



The Brick & Mortar Board

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

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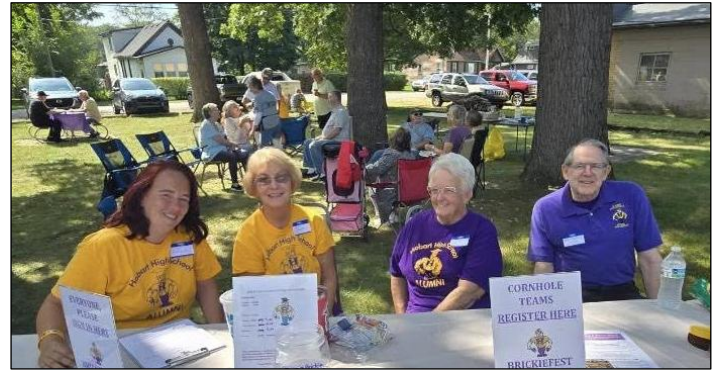
BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic 2025 Is a Success!

Approximately 80 people attended the 2025 BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic on Saturday, September 27, at the VFW in Hobart. Hot dogs, brats, chips, and bottled water were provided by the HHS Alumni Association.

The Class of 1970 had the most people attending (17). The classmates traveling the farthest to attend were Cliff Richeson (1965) and Cassie Richeson (1966) from Mesa, Arizona, 1748 miles. And the winning Cornhole team was Aaron Stillwell and Mike Vega (the grandson and husband of HHSAA board member Debbie Vega, 1971).



The HHS Class of 1970 had the most attendees (17).



HHSAA board members at BrickieFest 2025.

More pictures can be found on our website (<https://www.hobartalumni.org/>) and on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hohighalumni>).

Alumni Spotlight

Jay Gephart, Director of Purdue University Bands



Jay Gephart, from the Purdue University Bands website.

Our spotlight this issue is on Jay Gephart, who was the band director at Hobart High School in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Where are you living now, and what do you do these days?

I am in my 31st year as a faculty member at Purdue University. I serve as the Al G. Wright Chair and Director of Bands and conduct the Purdue Wind Ensemble. From 2006 until fall of 2024, I was also the Director of the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band. Beyond Purdue, I am the music director of the Indiana Wind Symphony and the Kokomo Park Band. I serve as Chairman of the Board of the John Philip Sousa Foundation and am Past President of the American Bandmasters Association.

(continued on page 2)

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

Could you trace the path from your high school to your teaching position at Hobart High School?

I graduated from Southmont High School in West Central Indiana in 1979 and attended Indiana University as an undergraduate music major. I played tuba and studied conducting with former Hobart High School band director Fred Ebbs and with Ray Cramer. After graduating from IU, I taught for one year at Hardaway High School in Columbus, Georgia before accepting the job at Hobart.

I left Hobart to pursue a master's degree at IU but eventually returned in 1989 for three more years.



Jay Gephart, from the 1990 Hobart High School yearbook.

What are some of your favorite memories from teaching at Hobart High School?

I taught some wonderful students at Hobart High School. My favorite memories include my Friday nights in Brickie Bowl supporting Don Howell and the Hobart Brickie Football team. I was particularly proud of

the growth of the band program during my time at Hobart. During my second tenure at Hobart, the band grew from about 60 members to well over 100. We attended the Purdue Jazz Festival and went to ISSMA concert band festival.

Could you trace the path from Hobart High School to your present position at Purdue University?

After I left Hobart in 1992, I became Director of Bands at North Central High School in Indianapolis. North Central was a huge high school with an enrollment of nearly 3500 students. It was the site of state instrumental SOLO and ENSEMBLE contest. While I was at NC, my wind ensemble placed 2nd in the ISSMA state concert band finals, which was the highest the band had ever finished at that time. I left NC in 1995 to join the faculty at Purdue.

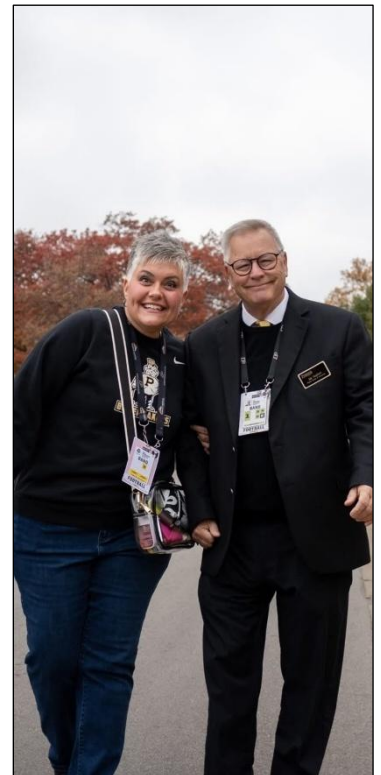
Who are some of the mentors and/or teachers who influenced you in your career path and personal life?

My professional mentor is Ray Cramer, Director of Bands Emeritus at IU. I met Ray in 1976 when he served as guest conductor of the Montgomery County Music Festival. I attended the IU Summer Music Clinic while in high school and got to know Mr. Cramer. He was the reason I attended IU. Since that time, Ray has influenced my career path tremendously, giving me advice and counsel throughout the years, both personally and professionally. After my first wife, Carolyn, passed away in 2009 from breast cancer, Ray and his wife Molly were two anchors in my life, becoming like parents to me and grandparents to my four children-Samantha, Molly, Will and Libby.

Do you have any advice for high school students who may be interested in band directing at the high school or college level?

My advice: become a master player on your instrument. I use so many skills I learned in my private lessons with Harvey Phillips. Also, listen to great recordings of the world's most prestigious concert bands. The concert band has to be the focus of your band program. Don't get carried away by the glamour and glitz of competitive marching band. By listening to great ensembles, you will develop your own concept of a concert band sound. Be a great student of basic fundamentals of tone, intonation, pulse, rhythm, etc. Teach fundamentals every single day.

More than anything, work to achieve life balance between work and your personal life. A career as a band director can be very consuming. Don't let it be your life. Maintain your priorities. Mine are faith, family, work.



Jay with his wife, Jana.

Annual Memberships Are Due December 31

This is a reminder that if you are a sponsoring (paying) member of the HHS Alumni Association who pays yearly dues of \$10, your renewal membership is due by December 31. A mailing with an addressed, stamped envelope will go out later this month, so that you can send in your dues without paying postage. There is a grace period through January, but after that, your name will be dropped from the active membership list.

Ruth Throne Passes Away at 97



Ruth Throne, wife of longtime coach and counselor Paul Throne, passed away on Monday, October 27. She had been living with her daughter Kathy Throne Cox in Sun City Center, Florida, since shortly after Paul Throne died in 2022. Ruth was 97 years old.

Ruth's obituary can be found at:

<https://www.altogetherfuneral.com/.../ruth.../october-2025>. Her memorial page on the HHS Alumni Association site is at:

https://www.hobartalumni.org/class_profile.cfm?member_id=9686413.

Please note that in lieu of flowers, suggested memorials are to the Hobart Educational Foundation (Paul and Ruth Throne Scholarship), 32 E. 7th St., Hobart, Indiana 46342, or a charity of your choice.

HHS Class of 1975 Celebrates 50th Year Reunion

The Hobart High School Class of 1975 held its 50th year reunion on Saturday, October 4. Here are pictures of the class, a picture of those who attended Liberty School, and a picture of the first Pom-Pom girls squad, started by Herman Matlock in 1974 (left to right: Mary Ann Lach Matta, Bridget Guernsey Riordan, Kim Kopach). These pictures were provided by Bridget Guernsey Riordan.



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.

Join the Hobart High School Alumni Association Board!

At the HHSAA dinner meeting on May 19, Paul Addison and Debra Opolski, the president and treasurer of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, announced their intention to retire from the board after 16 years of service, when their eighth two-year terms expire in July of 2026.

As a result, the board is looking for new members to take over some ongoing tasks. Remember that the website and the newsletter don't have to be done the same way as in the past. You can bring your own style to the job. Some of the current tasks include:

- Website management: We have a host, classcreator.com, so you don't have to do any coding.
- Newsletter editing: We currently use Microsoft Word and convert the file to PDF.
- Database maintenance: Keep track of current lifetime and annual members, currently in Access.
- Financial activities: Track income and expenses, bank accounts, and file required tax reports.

Do you have a talent for any of these? There are currently four open spots on the board, so you can start right away and get some hands-on training. Please contact any board members or email info@hobartalumni.org with questions or comments. Thank you!

Class Reunion Roundup

Please send reunion information to us at info@hobartalumni.org. Updates are posted on our website, at: <https://www.hobartalumni.org/ClassReunions.htm>. These events are listed in order of their occurrence.



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UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS:

[none currently listed]

REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

CLASS OF 1960: The Class of 1960 is having their luncheon the second Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Linda (Quinlan) Koziol at larry58koziol@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1958: The Class of 1958 is having their monthly luncheon the third Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Larry Koziol at larry58koziol@gmail.com.

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) Krawcyk (Class of 1952) 219-942-6301, or Martha (Jordan) Nichols (Class of 1953) 219-942-3062.

CLASS OF 1970: The Class of 1970 usually meets for brunch on the third Saturday of the month. To check the latest information, go the Facebook page for the HHS Class of 1970, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/110625168719>.

Recent Obituaries (since our August 2025 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

DECEMBER 2025:

[Wanda Erwin Ballay, Class of 1955](#)

[Kathleen \(Kay\) Gallagher Ruchti, Class of 1955](#)

[Becky Raiza Juzwicky, Class of 1971](#)

NOVEMBER 2025:

[David \(Dave\) Bigler, Class of 1963](#)

[Lester Detterline, Class of 1949](#)

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

[Peggy Louis Mockry, Class of 1960](#)

[Joseph \(Joe\) Mrak, Teacher](#)

[Martin Fox, Class of 1992](#)

[Katherine \(Kay\) Keller Morrow, Class of 1953](#)

[Connie Mattix, Teacher](#)

[Windell Claxton, Class of 1959](#)

[Rosemarie Morganelli Ehrhardt, Class of 1957](#)

[Myrtle Henschel Trubey, Class of 1941](#)

[Donna Stewart, Bus Driver](#)

[David \(Dave\) McAfee, Class of 1957](#)

OCTOBER 2025:

[Ruth Vorpahl, Class of 1949](#) (also teacher)

[Ruth Throne](#)

[Maria Didonna Jackson, Class of 1966](#)

[Shirley Badovinac Morales, Class of 1972](#)

[Patricia \(Pat\) Campano, Class of 1968](#)

[Debra Stanton, Staff](#)

[Ruth Stephens Elliott, Class of 1962](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Rogers, Coach](#)

[James \(Jim\) Nichols, Class of 1951](#)

[Mary Mack Motkowicz, Class of 1952](#)

SEPTEMBER 2025

[Mary Ann Mikolajczyk Swift, Class of 1955](#)

[Raymond "Bud" DeMeyer, Class of 1964](#)

[Duane Mishler, Class of 1958](#)

[Beverly McClain Furns, Class of 1960](#)

[Betty Loving Ronk, Class of 1952](#)

[Richard \(Rick\) Sapper, Class of 1967](#)

[Mary Ann Eleff Djankovich, Class of 1966](#)

[Gerda Guarnero-Menard, Staff](#)

[Janet Little Bernacet, Class of 1969](#)

[Bonnie Adams Jordan, Class of 1956](#)

AUGUST 2025:

[Ronald \(Ron\) Johnson, Class of 1958](#)

[David \(Dave\) Keefe, Class of 1976](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED

MARCH 2025:

[Ronald Siwy, Hobart Sports Coach](#)

[Steve Davis, Class of 1963](#)

FEBRUARY 2025:

[Raymond \(Ray\) Marconi, Class of 1956](#)

DECEMBER 2024:

[Maureen Thurman Cleveland, Class of 1964](#)

JUNE 2024:

[Robert Danny Bigler, Class of 1965](#)

JANUARY 2024:

[Lois Rowe Hill, Class of 1942](#)

OCTOBER 2022:

[Richard Weigus, Class of 1955](#)

JULY 2022:

[Keith Tyner, Class of 1994](#)

MARCH 2019:

[William \(Bill\) Ondo, Class of 1946](#)

FEBRUARY 2019:

[Mary Lossa Perfetti, Class of 1946](#)

APRIL 2018:

[Gerald \(Jerry\) Belkow, Class of 1950](#)

MARCH 2018:

[Larry Denslaw, Class of 1968](#)

FEBRUARY 2018:

[John Allen, Class of 1953](#)

JUNE 2017:

[Karen Fox Sassen, Class of 1995](#)

APRIL 2017:

[Thomas \(Tommy\) Allen Class of 1948](#)

DECEMBER 2016:

[Rita Poquette Sievern, Class of 1951](#)

NOVEMBER 2014:

[Betty Ann Luwpas Paika, Class of 1948](#)

AUGUST 2014:

[Linda Marvin Butler, Class of 1958](#)

DECEMBER 2011:

[Alfreda "Potchie" Kubiak Andersen, Class of 1946](#)

JULY 2011:

[Charles Greiner, Class of 1950](#)

APRIL 2011:

[Barbara Low Teitge, Class of 1946](#)

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 July 1, 2024) 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*, Class of 2006
Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970

Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971
Amanda Loy Stillwell, Class of 2000

Our Newest Supporters (since August 2025)

NEW OR RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS

Andrea (Andi) Beluschak Fressle (1966)
Eugene Torin (1959)

Rick Walker (1970)

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

A Note to Readers:

Upon reading the Alumni Spotlight, several readers probably have something in common with these stories. In my case, the August 2025 spotlight about Phil Stafford was a great story about his high school years to present day, as I also grew up on South Linda Street and attended Hobart High School with his sister Anabel, class of 1959.

After my Marine Corps service, I started a job at Inland Steel and had a supervisor from Hobart named Joseph Holding, who introduced me to Philip Stafford (Phil's dad), who was also from Hobart. We became friends and thought about driving to work together; however, I gave up that job to become a Hobart Police Officer. For several years we remained in contact with each other as Philip's wife Bee was employed by the local newspapers and would come to the police station to obtain the local news. I remember when Philip built the stagecoach, which was used in the Hobart parades and other outings.

Okay, Readers, now it's your turn. If you have any special memories to add or comments about a Brick & Mortar Board story or article, please send your article or information to Paul Addison, at: info@hobartalumni.org.

Lyle Hatten, Class of 1958

100 Years Ago



Spring 1925
will set a record
for
NEW STYLES
and
NEW COLORS

We can supply your
every need for
graduation

© 1925 Hart Schaffner & Marx

YOUNG MEN who are "up" on style—and most of them are—will see exactly what they've been looking for in these new suits. Wider shoulders, pockets and buttons are lower! The coats have a suggestion of a waist line! They are shorter and snug over the hips, "gathering" in slightly the hip-fullness of the trousers. They're smart all right, and our fine fabrics and needle-work go with them.

J. Lowenstine & Sons
VALPARAISO, INDIANA

This ad appeared in the 1925 Hobart Aurora yearbook, at: <https://archive.org/details/HOHS1925Images/>.



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 ___ Scholarship donation only ___

If membership, 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