

**Dear Members of Penn Academy AA,**

I want to congratulate all of you for your participation in our great organization. Our club is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There have been many terrific adults who have made this club a great place for our children and I sincerely hope that there are many more to come forward when my time as a member of your Board of Directors ends. Thank you for your hard work and the giving of your precious time.

In the past 40 years, the club has seen many changes. In the beginning, we did not have a clubhouse or a meeting space, all of the meetings took place at someone's home. Just like now, the single purpose of the club is to provide a safe place for the children of our community and to develop their individual skills: athletically, socially and morally. Please be respectful of the efforts of your neighbors who daily give to our organization on behalf of you and their children. At the creation of our club, we participated in football, yes football, Baseball, and Basketball. We did not have Dance or Soccer. These two activities were brought into the club and they are now our largest sports activities. Our Basketball program just had a very successful year. Our next program to be reorganized is the Baseball and Softball programs. In the past, our Baseball program was larger and better than anyone in Northeast Philadelphia. Let's make it happen again!

We now have the Penn-Crisp Gymnasium as a meeting space and more importantly, it is a place for the children to play Basketball, Soccer, and to learn to Dance! This gym is the only private facility in Northeast Philadelphia. This Penn-Crisp became a reality because of the work and financial backing of **State Representative Dennis M. O'Brien**. Mr. O'Brien is always ready to serve his community and the needs of your children. The gym is a very special and unique place and everyone should be thankful for Mr. O'Brien's gift!

**City Councilmen Brian O'Neill** has kept the club funded with grants and assistance from the City of Philadelphia. When the City Of Philadelphia deemed that our Recreation center was to be closed, Mr. O'Neill developed the plan and the strategy for overcoming the plan of Mayor John Street and its Budget Director to close our Recreation Center. As you may remember, we packed our gym with over 2,500 community members to confront the proposed closing our recreation center. Councilmen O'Neill was supported by State Representative Dennis O'Brien, State Senator Michael Stack, State Senator John Purcell, and Councilmen Cohen. Mr. Bob Barilli, the assistant to Councilman O'Neill, has always made himself and the office of the Councilmen a place where assistance and advice were available for our club and its members.

Our Clubhouse, which served the club for many years, is being refurbished or removed and replaced. We need your help in restoring this vital building for our Dance Program and as a meeting space for our club and the community at large. Work will begin again in April and continue through the month of June. Every Saturday there will be club members working on our athletic fields and in the clubhouse. Come out and lend a hand.

The field trailer will be removed from the property during the month of April. The trailer has been constantly vandalized and we have installed a new snack stand to replace it. We will need to have the area around the field trailer and in the batting cage to be asphalted. Please come out to help in revitalize the support structures of our club.

A lottery fund raiser will be sold in March, April and May to help gather funds for the field work at the club. A social will be held this spring to celebrate the organization's forty years of operation. Please be generous in your support of the club!

Regards,  
Michael Greco  
President Penn Academy A.A.