



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.
www.hobartalumni.org

Volume 11, Number 3

March, 2022

Mark Your Calendars: Homecoming Picnic is September 24

The BrickieFest Homecoming picnic will be on Saturday, September 24, from 12 noon to 3:00 pm at the Hobart VFW, 540 S. Indiana Street. All Hobart High School alumni and their families are welcome!

Hobart Community Mourns the Losses of Coaches Paul Throne and Steve Balash

Since our last newsletter, two of Hobart's most beloved coaches, Paul Throne and Steve Balash, have passed away.

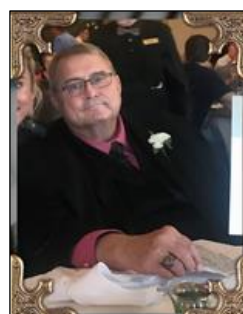


Here is a link to [Paul Throne's memorial page](#). It contains service information and a link to the original obituary on the Sun City Center Funeral Home website.

Here is a link to [Steve Balash's memorial page](#). It also contains service information and a link to Steve's obituary on the Rees Funeral Home website. And here is a link to an article about Steve Balash in the [Northwest Indiana Times](#).

We have lost a number of other coaches in the last couple of years. [Jim Johnston](#), state champion pole-vaulter, passed away in August 2021. Longtime football coach [Bob Mattix](#) passed in January of this year. And just this month, athletic trainer [Sam Ford](#), passed away.

(Photo credits: [Paul Throne](#), [Steve Balash](#), [Jim Johnston](#), [Jerry Hicks](#), [Bob Mattix](#), [Sam Ford](#).)



Alumni Spotlight



Tim O'Brien, Realtor, Indiana House Representative

Our featured alumnus is Tim O'Brien, Class of 2011, a realtor in the Evansville area, and now a Representative to the Indiana House. Tim was a student member on the first HHS Alumni Association Board. Here is our conversation with him.

(begins on page 2)

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

Where are you living now, and how do you spend your time these days?

I currently reside in Evansville, which is located in Southwest Indiana. I'm a graduate of the University of Southern Indiana, where I received a Bachelor of Science in Economics, as a University Honors Scholar. For the last nine years I have worked as a Real Estate Broker where I've had the opportunity to assist many individuals pursue their dreams down the path to homeownership. As an active member of the community, I spend quite a bit of time volunteering with many organizations and serving on numerous boards throughout the region. I am a member of the Heritage Federal Credit Union Board of Directors and am currently holding an officer role, serving as the Board Treasurer. In 2021, I was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives to represent Southwest Indiana in the State's 122nd General Assembly. I currently serve on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Elections and Apportionment Committee. At 29 years old, I am the youngest member of the Indiana General Assembly.

Could you describe the path from Hobart High School to where you are now?



It's been an adventure of a lifetime. After graduating from Hobart High School in 2011, I wanted to attend college somewhere where I would be a big fish in a small pond

and not the alternative. I took a chance, packed up and moved to Evansville to attend USI. After my freshman year, I enrolled into a real estate salesperson course while I was home for the summer. I completed the course and returned back to Evansville ready for my sophomore year and ready to start selling houses. Long story short, I worked full time through college selling real estate and completed my degree on time with honors. It wasn't the most conventional path, but I've always tried to take the road less traveled in life and it has made all the difference.

What motivated you to become a realtor, and what led to your election as President of the Southwest Indiana Association of Realtors?

While I was in college, I didn't want to go further into debt by taking out additional student loans, so I needed to find a way to help pay for school. I searched for something that would have flexibility and allow me to have somewhat of a social life, but also allow me to focus on my studies. I remember seeing an advertisement for an accelerated real estate course being offered during the summer and ultimately just decided to go for it. It was a complete shot in the dark as I had no apparent connection to the real estate field. I started my business by walking door to door in Evansville promoting myself as a driven, hardworking realtor. I was only 20 years old at the time. I will never forget the family who first gave me a shot. I can trace back most of my success to the first couple who gave me an opportunity to help sell their home. Little did I know at the time, it was the first domino to fall, and the rest is history.



To be classified as a Realtor, you must be a member of the National Association of Realtors. The most common way to do that is to join your local association. So, when I was entering the field, I joined the Southwest Indiana Association of Realtors. There are numerous benefits that are associated with joining, such as access to a Multiple Listing Service and access to their educational programs. Being one of the youngest in the business at that time, I felt that joining the Young Professionals Network was a good option for me. I worked my way up the ladder and eventually became the Chairman of the YPN. Soon enough I was elected by the membership to serve on the Board of Directors. In 2019, at 26 years old, I was elected President of the Southwest Indiana Association of Realtors. I was the youngest person in our association's 100-



Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

plus-year history to do so. It truly is an honor to hold such a position, elected by your colleagues and at such a young age. We were able to accomplish quite a bit during my tenure while leading the group.

How did you get interested in politics, and what led you to run for State Representative for House District 78?

I've always been interested in government and how important decisions are made. I

remember

watching Aaron

Sorkin's *The American President* with my parents while I was growing up and thinking how cool it would be to serve in such a capacity. During my time leading the Realtor's Association, we would meet with local elected officials quite often to discuss housing related issues and to advocate for the protection of private property rights and really anything that advances the dream of homeownership. I started to build relationships with those folks and began volunteering for them during election seasons. Fast forward to the spring of 2021, my State Representative had vacated the seat because she had just been appointed as Secretary of State by the Governor, which called for a special election for the vacant seat within 30



days. Luckily, I was able to organize rather quickly and start the quickest campaign of my life.

Ultimately, I was victorious in my election and at the crack of dawn the next morning, I was quickly sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as the newest and youngest member of the Indiana General Assembly. It is an absolute honor being a member of the Indiana House of Representatives.

Were there any particular teachers or coaches at Hobart who influenced your choice of a career?

Kari Roach & Steve Balash are two of the best teachers I've ever had. For those who have had the opportunity to be one of their students, I'm sure that they would tend to agree. Not only did they truly care about you succeeding academically, they cared about you succeeding in life overall. The many lessons that they each taught me will be with me forever.

Do you have any advice for students wanting to go into politics or become a realtor?

My advice would be to set attainable goals and never give up until you achieve them. You can be anything you want to be in this world as long as you are willing to put the work in to make your dreams come true. In the words of Brent Martinson, "If you believe it, you can achieve it!"



Our Supporters

NEW LIFE MEMBERS (since our January newsletter):

Josephine Berkes Mattix (1967)

James A. Moore (1958)

Elaine Booten-Haller (1972)

Kathy Duscynski (1962)

RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS (since our January newsletter):

Linda Jackson Bakos (1967)

Sandra Scott Casperson (1953)

William (Bill) Clingan (1963)

Lynn Eikenbary (1963)

Terry Fasel (1965)

Alan Govert (2019)

Elizabeth Govert (2017)

Richard Govert (1987)

Judith Hood (1960)

Mary Ellen Routes Hutnick (1966)

Maryann Brush Kerr (1957)

Thomas Kerr (1957)

Lynn Sheets Kostbade (1966)

Robert Kostbade (1966)

Aaron McCullough (2011)

Adam McCullough (2004)

Andrew McCullough (2009)

Angela McCullough Manolas (2012)

Ashley McCullough (2002)

Darrell Murphy (1966)

Sherry Oswald Peterson (1965)

Samuel E. Preissler (1953)

Wilma Hasse Preissler (1953)

Pamela McClanahan Rossell (1972)

Kim Berry Rujvecan (1979)

William M. Rujvecan (1979)

Henry (Hank) Sanak (1953)

Janis Palmer Vonderhaar (1957)

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

DO YOU REMEMBER? A Tribute to Paul Throne: Try to remember your grade school years with Paul Throne coaching athletics. Mr. Throne worked with all Hobart grade schools and started a sports competition program between the schools: track, flag football, baseball, basketball, etc.

Mr. Throne provided each school with colored sports jerseys with school names and numbers on them. Do you remember each school's colors? Copy and paste the lines below into an email, fill in your responses, and send the email to Paul Addison at paul@hobartalumni.org. THANK YOU, MR. PAUL THRONE.

Mundell...

Foreman...

Roosevelt...

West Hobart...

Anything else...

DO YOU REMEMBER? Christmas Carolers: Test your memory about Christmas time while you were in grade school.

Every Christmas, a group of Christmas carolers visited the grade schools and brought cheer to everyone with their singing. What do you remember about the carolers...who were they, their costumes, make-up, adornments, extras? The attached picture will help jog your memory.



Also, do you have any stories about school plays, puppet shows marionettes, etc.? Email Paul Addison at paul@hobartalumni.org with your special memory.

DO YOU REMEMBER? Your Best Times at Hobart High School

From Lyle Hatten (Class of 1958): Memories I enjoyed the most were...receiving a school payroll check for two and a half years...getting to know our principal and his staff, as well as all the teachers, even though I wasn't in their class...playing football for Coach Deal and his staff...making and getting to know school classmates/friends, some of whom I am in contact with today...and attending school dances (except for two). All of these have great stories, but the best one started in my Freshman year of 1955.

After attending my first football game, I went to the aftergame dance at Roosevelt Gym early. Once the music began, it wasn't long before a girl invited me to dance. Soon to follow was another girl who invited me to dance, and more girls continued to invite me to the dance floor. During the dances, two of my partners informed me that all these girls were from the Class of 1955, and that my older brother, Dale, who was the class president, had asked two or three girls for a favor -- which was not to let me go home without dancing. During the rest of the year, this story spread, and I had other Seniors to dance with, as well as partners from the other classes. This started me off to get dance dates and turnabout dance offers with a little help from a teacher.

This story continues into my Sophomore year in Miss Hopp's typing class. Seated by the wall next to the door adjoining Mr. Hunt's classroom, Mr. Hunt would sometimes crack open the door to visit. One day he asked if I had a date for the coming dance, and to my no reply, he said he had a date for me. As we talked after class, and Mr. Hunt gave me the date's name. Before the semester's typing class ended, Mr. Hunt also had two more dates for the school dances for me, as well as more for my Junior and Senior years.

Thank you again to all high school girls who gave me a date for a dance throughout my four years, and I'm looking forward to reading about the best time of any student in high school and any stories you have. Email Paul Addison at paul@hobartalumni.org with your story.

HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors (as of March 16, 2022) are:

OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970 *President*
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966 *Vice-President*
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 *Treasurer*
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978 *Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Shaun Zoladz, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*, Class of 2006

Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970

Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971

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

Class Reunion Roundup

If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at info@hobartalumni.org.

CLASS OF 1972 50th YEAR REUNION (August 6, 2022):

The Class of 1972 will hold its 50th year reunion on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at Gino's Banquet Hall, 1967 E. 37th Avenue in Hobart. For more information, contact: Celeste Wiseman Ux at celestegrubbs@hotmail.com.

CLASS OF 1967 55th YEAR REUNION (September 17, 2022):

The Class of 1967 will hold its 55th year reunion on Saturday, September 17, 2022. The venue is Gino's Banquet Hall, 1967 E. 37th (at Hwy 6 and 51) in Hobart. Stay tuned (in the spring of 2022) for information on ticket sales and details on an "Early Bird" gathering for Friday, September 16th, 2022. Please contact hobartbrickies1967@gmail.com or call Carol at 269-978-8494 with any questions.

REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

Classes of 1952 and 1953: The Classes of 1952 and 1953 are having breakfast the second Thursday of each month at the Paragon at 8:30. Any questions, call Marlene (Baier) Krawczyk (Class of 1952) 219-942-6301, or Martha (Jordan) Nichols (Class of 1953) 219-942-3062.

Class of 1970: The Class of 1970 is meeting for breakfast at 10:00 am on the third Saturday of the month at the Paragon Restaurant in Hobart.



John Mattix's Bucket List Trip

In the summer of 2021, John Mattix traveled over 12,500 miles. He visited 8 national parks, 5 national monuments, was in 35 states, and has now been in all 50 states! He saw 10 classmates and 10 relatives. He shares his pictures with us here.



National parks: Yosemite, Bryce Canyon, Olympic, Crater Lake



Mt. St. Helens National Monument (left) and Mt. Zion National Park (center and right)



Left: John Mattix and Debbie Myers. Right: Rocky Crisman and John Mattix.



*Left: John and his wife Gail with 9 grandchildren on Heavenly Mountain at Lake Tahoe
Center: Randy Caldwell, John Mattix, and Jon Eickstead in Minnesota
Right: John with classmates from Hobart High School Class of 1963*

Recent Obituaries

(since our January 2022 newsletter;
in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

MARCH 2022:

[Dale Ewigleben, Class of 1946](#)

[Carl Towell, Class of 1961](#)

[Stewart "Stu" Kraft, Class of 1956](#)

[Nikola "Nicky" Tomich, Class of 1984](#)

[Samuel Harlan Ford \(Teacher\)](#)

[Betty Lou Cope Bartholomew, Class of 1946](#)

FEBRUARY 2022:

[Christopher \(Chris\) Kostoff, Class of 1988](#)

[Joan Nelson Gesse, Class of 1945](#)

[Eva Dacey Hood, Class of 1953](#)

[Joseph James \(Jim\) Exl, Class of 1966](#)

[Richard Riba, Class of 1961](#)

[Ervin Carstensen, Class of 1948](#)

[Mildred Tatalovich Griggs, Class of 1946](#)

[Ronald \(Ron\) Marcotte, Class of 1953](#)

[Victoria Thompson \(Teacher\)](#)

[Kenneth \(Kenny\) Rieck, Class of 1964](#)

[Steve Balash, Class of 1968 \(Coach\)](#)

[Paul Throne \(Coach\)](#)

JANUARY 2022:

[Ruby Lee Davison Pereira, Class of 1953](#)

[Dolores Vargas Good, Class of 1956](#)

[Bonnie Lenz Myers, Class of 1969](#)

[John Hook, Class of 1984](#)

[George Buzinec, Class of 1967](#)

[Ella Gilbertson, Teacher](#)

[Louis Hasza, Class of 1940](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Mattix, Class of 1967](#)

[Rosemary Skees Mills, Class of 1958](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED

DECEMBER 2021:

[Katherine Sulak Kyle, Class of 1959](#)

NOVEMBER 2021:

[Leroy Richmond, Class of 1953](#)

[Douglas Johnston, Class of 1951](#)

OCTOBER 2021:

[Diana Hart Paris, Class of 1971](#)

AUGUST 2021:

[James \(Jim\) Watkins, Class of 1953](#)

[Timothy \(Tim\) Redmond, Class of 1972](#)

JUNE 2021:

[Margaret Prentiss Droze, Class of 1959](#)

MAY 2021:

[Shirley Mitchell Ralph, Class of 1949](#)

MARCH 2021:

[Mariann Trbovich Kivikangas, Class of 1960](#)

OCTOBER 2020:

[Austin Brown, Class of 2003](#)

JUNE 2020:

[Gilbert \(Gib\) Robinson, Class of 1959](#)

AUGUST 2019:

[Gilda Teffertiller Rohde, Class of 1959](#)

APRIL 2019:

[Roberta Henningfield Back, Class of 1959](#)

DECEMBER 2018:

[Virgil Lara, Class of 1959](#)

NOVEMBER 2016:

[William Nowak, Class of 1959](#)

SEPTEMBER 2016:

[Alfred Basile, Class of 1959](#)

APRIL 2016:

[Ronald Ranus, Class of 1959](#)

MARCH 2014:

[Mildred Shiyan Kosovich, Class of 1940](#)

NOVEMBER 2010:

[William Massa, Class of 1940](#)

JULY 2010:

[Helen Knaga Kaczmarek, Class of 1940](#)

JUNE 2010:

[Florence Sitzenstock, Class of 1940](#)

[Irene Govert Killigrew, Class of 1939](#)



Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

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

Check one: New member ____ Renewal ____

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

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

(Renewing members only need to fill out the following if anything 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!

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

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

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org

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. 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. The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.