



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.

www.hobartalumni.org

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HHS Alumni Celebrate BrickieFest 2016 in Brickie Bowl for First Time in 5 Years



This year's Homecoming Picnic was back at Brickie Bowl for the first time since the original BrickieFest in 2011. The Hobart High School Alumni Association provided free hot dogs, brats, chips and bottled water, while other alumni shared salads and desserts. Over 100 people attended BrickieFest 2016, which lasted from 12 noon to 3 pm on Saturday, October 8.

The picnic followed Friday night's Homecoming football game, where the Brickies defeated Hammond Morton 35-12.

The Class of 1966 had the most people of any single class at the picnic, as many classmates were in town for their 50th anniversary class reunion.

You can see more pictures from BrickieFest 2016 on page 5 of this newsletter, and on the NWIndianaLife website, <http://www.nwindianalife.com/community/neighborhoods/62034>. Reporter/photographer Samantha Malkowski wrote a nice article on the event and posted dozens of pictures. (Look for the link that says "Click here for more photos".)

Alumni Spotlight

Dick Stenzinger, CPA and Foster Father

Richard (Dick) Stenzinger grew up as a foster child, graduated from Hobart High School in 1976, and is now a CPA and has been a foster parent himself. His interview begins here:

What are you up to these days? How do you spend your time? What kinds of activities are you involved with?

I'm the husband of one wife, Rhonda, father of five (two natural, three adopted) and grandfather of two. I'm a partner in a very busy CPA firm based in Bourbonnais, IL. My work schedule is rather intense, especially during tax

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Alumni Spotlight (continued)

season. I've been involved in many activities outside of work through the years.

Our five children have kept us very busy, just raising them and with their many activities. They all played various sports, but mainly soccer. I coached for many years and served on the Board of the local soccer league for a few years. We have been very active in our church, serving in many areas of ministry through the years. I've also been involved with a couple of community organizations. My wife has been an active participant and Board member of Kankakee Valley Theatre for several years.

We were active with foster care for many years. We fostered and ultimately adopted three of our sons through the foster care system. Having been a foster child myself it was always on my heart to give back in this way.

Could you describe your life and career path from Hobart High School until now?

I graduated from Hobart in 1976 (the exciting bi-centennial year). Upon graduation I attended Olivet Nazarene College (now University) in Kankakee, IL. I chose Olivet because I had some scholarships, knew several friends attending there, and wanted to attend a smaller college. My brother Mike (HHS class of '73) attended IU in Bloomington. I had visited him on occasion and decided I wanted to attend a smaller school. I worked my way through college with various jobs and my senior year I got a part time job with the accounting firm for which I still work. At that time, in the early 80's, we were in the midst of the great exodus from the Midwest due to the economy. I was very fortunate to be hired full time in 1981, passed the CPA exam, and have been with the firm (Smith, Koelling, Dykstra & Ohm PC) ever since. I never planned to stay with one company, and in one city, all this time. However, I became a partner in the firm in 1986, so as they say, the rest is history.

How did growing up as a foster child influence your life and your family situation today?



Being a foster child has greatly influenced my life in so many ways, and almost all of them positively. Our family was in quite a mess so I don't know where I would have ended up had it not been for foster care.

My older brothers (John and Mike) and I were placed in foster care when I was in first grade. Our family bounced around quite a bit so I attended several schools in Hobart, Gary, and East Gary in first grade. In the middle of second grade Mike and I were transferred to a foster home in Hobart. Our foster parents, Bud and Lorraine Powers, had five children of their own but gladly added Mike and me to their family. They attended the Nazarene Church in Hobart, so the church also played a critical role in my life in those years. Bud worked in the steel mill, but was injured in a fall after we had lived with them for a couple of years. He was disabled due to the fall so the family struggled financially from that time on. I don't know how they made it but they always, somehow, found a way. They always treated Mike and me like we were their own children.

Seeing the sacrifice they had made for me, and believing God has a purpose for our lives, has greatly influenced the direction my life has gone. Through those experiences, and with my wife's urging, we decided to become foster parents after we had two children by natural birth. We ended up adopting three boys that were in our care. One of them is now in college and the other two are in high school. Our two natural children are grown, our son lives in LA and our daughter lives in Charlotte. The opportunity to be foster/adoptive parents has had its share of challenges but it has been a great blessing to our family.

Alumni Spotlight (continued)



Were there any people, places or incidents in Hobart that had a special influence on your life and career path? Do you have any particular stories?

There are many, but space will only allow me to share a few.

I always loved math and thought I would enjoy teaching math and coaching. I had some great math teachers at Hobart such as Mrs. Rodgers, Mr. Robb and Mrs. Sark (most demanding teacher I had at any level). Someone had mentioned to me, since I liked math, I should take the intro to accounting/bookkeeping class taught by Mr. McGuire. I took that class my senior year and greatly enjoyed it. Mr. McGuire made it interesting since he had his own accounting business on the side and told some interesting real world stories. I had no idea what a CPA was, or did, but he encouraged me to pursue an accounting career. So here I am today.

Not knowing it at the time, but one of the most important classes I took in high school was typing, with Miss Hopp. There were only four boys, and about twenty girls, in the class. At the time boys didn't think they would ever need to know how to type. How the world has changed. Since I could type I ended up typing many term papers for friends in college. Obviously, with the advent of the personal computer and the impact on my profession, that skill has proved invaluable.

I have to relate a great story to you regarding Mr. Throne and something that happened my senior year. My foster parents had moved to southern Indiana the summer before my senior year. I didn't

want to move, as I wanted to graduate from Hobart. Therefore, I moved in with my older brother John, who lived in Lake Station at the time. Since he was outside the district, and we couldn't afford out of district tuition, I used a friend's address in Hobart in order to keep attending Hobart. A few weeks into the school year word got to Mr. Throne that I may be living outside the district. He called me to his office, said he knew of my situation and didn't know what to do about it. I pled with him that I earnestly desired to graduate from Hobart. He truly went to bat for me. He did some research, called the State education offices and found (or made one up to help me) a unique ruling that said since I had attended Hobart schools for so many years I was grandfathered in and could attend Hobart. I was not allowed to participate in athletics that year (I wasn't that good anyway) but I was allowed to participate in other activities, and most importantly to graduate from Hobart. I have often thought of how Mr. Throne's actions did much to shape the course of my life. If I couldn't have attended Hobart my senior year I would not have had Mr. McGuire, and therefore not been influenced by him to pursue the CPA profession. Interestingly, when I attended the first BrickieFest in 2011, I was talking to some alumni and asked if they knew whether or not Mr. Throne was still alive. One of them said, "Yes, and he's standing right over there." I was able to speak with him, and amazingly, he remembered me and my situation from 35 years before. I was able to thank him for what he had done for me and the impact it had in my life. What a great man! I know I'm just one example of probably thousands of students he impacted through his educational career.

What does a CPA do, and how should someone prepare for it?

A CPA (Certified Public Accountant) encompasses a wide range of potential career opportunities. A great deal of what we do involves being a trusted advisor to individuals, business owners and assisting them in the management of their financial affairs. Being a CPA gives you a great foundation and a well-rounded background to pursue a career in accounting, management, or other business related field. I specialize in the areas of small business and individual taxation, as well as

Alumni Spotlight (continued)

consulting. The last few years I've been very involved in assisting clients with buying and selling their businesses.

The best preparation is to take some introduction to accounting and business courses to see if they may interest you. The best classes to take would be ones that enhance your computer, math, communication and analytical skills. Communication and problem solving skills are critical to the CPA profession. You need to be able to analyze situations, formulate solutions and be able to communicate that information to your clients. Once you think accounting may be for you, you'll need to obtain a 4+ year college degree in accounting. You can then study super hard and proceed to take the four part CPA exam. It is a very tough exam but attaining the designation is well worth it. The CPA designation is not mandatory to pursue a career in accounting but it does open up more opportunities for you. The long-term job projections for the accounting profession look strong.

What advice would you give to Hobart High School students about planning for life after high school?

First I would say enjoy your high school years. It's hard to believe how fast time flies. You'll tend to look back and think how much more you should have done, been a part of, etc. The memories of Friday nights at Brickie Bowl and all the other activity swirling around the high school years are still some fond memories for me.

In the ancient book of Proverbs it says, "Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge." I can't say it much better than that. While in high school study hard (of course), get involved in a wide variety of activities, and try to get an idea of what you may be interested in. If there are classes that could pique your interest in some field of study, pursue them. Now is the time to seek and explore. There are so many different paths your life can take you. The foundation of a Hobart High School education can be a springboard for a lifetime of learning and opportunity, as it was for me.

Class Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions. If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at info@hobartalumni.org, and we will publicize it on our website and in our newsletter. More information on all these reunions can be found on the [HHS Alumni Association website](#). These are listed in order of occurrence.

Class of 1961, 55th Year Reunion (October 22, 2016)

Ron Smith has posted that the Class of 1961 55th reunion will be held October 22, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Merrillville. A block of rooms is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn under "Hobart High School Class of 1961." To be sure you are on the mailing list, please email Ron at hhsclass61@yahoo.com.

Class of 1982, 35th Year Reunion (July 1, 2017)

Class of 1982: Our 35 year reunion will be July 1st, 2017 at the River Pointe Country Club in Hobart (the old Supervisor's Club). The charge will be \$60 per person, and that includes the event on Friday night also. For more info, contact Connie Fourman, conniefourman@yahoo.com.

Class of 1977, 40th Year Reunion (July 9, 2017)

Hobart Class of 1977 we need your addresses. We will not be doing a mail out, only social media. So if you know of a class member who is not on social media please let them know what is going on and they can get a hold of me. Reunion is 7/9/2017. Thanks, Eleanor Ensign, el3an0r1st@hotmail.com.

Class of 1967, 50th Year Reunion

The organizers of the Class of 1967's 50th year reunion invite you to help find the big wooden "1967 Class Board", and to keep in touch at <http://www.hobartindianabrickies67.com/>.

Pictures from BrickieFest 2016



*Left: Tracy and Joe McCullough stand in front of their tabletop grill. Joe cooked the hot dogs and brats.
Right: Jim and Dolores Fahey Tresemer with the beautiful Class of 1959 quilt Dolores made and displayed.*



*Left: The familiar sign welcomes Hobart alumni back to Brickie Bowl.
Right: Paula Isolampi and Bob Green shared Hobart Historical Society memorabilia.*



*Left: Mary Ellen Schmelter Perney and Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978.
Right: Nancy Boling Forrest, Class of 1969, Coach Paul Throne, and Bob Swisher, Class of 1967.*

HHS Alumni Association Board, 2016-2017

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

OFFICERS

Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998.....*President*
Paul Addison, Class of 1970..... *Vice-President*
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970*Treasurer*
Lynn Hasza-Heintz, Class of 1967 *Recording Secretary*
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978*Corresponding Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Tracy Brumley, Class of 1991, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966

STUDENT MEMBERS

Meredith Corteau, Class of 2017
Angelo Banero, Class of 2017
Danielle Hill, Class of 2018

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hobart High School Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a close relationship between Hobart High School, its constituents, and its alumni for their mutual benefit. The Association is committed to, and involved in the support and well-being of Hobart High School and its alumni.

OUR GOALS

- To assist Hobart High School in communication with its alumni
- To convey to Hobart High School the views, attitudes, and needs of the alumni in seeking to preserve, advocate, and promote alumni interests
- To strengthen alumni activities and programs
- To support educational programs through teacher grants and student scholarships

Our Supporters

The HHS Alumni Association is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and our entire financial support comes from membership dues and contributions. We recognize our supporters by listing the names (not the amounts) of those who have contributed to HHSAA, including memorials, donations, and new and renewed members. Membership in the HHS Alumni Association is \$10 per year, and life memberships are \$100.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since our June 2016 newsletter)

LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Russell Kietzman, Class of 1990

ANNUAL MEMBERS:

Steve Balash, Class of 1968

Al Blanchard, Class of 1954 (renewal)

Lynn Eikenbary, Class of 1963 (renewal)

Danielle Tintinger Henniquau, Class of 1966
(Foreign Exchange Student)

Judy Hood, Class of 1960 (renewal)

David Kostbade, Class of 1996 (renewal)

Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998 (renewal)

Donna Boling Oleson, Class of 1960

Stefanie Balash Osika, Class of 1998

Toni Puentes, Class of 1997

Rich Raymond, Class of 1966

David Scheeringa, Class of 1985

Steve Simms, Class of 1966 (renewal)

Mark Sonntag, Class of 1966

Lisa Tanner Winstead, Class of 1997

NON-MEMBER DONOR:

Warren Engstrom, Merrillville HS Class of 1955

Recent Obituaries

(since our June 2016 newsletter;
in PDF form these are links to the obituaries on the HHSAA website)

SEPTEMBER 2016:

[Spencer Asbell, Class of 2013](#)

[Judi Young, Class of 1974](#)

[Dennis Terry, Class of 1960](#)

[Virginia "Ginni" Winston, Class of 1973](#)

[Richard Gee, Class of 1982](#)

[Joseph Gresser, Class of 1959](#)

AUGUST 2016:

[Frank Mitchell, Jr., Class of 1954](#)

[Mondell Carol Sears McDowell, Class of 1968](#)

[Rik Eickstead, Class of 1979](#)

[David Henley, Class of 1955](#)

[George Luke, Sr., Class of 1946](#)

[Janette Storey Christiansen, Class of 1955](#)

[Randy Campbell, Class of 1970](#)

JULY 2016:

[Doris Carlson Worthington, Class of 1941](#)

[Imogene "Emma Jean" Glynn Marquart, Class of 1941](#)

JUNE 2016:

[Richard \(Rick\) Castellanos, Class of 1978](#)

[Lee Thompson, Class of 1979](#)

[Joe Koselke, Class of 1952](#)

[William "Bill" Vinzant, Class of 1953](#)

[Francis "Bud" Toering, Class of 1959](#)

[Phyllis Ziemer Moore, Class of 1964](#)

[Phillip "Doug" Treece, Class of 1976](#)

[Joan "Joanie" Erwin, Class of 1972](#)

[Charlene Erwin Walters, Class of 1962](#)

[Dorothy Ittel Michael, Class of 1944](#)

[Delores "Dee" Stowers Biel, Class of 1951](#)

[Leona Stadtler Fischer, Class of 1946](#)

MAY 2016:

[Jerry Newman, Class of 1953](#)

[LaDonna Piepho Dudzik, Class of 1974](#)

Over 1700 alumni have registered on our website, www.hobartalumni.org. It's free! Click Classmate Profiles, find your name and create your profile, and learn what your classmates are up to. If you don't find your name, click the Contact Us button, give us your name and class year, and we will put your name onto your class roster.

*The Brick & Mortar Board is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association, and made available on our website.. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org, and you can reach us by email at info@hobartalumni.org. The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.*



Membership Application and Renewal Form Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Check one: New member ____ Renewal ____

Check one: 1-year membership (\$10) ____ Lifetime membership (\$100) ____

Additional donation for scholarships _____

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

(For renewals, fill out below only if your information has changed)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Work phone _____

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"

Thank you for your support!

**Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership
(proceeds go toward student scholarships and teacher grants)**

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org