

Congratulations to all the runners and thanks to everyone who was able to be there! Go Power!

More pictures can be found at <https://www.powermemorialtrack.com/2021-alumni-race>

Note: This article was reprinted from the Power Memorial Track Facebook page.



PMA'S LAST PRINCIPAL HAS PASSED



Brother J. Michael Binkley



The principal at the time of Power Memorial Academy's closing in 1984, Brother J. Michael Binkley CFC, passed away on October 21, 2021 at the age of 84. Brother Binkley started at PMA in September 1964 as an English teacher. During his tenure at PMA he also taught Spanish and eventually became Chairman of the Modern Languages Department. Brother Binkley also coached both the Freshmen and Varsity track teams.

In 1978 Brother Binkley was named Principal of PMA and served in that role until Power's closing in 1984.

Other than his service at PMA, Brother Binkley's ministry took him to several schools including All Hallows Institute, Essex Catholic High School, Newark, Catholic Memorial High School, Boston, Bishop Kearney High School, Rochester, and Bishop Hendricken High School, Rhode Island, where he also served as community leader.

Brother Binkley was born on May 16, 1937, in Norfolk, VA, the son of Jake L. and Margaret (Etheridge) Binkley. Brother attended Norfolk Catholic High School and entered Iona College where he received a BA Degree in English, an MA from Seton Hall University and an MS in Education from Fordham University. Brother Binkley entered the Congregation of Christian Brothers on July 2, 1956 and professed his final vows on June 27, 1963.

Brother was predeceased by his parents and by his two brothers, William and Joseph.. Brother Binkley was interred at the Christian Brothers' Cemetery in West Park, NY.



Actor, Chaz Palminteri, graciously accepts the PMAAA Challenge Coin from Board member, Rick Martin, at a recent event.



The PMAAA Challenge Coin

CHAZ PALMINTERI PRESENTED WITH PMA CHALLENGE COIN

On October 6, 2021, PMAAA Board member, Rick Martin, ran into Hollywood screen actor, Chaz Palminteri, at Palminteri's restaurant located in White Plains, New York. It was there that Rick Martin, who was attending a charitable event at the restaurant, presented Mr. Palminteri with the PMAAA Challenge Coin (see photo on left).

According to Rick Martin, Mr. Palminteri was familiar with Power since he had participated in a 2014 event along with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the benefit of John Wooden Foundation.



POWER YouTube CHANNEL PRESENTS:



Check out the latest PMA YouTube Channel Podcast as Dennis Mooney interviews PMAAA Hall of Fame inductee Steve Kallas as he recounts his days from growing up in Inwood, to his days at Power, through his professional career. Steve's interview can be seen by clicking the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMB92G5Q_Hk&t=178s

POWERFUL THOUGHTS 13

by Dr. John R. Cleary, PMA '57

I can't say enough about Brother Harold Delaney, my former intermediate algebra teacher. What a down-to-earth guy he was! The *Purple and Gold* noted he joined the order late in his life, after serving a stint as a sergeant in the Army. He demonstrated his aptitude as band moderator when he prepared Power to march in the Columbus Day and St. Patrick's Day parades.

With bullhorn in hand, drillmaster Delaney stood barking out cadence on the steps of The Church of St. Paul the Apostle, on 60th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues. He drilled us in the street for hours, back and forth for three days until he was assured we would win the award for best non-military marching unit in the two parades. We were satisfied, too! We didn't have classes! And we won!

In my junior year I was on the track team. Brother was a moderator. I specialized in the high jump, the long jump, 100 yard dash and 4 x 100 yard relay race. I won four events. But we could receive only three medals at the dual track meet with Cardinal Farley High School at Farley.

I hounded Br. Delaney for months to get my medallions while he kept assuring me my medals would be in soon. I recently gave them to my grandson Ryan as my legacy. I also gave him my Power letterman's sweater and six letters for my other sports. Included with that package was the honor roll pin I received for earning honors thirteen times out of sixteen quarters.

In 1957, I informed Brother Delaney of my basketball scholarship to NDAC. He asked for my address there. Two months after I arrived at Fargo, ND in September, also arrived a copy of the *Purple and Gold*. I received maybe two or three more copies until I came home for Christmas break in early December. I decided not to return to NDAC for personal reasons. In February 1960, I entered St. Pete's college. (now University)

Hey, I forgot to let Br. Delaney know I quit NDAC. Too late now!

Note: Dr. Cleary has offered to author a series of articles reflecting on his experiences at PMA. Alumni are encouraged to submit articles and share their experiences at Power Memorial Academy. Send your articles to: brian.mccann@powermemorialacademy.com

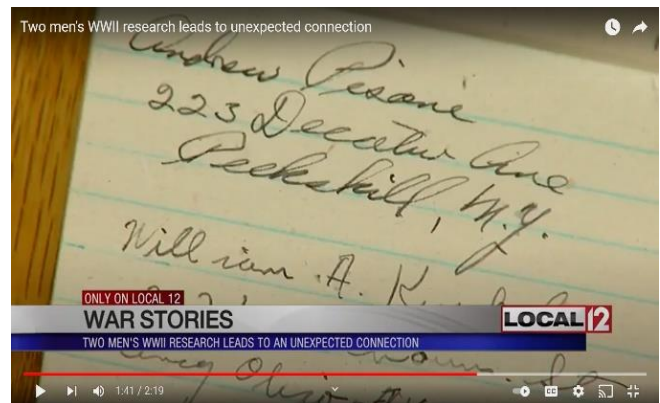


Pictured above is Dale Hubley (l) and Chick Pisani's father, Andrew Pisani Sr.

then was transferred to the 994th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company after he was injured during World War II. Like Chick's father, who was also stationed at the 994th, Roger Hubley's father was always willing to share stories about his experiences during the war.

When Roger Hubley compiled the stories that his father had told him, he never envisioned that these stories would resonate with someone who lives halfway across the country.

After reading just a few passages in the book, Chick realized that these were the same stories that his father would tell him. Chick subsequently telephoned the author in early 2017 to see if there was a connection between his father and Dale Hubley. Chick's hunch was proved correct after speaking with Mr. Hubley. It turns out that Chick's father served alongside Dale Hubley in the 994th. This was confirmed when Roger Hubley discovered the elder Pisani's name and address, written in his own handwriting, in Dale Hubley's notepad. According to Chick: "It sent chills down my spine."



Above is an entry in Dale Hubley's notebook containing Andrew Pisani, Sr. name and address.

The story drew so much attention that this story was featured in the news of a local television station, WKRC located in Ohio. The segment featured a video of Roger Hubley speaking on the telephone with Chick as they exchanged stories of their fathers. The segment can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CHt7EYfwZ4>

Since this story has aired, the two men have had several subsequent conversations over the telephone regarding their late fathers. Roger Hubley and his wife Melody travelled to New Jersey during the Summer of 2017 to meet Chick and his family in person. According to a statement made in the news story by Roger Hubley, "The two dads are up there thinking this is pretty neat. The two sons are connected, you know?"

The book, *Dale's War* by Roger Hubley was published by Trafford Publishers and is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



\$200 million donated to charities

Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app to generate donations.

amazonsmile

Shop at Amazon Smile & Amazon will Donate to the PMAAA.



FINAL DISMISSAL

The following Alumni have gone to their final dismissal:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ✚ Br. J. Michael Binkley – Faculty | ✚ Sean Lynch – Class of 1972 |
| ✚ Br. Anthony P. Bechner – Faculty/Class of 1966 | ✚ Michael J. Kebba – Class of 1954 |
| ✚ Robert Bechner – Class of 1967 | ✚ Peter Keenan – Class of 1968 |
| ✚ John Cahalin -- Class of 1977 | ✚ Eugene Michael Reeg – Class of 1974 |
| ✚ James Drew – Class of 1958 | ✚ Patrick Rooney – Class of 1955 |
| ✚ Terrence G. Fitzsimmons – Class of 1949 | ✚ Amos St. Germain – Class of 1965 |
| ✚ Stephen Giedosh – Class of 1967 | |

+ *May they rest in peace* +

PLEASE HELP US KEEP TRACK OF OUR ALUMNI!

The Association requests your assistance in keeping track of our Alumni. Should you know of any former students who have recently passed, please notify Kevin McGeary at: kevin.mcgeary@powermemorialacademy.com or Joseph DeFazio at: joseph.defazio@powermemorialacademy.com. Kindly provide the name of the deceased alumnus and the class year. All alumni who have passed will be acknowledged at the next Mass of Remembrance.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JANUARY 2022

Dear Brother Panthers

With the new year upon us, I want to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. With that being said, I would like to express my concerns about our health issues. Since we are no longer the youthful characters of our Power days, I sincerely hope you are taking the precautions to avoid the resurgence of Covid. Even though this new variant has been considered not as lethal, it can still cause major problems to those of us in the high risk category. So, please do what you must to protect yourself.

It appears the St. Patrick's Day Parade is a go this year, however we are still waiting on word from Cathedral HS to have our Post Parade Dinner. We will keep you informed of the status. Look for them on Facebook and our website.

PMAAA is now interviewing on YouTube. Steve Kallas, Dennis Mooney and Rick Martin have been working on Zoom interviews of our Hall of Famers. They are doing a terrific job, even though they ran into some glitches and snafus along the way. But we realize those little bugs become learning experiences. So, take the time to search YouTube for these interviews for some great stories.

At this time, I wish to announce the resignation of three Board Members, Steve Kallas '71, Kevin McGeary '72 and John Torres '70. Although they stepped down from the Board, they expressed a desire to stay connected in advisory positions to assist the Board Members who worked directly with them. Words cannot express the gratitude I share for the devotion and hard work Steve, Kevin and John put into the PMAAA. They made a difference for us all.

Maurice Zuniga, who has been working with the Board on event planning, has expressed his interest in joining the Board. His name has now been presented to the nomination committee for approval. He has already shown an enthusiasm by being the front man in getting the Power Challenge Coin made and helping out at the last All Hallows Social Mixer. Maurice's energy and zeal were evident.

Pro Christo Rege,
Andrew "Chick" Pisani
President, PMAAA



PMAAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The PMAAA Board of Directors met virtually via video teleconference on October 9th, 2021. The meeting was chaired by the Association's president, Chick Pisani. Other than the topics that are routinely discussed, the Board adopted the nomination guidelines for the HOF, reviewed the status of the annual PMAAA events, including, the Hall of Fame Dinner, the Mass of Remembrance, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade participation. In addition, the creation of an annual PMAAA fundraising appeal that would involve a mailing to all alumni that would seek contributions to supplement the PMAAA Scholarship Fund was considered.



The Board met again on January 8, 2022, to discuss the status of the upcoming March events in light of the emergence of the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron. In addition, three Board members, including Stephen Kallas, Kevin McGeary and John Torres, announced that they are stepping down as Board members. Steve Kallas will continue his duties as host of the PMAAA Podcasts that are featured on *YouTube*. Kevin McGeary will remain as the PMAAA Historian/Archivist. The Board will be seeking nominations to replace the members who have recently resigned.

The next PMAAA Board meeting is scheduled for February 12th, at 9:30 AM.

Minutes of the latest meetings may be found on the PMAAA website: www.PowerMemorialAcademy.com

FUND RAISING ALTERNATIVES

Since most of the 2020 and 2021 PMAAA events had to be cancelled/postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a substantial decrease in fundraising revenues. The funds contributed by the alumni benefit the PMAAA Scholarship Fund. There are several alternatives that the alumni may utilize to contribute to the fund, including the following:

- Send contribution by mail, by sending a check to the following address:

Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association, Inc.
Cherokee Station
P.O. Box 20493
New York, NY 10021-0068

- An alum can click on the following link: [Donate to PMAAA](#) and donate utilizing PayPal from the PMAAA website.

The following are other methods that an alum can help the Association's Scholarship Fund.

If you and/or family shop utilizing Amazon, an alumnus can shop utilizing an **AmazonSmile** account. Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases that are made on Amazon. There is no cost to the customer, and you still enjoy the same price that you would receive on your current Amazon account. To set up an **AmazonSmile** account, simply follow the instructions below:

- Copy and bookmark the following link:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/dashboard/ref=smi_se_ssr_btnr1_setch?ie=UTF8&pldnNewSubDash=1

- On the registration page, there is a box/section to search for your charity. We are listed as **Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association Inc.** Once you make PMAAA your charity, you fill out some other minor info, then you are set.

Lastly, Facebook has a program that allows FB users to raise funds for their favorite charity. FB users can sign on to the FB Birthday Fundraiser Program and select Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association as the charity to donate to. Facebook provides all the information you need to establish a fundraiser by clicking on the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/fundraisers?birthday&source=search_shortcut

FOLLOW PMAAA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In order to help spread the word of the PMAAA, the Association is on social media. Board member, Rick Martin, oversees the social media activities for the Association. You can track upcoming PMAAA events and alumni activities on *Facebook*, *Linkedin* and *Twitter*. The PMAAA *Twitter* account's "#PMA4Life."





**THE PMA
ALUMNI REGISTRATION
CHALLENGE**

HIT THE LINK BELOW AND UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO
<https://forms.gle/5jsi9m91ZwT86Hc7>

OUR GOAL IS TO BE THE BEST RESOURCE FOR
INFORMATION AND CONVERSATION.
LET'S MEET THE GOAL OF 60 UPDATES A MONTH
DON'T FORGET TELL A CLASSMATE



ALUMNI CAN UPDATE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION BY CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW AND COMPLETING THE ONLINE FORM.

<https://forms.gle/uHfDbdi76CgbYgSH8>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Association is always seeking volunteers for the following initiatives:

PMAAA WEBSITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In order to improve the PMAAA website, the Board is seeking volunteers with website design expertise to volunteer their time and knowledge to assist with this initiative. Please contact Rick Martin at: rick.martin@powermemorialacademy.com or Dennis Mooney at dennis.mooney@powermemorialacademy.com.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISING PROJECT

Volunteers are needed to work on ad hoc committees that may be formed for special purposes. The Board is currently seeking alumnus who can bring financial expertise to the recently formed fund-raising committee. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact PMAAA Board Member Carl Hall at: carl.hall@powermemorialacademy.com.

CLASS CAPTAIN INITIATIVE

Class Captains are still needed for each graduating class. Class Captains play an important part in communicating with their classmates and getting the word out on various PMAAA events. All Class Captain volunteers will be provided with contact information for their corresponding classmates. Alumni who may be interested in volunteering to be a Class Captain, please contact Kevin McGeary at kevin.mcgeary@powermemorialacademy.com or Brian McCann at brian.mccann@powermemorialacademy.com



POWER MEMORIAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Cherokee Station | P.O. Box 20493 | New York, NY 10021-0068

PMAAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew “Chick” Pisani - President

chick.pisani@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Michael Kelly - Vice President

mike.kelly@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Kevin Bollbach - Treasurer

kevin.bollbach@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Brian McCann - Secretary

brian.mccann@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Sean Crowley

Sean.Crowley@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Joseph DeFazio

joseph.defazio@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Carl Hall

carl.hall@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Norm Jardine

norm.jardine@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Steve Kallas

steve.kallas@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Stephen Lazarus

stephen.lazarus@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Richard Martin

rick.martin@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Kevin McGeary

kevin.mcgeary@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

Dennis Mooney

dennis.mooney@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

John Torres

john.torres@powermemorialacademy.com

Thomas Tuffey

Thomas.tuffey@powermemorialacademy.com

Web Master

John Begley

john.begley@PowerMemorialAcademy.com

PMAAA Website

www.PowerMemorialAcademy.com

PMAAA is a 501c3 tax exempt organization.



Thomas Brady

A Sad Day in the History of Power Memorial - The Story of Thomas Brady

A Sad Day in the History of Power Memorial "Mad gunman kills boy here, wounds six before capture," screamed the front page of the Times. As students at Power Memorial Academy practiced on March 15, 1948, for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, a deranged man, Marko L. Markovich, opened fire killing one, Thomas Brady, wounding four other students and two non-students.

Evidently, it was Markovich's hate of Catholics that provoked the tragedy. Following his arrest he stated, "The Catholics, the Italians and the politicians, they killed my boy, they killed my Jovan." In a later interview, he told police, "That word Catholic makes me mad, I start to shoot. "Markovich's son had died four years earlier from a brain hemorrhage "from natural causes." The incident began as Power students were walking in front of the 12th Regiment Armory then located at 61st and Columbus Avenue (currently the site of Fordham University Law School). The slayer had asked who these people were and learned they were boys from the local Catholic school. He pulled a gun and started firing, hitting several victims. In the chaos that followed, he confronted others, but his gun misfired. He pulled out another and shot Thomas Brady dead. With a hostile crowd in pursuit, he headed north toward 62nd Street, then to 63rd. Police joined the chase, and he ran into a brownstone at 31 W. 63rd St. He raced to the roof where he was met by a volley of police gunfire. He ran down the stairs and was, after vicious resistance, captured and cuffed.

The crowd outside the building had grown very large and angry; the fugitive was quickly put in a police car and rushed to the station on West 54th Street. He was booked and recommended for a mental examination at Bellevue Hospital. In the days that followed,

The New York Times writer Meyer Berger provided information to news thirsty New Yorkers.

On March 16, a Memorial Mass was celebrated for Thomas Brady in St. Paul the Apostle Church on Columbus Avenue and 58th Street. The entire student body of Power Memorial marched to the church. At the mass, Paulist Father Francis McGough asked the students to pray for the healing of those injured and for Brady's soul. "Hate is no solution to any problem," he told them. He also revealed that the deceased was the last boy to have his confession heard before the group walked to the armory; minutes later he was dead.

Brady had intentions of entering the religious life; he has been called by some a martyr. At the service it was announced that the Academy's seniors and juniors would march in the parade but without the music. Their flags and drums would be wrapped in black to remember their fallen comrade.

Markovich continued his irrational behavior in Bellevue. Some detectives believed he had long staked out the Academy and took advantage of the moment when he came upon the parade practice.

Sun and mild weather greeted more than 1 million spectators and 80,000 parade marchers, as did President Harry S Truman and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. The celebratory atmosphere of the parade turned somber as the sound of the muffled drums announced the arrival of the Power Memorial Academy contingent at the reviewing stand. The school's principal, Brother William A. Hennessy, C.F.C, approached Truman, who expressed his condolences and wishes for those wounded. The unit moved on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submissions from the alumni for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send any articles, pictures, memories of PMA, personal situations (including grandchildren, anniversaries, retirements etc.) to Brian McCann at brian.mccann@powermemorialacademy.com

Please let fellow alumni who may not be aware of the Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association or don't receive notices about association activities to register with the PMAAA by clicking on: <https://forms.gle/uHfDbdi76CqbYqSH8> and provide their contact information so that they receive future announcements of PMAAA activities.

