



# THE CHSAAP

## CENTRALITE

### Newsletter

Editor: Stephen V. Bianchi  
Class of 1968

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#### **....2017 CHSAAP GALA CELEBRATION JUST WEEKS AWAY!**

A reminder about the CHSAAP first annual GALA CELEBRATION, coming up on Saturday May 6, at the **SHRINERS IMPERIAL ROOM AT RHODES PLACE IN CRANSTON!**



It will be a fabulous time, with Central classmates of all eras in attendance. Great Music, Great Food, and Great Memories! The Honorable Frank Caprio, class of 1954 will be the Keynote speaker.

In our last letter to CHSAAP members, we requested that you **help place ADs** for our gala souvenir program booklet. Brochures for program ad sales to local businesses can be printed from our [www.chsaap.org](http://www.chsaap.org) website. AD sales will help pay for this beautiful 'first time' booklet, pay for the hors d' Oeuvres', and add to the funding of scholarships for Central students heading to college and vocational schools.

There will also be a 'charter member' page in the gala program in which you can **place a congratulatory message, an honorarium or memorial message for just \$10. To date we only have 3Ⓢ.** In the meantime, if you can, please contact your local businesses to advertise in the booklet when you have the opportunity.

#### **MEMBERS WERE SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE PASSING OF TWO OF OUR DEAR CHSAAP CHARTER MEMBERS:**

We were notified of the death of Carol A. (Fracasso) Ranucci by her daughter Carol Ann Falasca. Carol, one of our original Lifetime Members, died on December 3, 2016. Her daughter wrote that "she loved her school & all her friends".

Mrs. Shirley Dexter, a Central grad from the class of '41 died on January 28, 2017. She is survived by her loving husband Elton, a '42 Central graduate, and many family members and long time friends. Shirley and Elton was a delightful and very active couple in their 70 years of marriage. They were featured in our very first Centralite newsletter last spring and you can review it on our website. **We offer our sincere condolences to the Ranucci and Dexter families.**

#### **..CONGRATS TO 2017 CENTRAL TRACK STARS!**

Hearty congratulations to Central's nationally ranked track relay team, including: **Austin Wolo, Demetrius O'Connor, Donatien Djero and Prince Mallay!** At the prestigious 'armory track invitational' in New York city several weeks ago, they timed out at 1:29.05 in the 4x200 meter relay to set a state record! That was the seventh best time **in the entire country** this winter.

Last year, the team won another state title with **Franklin Mercado** on the team, and they won as sophomores

a few years ago with senior **Lemar McFadden** on the team. Congrats again to all members of the **Knights track teams** for bringing national recognition to Central!

**....CHSAAP SPOTLIGHTS '81 CENTRAL GRAD MIKE MURRAY!**

There have been many Central grads through the decades that've had to go through some great handicaps to succeed in their classes and with the general atmosphere of school, and in life after graduation. Not the least of who is:



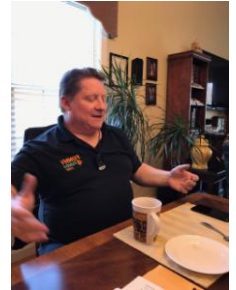
**1981 Central High School graduate and class president, Mike Murray!**

As a child and right through adulthood, Mike suffered from hearing problems, which, for the most part, continued to be a major problem for him right through his 40s. Having had 'cochlear' hearing devices implanted on both sides a few years ago, he is now hearing almost perfectly. After working for the Providence Journal for years, he started and ran his own janitorial service for a while. He also ran a hot dog stand for a while!

But Mike's friends said he was missing his calling as a comedian. Mike says "people liked the way I told jokes...."

"I have an animated way of telling jokes and I have a way of remembering jokes".

He was often called to do comedy at organizational fund raisers. This gave him the idea of helping to organize the fund raisers himself. SO he founded a company he calls "Funny 4 Fund\$".



His company now has 90 comedians in four different groups working for him in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut, raising funds for many different organizations!

"I've been a comedian for eight years", says Mike. "**Funny 4 Fund\$**" has raised over **two million dollars** in just the last 24 months". He also holds motivational 'pep rallies' for business people several times a week.



With the early physical trials he went through, and with the many jobs he's held and businesses he's started, Mike would now like to do more 'motivational speaking'. **His motto is "no idea is too crazy!"**

Mike says that, in the near future, he would like to help current Central High students be more motivated by hearing him speak at the school about his past and by reminding students that they can break through the real or imagined barriers they may have.

Welcome to **Mike Murray**, CHSAAP's newest dynamic member. Just hearing his story of success was great motivation for us!

**....SEE YOU AT THE CHSAAP GALA CELEBRATION ON MAY 6TH!!**