

Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Linking the Past with the Future

Published March 2019

BAND GALA & DONATIONS RAISE \$42,614 FOR PLATTSMOUTH BAND PROGRAM



Dr. Doug McKnight^{'98} presents a check to PHS Band Director, Mrs. Tina Harvey^{'96} on behalf of Plattsmouth Alumni Assoc.

Last fall, the Plattsmouth Alumni Association partnered with the Plattsmouth Band to raise needed funds to equip a fast growing band program. In September, a Gala was held at Slattery Vintage Estates with 100 PHS Band Alumni and friends in attendance. Through the generosity of many local businesses and individuals, the attendees had the opportunity to bid on an assortment of silent and live auction items. Aside from raising money for the bands, it was a great opportunity to catch up with friends young and old.

A plea for help in the Alumni Newsletter in March and August resulted in an outpouring of donations from alumni across the country. Along with the Gala, the Alumni Association held a Raffle. The grand prize was a Blue 4 Passenger Golf Cart. The raffle netted approximately \$9,500 towards the fundraising efforts. The winning ticket was drawn at the last home football game and was won by Linda Snell Worlein^{'69}. Linda has always been a big supporter of the Marching Blue Devils.



As a result of the fundraising efforts led by the Plattsmouth Alumni Association, the Plattsmouth School Board agreed to pay for new uniforms for the PHS Band. The new uniforms will debut in the fall of 2019. As part of the agreement with the School District, fundraising money will be used to purchase uniform accessories, much needed instrument repair, instrument purchase and equipment for the band program. Recently, funds were used to purchase three brass marching tubas (replacing plastic tubas, held together by duct tape, purchased in the late 1980's).

A HUGE THANKS goes out to everyone who helped make this fundraising effort successful. Tina Harvey, PHS Band Director said she is "overwhelmed by the outpouring of financial donations for the Plattsmouth Bands. Our growing program will reap the benefit of our generous alumni and community with the addition of uniforms, instruments and equipment needed for our band program." THANK YOU!

PHS HALL OF FAME



Kathy Hackwith Groth is a PHS Class of 1968 graduate. Her roots in Plattsmouth are five generations deep. Her mother, the late, EmmaReine Topliff Hackwith was a 1940 PHS graduate, who had Jessie Whalen (first HOF inductee) as an English teacher. Kathy's grandparents were, Dale and Leora Ann Brown Topliff who lived on a farm south west of Murray. The farm was purchased by Kathy's great-grandfather James Brown from a Civil War widow. Kathy has five siblings who were also PHS graduates; Rob '69, Randeem '76, Holy '77, the late Harley '79, and Monte '81.

Kathy has many vivid memories of her time at PHS. She was a hard working choir member, student director of three school musicals. Her sense of community service emerged as a student when she quit Pep Club because there was no community service component to the club. After graduation Kathy attended Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois. She continued her involvement in theater in college . . . even meeting Vincent Price on a set. Kathy also participated in the college radio station.

Kathy met Mark Groth at Rockford College. They married and were stationed in Campbell, Kentucky. They moved from Kentucky to Colorado where they have lived since, raising two children Christian and Jessie, named for Jesse Whalen.

Community Service and volunteerism, work, and family fills Kathy's life in Colorado. She was the volunteer manager of the Central Presbyterian Church. Kathy wrote and was awarded a Federal Grant that launched the agency that became The Food Bank of the Rockies, the largest non-profit in Colorado. She and a Colorado State Senator wrote a Good Samaritan law, which protects donor organizations. Food Bank of The Rockies is now 40 years old, and she still drives excess food around the Denver metro area in her trusty Volvo station wagon.

She has worked as an employee and volunteer in the public schools, running a book swap, a multicultural event, a break out elementary session for students with different learning styles, has counseled gifted non-compliant

middle school students, and chaperoned after prom. For 25 years, she distributed surplus books to dozens of recipient organizations for The Friends of the Aurora Public Library, served on that board as well as the Board of Trustees for the Aurora Public Library with 7 years as president.

Kathy was a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Homelessness in Aurora as well as the County. At the Mountain View United Church, she served on the governing body, sang in the choir, taught Sunday School for 18 years, was Sunday School Superintendent for 15 years, and served on 5 committees. She organized and ran retirement celebrations, ordinations, church anniversaries and Bible School. She served on their neighborhood association for 20 years. She was named Outstanding Auroran. All the while being able to cook and serve a sit-down, white linen and fine china dinner for 40 in her home!

In addition to being a community activist, she worked for Denver area artists, a transportation company, and a mining tire company. She managed the practice of a psychiatrist and organized his national training sessions.

Like her late mother, Kathy has a constant flow of people needing a place to stay, dinner, or backyard counseling at her home. She stays in contact with immigrants whom she has helped find work and homes. Kathy Hackwith Groth, class of '68 was surprised, honored and delighted, to be inducted into the Plattsmouth Hall of Fame.

4th Annual
CHARITY EVENT

**Saturday July 20, 2019
9:00 AM Shotgun Start**

Plattsmouth Education Foundation
"Cecil McKnight Charity Golf Event"



Lake Ridge Golf Course
18 Hole Scramble

\$75 Individual
\$300 Foursome
Hole & Event Sponsorships

**Golfers can register by calling,
Sandy McKnight at 402-298-8513**

**For more information on sponsorships,
call Brian Harvey at 402-306-6051**

Join us for a great day of golf and help support a greater cause.



HOF Continued



Lt. Col. William McGraw is a 1987 PHS graduate. Bill is the son of William "Butch" McGraw^{'63} and Betty Watson Phelps^{'64}. It is evident in his resume that education was very important as a life long process, to Bill. Following graduation from PHS, Bill attended Creighton University in Omaha and was also in the University ROTC program. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force in 1991. He earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma City University in 1997 and a Master's Degree in Secondary Education at Old Dominion University in 2014. During his military service he completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

Bill spent a total of 26 years as an officer in the United States Air Force. He began his military career as a Ballistic Missile Systems Engineer and was responsible for reviews of Nuclear Non-Proliferation and START Treaties. He later led and advised Air Force Cost Analysis Agency teams across 6 major acquisition programs worth over \$18 billion dollars at the Pentagon in Washington DC. Bill's teams effectively developed budgets and cost estimates for GPS, Satellite Communications, and Space Reconnaissance capabilities, ensuring mission success. He

was Lead financial manager for multiple test and evaluation programs at the Air Force Research Laboratory in New Mexico. There he was rated #1 Risk Management Program. After 9-11 he provided critical guidance and security support to over 3,000 deployed Airmen, maintaining a \$55 million dollar budget in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He then became a Professor of Financial Management and Chair of the Business, Cost Estimating and Financial Management Department of the Defense Acquisition University at Ft. Belvoir, VA. There he led 17 professors, instructing over 40 courses, and graduating 8,000 students per year.

In his final active duty assignment he retired as Comptroller and Director of Financial Management at Special Operations Command South in Miami, FL, where he was responsible for the oversight of a \$40 million dollar budget in direct support of Special Operations Forces in over 30 Central and South American countries.

Lt. Col. McGraw has been deployed to Russia in support of nuclear weapons treaty monitoring as well as to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Iraq. His awards and decorations are many and impressive: Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

After retirement in 2017, he served as an AFJROTC instructor in Kansas. He now makes his home in McLouth, KS where he continues to seek education. This time he is pursuing an agricultural degree to facilitate his interest in gardening and farm animals on his acreage.



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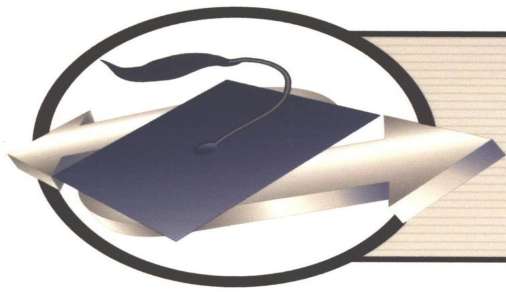
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Steven E. Rishel, CPA – '71

Roxanne Pfeifer, CPA – '77



CLASS NOTICES

CLASS OF 1954 - PHS Class of 1954, 65th Reunion. Plans are to attend the annual Alumni Banquet as a group. Please make your own reservations through the Alumni Association on the form attached to this newsletter or contact Dee Schuetz. Plans are also underway for a brunch on the Sunday morning after and details as to where & time will be in the mail soon!

CLASS OF 1959 - The Class of 1959, 60th Class Reunion will be held August 2 & 3 at Bay Hills Country Club in Buccaneer Bay. More information to follow. Please send all updated email addresses/home addresses to Jean Wiles at ajwiles@windstream.net or call (402) 296-2427.

CLASS OF 1964 - The Class of 1964 is in the planning stages for their 55th class reunion. Mark your calendars to attend the Alumni Banquet on May 25th. A gathering will also take place on Friday, May 24th. More details will be coming soon.

CLASS OF 1969 - The class of 1969 will be celebrating their 50-Year Class Reunion at the 20th Annual Alumni Association All School Banquet. The Banquet will be held at the new Plattsmouth High School located at 1916 Old Hwy 34 at 6:00 P.M., on Saturday May 25, 2019. The cost is \$23.00 per person. Return the reservation form found in this newsletter on or before May 13, 2019. We strongly encourage 1969 graduates to contribute to the Class of 1969 Scholarship Fund. Contributions can easily be done on the All Alumni Banquet form – one stop one shop. There will also be a social gathering for the 1969 graduates at the Lake Ridge Country Club at Beaver Lake on Friday, May 24. In addition to the 1969 graduates, we extend the invitation to other PHS graduates, family and friends. Information can be obtained by contacting Rob Hackwith at hwhithg@aol.com.



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- John Wesley*



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Saturday-Sunday: 8:00 am-7:00 pm

Sunday Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Rev. Debra McKnight '95, Pastor

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Steve Warga – '76

20th Annual Plattsmouth Alumni Association Celebration – May 25, 2019

Make plans to attend the 20th Annual Alumni Association All School Banquet. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones. It is held at the **Plattsmouth High School located at 1916 Old Hwy 34, Plattsmouth, NE 68048 at 6:00 P.M., on Saturday May 25, 2019.** The cost is **\$23.00 per person.** Return the reservation form below before May 13, 2019. Don't forget, it is also that time of year to pay your dues! Make checks payable to: Plattsmouth Alumni Association and send them to P.O. Box 283, Plattsmouth, NE 68048.

Any questions regarding the 2019 Plattsmouth Alumni CELEBRATION may be directed to Sandy McKnight 402-298-8513 or mom14509@yahoo.com.

Banquet Details

5:30-6:00 PM—Social Time

6:00 P.M. – Dinner

7:00 P.M. – Honors Ceremony

DINNER RESERVATION

Dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M. at the Plattsmouth High School, cost is \$23.00 per person.

_____ Number of Guests attending. TOTAL \$ _____

Names of those Attending:

Name (Maiden Name) _____ Graduation year _____

Name (Maiden Name) _____ Graduation year _____

Name (Maiden Name) _____ Graduation year _____

Name (Maiden Name) _____ Graduation year _____

MEMBERSHIP

Please help us keep our membership records current, provide us with your current address even if you do not plan to attend the annual banquet.

Name (Maiden Name) _____ Graduation year _____

Name (Maiden Name) _____ Graduation year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

YES, I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail

Enclosed is my Annual Membership fee of \$10.00 per person

Enclosed is my Lifetime Membership Fee of \$150.00 per person.

Enclosed is my donation to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Enclosed is my donation to the Alumni Association General Fund \$ _____

Enclosed is my donation for _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Plattsmouth Alumni Association
P.O. Box 283 – Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048**



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NOMINATIONS FOR PHS ALUM OF THE YEAR

**The Plattsmouth Alumni Association is seeking
Nominations for the
2019 ALUM OF THE YEAR.**

Nominations will be accepted until **April 15, 2019**

Please submit nominations to:
Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Attn: Alum of the Year Committee

P.O. Box 283 Plattsmouth, NE 68048

This award will be given annually in recognition of outstanding contributions that a PHS Alum has given to his or her community. The recipient will be selected based on the following.

**Individual must be a PHS ALUM
Contributions to the betterment of his/
her community.**

The nominator should submit a biographical statement of the nominee, to include a brief family history and accomplishments the individual has made during their life since graduation (please state year of graduation). The nominator must submit a brief statement explaining why they have nominated this individual and that the candidate can attend. banquet.

Plattsmouth Alumni Association
P.O. Box 283
Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048

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THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Over 20 years ago, the PHS Alumni Association created a large database of PHS Graduates. This list has grown to over 7,000 names, however we realize that much of our database is outdated. We have developed a new electronic system to update our records and provide our alums with updated information and newsletters via email. To update your contact information, please enter the following into your web-browser and provide us with your contact information.

<http://eepurl.com/ddrSOP>

The Plattsmouth Alumni Association **DOES NOT** have a website to purchase merchandise or charge for finding classmates. **Please e-mail plattsmouthalum@gmail.com if you have alumni related questions.**