



The Brick & Mortar Board

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

Volume 11, Number 5

August, 2022

BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic is September 24

Hobart High School
Alumni Association

**BrickieFest
Homecoming Picnic**

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24,
12 Noon to 3 PM

at the Hobart VFW
540 S. Indiana St.



Free hot dogs, brats,
chips and bottled water!
All HHS alumni and
families are invited!



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! Free hot dogs, brats, chips, and bottled water will be served, courtesy of the HHS Alumni Association.

And to kick off Homecoming week, Hobart Football is sponsoring an OktoberFest at Brickie Bowl on Saturday, September 17, from 2:00 to 9:00 pm. The cost is \$10. There will be food trucks, craft vendors, a beer garden, a city-wide pep rally, and two bands.

**Hobart Football's
Oktoberfest**

September 17, 2022

Brickie Bowl

All Ages Show
\$10 Person • \$20 Family

- Two Bands
- DAWG!
- STEEL COUNTRY
- XINCEL

Craft Vendors
Beer Garden
Food Trucks
City Wide Pep Rally
All Class Reunion

Contact Hollis: 219-280-2830



Alumni Spotlight

Meet Your HHSAA Board!

For the next few issues of *The Brick and Mortar Board*, we will be interviewing ourselves! We'll give you a chance to get to know the people on the Board of Directors of the Hobart High School Alumni Association. We'll start off with the board President, Paul Addison, and the Treasurer, Debra Opolski. Paul chose to use the traditional interview format, while Debra's story is in narrative form.

Paul Addison, HHSAA Board President

What are you up to these days, and how do you keep busy?

I live in West Lafayette, Indiana, and I just retired in May after 30 years of teaching computer programming at Ivy Tech Community College in Lafayette. So, I'm not quite as busy as before, but I play trombone or piano in three bands (the community band, a Dixieland band, and a swing band), I direct musicals at the local community theater, and I lead our church choir and Praise Team.

(continued on page 2)



Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

And I'm happy to still be involved with the Hobart High School Alumni Association, which Debra Broker Opolski and I helped to establish in 2010.

My wife Jan and I will celebrate our 44th anniversary in October. We have two kids, Mark and Rachel, and five grandkids, Guy, Louis, Olivia, Emma, and Izzy. Mark and the boys live in Japan, and Rachel and the girls live in Virginia.

Could you trace your path from Hobart High School to now?

I grew up with the Class of 1970, but in my junior year I discovered that if I took a government class in summer school, I would technically have enough credits to graduate, so I took advantage of that and started at Indiana University in the fall of 1969. However, I switched majors from mathematics to music education in my second year, and it took me five years to graduate from IU, so I guess it all evened out.

After college, I took a job teaching junior high band in Lafayette. Coming from IU, I didn't think I would stay very long, but here I am. The band directing job only lasted a couple of years, but I have continued to play and direct music ever since that time.

I started taking computer programming classes at Purdue University. In the 1970s, if you could program, you could get a job without a degree in the field, although I did eventually get a Master's degree in Educational Computing at Purdue. I worked in information technology (it was called data processing at the time) at the Purdue Libraries, where I met my wife Jan, and then at

Great Lakes Chemical Corporation, before starting my teaching career at Ivy Tech. I also worked briefly as the K-12 Outreach Coordinator for the Purdue Computer Science Department.

Were there any teachers or coaches at Hobart who had an influence on your life?

There were many, especially in my sophomore and junior year: Ray Grivetti and Herman Matlock, who showed me that music can be fun; Boyd Scarborough, who made history come alive; Stanley Senderak, who helped me connect mathematics with the real world; Mike Howard, who helped me think and write creatively; and Brian Reed, who helped me to think logically.



But the person who had the most influence on me at Hobart was Paul Throne. I didn't have him as a teacher, but

he was my guidance counselor in junior high, and coach when Keith Addison and I shared the jobs of manager and statistician for the junior high track team. He showed me by example how to treat and respect people. He was on the founding board of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, and we kept in touch frequently until he passed away earlier this year.

Debra Broker Opolski, HHSAA Board Treasurer

It all began with an idea ~ "wouldn't it be great to have an All Class Reunion?" ~ which, after more than a year of planning and the founding of this Alumni Association, morphed into the first BrickieFest. And here we are 12 years later still going; with a newsletter, a growing membership, an annual BrickieFest Picnic and awarding two scholarships every year to soon-to-be Hobart Alumni. Thank you for your generosity!

With that being said, Paul suggested that as Alumni Association board members, maybe folks would like to know a little bit about us. So, as the founding member on the board (along with Paul), here we go.



Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

Following high school I attended IUN until I married my late husband, Al Opolski, in 1975. We moved to DeMotte, IN where we raised our children, Andrew and Sarah. I was able to be a “stay at home” mom for many years, until returning to the workforce in a variety of part



time positions, ultimately working full time for the local IGA grocery store, starting as a cashier and working my way up to office manager, and retiring from there in 2012.

Following retirement, I began exploring a

plethora of opportunities and finding new adventures. I love nature, so I garden and hike, especially in the Dunes State Park (Trail 9 is my favorite) and became a Master Naturalist. I also enjoy bicycling, and walking the shore of Lake Michigan looking for interesting rocks and beach glass. I began dancing (social and ballroom) and found not only is it fun, but a wonderful way to meet new friends. Traveling to our National Parks and seeing our country is something else I like and look forward to continuing...Michigan Lighthouses, both visiting and climbing, are favored, along with trips to Mackinaw to participate in the Annual Mackinac Bridge Walk with my granddaughter, Alyanna (7 years and counting.) A few years ago, some members of my graduating class (1970) began meeting for breakfast monthly. This has been a great way for us to reconnect and get to know some others we really didn't know previously. Now a few of us are “road trip ladies” and have begun to travel together. And how great is that?!

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 May 20, 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

HHSAA Scholarship Fund

You can donate to the Hobart High School Alumni Association and be certain that your donation will go toward scholarships only. Simply write “Scholarship Fund” in the memo line of your check, made out to **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: **HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342**.

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.

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

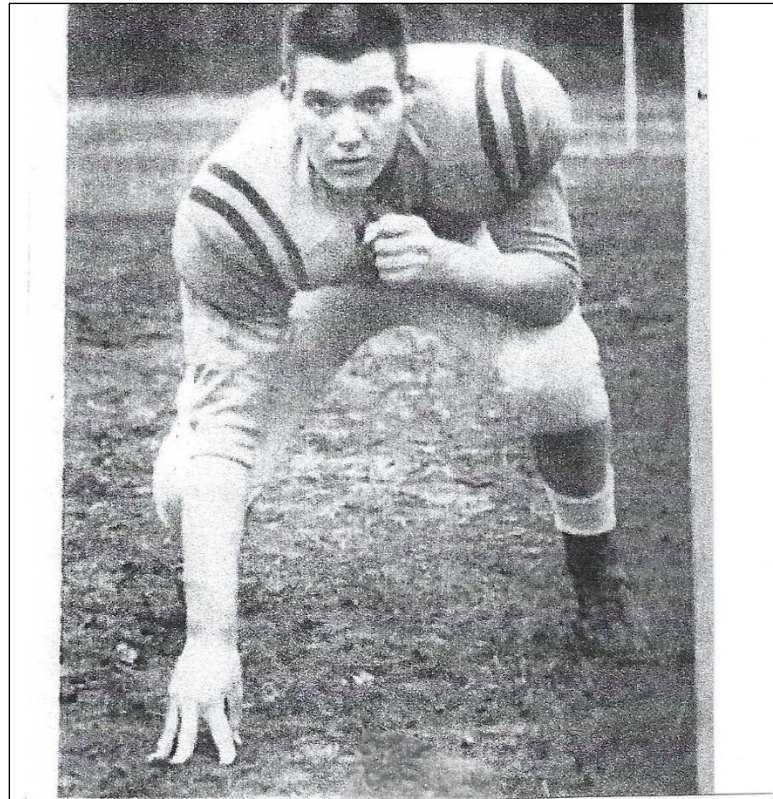
Special Football Shoes

From Lyle "Lightshoe" Hatten, Class of 1958: This story takes place in the 1957 football season. Practice under Coach Deal started the beginning of August before school began. About two weeks before our season's first game Coach Deal had a routine where team members would receive new game shoes, and last year's game shoes would be used for practice. Team players would be sent to Mitchell's Sporting Goods to be fitted for shoes, and then take the new shoes back to the locker room. While being sized up for my new shoes at Mitchell's the salesperson showed me a pair of expensive lightweight leather shoes that the coach authorized for his running backs only. As a tackle lineman I thought "wow!" and I left the shoe store with a pair of new lightweight shoes under my arm.

When starting the next dust bowl practice, I thought I might be told to return the new shoes, but it didn't happen. At practices Coach Deal always started out with a little pep talk and then released everyone to go to their practice areas. One day as he completed his pep talk, he blurted out "Team, we have a member who thinks he should be a running back. Hatten, go work out with the backs." Checking with our back coach I found we were having tackling practice. As I ran the ball and hit into the linemen I was taken to the ground. "Ouch!" Thirty to forty minutes passed, and I ran the ball five or six times. The coach took me aside and said "Good practice runs. Now return to your line coach." When I returned, my line coach said with a smile, "Welcome home. Sorry you didn't make it." My teammates welcomed me also by harassing me throughout the remaining practices.

At our first home game I started at end and the end coach laughed and said to me "Go get 'em, 'Lightshoe'." Well, we beat Whiting High and the assistant coaches would now and then laughingly call me 'Lightshoe' for the rest of the season. Coach Deal never hit me up about the special shoes until the end of the season. He told me that coaches look for fun things and he used my shoes as one of them. He never let me forget this incident throughout his years.

Story over. Let's hear from you other Brickie players as I know every player has something to talk about. Write Paul Addison at paul@hobartalumni.org, and let him know your good story in athletics.



A Dust Bowl Story

Written by Lyle Hatten

It's true that our Brickies have spirit. The spirit was always with our team in practice and games. This story takes place in the summer of '56 while in an early Dust Bowl practice under Coach Deal and staff who were having us run scrimmage plays. As my scrimmage team broke huddle and lined up on the ball in our line stance, my right hand sank down into the Dust Bowl sandy loam hitting a hard rock. Then, for some reason, I grabbed the rock in my fist just as the play started. Soon after the play's completion, I looked at the rock to find it was an arrowhead. I finished the morning's practice, carrying the arrowhead in my hand, and took it home to show my parents. The incident strongly made me think that our practice Dust Bowl wooded area must have had early Native Americans crossing it with bows and arrows. I still have the arrowhead as of today.

Brickie lineman, Lyle Hatten.

Class Reunion Roundup

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



CLASS OF 1962 60th YEAR REUNION (September 9, 2022):

The HHS Class of 1962 will hold their 60th year reunion on Friday, September 9 at the River Pointe Country Club in Hobart. Contact Doug Davis at tubadoug7@gmail.com or call 812-679-9974.

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 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.

CLASS OF 1959 REUNION (September 24, 2022):

[Here is the new reservation sheet](#) for the Hobart High School Class of 1959 Reunion Luncheon. The date is Saturday, September 24, 2022 at the Hobart VFW, 540 S. Indiana Street in Hobart. Please print it, fill it out, and mail it with your check to: Millie (Glusac) Hovanec, 1963 E. 69th Ave., Merrillville, IN 46410, Cell: 219-252-2893.

CLASS OF 1982 40th YEAR REUNION (October 14, 2022):

The Class of 1982 will hold its 40th year reunion the weekend of October 14, 2022. For more details, contact Connie Ervin Fourman at 770.402.9958.

CLASS OF 1973 50th YEAR REUNION (August 19, 2023):

The Class of 1973 will hold its 50th year reunion on Saturday, August 19, 2023. We will have our dinner at Gino's Banquet Hall, 1967 E. 37th Avenue in Hobart. There will be music at Festival Park on Thursday and we may meet for a relaxing evening on Friday at a winery. For more information, contact: Leigh Huminsky, lhuminsky@yahoo.com, or friend her on Facebook.

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. Check our Facebook page for the location: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/110625168719>.

Our Supporters

NEW LIFE MEMBERS (since our May newsletter):

Christine Ballard (1976)
Lester Clapp (1972)

NEW OR RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS (since our May newsletter):

Steve Yetsko (1977)

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

AUGUST 2022:

[Betty Stanley Kenniger, Class of 1956](#)
[Peter Winske, Class of 1960](#)
[Kenneth \(Ken\) David, Class of 1969](#)
[Marsha Orr, Staff](#)
[Marian Anderson Leets, Class of 1946](#)
[Myra Weeks Schafer, Class of 1968](#)
[Thomas \(Tom\) King, Class of 1977](#)
[Cynthia \(Cindy\) MacDonald, Class of 1976](#)

JULY 2022:

[Dennis Driscoll, Class of 1959](#)
[Noel Moffett McNamee, Class of 1969](#)
[Elizabeth \(Betty\) Zunich, Class of 1952](#)
[James Camacho, Class of 2021](#)
[Sharon Bell Binder, Class of 1953](#)
[Patricia \(Pat\) Mills Schiesser, Class of 1971](#)
[James \(Jim\) Myers, Class of 1974](#)
[Gilbert Ittel, Class of 1947](#)
[Bonnie Scharbach Ruzicka, Class of 1956](#)
[James \(Jim\) Briney, Class of 1947](#)

JUNE 2022:

[Rick \(Rickie\) Banks, Class of 1973](#)
[Ruth Deal \(Teacher\)](#)
[Kay Martin Moor, Class of 1971](#)
[Sharon Dunn Hnatiuk, Class of 1965](#)
[Linda Carlson, Class of 1972](#)
[Phillip \(Phil\) Mullins, Class of 2005](#)

MAY 2022:

[John Primich, Class of 1979](#)
[Charles \(Chuck\) Kleiber, Class of 1953](#)
[William \(Bill\) Osborn, Class of 1964](#)
[Robert Moncada, Class of 1983](#)
[Warren "Muggs" Spain, Class of 1975](#)
[Beverly Sue Chaney Mioduski, Class of 1953](#)
[Debbie Miller Okeley, Class of 1978](#)
[Jeremy Poegel, Class of 1993](#)
[Kay Kitterman Finchum, Class of 1954](#)
[Lynn Eikenbary, Class of 1963](#)
[Cynthia \(Cyndi\) Liechty, Teacher](#)
[Olive Fern Wineinger Goodwin, Class of 1951](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED

APRIL 2022:

[Shanon Antle Miller, Class of 1984](#)

MARCH 2022:

[Edward \(Ed\) Hallmen, Class of 1952](#)

FEBRUARY 2022:

[Robert \(Bob\) Kainrath, Class of 1983](#)

JANUARY 2021:

[Russell \(Russ\) Layhew, Class of 1979](#)

NOVEMBER 2020:

[Leroy Wineinger, Class of 1946](#)

SEPTEMBER 2020:

[Joseph \(Joe\) Beerbower, Class of 1950](#)

AUGUST 2020:

[Vivian Zoborowski Demis, Class of 1962](#)

JULY 2019:

[Vicky Burgess Withers, Class of 1972](#)

MARCH 2018:

[Marvin Wineinger, Class of 1949](#)

FEBRUARY 2018:

[Shirley Schmidt Bergman, Class of 1953](#)

FEBRUARY 2017:

[Paul Fortier, Class of 1972](#)

OCTOBER 2016:

[Lonnie Layhew, Class of 1986](#)

2015 (Month Unknown):

[David \(Dave\) Sgambelluri, Class of 1962](#)

APRIL 2015:

[Katherine \(Kathy\) Ballard, Class of 1972](#)

JANUARY 2015:

[Terri Joiner O'Rourke, Class of 1983](#)

DECEMBER 2013:

[John Darosky, Class of 1939](#)

SEPTEMBER 2013:

[Marian Schmidt Wise, Class of 1945](#)

DECEMBER 2011:

[Clarence Wineinger, Class of 1940](#)

NOVEMBER 2011:

[William Schmidt, Class of 1951](#)

APRIL 2010:

[Edward \(Ed\) Goff, Class of 1958](#)

[Floyd Wineinger, Class of 1942](#)



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