

## *Happy Holidays!*

## *1948 BGCA Newsletter 2014*

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### *Lighthouse Legends Rock the Boys' & Girls' Club Gym*

By Paul LeSage

This past October 12, several hundred fans bobbed their heads, rocked out, or partner danced to the sounds of the Legends of the Lighthouse band reunion concert.

Fifteen bands played their way through the memory banks of the music of the 50's, 60's, 70's, and beyond reuniting a host of musicians who played in the Club's Lighthouse decades ago.

Ric Fetridge, one of the principal organizers, said, "All of us got our start at the club. It was our first paying job. We got paid in one dollar bills." Some of the bands and artists included The John Harding band, Zarvis Allen, the Continentals, Mick Valenti, and David Grover.

"Rick and Wendy Fetridge did a tremendous job putting that show on. That was as professional a show as one is going to see," said Terry Hughes, Club executive director.

"To see those 'grandparents' jamming and rocking and rolling like they were 20 again was motivating for me. The music is in their blood, and they grew up here on that stuff."

For the second year in a row The Alumni Committee served as a work crew for the concert selling tickets, ushering, answering questions, and other activities as needed.



*Legends performers take the Big Gym stage* (More photos on p. 3)

## Q & A with Terry Hughes: *Camp Russell*

How was your first summer at Camp Russell?

Wow, what a place! But that's exactly what I am talking about. I think we served something like 300 kids out there this summer. What are there 6,000 school age kids in this community? I see no reason why we can't get to the point where every kid who graduates from High School around here to say they attended Camp Russell at some point in their life. We need to attract some more dynamic community leaders who in turn can attract more kids to attend. The natural setting is absolutely wonderful with boating, sports, swimming, games, arts, ropes course, and other activities.

It's truly a place where memories are made. We need to tweak the program a bit, build more partnerships, and market it better, but by and large the kids of today are enjoying the same activities as the kids of a century ago, and that is really cool. The costs are



Legends volunteers Sandi Beggs and Nancy Thompson

### Club 2014 Fundraising a success

Per Club Director Terry Hughes, overall 2014 has proven to be a good one for club fundraising, and the Alumni Committee played an important role in that. Together the main events, the Club golf tournament, the Chili chowder Fest, and the Legends of the Lighthouse Bands concert brought in well over \$50,000 to support club and Camp Russell activities.

Separate Alumni fundraisers included a very successful canister collection effort, selling ads in the Alumni newsletter, and the annual membership campaign also contribute to the ongoing support of the main Club and Camp Russell. To donate to or to join the Alumni, call 413-448-8358.

rising, and we need to make sure we keep it affordable, offer more campership, and get the kids who would, otherwise, never have a chance to experience the camp in that way. Additionally, we need to keep the Club open in the summer as well. I envision a summer where we're serving several thousand kids between Camp Russell and here on Melville St. There are some inherent challenges to accomplish this, but we ought to be able to figure it out.



Alumni volunteers Vinny Marinaro, Linda Therrien & David Tyburski work the Lighthouse Legends concert on October 12

### Therrien retires from Club

After a great career, longtime Club Alumni member Linda Therrien has retired as the Club's office manager. "Yes, we're going to miss her. She announced her retirement shortly after I came on board, so it wasn't a surprise. She's not the retiring type though, and I think we'll all see her working somewhere pretty soon," said Club director Terry Hughes.

The Alumni Committee would like to thank Linda for all of her years of full-time service to the club. She coordinated many Alumni activities and kept the group completely up to date with information that made the group's volunteer service effort that much easier. Good luck, Linda.

#### **Pittsfield Boys' & Girls' Club Alumni Newsletter**

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*Legends of the Lighthouse reunion Concert, October, 2014* Photos by Paul LeSage





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