

COMET CHATTER

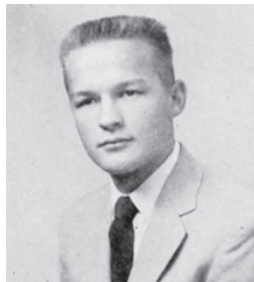
Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter / February 2011

Salute to Career Educators

At this year's alumni banquet we plan to give a dedicated group of alumni a special honor. All Penn Manor alumni who have chosen a career related to the field of education will be saluted. Please help get the word out among your classmates, other alumni friends, and those who have worked in the field of education. Our banquet will once again be held at the high school cafeteria beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 16th. PMAA is holding this year's banquet price at only \$15 per person. Anyone who does not receive a formal invitation may call 872-9520 (extension 1934) to request one, or you can go to our website and download one at www.pennmanor.net/alumni

After the banquet dinner we will hold the induction ceremony for this year's entrants to our Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor. Inductees to be honored are Dr. Daniel C. Witmer, Class of 1956, Dr. Joseph E. McSparran, Class of 1961, and Dr. Dean R. Hess, Class of 1968.

Dr. Daniel C. Witmer graduated from Penn Manor High School in 1956. He earned his B.S. and his Master's from Millersville University, his Principal's Certificate from Temple University in 1970 and his Ed.D. in 1976 from Penn State University. After serving in the U.S. Army, Dr. Witmer taught science at Manheim Township School District from 1962 until 1970 and later was Assistant Superintendent at Dallastown School District. From 1980 to 1990, he was Superintendent of Schools at Conestoga Valley School District where the special education and arts annex bear his name. Dr. Witmer served as President of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce from 1990 to 2000. He is a gifted metal sculptor and has been very involved on numerous community boards in the Lancaster area such as Rotary, United Way, YMCA and Lancaster County Art Association. A scholarship received from the Penn Manor Alumni Association made college possible for him.



Dr. Joseph E. McSparran graduated from Penn Manor High School in 1961. He went on to graduate from West Chester University with a B.S. in Secondary English, earned his Master's in Educational Administration from Fairfield University in Connecticut in 1970 and his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983. Dr. McSparran began his administrative career in education in the Manheim Central School District in 1971 as Assistant High School Principal. He served as Superintendent of Schools from 1990 to 1995. From 1996 until the present time, Dr. McSparran has been employed as a professor at Kutztown University. He is a published author. His most recent endeavor is a brochure, "The Other Freshmen Fifteen: Surviving First Semester" for first year college students to help them navigate the critical transition to life on a college campus. In 2010, Dr. McSparran gave the commencement address for Kutztown University.



Dr. Dean R. Hess graduated from Penn Manor High School in 1968. He graduated from Messiah College in 1972, earned his Master's degree from Millersville University in 1980 and his Ph.D. from LaSalle University in 1994. Dr. Hess currently teaches Anesthesia at the Harvard Medical School and is Assistant Director of Respiratory Care at Massachusetts General. Dr. Hess has published over 200 papers and 7 books, done extensive medical research and won many prestigious awards such as the Forrest M. Bird Award for Lifetime Scientific Achievement. He has been the Editor-in-Chief of *Respiratory Care*, the official science journal of the American Association for Respiratory Care since 2008. Dr. Hess has lectured extensively throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa and South America.



The mission of the Penn Manor Alumni Association is to support, inform, and maintain communications with our alumni, encouraging them to play an active role in PMAA, support our alma mater, and remain part of the Penn Manor family.

New Lifetime Members

PMAA's Lifetime Members are key alumni and friends of the association who have made the commitment to keep our association strong for many years to come. We salute the following individuals who have made this commitment within the present school year:

Name	Penn Manor Class
Jerry Brooks	Associate
John Detz	1963
Ernest Doerschuk	1964
Darlene Ford	Associate
Phil Frey	1969
James Lawrence	1963
Cinda Lacon	1961
Sandra Leonard	1963
James Morrison	1954
Anna Neff	1946
Flora Ober	1949
James Rineer	1960
Gordon Sauder	1960
Paul Scheid, Jr.	1947
Richard Trout	Associate
Diane Vickers	1968
Barbara Wende	1973

Recent Memorial Gifts

Donors

Ivan D. Engle
Ivan D. Engle
Richard Erisman
Carol Yard Guazzo
Alta Herr
Richard Holton
William Hutchinson
Norman Miller
Jeannine Murry
David Neff
Charles Stekervetz, Jr.
Diane Vickers
Leroy Witmer

In Memory of

Daniel Engle
Ivan G. Engle
Arthur & Kathryn Erisman
Roger Yard
Richard & Doug Herr
Joseph Brenneman
Doris Huber
Eileen Brimmer Miller
Ethel Gochnauer Shaub
Sara Neff
Bud Stekervetz
Jim Vickers
Dave Wessner

MEREDITH WILLSON'S
**THE
MUSIC MAN**
PMHS Spring Musical

Don't miss Penn Manor High School's revival of *The Music Man!* This beloved musical was performed in 1974 and again in 1994. The musical will be presented two consecutive weekends - March 4 & March 5 and March 11 & March 12. All shows are at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets, contact Melissa Mintzer at 717-872-9520 ext 1515 or melissa.mintzer@pennmanor.net.

Penn Manor Football

All alumni football players and their fans are encouraged to check out the new Comets football website at <http://www.pennmanorcometsfootball.com>



PMAA General Membership Meetings

As alumni of Penn Manor, you have voting rights at every general membership meeting during the year. PMAA is always looking for possible new programs that will benefit our alumni and our alma mater going forward. Your help in serving on a committee, serving as a future officer, or simply attending as an interested party will all be greatly appreciated. Help keep PMAA strong!

These meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the alumni room in the high school library (please enter at the Central Complex near the new gymnasium). Only two meeting dates remain for this school year :

Tuesday, March 1

Tuesday, April 5 (This meeting will serve as the annual meeting of the association.)

Please call with any questions: 717-872-9520 extension # 1934

PMAA Executive Committee

Michael McDonald - President, Class of 1974
Fred Wilds - Vice President, Class of 1961
Judy Herr Duke. -Treasurer, Class of 1979
Nancy Kreider Smith. -Recording Secretary, Class of 1958
Dolores Hippey Warfel -Corresponding Secretary, Class of 1960
Cindy Duncan LaMaster - Association Archivist, Class of 1974
Cindy Brown Rhoades -Newsletter Editor, Class of 1976
Frank Geist. - Immediate Past President, Class of 1963

Homecoming 2010 Huge Success

In recent years the Penn Manor football team has started a new tradition of upsetting favored opponents on Homecoming Friday. This most recent Homecoming was no exception, with the underdog Comets shutting out the Mountaineers of Ephrata High by a score of 21 to 0 at Biemesderfer Stadium. This convincing win set the tone for a great Homecoming weekend for all Penn Manor alumni.

Your Association once again had a prominent presence at the big welcome tent featuring giveaway Penn Manor Homecoming T-shirts, fun tattoos for the kids, and free souvenir footballs. We are pleased to report that 17 PM alums signed up as new PMAA members at the tent that night. Welcome!



Mark your calendars - Homecoming 2011 will be held on **Friday, October 7** against McCaskey.



Above, Penn Manor Alumni volunteers help to hand out PMAA t-shirts to the first 150 alums who stopped by the tent. At left, a future alum received a Penn Manor face tattoo.

2010 Athletic Wall of Honor Inducted

The eighth class of Penn Manor Athletic Wall of Honor inductees was held on January 14, 2011 prior to Penn Manor's basketball game against Warwick. The recipients were introduced and honored at halftime of the game. This year's class included:

John A. Deibert (Class of 1959) - 1959 Male Athlete of the Year for Penn Manor's senior class. John lettered in basketball (3 years), baseball (3 years) and track (1 year). In basketball, he was a 2nd Team All-County his junior year and a 1st Team All County his senior year. He finished 2nd in scoring in the league his senior year and was Honorable Mention All-State.

Dana (Kern) Brooks (Class of 1963) - Three-sport varsity athlete for three years at Penn Manor. Dana competed in field hockey, basketball and tennis. The Penn Manor field hockey team won the championship Dana's sophomore year. The Penn Manor girls basketball team won championships all three years Dana played where she averaged 20 points per game.

Ronald Hoak (Class of 1965) - Played varsity soccer, wrestling and baseball his sophomore and junior years and soccer and wrestling his senior year. Ron was 1st Team All County in soccer and baseball his junior year. In his senior year Ron was 1st Team All County in soccer and won a Sectional Championship in wrestling at 180 lbs

Alissa (Mowrer) Bradfield (Class of 1991) - Two-sport athlete for Penn Manor from 1988-1991. In field hockey, Alissa was an LL League All-Star in 1990 and her team was PIAA State Runner-Up. She was an LL League All-Star softball player in 1990-91.

Cameron Hollinger (Class of 2003) - Recognized as one of the most successful Pennsylvania high school swimmers in history. Cameron is a seven-time PIAA State High School Swim Champion and was named Male Swimmer of the Meet at States in 2002 and 2003.



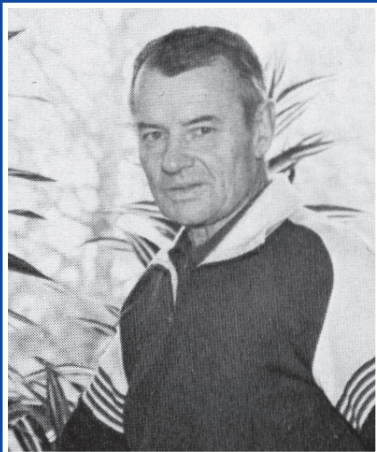
From left: John Deibert, Dana Kerns Brooks, Cameron Hollinger, Alissa Mowrer Bradfield, Ronald Hoak

In Memoriam

David H. Neff

On Thursday, November 18, 2010, PMAA lost a dear friend and long-time financial supporter, Mr. David H. Neff. Dave graduated as a member of the Class of 1937 and over the years won all of PMAA's most prestigious awards. In 1992 he was recognized as our Alumnus of the Year. Then in 1999 he was inducted into the Penn Manor Athletic Wall of Honor. Most recently he received the PMAA President's Award.

Dave served as coach of several Penn Manor varsity sports and was our athletic director for many years. He was married to Sara Ernst Neff (Class of 1939) for 66 years. His lasting memory and his leadership by example will inspire us to keep the alumni association, which he loved, vibrant for many years to come.



Eric M. Torbert, Jr.

At PMAA's 2009 annual banquet the Association honored all Penn Manor alumni who served in the U. S. armed services with an added special tribute to those who lost their lives in service to our country. Now we have another patriotic alumnus who has paid the ultimate price while serving.

On Saturday, December 18, 2010, U.S. Marine Corporal Eric M. Torbert, Jr. died in combat in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. Eric was the son of Eric M., Sr., and Denise M. Groff Torbert, and the husband of Marcelle L. Sebastian Torbert. Eric graduated from Penn Manor in 2003 and was known as an accomplished guitarist, Little League baseball stand-out, and a patriotic student. We at PMAA salute Corporal Torbert.



PMAA Senior Awards Program

Your alumni association is proud to sponsor several awards each year for graduating Penn Manor seniors. Each year the Dr. D. L. Biemesderfer Award of \$500 is presented to the class valedictorian and the Mary Klemmer Award of \$500 goes to the salutatorian of the graduating class. These two awards are endowed and will continue to honor the two remarkable alumni for which they are named.

Another \$500 award is the Luella Mellinger Award which goes to a senior who plans on pursuing a teaching career. Luella taught in our district for many years and was a key financial supporter of our organization. An Excellence in Art Award is presented each year and is funded by an anonymous member of the Penn Manor Class of 1971. Our high school art department selects this annual winner.

In addition to the above awards, 32 additional scholarships are presented by our sister organization, the Penn Manor Education Foundation. Many of these awards are presented and /or sponsored by PM alumni.

We salute all the generous alumni who have helped make these awards possible!

Learn more about the Penn Manor Alumni Association
Visit our website at www.pennmanor.net/alumni