

# A History of The La Salle Club



**La Salle Club Meeting 1948**

*Left to right: Brother Joseph, John Mason, Ed Lehtola,  
Harold Matthews, Cy Puliz, Brother Eugene*

# The La Salle Club

## Introduction

Over the years financial support to Christian Brothers High School Sacramento has been provided by various clubs and organizations. These included the Mothers Club, Parents Club, Patrons Club, Christian Brothers Guild, Alumni Association and the La Salle Club.

These organizations were made up of parents, grandparents, alumni and friends of the Christian Brothers who provided financial aid and services for all Christian Brothers High School students.

The oldest and most productive of these groups has been the La Salle Club. This organization has supported Christian Brothers for 72 consecutive years and is still active today!



**A 1951 La Salle Club Gathering**

## The Beginning

The founders were an informal group of Christian Brother's alumni and friends who were intent on improving the school's athletic program. As recorded, the first meeting was held in 1939 in Cy Puliz's basement on 24<sup>th</sup> and "U" streets, downtown Sacramento.



**Cy Puliz**

Salami, cheese, crackers, beer and cigars were provided, which added to the enthusiasm and under the guidance of Brother Eugene Ward their mission began. Future meetings were held twice a month on Mondays in the school cafeteria at 21<sup>st</sup> and Broadway--and refreshments were served.

In 1940 they drafted a formal "Installation of Officers" document that clearly defined their purpose and outlined the responsibilities of each club officer. The following are excerpts from this document:

### Purpose

The La Salle Club is organized for the purpose of encouraging and aiding in the scholastic, social and educational accomplishments of the students of the Christian Brothers School in Sacramento. We have banded ourselves together to accomplish these purposes and to assist those students of the Brothers School who have entrusted their education to us.

In addition to aiding in this work, this club is also organized to aid the Christian Brothers and their students in carrying out an athletic program which is so important to building the health of these students and is so essential in formulating within the minds and hearts of the students a spirit of fair and clean sportsmanship. We believe that in the accomplishment of these purposes, we as citizens and fathers, have contributed something toward the up building of the characters of these students so that they will someday become worthy citizens of our community.

### Responsibilities of Officers

Gentlemen you have been elected to the various offices of the La Salle Club for the coming year. It is my privilege to induct you into office.

In accepting office in this club you assume the leadership of a group of men who are unselfishly devoting their time to improve the youth of America in general and those who have the good fortune of attending the Christian Brothers School in particular. Ordinarily men join such organizations for their own protection and benefit; in this club, however, you find men joining together solely for the good of their country and the boys of the school.

It is for the good of the country because when you help develop a higher type of young manhood you are necessarily developing a higher type of nation, because any nation is just as good as the citizen that makes up that nation, and leaders of tomorrow.

And of course the youth of today is the leader of tomorrow.

In assuming these duties you are undertaking work for which there will be no reward other than the self satisfaction of knowing that you have done a good service to the students of this school and the good Brothers who have unselfishly given their lives to the developing of



**Brother Eugene Ward**

young men who will be morally, intellectually, and physically able to assume their place in the world, and to lead that world into higher state of civilization.

The club appreciates your assuming these responsibilities and promises you our every cooperation that this year, in spite of the many handicaps which exist, may be our most successful.

- ◆ **Not by design, but only men were involved in these early days.**

(See La Salle Club Archives, File 1940 for complete document)

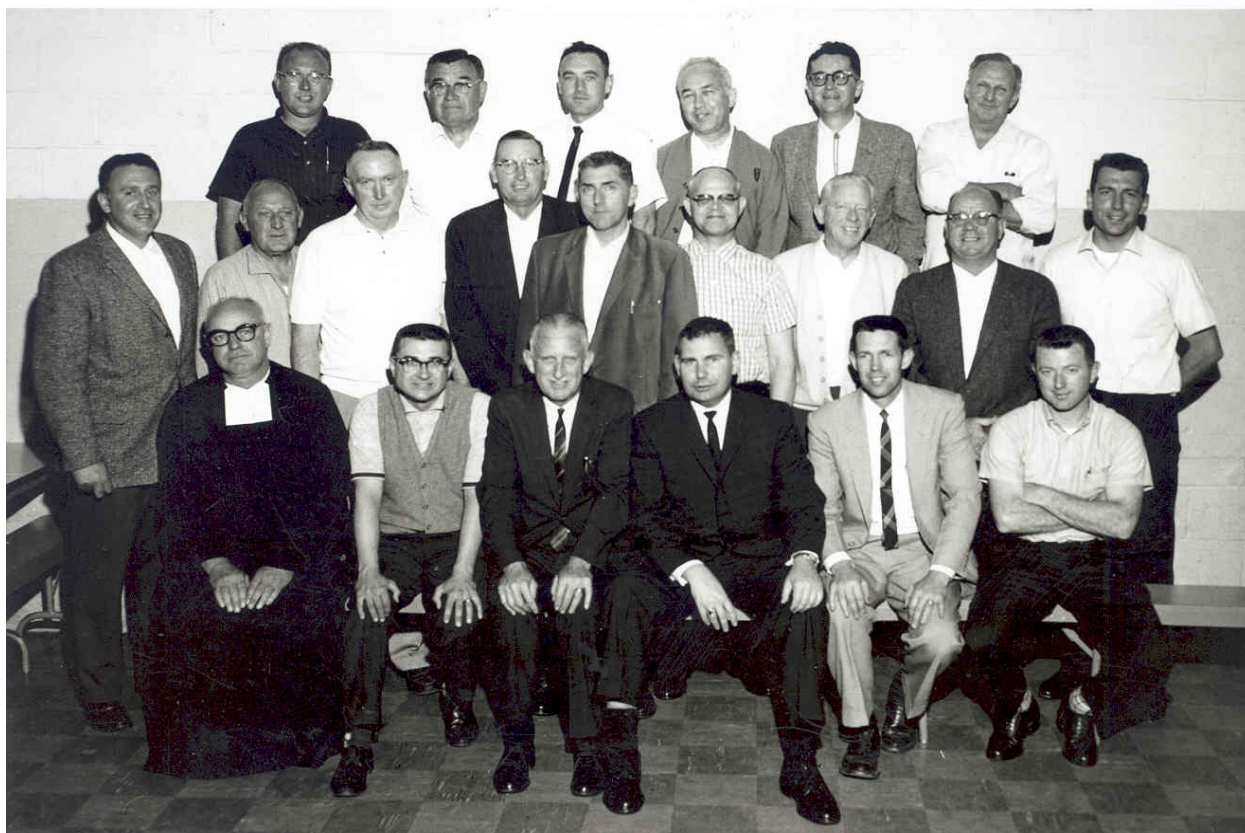
It is interesting to note that the founding fathers original purpose and commitment was expanded and became much more than just the support of the school's athletic program.

In 1984, the club adopted a formal Constitution and By-Laws. (See La Salle Club Archives File 1984 for complete document.) In 1996, Brother Bertram Coleman composed the following mission statement that the club adopted:

**Mission Statement of the La Salle Club**

Founded in 1939 the La Salle club is the group dedicated to filling needs that are not in the school budget. It includes men and women who “want to help in any way possible” and a means to keep in touch with friends. The La Salle Club looks to the community for those with time and talent who are open to helping our athletic and academic programs. A commitment to help in any way you can is necessary for La Salle Club member.

(See La Salle Club Archives File 1996.)



**La Salle Club Meeting, Early 1960's**

## **The History of the La Salle Club**

*By Tom Kane, Sacramento Bee*

*Written in 1976*

One of the vital forces behind the athletic program at Christian Brothers since 1939 is the La Salle Club. The organization was the brainchild of Brother Eugene Ward, former principal, teacher, coach, and public relations expert at CBS.

Another man who was instrumental was in founding the La Salle Club was Cy Puliz. Many preliminary meetings were held in the basement of his house.

With approval of Brother Cyril, then principal, and Brother Bertram, vice-principal, the La Salle Club became an active fund raising organization. Its early fund raisers included the Annual Duck Stew, Boxer's Night, Soccer Night, and Baseball Night.

From the early formulative meetings, several men were very active in supporting the club. These men were William McQuillan, first president of the club, Joe Babich, Cy Puliz, Tom Armstrong, Dr. Leo Farrell, Tom Kenny, Bill Flaherty, Terry Mulligan, Jack Ryan, John Mason, and Ed Lehtola. Two members of the club, Heinie Finklestein, a member of the Jewish faith, and Harold Matthews, an active member of the Masonic Lodge, were men from different backgrounds who believed in the Christian education as provided by the Christian Brothers.

The La Salle Club continues to provide the young men attending Christian Brothers with a strong program in physical education and interscholastic activities through its many fund raising activities. These include the La Salle Frolic, the Annual Golf Tournament, and the Annual La Salle Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner.

## **The La Salle Club of Christian Brothers High School**

*By Brother Bertram Coleman*

*Written in 1950*

During the depression years of the thirties, parents and friends of the school held several money raising activities to provide funds to keep the school solvent. These consisted in an annual bazaar and dinner and monthly whist parties.

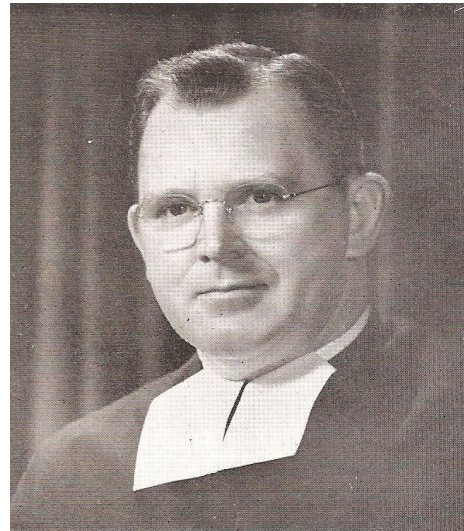
In the early 1940's a group of men met with Brother Cyril, Principal and Brother Joseph, Vice Principal, to discuss the possibility of forming a booster's club to support the athletic programs.

Tom Armstrong was the first president of the club with Brother Joseph Buckley serving as moderator. Succeeding presidents included Dr. Farrell, Tom Kenny, Jack Ryan, Cy Puliz, Heinie Finklestein, Harold Matthews, John Mason, Ed Lehtola. They all believed in the Christian education provided by the Christian Brothers, the academic standards and the discipline values operating in the school.

The chief fund raiser for the club was the annual Frolic and raffle. Other activities included various dinners, boxing matches among students, and homecoming dances. In the early days. Many members of the club gave of their time to work on alterations in the locker rooms, gym, and athletic fields.

Monthly meetings were well attended and one source of income was a continued drive for new members. Most of the founders were also members of the Southside Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, The Elks, and Knights of Columbus. It was not surprising that the early membership had ties with these other fraternal organizations in Sacramento.

While the meetings were active, most of the planning for events took place in more casual gatherings of the officers or committees in places like Cy Puliz's cellar of Joe Babich's bar after the meetings at the school.



**Brother Bertram Coleman**



## **On the 8th Day, God Created The La Salle Club**

*By Stan Gilliam*

*Written in 1995*

It must have been 1939, after Christian Brothers gridders had absorbed a 45-0 pasting at the hands of Sacramento High School, that the La Salle Club had its genesis. Backing up a bit, CBS had blanked the Mighty Dragons 7-0 in 1935 and 14-0 in 1936. The Sacs did the only sensible thing and hired Brothers coach Jim Flynn. The trail downward began.



So, after the 1939 debacle, some of the loyal Gael followers gathered and decided that the school's athletic teams needed something positive and material in the way of support. Chief among them, the legend goes, was the late Eugene Sullivan 34, still known as "Mad Dog" among his contemporaries.

The symbolic hat was passed and, having circled the group, yielded \$20.25 as the initial treasury. Call it seed money. As the years went by, the newly named La Salle Club grew in numbers as well as treasury.

Nor was it confined to alumni. Chief among the early supporters were Al Westlake, a Sac High graduate; Hiney Finkelstein, a barber who conducted High Holy Days for Jewish prisoners at Folsom Prison when he wasn't helping CBS athletics and cutting hair; and Anton "Cy" Puliz, he of the huge heart and weak memory which is why he called everyone "Buddy or "Sis."

With the continuing success of the La Salle Club --- and perennial treasurer Joe Kirrene Sr's finger on the pulse, how could it fail? --- so did the athletic fortunes of Christian Brothers it did prove.

Then the La Salle Club was no more, swallowed up into something called the Boosters Club. Hell, every school has a Boosters Club, but there was only one La Salle Club. Loyal members felt as if the school had turned its back on the founder of the Christian Brothers, St. John Baptist de La Salle.

But now the wonderfully loyal pack is indeed back, ready to welcome old members into the fold and take newcomers. Graduates, parents, friends, all are welcome.

## **Fund Raising Goes Back Its Roots**

*By R.E. Graswich*

*Written in 1996*



There is never enough money, not even when the school goes back to the last century and some alumni members are millionaires and the cause is good and the appeal is honest.

So Don Gillott is starting from the beginning. He is digging into the archives at CBS and learning how they raised money for sports six decades ago. He is updating the pitch for a contemporary market. And he is finding — lo and behold — that the old ways still work.

Gillott, president of Christian Brothers, is reviving something called the La Salle Club, an association of alumni and friends that began in 1939 to buy football equipment. Back then, athletes from Christian Brothers were required to use second hand sporting gear — stuff inferior even to the meager pads and shoes and jerseys found on the feet and shoulders of athletes from public schools. Alarmed by their inability to compete with the likes of Sacramento High School those dark and economically depressed days, several CB boosters passed the hat and collected \$20.25. In 1939, \$20.25 would buy a week's lodging.

Now the figure serves as a symbolic reminder of chores unfinished. The reborn La Salle Club, which had its first meeting this week, set \$20.25 as the minimum dues. “You should have seen the \$20 bills and quarters flying,” Gillott said. “I think we really tapped into something.”

People still want to give money. Gillott knows that, The trick is finding the gateway to their generosity — the words and purpose that will make them open their checkbooks and deliver their donation to the cause.

They could all use more cash for football uniforms and baseball pitching machines and musical instrument for the marching band. What Gillott has in his favor is a school rich in accomplishments and history, a school whose roots reach as deep as any in Sacramento. He also has a tenacious attitude and a sense of political fearlessness owed to his status as a temporary president working for part time wages.

Gillott, 64, a respected university administrator who retired after 17 years as dean of the engineering school at Sac State, agreed to become Christian Brothers' president on the condition that the prep school not complain if a golf date required him to leave his desk early.

"I took the job for just one year," Gillott said. "Now I'm starting my third year. I didn't know anything about secondary education when I got here, but I'm finding its all the same from an administrative standpoint. We've got to find ways to raise money and to keep the debate open among people with different ideas. Whether we are talking about sports or a new campus."

For a part-time employee, Gillott is establishing impressive credentials. In January, he offered a simple compromise to the controversial plan to close the school's ancient Oak Park campus and move to North Natomas.

"It was tearing us apart," Gillott said. I finally said, 'we can't afford to have factions. Let's build the North Natomas campus and upgrade our facilities in Oak Park. It passed unanimously. Now all we have to do is raise \$15 million."

Traditions won't be forgotten. Not long after Gillott announced the rebirth of the La Salle Club, he was presented with a check for \$5,000 from Nob Keiunji and Bert Bonomi. The money represented 10 years of hat passing for a Christian Brothers baseball stadium named in memory of Joe Marty, a Brothers alum who made it to the majors.

"You've got to take care of people like that," Gillott said. "They want nice dug-outs and a nice big sign with Joe Marty's name, and they'll get it. That's my commitment."

And that is the essence of fund raising.

## **A History Of The La Salle Club**

*By Brother Bertram Coleman*

*Written in 1996*

As reported in the Catholic Herald by Eleanor Doyle in 1961, "It was a blue November evening in 1939. Christian Brothers High School had just taken a trouncing on the grid field from a local school and a group of CB boosters were sitting around commiserating over the unhappy situation.. From this bull session a plan was evolved to do something practical to provide the Gaels with sports gear which could place them on equal footing with boys in the public schools. A hat was passed and coins clinked in. The total was \$20.25.



As simply as that the La Salle Club was born. In addition to sports equipment, the La Salle Club through the years has purchased seats for 5,000 people, lockers for the sports minded boys, and stoves, tables, and cooking utensils for the CBS cafeteria.

Members filled in and reseeded the football fields at both schools (21st and Broadway and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd) and painted and rewired the gym.

The occasion for this tribute by Eleanor Doyle was and "Old Timers Night." Past Presidents honored included Tom Armstrong, Tom Kenny, Cy Puliz, Jack Ryan, Joe Genshlea, Andy McGuire, Pete Margetts, Dr. Leo Farrell, Leo Williams, Kettle Wirts, Bill Bordisso, Al LaTour, Marv Ash, Charles Ravellete, and Al Westlake. In memory, were honored deceased presidents: Hiney Finkelstien, Harold Matthews, Walter Hicks, and John Cerrutti.

The La Salle Club continued to support the physical education department and athletic program through membership dues and various fund raising events including 45 years of Baseball Hall of Fame under the leadership of Vincent Stanich until his recent death, annual frolics, raffles, fire works sales, classic basketball tournaments, golf tourneys, hamburger nights, law enforcement appreciation dinners, and banquets for school athletes.

In 1989, the La Salle Club changed its name to Christian Brothers Boosters Club,

the students at Christian Brothers High School in their academic and athletic pursuits.

Aside from two annual dinners honoring coaches of the Sacramento area and the Baseball Hall of Fame, the La Salle Club will assist the Boosters Club and other fund raising groups in support of the school, but it will not sponsor any specific fundraising project of itself.

The purpose is to enroll men and women, through membership dues of \$20.25 (first fundraiser noted above by Eleanor Doyle) who are willing to be identified with Christian Brothers High School and assist in any way they can to support the mission of the school in the La Salle traditions of the Christian Brothers.



**Hall of Fame Baseball Committee 1956**  
**Front left: Joe Genshela, Kettle Wirts, Larry Williams**  
**Back left: Harry Lilly, Al Westlake, Bill Morebeck,**

## The Presidents

### Presidents of La Salle Club, Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento 1939-2011

1939/40	Thomas Armstrong
1940/41	Dr. Leo Farrell
1941/42	Thomas Kenny
1942/43	Jack Ryan
1943/44	A. M. "Cy" Puliz
1944/45	Walter Hicks
1945/46	Walter Hicks
1946/47	Hiney Finkelstein
1947/48	Harold Matthews
1948/49	Clarence Johnson
1949/50	John Cerruti
1950/51	Al Westlake
1951/52	Al Westlake
1952/53	Elwood "Kettle" Wirts
1953/54	Al La Tour
1954/55	Charles Ravellette
1955/56	Leo Williams
1956/57	Joe Genshlea
1957/58	William Bordisso
1958/59	Perc Margetts
1959	Andy McGuire
1960/61	Joseph Kirrene
1961/62	Thomas Santos
1962/63	James Church
1963/64	Don Fox
1964/65	Michael Separovich
1965/66	Kenneth Klutz
1966/67	"Babe" Thomas
1967/68	Ralph Belanesi
1968/69	Ralph Belanesi
1969/70	"Babe" Thomas
1970/71	Walter Turner
1971/72	Walter Turner
1972/73	Fred Luzzi
1975/76	Bob Jenkins
1976/77	Bob Jenkins
1977/78	Jim Burich
1978/79	Walter Turner
1979/80	Pat Seitz
1980/81	Pat Seitz

## The Presidents

### Presidents of La Salle Club, Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento 1939-2011

1981/82	Mel James
1982/83	Ron Herman
1983/84	Ron Herman
1984/85	Delbert Allen
1985/86	Ted Carthen
1986/87	George Radovich
1987/88	Mike Hyatt
1988/89	Jay Riley
1995/96	Ray Clemons
1997/2010	Chado Vasquez (Longest tenure as president--14 years)
2010	Bernie Church

## Fund Raisers

The La Salle Club produced many fund raisers and social events over the years. The list includes:

Baseball Hall of Fame (originally “Old Timers Night”)

Father-Son Night

La Salle Club Frolic and Dance

Goose Stew

Golf Tournament

Cioppino Dinner-Dance

Appreciation Night

Law Enforcement Night

Boxers Night

Soccer Night

Coaches Hall of Fame

Christmas tree sales

4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks sales

Basketball Tournaments

Homecoming (football game and dance)

Hamburger Night (parents meet coaches)

Crab Feed

Sports Celebrity Night

Casino Monte Carlo Night

Membership drives

Frolic and Vaudeville Show  
1945

Raffle Sales

Fall Sports Awards Banquet

Christmas Dance

Coaches Night (appreciation for CBS coaches only)

Santa Maria Style Barbeque and Western Dance

Golf Marathon

St. Patrick’s Day Party



Longtime treasurer Joe Kirrene is honored at the Brothers Residence



## **Contributions and Labor**

Given their financial commitment to Christian Brothers High School, it was necessary that all these fund raisers become very successful. It took the dedication and hard work by the La Salle Club membership to achieve their financial goals.

Membership drives and donations (solicited and unsolicited) were also sources of income.

In addition to the laborious task of staging all of the fund raising events, there was other physical labor performed in the early days by the membership.

Shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, hammers and saws were required to complete certain projects on “work days”.

Repairing bleachers, installing lockers, rejuvenating the fields, building booths for the Frolic were but a few of these tasks.

Coaches appreciative of the La Salle Club also donated their time to work on these projects.

Baseball, basketball and football scoreboards, lockers, a bus, a 15 passenger van, baseball dug outs, sports equipment, team uniforms, weight room, tennis courts, video equipment, bleachers, improvement and enlarging of athletic fields, John Deere equipment cart, golf cart, wrestling mats, and track repairs are among the various purchases and projects provided by the La Salle Club during its' 72 year history.

This would not have been possible without the support of the hundreds of members and friends of the La Salle Club.

## The La Salle Club Frolic

The La Salle Club Frolic was their most successful fund raiser. A well organized event, it was held in the school gym (21<sup>st</sup> and Broadway) and was a huge financial success every year. A variety of games, (gambling) food and drink were offered and a raffle was held.

Decorative booths were built to entice the “frolic goers” to play such games as Black-jack, Chuck-a-Luck, Darts, Bingo and Penny Pitch. Donated salamis, hams, turkeys, wine and whiskey were some of the prizes that could be won. And mothers baked cakes for the “Cake Sale”. The raffle was a money maker, the Grand Prize was always a big item (donated). Students sold tickets--each class had a quota.

Some years, the floor was cleared and dancing followed the games. In 1945 a Frolic and Vaudeville Show was given, “open to the public and no charge”.

*La Salle Club*

### 11th ANNUAL FROLIC

APRIL 17th, 1948  
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
21st and Broadway, Sacramento, California

◇

7:30-8:30—Display in main lobby of basket of groceries and other prizes to be given away at 11:00. Tickets will be sold on the floor by “The Girls with Gardenias in Their Hair” — also at the booth on the dance floor.

◇

8:30 — 12:00  
Dance to Music of BUSTER PEART and His Orchestra

◇

10:00 — 10:30  
ENTERTAINMENT  
PETER MITCHELL, Master of Ceremonies

<p>“THE BROADWAY QUARTETTE” In Novelty and Ballad Sketches JOE PRYOR.....Baritone AL SCHULTZS.....Tenor JIM SOUTHERN.....Bass LEE HAYES.....Lead</p>	<p>JOHN MAGNOR and BILL MAMMOLITTI Comedians Assisted by Instrumental Duo SONGS — DANCES VARIETY</p>
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◇

11:00-11:15—Drawing for basket of groceries and other prizes.

◇

MIDNIGHT—Drawing for ZENITH RADIO door prize.

◇

GAMES — REFRESHMENTS  
Rooms A-B-C  
Hats and Cloaks Checked in Room D

FROLIC COMMITTEE

Chairman—J. J. CERRUTI		Co-Chairmen—HAROLD MATTHEWS, BRO. EUGENE
HINEY FINKLESTEIN, Pres.	JOHN MASON	WILLIAM MOREBECK
ED LEHTOLA	F. W. COSTELLO	AL WESTLAKE
JOHN BEATTY	W. F. FLAHERTY	E. T. HOWSLEY
CY PULIZ	ANDY MCGUIRE	ANDY LAGOMARSINO
JOHN ROBL	ARTHUR HAAS	RAY STEINBRECKER
E. V. WIRTS	HARRY OGLE	BRO. JOSEPH

Program Compiled by BERT CALLEN and MARCO SMOLICH

(See La Salle Club Archives File 1945)

## **The La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame**

Originally called the “La Salle Club Baseball Old Timers Night” this fund raiser began around 1939. In these early days, “Old Timers Night” was just a big party for old baseball players to get together, have a few, share memories, and raise their life time batting averages and lower their ERA’s.

The event grew in popularity, a sellout every year, and in the confines of the cafeteria at 21<sup>st</sup> and Broadway it was SRO.

Bus loads of old Valley Leaguers came from Northern California. Vince Stanich called them “The Marysville Contingent.” Sam Stassi, the Sperbecks, Larry Glick, Gene Brocker, Hira Hall, and Vic Pitts were part of this group.

In 1953, the event was changed to a Hall of Fame format. With the exception of an induction of the new Hall of Fame members and the long speeches that followed, there were no other changes and the event continued to draw large crowds.

The longevity, 57 years, and success of this event were the result of the dedication of many people.

The original planners include such names as Al Westlake, Bill Morebeck, Joe Kirrene, Vince Stanich, Kettle Wirts, Joe Genshlea, Bill Svilich, Lou Bordisso, Jim Church and others. But it was Vincent Stanich, perennial chairman for over 40 consecutive years who is responsible for sustaining the success and popularity of the La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame.

Vince’s original committee consisted of Bill Svilich, Jim McNamara, Lou Bordisso, Ronnie King, Tom Torchia, Bill Rico, Harry Knight, Burt Bonomi and Ron Limeberger (liaison)

In 1996 Jim McNamara succeeded Vince as chairman and for the next 13 years under Jim's supervision the success continued.

This event helps keep alive the rich history of baseball in the Sacramento area. Being elected to this Hall of Fame is considered an honor by the local baseball community.

To date, approximately 450 men have been elected to the Hall of Fame.

In those early years this event was well covered in the Sacramento Bee and the Sacramento Union. Their sports section had pictures and lengthy write-ups about this event. Vince Stanich's column "Behold the Bushers" that appeared in the Sacramento Bee also provided publicity.

For a complete list of La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame members, visit Rick Cabral's website: [http://baseballsacramento.com/LaSalle\\_Club\\_Baseball\\_HOF.html](http://baseballsacramento.com/LaSalle_Club_Baseball_HOF.html)



**Former Sacramento Solons at the 1970 Hall of Fame Dinner, from the left: Ray Rohwer, Manuel Salvo, Ross "Brick" Eldred, and Earl McNeely**

## **La Salle Coaches Hall of Fame**

Another very successful fund raiser is the Coaches Hall of Fame. The inductees are comprised of local men and women who have distinguished themselves in the coaching and officiating profession at the high school and college level.

For the past 16 years, starting in 1995 with the induction of Jim Flynn and John Giannoni, Chairman Jack Witry has successfully organized this popular event.

A complete list of all inductees to this Hall of Fame can be found in the La Salle Club archives.

This event is not to be confused with the La Salle Club Coaches Night that was held in earlier years to show appreciation for the Christian Brothers coaching staff only.

## **Goose Stew**

In the 1950's, one of the more popular fundraisers was the "Goose Stew."

This gourmet Goose Stew dinner was prepared by Clarence Johnson and others--a first class meal by all standards.

However, one year the Goose hunting season was very poor and only a very limited supply of birds were donated. Clarence Johnson and Al Westlake knew how to solve the problem. On a cold foggy fall morning, Clarence and Al crept up on small pond in Wilton full of mud hens. With their 12 gauge shot guns and a bottle of Christian Brother's brandy to keep them warm and accurate, they slaughtered the mud hens.

With Clarence's skillful cooking ability, the mud hens were heavily marinated and thrown in the pot! No one knew the difference and another delicious Goose Stew dinner was enjoyed by all.

## **“The Loan”**

In 1970 the La Salle Club took on the huge project of improving and enlarging the athletic field facilities at the school on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. In order to complete this project they requested a loan of \$30,000 from De La Salle Institute. This loan was approved.

The following is a copy of the letter, from Brother Bertram Coleman, then Provincial of the San Francisco District of the Christian Brother, to Fred Luzzi, President of the La Salle Club, indicating why the loan was granted and how it was handled.

See next page for a glimpse of Brother Bertram’s letter.

# BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



P R O V I N C I A L H O U S E  
99 Devin Drive · Rheem Valley · California 94570

April 30, 1973

Mr. Fred Luzzi, President, La Salle Club  
c/o Brother S. Martin Fallin, FSC.  
4315 Sacramento Blvd.  
Sacramento, California 95820

Dear Mr. Luzzi and Members of the La Salle Club:

For many years the La Salle Club since its beginnings has been very devoted to the welfare of Christian Brothers High School particularly in the field of athletics. For this, I as Provincial of the San Francisco District of the Christian Brothers, and the many Brothers who taught at Christian Brothers High School are very grateful to you gentlemen. It has not only been your financial assistance to further the athletic and physical education programs at C.B.H.S. but the man-hours of physical effort and work you have put into your projects that calls for our gratitude to you.

In 1970 when you decided to take on the great project of improving and enlarging the athletic field facilities you requested a loan of \$30,000 from De La Salle Institute to assist you in financing the project. The loan was agreed to by De La Salle Institute with the stipulation that it be paid off in a maximum of five years. To date \$18,000 of the loan has been repaid to De La Salle Institute.

It has been brought to our attention that the La Salle Club has given \$34,000 of their own funds, plus many man-hours, into the project and has sponsored numerous events to finance not only this project but others at Christian Brothers High School.

On the basis of past history of contributions, and as a basis of encouragement for continued support for the athletic program, Brother Martin Fallin, Principal of Christian Brothers High School, petitioned the members of the District Council that the La Salle Club debt of \$12,000 be dissolved in favor of the Club as an earnest of the appreciation of the school and the District for their work, their involvement and financial support of this aspect of the school program.

At its meeting of April 13, 1973, the District Council voted unanimously to accept the petition of Brother Martin Fallin to dissolve the La Salle Club debt of \$12,000 to De La Salle Institute in favor of the La Salle Club. This letter will serve to notify you that the debt has been canceled.

May the Good Lord bless you for all your efforts in the past and the future for the benefit of Christian Brothers High School.

Sincerely yours,

*Brother Bertram Coleman, FSC*  
Brother Bertram Coleman, FSC.  
Provincial

BBC:ews



## **The New La Salle Club**

In 1989, the school administration decided that the Boosters Club and La Salle Club should be joined together and operate as one fund raising unit. This began the demise of the La Salle Club and other than the Baseball Hall of Fame they became inactive.

In 1995 Ray Clemons, former head football coach and athletic director at Christian Brothers High School, 1948-1956 recognized the need to revitalize the La Salle Club. With the backing of Don Gillot, then president of Christian Brothers, Ray formed a group to rebuild the membership and become active again. Ray's team consisted of Chado Vasquez, Jim Westlake, Ron Carissimi, Mike Clemons, Brother Bertram Coleman, FSC, Jack Witry, Ron Limeberger, Norman Montgomery, Bob Lehtola, Pat Clemons, Fred Thomas, John Stremple, Sam Stassi, Bill Chambers, Julius Resendez, Jack Ryan, Jerry Kirrene, Dick Sperbeck and Gene Lynch.

In 1996, Chado Vasquez became president and served in this capacity for 14 years--the longest tenure of any La Salle Club president.

## Let Us Remember

Over the years there have been members who have contributed significantly to the success of the La Salle Club and they should be recognized for their years of service, achievements and dedication to Christian Brothers High School.

A few of these notables include:

Brother Eugene Ward--originator of the La Salle Club in 1939. Long time principal, teacher and coach at Christian Brothers High School.

Brother Bertram Coleman--beloved by all. Long time principal at Christian Brothers High School. Later became Archivist at Mount La Salle and accumulated the material used for the La Salle Club archives.

Cy Puliz--One of the founders, past president, involved in all activities, one of the early "movers and shakers".

Joe Kirrene--Past president. Tight-fisted club treasurer for over 40 years, kept meticulous records and accounted for every penny.

Vincent Stanich--Chairman of the La Salle Club Baseball Hall of fame for 40 years! A Herculean effort.

Al Westlake--Club president 1950-1952. Involved in all activities, chaired several events, club member for 40 years.

Ron Limeberger '54--Coach and athletic director at Christian Brothers High School for 42 years. Served the club in many capacities for 42 years.

Ray Clemons--Coach and athletic director at Christian Brothers High School. Was Responsible for reviving the La Salle Club in 1995.

Chado Vasquez '52--Served as president of the La Salle Club for 14 years--longest term of any president, totally committed to Christian Brothers.

Jim McNamara '47--Active member for 20 years, chairman of the La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner for 15 years.

Jack Witry--Educator, coach, vice principal at Christian Brothers High School. Forty years of service, involved in all La Salle club activities, chairman of Coach's Hall of Fame event for past 16 years.

## **Summary**

This introduction to the La Salle Club provides only a limited outline of its history.

More information may be found in the recently completed Christian Brothers High School Sacramento archives.

Material used for the creation of the La Salle Club Archives Sacramento is derived from interviews , a collection of articles from the Christian Brothers District Archives at Mount La Salle, Napa, and other sources.

Brother Bertram Coleman, District Archivist at Mount La Salle for 10 years is responsible for preserving the history of the La Salle Club through his collection of articles and documents.

For additional information contact Andrea Miller, Director of District Archives, De La Salle Institute, Napa, California, 1-707-252-3730