

Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Linking the Past with the Future

Published August 2013

Dr. William Rishel 2013 Plattsmouth Alum of the Year

At the 2013 Alumni Banquet, Brian Harvey, Association President, introduced Dr. Rishel with the following words, “Our 2013 Alum of the Year is a true humanitarian of people as well as the animal world. His service not only benefits Plattsmouth and the surrounding area, but impacts lives across the state, the country, and in small struggling corners of the world. We are proud to honor this son of Plattsmouth.”



William Rishel was born and raised in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. He is the oldest son of the late John Rishel, class of 1935 and Esther Petersen Rishel. Bill and his younger brothers Steve ^{'71} and Peter ^{'72} grew up on “Rishel Hill” where they learned the importance of family, and values of honesty, integrity, and hard work. The Rishel name remains synonymous with scouting, community, and Church. Our Alum of the Year was a four-year basketball letterman, a member of the PHS track team, and a member of the National Honor Society. He was the basketball MVP, Team Captain, and the Sportsmanship Award winner for the 1966-1967 season. William O. Rishel graduated from Plattsmouth High School in 1967.

Bill began his college studies at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Dr. William Rishel graduated from Kansas State University with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 1973. Dr. Rishel’s 40 year veterinary career started at the Plattsmouth Animal Hospital in 1973. He worked at the Plattsmouth Clinic and their Glenwood satellite clinic for seven years before purchasing the Glenwood Clinic in 1980. Since that time he has built the practice to a five-veterinarian practice. His professional organization affiliations are: The American Veterinary Medical

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Alum of the Year Continued –

Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, Iowa Veterinary Medical Association (serving as an officer), Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association, and The Society of Teriogenology (study of animal reproduction). Dr. Rishel was the 2012 recipient of the Kansas State Alumni Recognition Award from the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association.

Bill Rishel not only maintains a thriving practice but he shares that knowledge and experience with others. His audiences have included Optimist groups, Rotary Clubs, 4-H groups, Horse Clubs, Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, Boy Scout troops, classes at the Glenwood Middle School and the Plattsmouth Elementary School. He has taught equine classes at Iowa Western. He has spoken to student groups at ten veterinary colleges across the United States about veterinary medicine and his mission trips. Bill is a member of the Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) group, based in Seattle, Washington. He has served on the National CVM board for eight years, two of those years as the Chairman of the Board. His 13 mission trips have taken him to Nepal, Bolivia, India, and Uganda, and the Navajo and Pine Ridge Reservations in the United States. The purpose of these trips is to improve rural animal health care by treating animals and educating the animal owners. While on these trips he has taught at the Nepal Veterinary College, treated large and small animals, and TB tested cattle to prevent disease. He has taken veterinary college students from across the United States with him on these trips, serving as their mentor and teacher. As his brother Steve states, “His aid has been ‘hands-on’ with some of the poorest people in the world, giving them knowledge and assistance with the livestock that supports their very lives. He eagerly goes into places that many people would prefer to avoid due to the living conditions.”

Bill and his wife Marilyn Matthews Rishel have been married for 38 years. They have two children April ^{'97} and Andrew ^{'99}, and son-in-law Mike Brodersen ^{'95}. Bill's grandson Noah, class of 2026, will be the 6th generation of Rishels to live on “Rishel Hill”.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY September 27, 2013 1:00pm PHS Auditorium

The Hall of Fame inductees for 2013 are:

Jack Herweg for his outstanding success as a band director bringing national recognition to PHS, and his commitment to the students of PHS.

Janice Wiles Freeburg ^{'56} for her lifetime commitment to the artistic development of generations of young dancers as well as her commitment to her community and students

Schedule of Events Open to the Public:

1:00pm Induction Ceremony in High School Auditorium (**Open to the Public**)

2:00pm Public Reception in Media Center

6:30pm Dinner on the Patio (football stadium grounds)

Tickets available through the Hall of Fame Committee.

Please request tickets in advance by calling

Shaun Brothers at 402-296-3322 or e-mail at sbrothers@pcsd.org

7:00pm Kickoff PHS vs. Elkhorn South

7:45pm Halftime – Introduction of Hall of Fame Members

2013 HONOR CLASSES



Class of 1938 – 75 years

Flora Belle Mead Wehrbein



Class of 1948 – 65 years

L to R: Pete Hill, Mary Todd Rogers-Hammons, Garold Michaelsen



Class of 1953 – 60 years

Front Row l to r: Lyle Hild, Edith Wetenkamp McCaw, Darlene Foster McIntosh, Charlene Haney Meisinger, Norma Campbell Hebard, Bettie Sutton Meisinger. **Back Row l to r:** Harry Wagner, Richard Beverage, Don Born, Lila Eras Gold, Bob Parriott, Margaret Gaines Bradley, Russ Menges, Shirley Glaze Stipe.

2013 HONOR CLASSES CONTINUED



Class of 1958 – 55 years

Front l to r: Sheila Marsh Speck, Janice McGraw Pohlmeier, Jean Porter Hild, Betty Smiley Henry
Back l to r: Darrel Sudduth, Jay Speck, Duane Heim



Class of 1988 – 25 years

Barb Austin Wagner



Class of 1963 – 50 years

Front l to r: Dale Baker, Jeannie Nelson Vincent, Carol Jacobs, Marcia Lagerstrom Hostetter, Lynne Perrelet Bryant, Gary Brennan.
2nd Row l to r: Carol Smith Wehrbein, Linda Stander Fitzgerald, Sharon Gunsolley Griffin, Carmen Pfeifer Horn, Rheda Boardman, Wanda Jenkins Hudson, Shirley Welstead Krueger, Cheryl McGraw, Sharon Dunlap Stone. **3rd Row l to r:** Paul Rice, Tom Brink, Ted Wehrbein, Jimmie Bryant, Gene Noell, Ken Hostetter, Perry Dingman, Ron Hild, Gene Engelkemier, Roger Beverage, Dennis Horn, David Nettelmann, Patricia Foster Gadd, John Wetenkamp, Cheryl Toman Mead, Bob Whelen, Mary Ann Sharp Toman, Steve Wehrbein.

2013 Scholarship Winners

Joe York Memorial Scholarship (\$700.00)

Kiley Wheatley is the daughter of Arrin^{'86} and Karin Faris Wheatley^{'88}. Kiley is enrolled at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, she plans to pursue a degree in Music Education K-12 vocal and instrumental.

Alumni Association Scholarship (\$500.00 each)



Christopher Kerns is the son of Terry^{'78} and Sandy Schreiber Kerns^{'79} and the grandson of Charlie^{'54} and Ella Mary Nielsen Kerns^{'54}. Chris is enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, majoring in Civil Engineering.



Reid Wagner is the son of Kevin^{'80} and Barbara Austin Wagner^{'88} and the grandson of Harry Wagner^{'53} and Joe Austin^{'61}. Reid is enrolled at Iowa Western Community College. His major is Biology.

Class of 1963 (Given in honor of their 50th Class Reunion, \$750.00 each)

Zachary Hudson is the son of Brian^{'87} and Chris Hudson and grandson of Wanda Jenkins Hudson^{'63}. Zach is enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His major is Business Administration and Accounting.

Katie Bogle, daughter of Lee^{'73} and Jina Bogle is enrolled at Clarkson College in Omaha. She plans to get an Associates Degree in Physical Therapy Assistant and then a BS in Health Care Management.

Drew Witherspoon is the son of Kelli Beckman^{'89} and Dustin Witherspoon and the grandson of Karen Kildare Beckman^{'65}. Drew's major is Automotive and Business Management at Metro Community College.

IS YOUR CLASS PLANNING A REUNION?.....

We are currently collecting Class notices for our MARCH Newsletter

Here is the space to let everyone know what your class has planned for this year's class reunion! Send information to Sandy at mom14509@yahoo.com or mail to Plattsmouth Alumni Association at P. O. Box 283 in Plattsmouth, NE 68048.



Plattsmouth Alumni Association

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL OR WEB!

E-MAIL

Would you like to receive the newsletter via e-mail? The newsletter is also available on the Plattsmouth Community Schools web site. We require your permission to use your e-mail address instead of just transferring your address to the new site. We have set up a new e-mail site for just this purpose. If you would like to be a part of this new adventure, please send your e-mail address to: plattsmouthalum@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

All Alumni Newsletters are posted on the Plattsmouth Community Schools Website. In order to access the newsletters visit www.pcsd.org. On the main page click on "Foundation/Alumni" then click on "Alumni Newsletters", click on "Newsletters." A list of current and past Alumni Newsletters will be available for viewing.

What People are Saying about E-Newsletter!

Here are a few comments we are getting from the people who are getting their newsletter via the internet. "I love the color copy." "I can print it off if I want to or keep it on my computer where I can find it later!" "It is great to be able to enlarge the pictures so it's easier for me to see faces." "The pictures are really clear."

2013 PLATTSMOUTH HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Jack Herweg grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He graduated from Thomas

Jefferson High School in 1954. An Education Degree from Parson's College in Fairfield, Iowa prepared him for a lifetime career of sharing his love of music through education. Armed with the ideas that he could teach and encourage students to become professional musicians, music educators, or simply appreciate all types of music, Jack headed for Wisner, Nebraska to begin his teaching career. After just four years, he moved his family, wife Pat and 2 year old Mark, in October of 1962 to Plattsmouth to take the position of 6-12 instrumental music director. Timing couldn't be worse for a marching band director, with the state competition only a month away. The "Excellent" rating the band received using the routine of his predecessor led to the commitment to his students that "that would not happen again". Jack Herweg was a stickler for precision. His favorite marching band was the Texas A&M University Marching Band. Their precise military style was his model and his dedication

to the details in the music and the routine for his students was his passion. It is said he

sometimes used Pat and children Mark and Lisa as yard markers when working out intricate steps. Countermarches, minstrel turns, obliques all had to be perfect. It was while watching Texas A&M on TV that he discovered the secret behind a successful double minstrel turn. From that time on, the double minstrel turn appeared in all his routines, a maneuver of which he was most proud. Other directors across the state hounded him for years to share the secret, but he would never reveal that two hesitation steps were all that was required! His dedication was infectious and required hard work on the part of his students. The three-a-day practices became the norm and the rewards were well worth it, when in 1974 the Plattsmouth High School Marching Blue Devils won their tenth consecutive "Superior" rating at the Nebraska State Marching Band Competition. That win broke the previous record of consecutive Superiors. Marching was not his only focus in developing his students into life long music lovers. Concert Band was not a vacation after marching season was over! He challenged his students with complex music. Jack Herweg brought plenty of fun into learning difficult music with his *STAGE BAND*. This 20 piece jazz ensemble performed at many high school dances and at community dances and dinners in the '60s and '70s. In 1969 the concert and jazz bands recorded an album to be sold as a fundraiser. In 1971, the concert band was the featured band for the American School Band Directors Association annual convention in Omaha. The band received a standing ovation for their performance of four numbers, which included "Dragoons of Villars", a very difficult composition.

Jack facilitated "parent involvement" into a well-oiled machine called the Plattsmouth Band Parents. He often said he felt lucky to have parents who really cared about their children. They worked hard to give their kids the extra opportunities band offered. This group not only made the "Yumburger" famous, they became a model of the successful pancake feed. In 1965 Jack launched the Plattsmouth Marching Band Contest, the assistance of the band parents was key to its success. His marching band was always on the move. During the summer months they marched in area parades such as: the Sydney Iowa Rodeo; the Popcorn Festival in Hamburg, IA, the Apple Jack Festival in Nebraska City, the Otoe County Fair in Syracuse; Band Day in Lincoln; the Glenwood Homecoming Parade in Glenwood, IA; the Cass County Fair in Weeping Water; Limestone Days in Louisville; and the State Fair in Lincoln just to name a few. It wasn't unusual to see the marching band leave town once or twice a week in August! With the help of the Band Parents Jack was able to take his bands on many "Big" trips that were fun and educational. In 1967 the marching band traveled by bus to Winepeg, Canada to march in the Red River Exhibition Parade and field marching competition. In 1969 they marched in the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade. In 1972 the marching band represented Nebraska in the Rose Parade in California. They made two trips to Philadelphia, in 1974 they competed in the last marching competition held in the old Veterans Stadium there. It was at this time that the Marching Blue Devil band was becoming the only band left to do precision marching. Competitions and Halftime shows were done by "show bands". This style of marching backwards and sideways didn't blend well with his precision. After much soul searching, Jack decided to go back to school and get his EDD degree and go into administration. He couldn't teach students to do routines he didn't believe in himself. So he ended his 18 year music career. Jack Herweg worked hard to develop his students into good citizens for the future. He gave some students a new voice through their music, he gave leadership roles to students who would prefer to stay in the background, he encouraged teamwork and support for each other within the student ranks, and his demand for excellence developed a mutual respect between teacher and student.

Herweg Continued –

In September of 1976 he began his administrative career as principal at Plattsmouth High School. He carried his leadership skills of fairness, consistency, trust, patience, and organization with him as an administrator. These skills enabled him to become the Superintendent of Plattsmouth Community Schools in 1984. He retired in 1990 after 28 years in the Plattsmouth system. Jack Herweg passed away on July 10, 2000. He is survived by his wife Pat, son Mark⁷⁹ and daughter Lisa⁸⁴, two granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter. Jack Herweg had many relationships in the Plattsmouth community, as a teacher, colleague, parent, administrator, and friend. His goal of developing students into professional musicians, music educators, or adults with an appreciation for music was realized many times over.



Janice Wiles Freeburg⁵⁶ is the daughter of Chester³¹ and Lucile Albert Wiles³¹. Her grandfather Wiles started the family homestead just west of Plattsmouth. Janice and her brother Alan,⁵⁷ grew up on that farm, they attended Plattsmouth Public Schools. She was active in 4-H with sewing and horse clubs. Janice took dance lessons in Omaha as a child and then from her aunt Betty Bashus in Plattsmouth. When Betty moved out of town, with the help of her mother, Janice took over the dance studio of 40 students at the age of 16. During her years at PHS, Janice's activities included band, chorus, cheerleading, and pep club. She states, "Unfortunately, at this time, PHS didn't have sport activities for girls." She was a member of Jobs Daughters also serving as Honored Queen. Janice was named Miss Plattsmouth in 1956. During high school she developed a love for teaching. She credits her short hand and typing teacher, the late

Mrs. Barbara Linder, as being her inspiration to become a teacher. Upon graduation from PHS in 1956, Janice was awarded a full year scholastic scholarship to Peru State College to pursue a degree in elementary education. While at Peru she was involved in band and cheerleading. She was the Sweet Heart Queen and was chosen Miss Auburn while attending Peru. Janice and Don Freeburg⁵⁵ were married in 1957. She took General & Educational Psychology at Tarkio College. Janice finished her college education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She earned a BS in Education with a specialty in PE in 1986 and received the Gold Key Honor Society Award. She earned her Master's Degree in Computers in Education from Lesley College in 1997. Most of her college education was done while raising three children, teaching kindergarten at Plattsmouth Community Schools, and while directing and teaching at her dance studio. She was also a cub scout den mother, classroom room mother, band parent, did alterations and laundry of uniforms for the PHS Girl's Basketball Team, spent countless hours on bleachers watching her kids' activities, and directed the Harvest Festival Talent Show for many years. Her strong sense of community and her ability to promote and nurture self-esteem and self-confidence in children were evident in some of the activities in her classroom and in her dancing opportunities. One of her favorite classroom activities was having kindergarten children write and illustrate short stories and then visit the residents of the Plattsmouth Manor and the Nebraska Masonic Home to read those stories. This was an important experience for the students as well as their elderly friends. She retired from teaching kindergarten in 2002 after 16 years of experience in the Plattsmouth Community School System.

Janice's dance studio groups would also share their talents with the residents of the local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Most of her friends, family, clients, and even Janice, thought she would give up her dance studio when she received her teaching degree. But as she says it, "My love for dance would not allow me to do that." Janice had the support of her family in making the dance studio experience the best it could be. Two generations of dancers grew up loving "Mrs. Music", (Janice's mother, Lucile Wiles) who provided hours of piano music for their dance numbers. Don built two different dance studios to accommodate the dancers as well as the parents who brought them. Don, Tad, Tim, and Tammy pitched in for Dance Recitals as set designers and builders, stage managers, gofers, and light and sound technicians. Janice has been a member of the Omaha Dance Teachers Association for 50 years. The association provides her students with the opportunity to study dance with teachers from all over the United States. She encourages her 120 students to share their talents at many different venues. She has supported them at Show Wagon, a summer competition sponsored by the Omaha Parks and Recreation where students dance on a portable stage (the wagon) in metro Omaha parks. She has been the 4-H leader of the Danceretts, whose focus is dancing at the Cass County Fair. They compete in the Lion's Club Talent Shows, the Cornhusker State Games, and perform for the Harvest Festival (previously the Kass

Freeburg Continued -

Kounty King Korn Karnival) Talent Show. These opportunities to dance in public are lessons in confidence building, flexibility (dancing on a stage that really isn't a stage), commitment, teamwork, and dealing with the winning and losing lessons of life. She also teaches her older, more experienced students patience. These students have the opportunity to be teaching assistants for the younger students. Former student and teaching assistant Rev. Debra McKnight states, "Janice would never put a child in 'time out' for behavior because she could almost always quietly and lovingly convince the child to change the behavior." In June of 2013 Janice announced her retirement from the dance studio after 58 years and three generations of dance students. The studio will continue under the direction of Janice's granddaughter Jillian Freeburg.

Janice and Don now attend the Liberty United Methodist Church after their Church of many years recently closed. Janice was a Sunday School teacher for 20 years. Janice is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators and a member of the Retired Teachers Association. Janice's community involvement and support is evident in the many awards she has received:

- 1981 – Lucille McLean Golden Jubilee Award
- 1983 – Omaha World Herald presented the Ackerman Award at Show Wagon
- 1990 – Performing Arts Award from Kass Kounty Korn Klub
- 1994 – Heritage Award from the Lloyd Fitch family for 20 years of community support through music, dance, and social obligations
- 2004 – The Ackerman Award for supporting Show Wagon
- 2005 – The Friend of Youth Award from the Plattsmouth Optimist Club

Janice enjoys her family and friends in her free time. She and Don relax on summer time trips to a family cabin at Spirit Lake in Iowa. She is proud of her PHS ties and the fact that her entire family graduated from PHS; husband Don in 1955; children: Tad in 1976, Tim in 1979, and Tammy in 1985; and grandchildren Jillian in 2009 and Julia in 2012. It is likely that Janice is not done educating children in dance and life's lessons, just taking a step back!



**Come join in the fun and excitement on
Saturday, September 28, 2013**

YOU CAN:

- Participate in the Poker Run (Sign-up 10:30 – 12:00)**
- Play in the Golf Event (Tee Times 10:00 – 1:00)**
- Come listen to Live Music (7:00 - ???)**
- Participate in raffles & other activities**
- Harley Davidson Drawing at 8:01 P.M.**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD THE
PAYMENT OF THE
NEW ACTIVITES COMPLEX**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

- Mark Smith – msmith@pcsd.org**
- Jeff Wiles – jwiles@pcsd.org**
- Shaun Brothers – sbrothers@pcsd.org**

Go to our website:

www.pcsd.org

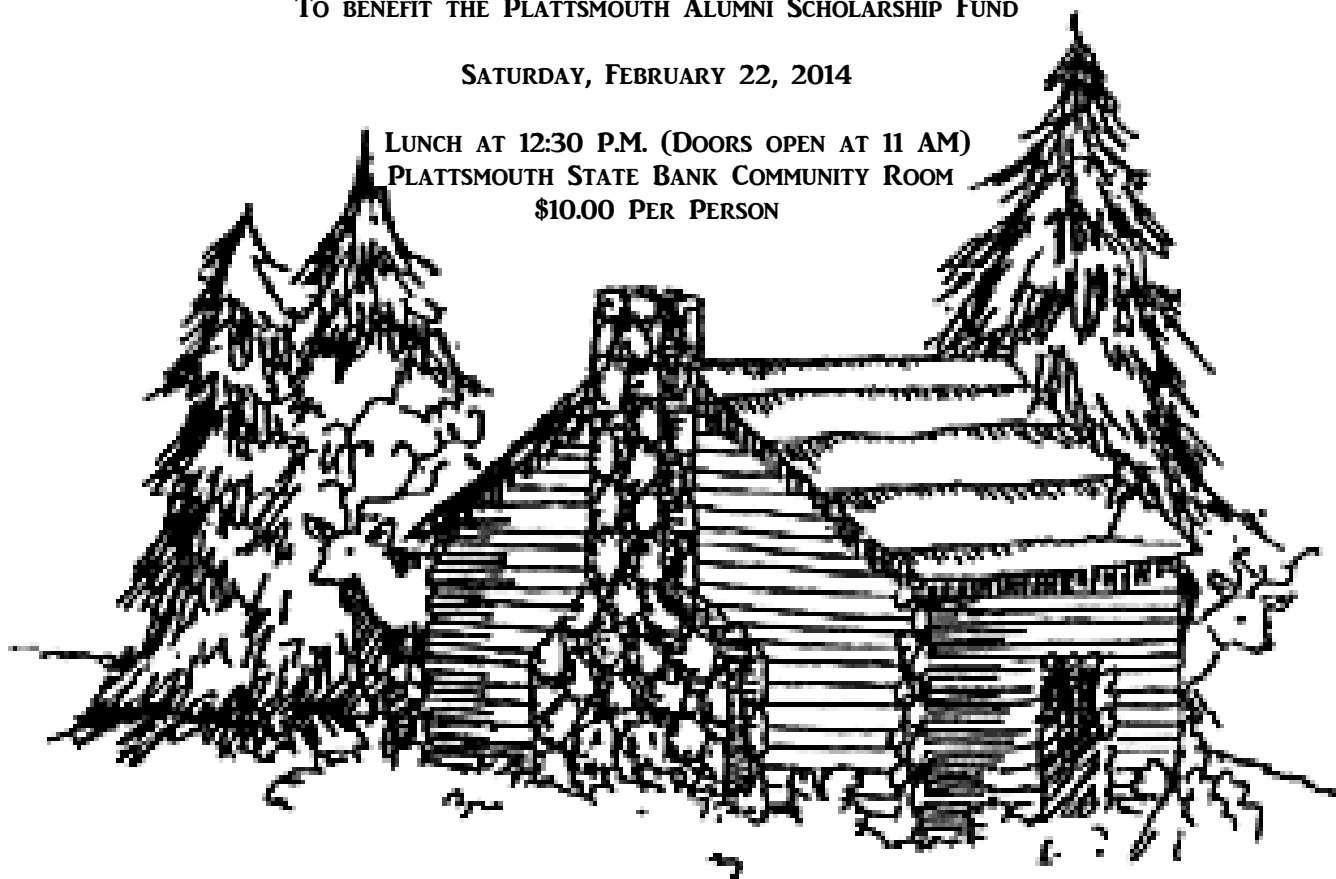
**All Events will be held at the
Plattsmouth Country Club**

CABIN FEVER LUNCHEON

TO BENEFIT THE PLATTSMOUTH ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014

LUNCH AT 12:30 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 11 AM)
PLATTSMOUTH STATE BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
\$10.00 PER PERSON



DECORATE A TABLE FOR 8 WITH YOUR FAVORITE STYLE AND COMPETE FOR THE GRAND PRIZE
OR
COME AS YOU ARE, TO ENJOY LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

RETURN THIS RSVP FORM ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 2014

PLEASE RESERVE A TABLE FOR 8 _____
(NAME AND PHONE NUMBER)

WE PLAN TO DECORATE A TABLE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE:

(CIRCLE ONE) YES NO

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____

TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED _____ (\$10.00 PER PERSON)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PLATTSMOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SEND RESERVATIONS TO: PLATTSMOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 283
PLATTSMOUTH, NE 68048

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

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Become an Alumni Association Member TODAY!

_____ Enclosed is my **annual membership fee of \$10.00 per person** for the Plattsmouth Alumni Association.

_____ Enclosed is my **LIFETIME Membership fee of \$150.00 per person**.

_____ Please add me to the e-newsletter list (include e-mail address on line below)

Name (maiden name) _____ Graduation Year _____

Name (maiden name) _____ Graduation Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

In addition to my annual membership, I would like to make a donation in the amount of: _____

Place my donation in the _____ General Fund _____ Scholarship Fund.

Total Enclosed \$ _____