
NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

RETIRED TEACHERS

Vol. 68 – April 30, 2025

Retiree Class of 2025

The following are the JT staff members who will join us in our life of retirement at the end of this school year:

Karen Campolattara, 29 years, West Campus
Mark Chambers, 18 years, Central Campus
Ronald Fonck, 29 years, West Campus
Alexandria Fotopoulos, 10 years, Pathways
Tim Grygiel, 23 years, Central Campus
Rochelle Heavener, 19 years, Central Campus
Philip Jayko, 19 years, Central Campus
Gregory Peterson, 19 years, West Campus
Kelli Setina, 29 years, West Campus
Brian Shaw, 18 years, District
Wendy Weith, 31 years, Central Campus
Jo Wooten, 29 years, Pathways

It is interesting to me that none of these staff members were working at JT when I retired thirty-two years ago.

JTHS Retirement Celebration

May 14, 2025

5:00-6:00 Social Hour 6:00 Program

Jacob Henry Mansion Estate

15 South Richards Street

Joliet, IL 60433

In Memoriam

Harold A. Miller (August 6, 1932-March 18, 2025)

Harold was born and raised in Greenwood, Wisconsin and attended Wisconsin State College at Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He served two years in the army before earning his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees. Harold came to JTHS in 1957, serving as teacher, dean of students, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent until his retirement in 1993.

Harold and his wife, Nancy, traveled extensively, visiting over 80 nations and all five continents.

Harold is survived by his wife of 67 years, daughters Nancy and Pamela, sons Harlan and Gary. Also surviving are five grandchildren.

Harold received numerous awards both in the army and his community. He is recognized in the Hall of Fame of the United States Army Field Artillery Officers. He served on the boards of the Joliet Crime Stoppers and the Joliet Police Pension Board.

Ralph Christison (1930-2025)

Ralph was born in Winchester, IL. He graduated from Illinois College before serving in the air force and returning to get his Master's Degree from the University of Illinois. Ralph taught math at JTHS starting in 1961 and was the head of the math department when Joliet East opened in 1964. After teaching, Ralph had a long career in mathematics, analysis, and data processing for the government. Ralph passed away in Peru, IL at the age of 94.

Bob O'Reilly (Passed away 1/20/2025)

Para-professional for numerous years at JT West.

JTHS Web Page Update

For those readers of the Retired Teachers and Staff Newsletter on line here's the new location on the JTHS web page:

www.JTHS.org

About

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Retired Teachers Reunion

The possible reunion at Al's Steakhouse on May 25, 2025 will not take place due to lack of interest. Four people contacted me about coming. Through the years the attendance has been fewer and fewer each time we had a reunion. Many of our contemporaries have passed away. Retirees of the last 15-20 years have never really shown an interest in such a reunion.

Last issue of newsletter

For 23 years, I have been co-editor of the retired teachers' newsletter. When I retired 35 years ago, I knew I was going to miss the teachers and staff whom I saw every day. In 2002 I published a newsletter, hoping to find news of what my fellow retirees were doing and where they were currently living. After two issues, Dean Sayles became co-editor. Dean had computer technology, which I don't have, making the newsletter look nice and he even added pictures. He also sought out content both about JT and about the retirees.

I'm just not able to do that. I'm sure you are even thinking that this issue was not worth the postage.

So I'm calling it quits. I wish you all good health and much happiness in your continued retirement. God bless you all.

News

JTHS Foundation News of Interest to Retired Teachers and Staff

On March 9, 2025, the JTHS Foundation held its 19th Annual Trivia Afternoon. This year's subject was "A Trip to the Movies" and was a great success.

The trivia event brings in money for the scholarships for JT students, for grants for teachers and students and for the principals' emergency funds.

The 24th annual golf outing will be at Inwood Park on Thursday, June 5, 2025 with a morning start. Please visit the web site to enter a golf foursome or to be a sponsor. Or you can call one of the chairs who are Dr. Long, A. J. Galli, Amy Sanchez and John Randich.

Board members include Mark Turk, president, Amy Sanchez, vice-president, Nancy Bartel, secretary and George Gulas, treasurer. Other board members include Jeff Barnes, Kyla Fris, A.J. Galli III, Mary Gaydos, Sam Gersman, Dr. Karla Guseman, Shad Hallihan, Alice Henderson, Katie Hunt, Mark Kroll, Dr. John Long, Diane McDonald, Dr. Michael Merritt, Tecara Parker, Aleta Pavlica, John Randich, Michael Trizna and Bruce Wright.

There will not be another issue of the newsletter. Past issues are available on the JTHS web site listed under "Retired Teachers Newsletter"

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