

# LHS RETIREE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

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## From your editor

Hi Everyone,

Wow! We have completed one year's worth of newsletters and are beginning year number two. The days keep moving, the news keeps coming, and another school year for many flies by. We welcome seven new retirees to our flock at the end of this school year. Ironically, I started when Kelly McAlvey Ercoli was a senior at LHS, and looking back, I was a senior leader for Joan Browning at Joliet West H.S. We are all connected somehow. Congratulations to our new retirees; may you all find peace, enjoyment, and a full life to experience whatever future you choose to engage in. The world is yours to conquer - Enjoy!

Our first LHS Retiree Reunion will be in the fall. The location and date are in the works. Look for more information in June so that you can save the date. We need to actively recruit some assistance, so if anyone wants to lend a hand please contact Carol Nenne as soon as possible (cnenne@comcast.net or 708-656-7196) and let her know you are available to help. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work".  
Thanks, Pam

◆ Keep those picture submissions and any other news, ideas, etc. coming. It takes a village !



## Retiree Highlight



### Congratulations to *Al Albrecht—Class of 1959*

### Lemont H.S. Alumni Hall of Fame, Class of 2017 Inductee

*"What a humbling experience and a proud moment for me to be recognized like this, growing up and returning here to Lemont. Thinking about it still brings tears to my eyes."*

As a teacher, coach, administrator and community member, Al has had a 50+ year relationship with Lemont. He came to Lemont H.S. after spending 4 years in his first teaching job in the Pittsville school system in Wisconsin. He began his career teaching History and Geography and his inaugural coaching career started in their wrestling program. On a trip home he made a visit to one of his former teachers, John Jones, at the high school to say Hi. John announced that Lemont was in need of a wrestling coach. Al credits John and Superintendent Ed Bossert with giving him the opportunity to return to Lemont as a faculty member. Thirty-two years later he retired from LHS with a head coaching resume of Cross Country, Wrestling, Baseball, and Girls Volleyball in addition to serving as Athletic Director for 10 years. Al was the first former student to be hired as a member of the Lemont faculty. He was required to go back to school and pick up credit in Driver's Education and the rest is history. He remembers working with his former instructors Bill Ryan, Marie Glass, Mike Galati, and John Jones. Respect was high and he could never find himself calling any of them anything but Mr. or Miss. Coming back to teach at his alma mater was a very memorable time and experience for him. A gratifying moment he remembers is when his wrestling team won their first regional, providing the athletes an opportunity to compete downstate. Getting kids to work to their potential was a major goal of Al's and he found it highly satisfying when they did so. He saw Lemont H.S. as a great place from a student's point of view, and an awesome place to work as an adult. He thought his family lucky to be able to share the Lemont experience, as his son, daughter, and his grandchildren were also students at LHS.

As Athletic Director he was instrumental in supporting the girls' sport programs, helping them move forward in competition and in the expectations of Title IX. Al served the community of Lemont through 50 years of volunteering as a member of the Lions Club, who provided scholarship opportunities to LHS students. Al also served on the Lemont Library and Lemont-Bromberek School District 113A Boards. He officiated youth sports, served as an auxiliary Lemont police officer for 20 years, was a Lemont Jaycee, and drove for the Gorski Bus Company in his spare time. He still finds time to assist in the press box at home football games in between travelling in and out of the country with his wife Cele. We congratulate our colleague Al on this honor!

## 2017 RETIREES

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 RETIREES



Patte Doornbos

Patte is a Science Educator with a focus on Chemistry. She has taught at LHS for 37 years, primarily Chemistry, including AP classes, and also math earlier in her career. A former Lemont student, Patte came back to teach in 1980. Transcending from an LHS student to an LHS teacher, Patte's dedication has been endless. She was a sponsor for SADD, Student Council, and CSFE over the span of her career. A little known fact: Patte was given a classroom in 1980 and she stayed in it for her entire career, giving her the Lemont 'fixture' award for longevity in one space. Patte's plans are to travel and take time to pick up her hobbies such as gardening and painting. She also will now have more time to enjoy her grandchildren.



Kelly Ercoli

Kelly is a Foreign Language Teacher with an emphasis in French Education. She also started and taught in the German program in the late 90's, and has also taught English. Kelly has taught at Lemont for 34 years. She has come full circle in her experience at LHS: she was a student, a beginning teacher, and soon will be a retiree. Kelly oversaw the Foreign Language Club for many years and led trips to Europe where students could put their foreign language skills to use. Now she looks forward to vacationing again in Europe, but this time with her own agenda. She also plans to take time to read, sew, re-visit her music, and spend time visiting with family.



Tim Leffler

Tim (also known as "Chibs") is a Science Educator, Department Chair, and Athletic Coach. Tim has been teaching and coaching at LHS for 28 years. He coached Freshman Football, Fr/Soph Boys Basketball, and spent 20 years in the Girls Basketball program on the Sophomore and Varsity level over his LHS career. Academically, he was involved with AP classes, STEM classes and WYSE, a competitive science club. Tim was a former student-athlete at Lemont H.S. His enthusiasm for life is displayed to his colleagues and his students in many ways, as he is often joking and bringing positive vibes throughout the day. No doubt Tim will find plenty to do in his retirement.

## 2017 RETIREES

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John Howell

John is a Drivers Education Instructor, program coordinator and athletic coach, who also served a stint as an Assistant Athletic Director. After starting his professional career in the middle school, John taught and coached at LHS for 23 years. He was an integral part of the development and growth of the Drivers Ed. program. John was an intense and successful defensive football coach who worked countless hours reproducing the opponents plays so LHS athletes could be prepared for each game of the season. Over the years he played an important role in the success of the Lemont H.S. football program. John will move on to coach football at the college level at Illinois Benedictine in Lisle.



Doreen Rick

Doreen has served in the Learning Resource Center for 25 years. She guided students through the growth of a library that turned into a resource center over time, and has demonstrated quiet leadership over the years. She has outlasted several librarian specialists and continued to serve the faculty and students with her capable organizational skills as technology moved in and changed the essence of library science. She is ready to enjoy time with her family and explore new-found freedom in retirement.



Anne Harrell

Anne has been a DHH interpreter at LHS for 10 years and has a total of 30 years in the field of interpreting. Anne sees retirement as looking forward to doing whatever she feels like at the moment. She hopes to travel, with her first sights on the New England coast and then Northern California. Her favorite memory is being on the sidelines for 'Friday Night Lights,' as it was the best seat in the house. Anne enjoyed her time teaching at the high school level and her time at LHS. She is now looking forward to family and friend time.



Joan Browning

Joan has been the Social Worker at LHS since 1992. In her 25 years she has seen many students, and often served as a lifeline to their needs. She has served a key role in the Lemont H.S. Community, working with all types of students throughout her career. Joan has been the ultimate professional, always available to her students and colleagues. She was an integral part in developing the Breakfast Buddies and Friday Night Out programs, both essential programs for the special needs students. Joan looks forward to retirement and what that may look like.



# Retirement Party Pics



Back row: Cindy Kennedy Nelson, Patte Doornbos, Bobbe Fash, Bill Rick, Al Albrecht, Bill Bozue, Jim Driscoll, Tim Leffler, Ron Cygan, Carol Nenne; Front row: Anne Harrell, Margarita Piaskowy, Doreen Rick, Kelly Ercoli, Judy Grossman, Carole Ziemke, Diane Endebak, Sharon Jacobs, Kathy Nollinger, Pam Murray, Joan Browning, Pat Bayer



**2017 Retirees**

**Anne Harrell, Patte Doornbos, Kelly Ercoli, Doreen Rick, Joan Browning, Tim Leffler**



# 2017 LHS Musical

## Disney's "High School Musical"

Lemont students will be performing in Disney's "High School Musical" on May 10, 11, 12 and 13. All performances begin at 7:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

Wednesday, May 10 is a special performance for senior citizens (yes, we all count for that!). If you wish to attend that night, please contact Cheryl Wyss (cwyss@lhs210.net or 630-243-3222) in the office to reserve your ticket(s). Tickets for other performances may be purchased through the musical webpage (www.lemontband.org/musical) by clicking on the "tickets" link.

Come out and enjoy the evening while supporting current Lemont students!



Book Club Forming...Meeting Soon...Contact Sharon Jacobs for details

([Slj31@aol.com](mailto:Slj31@aol.com)). The April book is a small read:

"Two Old Women" by Velma Wallis.

Open to all, friends welcome...books will be chosen by those participating.

Step out for a couple of hours one evening and join us!

### 2017 LHS ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**MARY LOU CARLSON '71**— Mary Lou Carlson has committed her life to making significant contributions at home and abroad through her extensive knowledge of agricultural economy. An Agriculture Advisor at the University of Illinois for 20 years, she also served as an instructor and researcher at Penn State University. Mary Lou managed international agriculture programs while working for the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) from 2004-11, and now works as a Senior International Program Specialist at the United States Department of Agriculture, directing international programs focused on food security and food safety. She has received numerous accolades for her work, including an Exceptional Team Award for a USAID mission to Mali in 2008, an Action Award for a

USAID mission to Afghanistan in 2011, and a Meritorious Honor Award from the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan in 2012. Mary Lou also has been a Team Lead with the Peace Corps.

**NORMA (LANDGREN) JOHNSON '38**— A pillar of the Lemont community for nearly 100 years, Norma (Landgren) Johnson has been proud to call Lemont her life-long home. Living by her motto - "Family First" - Norma has dedicated herself to serving Lemont's schools, her church, and the community as a whole. As her children moved from activity to activity, she moved with them. Along the way, Norma was a Cub Scout den mother, a Girl Scout chairperson, and President of the Lemont Band Boosters. A member of Lemont's Planning Commission for 12 years, she served on the Lemont Library board and was President of the Lemont Area Historical Society. A vital member of Bethany Lutheran Church, Norma played as an accompanist for Lemont band students and read to second graders at Oakwood School. She was selected as the Grand Marshal for the 1992 Keepataw Days parade, and was tabbed as 1995's "Citizen of the Year" by the Lemont Chamber of Commerce.



# Enjoying the Freedom to Roam



Linda Berck taking in the artful detail of the Roman Colosseum in Rome, Italy



Sandy Doebert inhaling the mist of Niagara Falls on a gorgeous day.



Pam Duerkoop Mueller and husband Reggie overlooking a nearby mountain lake in Nevada.



Ahh, Italy... Bobbe and Gil Fash enjoying touring Europe on one of their many adventures.



Don Mueggenborg sharing river time with his granddaughter



Jamie Lomax out and about at a local museum



Sharon Jacobs experiencing local cuisine during one of her many travels



Marge Breier and husband Joe exploring Iceland



Jan Casolari visiting and enjoying time with her daughters and grandchildren