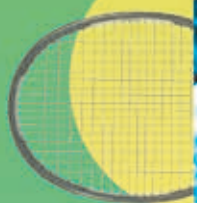


# OIAAAA

OHIO INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION



2014 OIAAA  
Awards Banquet

# AGENDA

## THE OHIO INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION 58TH ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS

AWARDS LUNCHEON  
PRESENTED BY



MASTER OF CEREMONIES: *Jeff Kurtz*

- **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS** *Bruce Brown, CMAA, CIC  
Executive Director, OIAAA*
- **INVOCATION** *Ralph Young (Delaware Hayes HS, ret.)  
Past Treasurer, OIAAA*
- **LUNCHEON**
- **OIAAA RECOGNITIONS** *Tim Erickson, CAA (Ottawa Hills MS/HS)  
President, OIAAA*
  - Athletic Directors of the Year:*
    - Dave Ball, Willard HS *Northwest District*
    - Thomas R. Barone, CAA, Avon Lake HS *Northeast District*
    - Dave Bauer, Monroe HS *Southwest District*
    - Tom Donnelly, CAA, Walnut HS *Southwest District*
    - Lynn Gotthardt, CAA, Kenston HS *Northeast District*
    - Mickey Keck, Sandy Valley HS *East District*
    - Kevin Leigh, Padua Franciscan HS *Northeast District*
    - Chad Little, CAA, Bloom-Carroll HS *Central District*
    - Ben Paul, Monroeville HS *Northwest District*
    - Phillip J. Poggi, CAA, Kings Local School District *Southwest District*
    - Charles Robinson, Jr., CAA, Athens HS *Southeast District*
    - Jay Wolfe, Olentangy HS *Central District*
  - Hall of Fame Inductees*
    - Rick Blust, Indian Lake HS *Southwest District*
    - Tom Bryan, Hawken/Gilmour *Northeast District*
    - Art Bucci, RAA, Fremont Ross HS *Northwest District*
    - Mike Ferguson, CAA, Whitehall HS *Central District*
    - Mike Hoyng, Highland HS *Central District*
    - Mark Hughes, CAA, Oakwood HS *Southwest District*
    - Jack James, South Gallia HS *Southeast District*
    - Kevin Keffer, Dover HS *East District*
    - Richard Kenney, Austintown Fitch HS *Northeast District*
    - Mike Kovach, CAA, West Branch HS *Northeast District*
    - Jim Offenbaker, Lima Senior HS *Northwest District*
    - Michael K. Schiering, William Henry Harrison HS *Southwest District*
  - Years of Service Awards* *15, 20, 25 and 30 Year Awards*
- **NIAAA AWARD** *Bruce Brown, CMAA, CIC  
Tim Cook, CAA Western Brown HS*
  - State Award of Merit:*
- **OIAAA SCHOLARSHIPS**
  - Marie Conley, Fairbanks HS
  - Elizabeth Frombach, Avon HS
  - Leah Leist, Western Brown HS
- **GENERAL OIAAA MEETING , COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** *Tim Erickson, CAA*
- **50/50 DRAWING**



# ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



**Dave Ball**  
Willard High School

David Ball graduated from Bellevue High School in the spring of 1977 and Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education in the spring of 1981. Throughout his college years he volunteer coached the 7th & 8th grade football and basketball teams at Immaculate Conception School in Bellevue, Ohio. In the fall of 1981 he began his teaching and coaching career at Edison High School in Milan, Ohio. Teaching Business classes and coaching freshmen football, varsity assistant boys' basketball and junior varsity baseball. In 1984, David moved to Lancaster, Ohio to teach and coach at Fisher Catholic High School. David coached varsity football, junior varsity boys' basketball and was Head Baseball Coach. After 5 years at Fisher Catholic David left the state of Ohio and moved to Wilmington, North Carolina. He taught business classes and coached varsity golf and junior varsity boys' basketball at West Columbus High School in Cerro Gordo, North Carolina. Returning to Ohio, in 1993 David was hired

as Head Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach at Western Reserve High School in Collins, Ohio. At Western Reserve David taught Business and Computer classes and was also a middle school football coach. In 1998 David took a job at Willard High School, teaching computer classes and was the varsity assistant boys' basketball coach for 9 seasons. David resigned from coaching in the spring of 2007 and earned his Master's in Athletic Administration from Western Kentucky University. In the fall of 2009 David took over as Athletic Director at Willard High School. He currently teaches computer and personal finance classes at Willard High School in addition to his duties as athletic administrator.

David has completed 5+ years as the Athletic Director at Willard High School. He will retire in November of 2014 with 30 years in education. One of his short term goals is to work with the local First Tee Program to teach sportsmanship and golf fundamentals to young golfers. David currently lives in Huron, Ohio, and his wife Ann teaches at Margaretta High School in Castalia, Ohio. His son Patrick, lives in Wilmington, North Carolina. His stepson August, his wife Katie and their three children; George, Gus and Oliver live in Huron, Ohio. His stepdaughter, Morgan also lives in Huron, Ohio.



**Thomas R. Barone, CAA**  
Avon Lake HS

Tom Barone has been the Director of Athletics and Special Projects for the Avon Lake City Schools for the past eighteen (18) years. Barone has earned both his B.A. in Physical Education with a Minor in Athletic Coaching and his M.A. in Sport Administration from Kent State University. In 2000, Barone became a Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). In conjunction with his daily duties as an Athletic Administrator, Tom has been an Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Tournament Manager for both Football and Soccer. Barone is actively involved with the Avon Lake Sports Hall of Fame, he serves as a member of Avon Lake's Parks and Recreation Commission, and he also serves as Treasurer of the Lorain County Athletic Administrators Association (LCAAA), and is a member of the Executive Committee for the Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NEOIAAA).

In addition to his local and state service, Barone also served nationally as Vice Chairman of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Credentials Committee. Tom is an instructor for the NIAAA Leadership Training Courses (LTC's) as he has successfully completed over twenty (20) LTC's. Tom has also successfully completed both the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) Fundamentals of Coaching and Coaching Principals courses and is also recognized by the NIAAA as a Certified CAA Test Administrator and by the NFHS as an Accredited Interscholastic Coach (AIC).

Tom was honored in 2007 by the Lorain County Athletic Administrators Association as their "Athletic Director of the Year". Additionally, in 2008, 2009 and 2010, Barone was chosen as the recipient of the NEOIAAA for the NIAAA State Awards of Merit and in 2010 he was recognized by the OIAAA as the their recipient of the NIAAA State Award of Merit.

Tom is married to his wife Chris. They reside in Avon Lake with their two sons Ross (16) and Ty (13) and their Doberman Pinscher "Leo".



**Dave Bauer**  
Monroe High School

Just being nominated for an award is very humbling to me. I am in my 36th, and final, year in education and athletics. I will be retiring in May due to my battle with renal cell carcinoma kidney cancer.

I attended school in the Hamilton City School district and graduated from Garfield High School in 1974. I am a proud inductee in to the Hamilton City Schools Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006. I attended Cumberland College where I played basketball graduating in 1978. I am married to my wife of 33 years, Mindy, and have a daughter, Kelcey (25), who teaches and coaches in the Milford School District and son, Jay (23), teaching and coaching in the Talawanda School District.

I attended school in the Hamilton City School district and graduated from Garfield High School in 1974. I am a proud inductee in to the Hamilton City Schools Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006. I attended Cumberland College where I played basketball graduating in 1978. I am married to my wife of 33 years, Mindy, and have a daughter, Kelcey (25), who teaches and coaches in the Milford School District and son, Jay (23), teaching and coaching in the Talawanda School District.

Fairfield has advanced to the District Finals six time in their history. I was fortunate to be a part of five of those, three as an assistant and two as the head coach. I was most proud of the Big Buddy program that I established. Our players would go in to the elementary school and spend time with youngsters one day a week. The program was awarded the WKRC, Hometown Hero Award. In 2008 I retired from Fairfield and became the Athletic Director for Monroe Local Schools. While at Monroe I have served as a tournament manager for boys and girls basketball, and have hosted many soccer tournament games and football playoff games. We will be hosting the Skyline Chili Cross Town Showdown in 2014. While at Monroe I have focused on character education and we instituted a program where the coaches spend some time during the week talking about character, values and morals to their players. I have also negotiated a \$1.25 million partnership with Premier Health Network to benefit our athletic program. I was a proud recipient of the SWODA/OIAAA Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award in 2013.

In April of 2012 I was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma kidney cancer. In October of 2012, I had my right kidney with the malignant tumor removed. Unfortunately the cancer had spread to my lungs and lymph nodes. The cancer is now inoperable and incurable. I continue taking chemo drugs twice a day to slow the growth and spread of the cancer. It has become increasingly more difficult to continue at the level that I need to be at so I will be retiring in May to continue the battle against this dreaded disease. I have been truly blessed to be able to share my life with so many great teachers, coaches, administrators and students. I am proud to be a part of the AD fraternity. In retirement I will be spending my time working with cancer patients and encouraging them to live their lives and not give up. I choose to believe that "I am living with cancer and not dying from it".

# ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



**Tom Donnelly, CAA**  
Walnut Hills High School

Tom Donnelly, in his thirteen year as an athletic director, is beginning his sixth year at Walnut Hills after seven years at Clark Montessori HS & JH. At Clark, Tom started a high school and junior high athletic program virtually from scratch and grew it to more than 40 teams in 15 sports. During his tenure he secured admission into the Miami Valley Conference, added 9 entirely new sports, including JH and HS football, and secured all of the football funding from private sources. During his tenure, Clark won multiple league championships and had the highest rate of athletic participation and senior athlete academic award winners in the Cincinnati Public School system.

During his tenure, Clark added a \$545,000 synthetic turf soccer/football/lacrosse field, a \$150,000 weight room and fitness center, new locker rooms and team rooms, an auxiliary gym in cafeteria, and batting cage and pitching machine. He renovated the existing junior high gym into a high school gym (widened, lengthened, and repainted the floor and adding new scoreboards, scorer's table, and PA system).

At Walnut Hills, with more than 2,400 students, he manages more than 90 teams in 28 sports with 90+ paid coaches serving more than 1,200 student-athletes, as well as club ice hockey, squash, crew, fencing, and rugby. Despite a 47% cut in the budget for coaches' salaries, not a single coaching position, team, or sport was lost and, in fact, coaching positions and new sports were added. Tom secured a \$5,000 grant from US Lacrosse.

In his almost six years at Walnut Hills the school has added more than 18 new sports or teams – most recently JH cheerleading, freshmen girls volleyball, JH and HS B-level boys basketball teams, boys JV soccer, and squash. This year, Tom secured comprehensive funding for a full-time, year-round athletic academic advisor to assist student athletes in achieving academic success. Tom has instituted year-round professional strength and conditioning coaches, an internship program with local universities, the "Nut House" student cheering section, an athletic hot line, an on-campus sport physical, college signing ceremonies, Facebook and Twitter pages (Twitter followship has increased by more than 300% in one year), and doubled the coaching staff for football, cross country, golf, lacrosse, and track. This year Walnut Hills has added on-line registration for all team tryouts – eliminating all paperwork except physicals (about 7,000 pages annually), providing coaches and trainers with smart phone access to EMAs, and creating a powerful email and text database. This year Tom negotiated a new partnership with Wellington Mercy Health for trainer and medical services, adding a second trainer and other support for the athletic and academic programs, as well as staff fitness and health programs.



**Lynn Gotthardt, CAA**  
Kenston High School

Serving as the Athletic Director of Kenston High School for the past 22 years, Lynn's list of contributions to her community and the Athletic Administrative Community is impressive. She began her career with a M.A. in Health and Physical Education and became a Certified Athletic Administrator through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators in 2003. Lynn is currently the Department Chair at Kenston High School for Health and Physical Education in addition to her duties as Athletic Director.

Lynn's contributions to the Athletic Administrative Community are extensive. She has been a member of the NEOIAAA Executive Committee for 20 years and is currently on the Northeast District Athletic Board where she has served on the Officials Committee, All District Conference Chairman (2013) and past President. Lynn served on the Executive Committee of OIAAA as well as presented at the NEOIAAA and the OIAAA State Conferences. She also is on the OHSAA Soccer Advisory and Diversity Committees and has been an OHSAA Tournament Director for Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling and Soccer.

In the school-year prior to Tom's coming to Walnut Hills, the school won two league championships, and in the little more than five years he has been at Walnut Hills, the school has won more than forty league championships at various levels. Prior to Tom's coming to Walnut Hills, the school had lost 36 varsity football games in a row. In Tom's first year, Walnut Hills ended that streak in the first game and in the third year three of Walnut's five football teams won league championships. In the fourth year the football team, in its first year in Division I, finished the regular season with an 8-2 record, ranked 7th in the City in the Coaches Final Poll, and made a state playoff appearance for the first time in school history. This past year the men's basketball program advanced to the Final Four in Columbus after being a 32nd seed the year before Tom started. This past year our Women's 800 Sprint Medley Relay Team were National Champions and All-Americans – the two seniors are running track in college on scholarship.

Tom runs the ECC League Tournaments for Boys and Girls Tennis and the All-League selection meeting for ECC football.

Tom is also responsible for the junior high athletic program at Walnut Hills. Most of the new teams or sports have been added at the junior high level to build capacity. During his tenure, Walnut Hills has begun offering summer youth camps to develop the skill set of pre-junior high students and introduce them to the Walnut campus, facilities, and coaching staff. Enrollment has doubled in the last two years. This past summer the Walnut high school coaching staffs conducted camps for football, boys and girls soccer, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and lacrosse. In the last two years Walnut Hills has added numerous coaching clinics and player clinics for elementary schools across the City.

In addition to his other duties, Tom has been involved in the design and planning for Walnut's new arena, natatorium, locker room complex, tennis courts, and fitness center and the renovation of the existing gym, locker rooms, and coaching complex. The most recent project is work on a second turf game field on campus for football, soccer, and lacrosse. That complex will include a year-round, in-door training facility with batting cages. Tom is also working with the Red's Community Fund and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission in the building of the Red's \$7 million Urban Baseball Academy at the Roselawn baseball complex.

Tom was a presenter at the 2008 SWOADA Mini-Conference, an officer in the old Southwest Ohio Public League, and organized and spoke at a number of seminars on playing sports in college. Every other spring he hosted a free seminar on "Playing Sports in College on Scholarship" for the tri-state area, flying in a national authority on the subject, and has also held a seminar for his coaching staff on the college recruiting process.

While at Kenston Lynn developed a Captain's Council and Sportsmanship Committee to encourage and enhance the basic concepts of athletics to teach lifelong values through athletic participation. As a result, Kenston has received the Harold Meyer Sportsmanship Award for the past 10 years. In addition, she has played a major role in adding to Kenston's Athletic program the sports of Hockey, Swimming, Ladies Golf, Lacrosse and Bowling. Believing strongly that academics and athletics cannot be separated, Lynn also organized an award system that recognizes those teams and individuals with the highest overall grade point average for the season. Additionally, she instituted Kenston's annual "Bomber Games" where students from each class, not just athletes, compete in several organized sports for spirit recognition during the week of Homecoming.

In 2005, Lynn received the NEOIAAA Distinguished Service Award-Inside the Field of Athletics. Additionally, she was honored by the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 2006 as one of the top ten Athletic Directors in the Northeast Ohio area. In 2008, Lynn was the recipient of the OIAAA Citation of Merit and in 2011 the NEOIAAA State Award of Merit.

Lynn and her husband Claude reside in the Kenston School District. They have two adult children; Krista of Brecksville, Oh. and Scott of St. Louis, Mo. and two really cute pugs named Jojo and Bogey.



# ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



**Mickey Keck**  
Sandy Valley  
High School

For the past 35 years Mickey Keck has been a respected teacher, coach, athletic director, and community member in the Sandy Valley School District. He has dedicated his entire educational career to the community, students and athletes of Sandy Valley. He is retiring at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Mickey holds a Bachelor of Arts from Muskingum University and a Masters from Ashland University. He taught 17 years of 7th grade Ohio History, 13 years of 8th grade American History, and has been

the Athletic Director for the past 5 years. He has coached football, basketball, baseball, and softball at various levels. Throughout his career he did serve as the Head Football coach for 8 years while earning Senate League Coach of the Year honors in 1985. He served 3 years as the Head Baseball Coach.

He recently was named a Stark County Person of Character in the fall and the OHSAA State award for exemplary contribution and service to his school. He was also named the Eastern District Athletic Director of the Year this past spring.

Mickey lives in Magnolia with his wife Gaye of 37 years. They have 2 children, Katie and Chris; and 2 grandchildren, Josh and Rachel.



**Kevin Leigh**  
Padua Franciscan  
High School

Kevin Leigh is completing his 20th year at Padua Franciscan High School where he has worked in the Athletic Department for the past 16 years, with 9 years as the Athletic Director. Kevin began his career with a B.A. in teaching mathematics as well as a Business minor from John Carroll University. He also received his master's degree in Educational Administration from Ursuline College. He was also Head Varsity Soccer coach at Padua where he had over 100 career wins and 6 league titles.

Kevin is an active member in the NEOIAAA, serving on the executive committee and overseeing the vendor portion of the conference.

Kevin has also been active in the North Coast League, where he has been tournament manager for a variety of sports, organized league schedules, reviewed and updated league procedures. He has also been a tournament manager for OHSAA softball, CIT wrestling tournament and league hockey tournament. In the past few years, Kevin has also been involved on committees at the OHSAA. He was a member of the off-season training committee and has recently been a member of the competitive balance committee.

During his tenure at Padua, Kevin has been involved in facility improvement projects, including the renovation of the school's gymnasium, as well as the introduction of new sports and state titles in hockey and volleyball.

Kevin is the son of Kevin and Paula Leigh. He is married to Pamela and they reside in Strongsville with their three children, Kevin, Abigail and Amanda.



**Chad Little, CAA**  
Bloom-Carroll  
High School

Chad began his career in athletic administration at Newcomerstown High School in 2002. He served as athletic director there for 4 years, while also acting as high school assistant principal for 3 of those years.

During that time span he also served as the boys varsity basketball coach. In 2006, he was hired at Bloom-Carroll High School as athletic director and has served in that role for the past 8 years. During

his tenure at B-C, he has also served 3 years as middle school assistant principal and 7 years as the varsity girls basketball coach. He has earned multiple awards during his coaching career including Central District Division III and District 11 Coach of the Year in 2011. He currently serves as a member of the COIAAA Executive Board and the Central District Athletic Board.

Chad was married this past summer and his wife, Miranda, is self-employed at the Ireland Spa.



**Ben Paul**  
Monroeville  
High School

Ben Paul is a graduate of Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, WA, The University of California at Irvine and earned his masters in school administration at Ashland University. He began his teaching career at Monroeville High School in 1996. Since then Ben has been both a classroom teacher and athletic director. He teaches American Government and a dual enrollment American History class through Oberlin College. During his 19 years as the head of the athletic department the number of offerings for athletes has increased. Ben has spearheaded upgrades in the district athletic facilities. Working closely with alumni and community groups the athletic department was able to build a field house and new softball and baseball fields. Currently Ben is

Besides guiding and overseeing athletics at Monroeville, Ben has worked hard to create an athletic department that emphasizes and recognizes the character building aspects of athletics. He helped establish the school's Community Hall of Fame, designed to recognize those individuals who were not only great athletes but great individuals who gave back to their community and others. Additionally, with student safety a growing point of concern, Ben developed an emergency after school crisis plan for athletes and coaches and worked with local law enforcement to have all coaches trained on how to handle those situations. Ben has also been instrumental in pushing the agenda of sportsmanship to the front of the Firelands Conference. He collaborated with his fellow athletic directors in the conference to add a policy governing their fans and spectators behaviors and holding them accountable for the same. In 2013 Ben was honored by the NW-OIAAA with the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award.

Ben and his wife Rachal have a 2 year old daughter Myra. In his rare moments of spare time Ben helps to run his fifth generation family farm, where they raise Rocky Mountain elk in Wellington.

involved in a project to bring a new gymnasium to the district. Monroeville High School is a member of the Firelands Conference and has won many conference championships. Monroeville claimed state championships in Class A Boys Basketball in 1984 and Division III Wrestling in 2010. (Additionally MHS produced Ohio's only 4 four time state champs in Wrestling.)

# ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



**Phillip J. Poggi, CAA**  
Kings Local School District

Phil is in his 10th year of education and 9th overall in athletic administration. He is a graduate of Kings High School where he was a four sport athlete. After earning his Bachelor's of Science in Health and Sports Studies from Miami University in 1998, Phil returned to Kings, first as the Assistant Athletic Director for Junior High then as the Associate Director of Athletics until 2002. He also held coaching positions as Junior High Basketball Coach, High School Varsity Assistant Basketball and Football Coach over that same time span.

In the summer of 2002, Phil left education to help launch both the Anthony Munoz Foundation and ProCamp Worldwide but continued to serve as both a Junior High Basketball Coach and then Junior Varsity Basketball Coach at Kings. Before returning to secondary education, Phil spent one year working for the Marvin Lewis Community Fund (MLCF), the Cincinnati Bengals Head Coaches local nonprofit organization. While with MLCF, Phil orchestrated the launch of the "Learning is Cool" program, an educational incentive program that rewards students for strong academic performance in Cincinnati Public Schools.

In 2009, Phil was named Athletic Director/Student Activity Coordinator at Aiken High School in the Cincinnati Public School District. In two short years, Phil was able to re-establish both the Marching Band program and Varsity Wrestling program while increasing after school activities for all students from 7 the previous year, to 25 total clubs at the end of year one. Phil also worked with district architects on the design and development of the new athletic facilities for Aiken High School, which opened in the fall of 2013 while also working with the NCAA Clearinghouse to establish academic eligibility certification for the Falcons. He was also instrumental in establishing the Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference league website to help promote Aiken and the other six conference schools.



**Charles V. Robinson, Jr., CAA**  
Athens High School

Chuck Robinson is the current athletic director at Athens High School in The Plains, Ohio. Chuck is a graduate of Federal Hocking High School in Stewart, Ohio where he earned 11 varsity letters. During that time he was named All-State in 3 separate sports. After his high school career Chuck continued his educational and athletic career at Marietta College playing basketball for Phil Roach and baseball for Don Schaly. While attending Marietta College Chuck earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in Education and received 7 varsity letters. He was voted as the top senior athlete earning the Way-Weigelt Award upon graduation. Chuck was named to the OAC (Ohio Athletic Conference) all-conference team in basketball his junior year and in both baseball and basketball his senior year finishing 12th on the Marietta College All time leading scorer list.

During his senior year he captained the Basketball team to their first OAC regular season Championship since 1954-55. That same year Marietta College finished 2nd in the NCAA Division II-III Baseball Tournament. Chuck was inducted into the initial Hall of Fame at Federal Hocking High School and into Marietta College Hall of Fame. After college Chuck signed as a free agent with the Pittsburgh Pirates Organization playing in Rookie League in Bradenton Florida then going to Single -A in Charleston, South Carolina.



**Jay Wolfe**  
Olentangy High School

Jay is a 1982 graduate of Ironton High School where he participated in 5 sports his senior year. He continued his education at Ohio University where he received his bachelor's in '86 and Masters in 1990. As an undergraduate he assisted in the athletic department with OHSAA tournament events and served as team manager for the Men's basketball team.

He began his coaching career at Ohio University in fall of '86 as a graduate assistant basketball coach. He earned a full time position at Capital University in 1988. For 4 years, he served as the Fall Sports Game Manager as well as assistant men's basketball coach. In the early 90's Jay coached basketball full-time at Kent State under Dave Grube. In 1996, Jay left intercollegiate athletics and became the Head Basketball Coach and Athletic Director at Watkins Memorial High School. He maintained this dual role for 3 years.

In July of 1999, Jay became the athletic director at Olentangy High School. While at OHS, Jay has witnessed a dramatic explosion in student population from approximately 5,000 students in the district in 1999 to over 20,000 in fall of 2014. In 1999, there were 6 buildings (1 high school) in the Olentangy Local district. Today there are 23 buildings; 3 high schools, 5 middle schools and 15 elementary schools in OLSD. He was instrumental in many early phases of the two other high schools in the district (Liberty-'03 and Orange-'08). This included scheduling, facility planning and development and hiring AD's for both schools.

Phil was named Athletic Director (7-12) for the Kings Local School District in June 2011, returning home after 9 years. During his first year, Phil facilitated the construction and installation of a new Wrestling Room as well as the approval for installation of a Steeplechase Pit. Additionally, he successfully added additional supplemental coaching positions, previously cut in 2002, while also launching a new user friendly athletic department website and scheduling software system. Over the past two years, he has spearheaded projects that included the overhaul of the Tennis courts and the building of 2 additional playing fields for both baseball and softball. In August 2012, Phil brought national attention to the Kings Local School District and community as Kings Stadium hosted two high school football games featured as part of the annual ESPNHS Kickoff Classic presented by Gatorade. He was named the 2011-12 SWOADA Horizon Award winner and the 2012-13 OIAAA Meritorious Service Award winner, voted on by his peers. Phil also worked closely with the Kings Athletic Booster Club to produce their largest donation to date to the District in the amount of \$105,000.

For the past three years Phil has served as an OHSAA Tournament Manager. He has managed boys and girls' soccer, girls' basketball, baseball, and softball sectional tournaments; along with boys and girls soccer, baseball and softball district tournaments. He has also served as an OHSAA Regional Tournament Manager for football, and boys and girls soccer and State Semi-Finals Tournament Manager for Girls Lacrosse. In 2012, he served as Co-Chair of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) annual state conference where he teamed with other Southwest Ohio AD's to help facilitate the "move" to the new conference home, the Columbus Hilton at Easton, while also revamping the conference agenda to include additional breakout sessions and Leadership Training Courses. In 2013 he was chosen as the OIAAA Vendor Chair and non-voting member of the OIAAA state board and oversaw the Vendor show at the 2013 OIAAA state conference. He was also chosen by the NIAAA to serve as a break-out speaker at the 2013 NIAAA National Athletic Directors conference in Anaheim, California where he teamed with Scott Reh, from New York to present on the topic of "Curbing Sports Specialization", while also representing Ohio as an NIAAA voting delegate at the conference.

Phil resides in Maineville with his wife, Danielle and two children: Grace (9 years old) and Grant 3 years old).

Chuck began his teaching career at Mayfield City Schools teaching elementary Physical Education at Mayfield Road School and Gates Mills Elementary. He was then given a chance to return to Southeast Ohio where he was the Head Baseball Coach, JV Basketball and Freshman Football Coach at Morgan High School for 4 years before returning to Federal Hocking High School. From Federal Hocking he took the position of Assistant Basketball Coach at Marietta College under his Coach Phil Roach. After 3 years as a basketball assistant he worked for State Farm insurance Agency and Peoples Bank before returning to teaching. He restarted his teaching at St. Mary's Elementary in Marietta Ohio then took a position at Bishop Hartley High School in Columbus, Ohio, teaching Algebra I, Physical Education and assisting in baseball.

Chuck took the position as elementary Principal at St. Rose Elementary in New Lexington, Ohio before taking a position at Zanesville High School teaching SBH. During those 4 years he coached baseball at Bishop Rosecrans High School they won 3 sectional title losing district games to either the eventual state champion or runner up. Chuck was offered the Head basketball position at Athens High School by Mike Meek and then took over the role as Athletic Director while finishing his Masters' Degree in Athletic Administration from Ohio University.

Chuck currently lives in Vincent, Ohio with his wife Karen. They have 2 children Chip, an Ohio State Highway Patrolman, and Kara, an intervention specialist, at Belpre High School. Chuck also has 3 grand children Devon, Noah and Lyndsey.

With this increased student population, the need to development and improve the athletic venues at OHS was imperative. In 2002, a new 5,500 seat stadium was built. Changes within the main gymnasium, weight room a wrestling room occurred shortly after. With these changes, the athletic department was able to establish indoor year-round batting areas for baseball and softball. In late fall of 2013, Jay and the boosters finished the installment of turf in the stadium. Since 1999, OHS has added numerous sport opportunities for the building's 800+ individual athletes. Those include Field Hockey (1999), Bowling and Ice Hockey in 2007, Girl's Golf (2010) and Boys Volleyball in 2000 & 2013. Jay also developed a comprehensive AD handbook for current and future AD's in the school district in 2011.

Olentangy High School has been the venue for many league, district and regional tournaments. They range from a district track meet, regional and state semi-final football playoff games and a regional final girls' basketball contest. In spring of 2013, a Final Four in Boys Lacrosse was conducted at OHS as well.

Administratively, Jay has served on many Ohio Capital Conference committees throughout his 19 years at Watkins and Olentangy. In 2003, Jay was recognized by the Central District Officials Association as Athletic Director of the Year. He was elected as the AAA rep to the Central District Athletic Board from 2006-12. While on the CDAB, he served as the president of the board during the 2009-2010 school year and spearheaded the current basketball and volleyball tournament format where better seeds play at home during sectional play. He was named to serve on the OHSAA Board of Directors for 2008-09. Jay is now currently serving as the President of the COIAAA.

Jay is a district resident and resides in Galena. He has two daughters. Madison is a junior at Miami University (Oxford) and Carly is a junior at Olentangy High School. His parents still reside in Ironton, Ohio. He is engaged to Kelly Egan of Worthington.



# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**Rick Blust**  
Indian Lake  
High School

Rick began his career in education at Oak Hill High School. During his eight year stint at Oak Hill, he taught Drivers Education, Physical Education and Health. His coaching experiences included a year as the Head Football Coach, as well as time as the head coach for the Baseball and Track teams. At the middle school he also coached basketball.

His next teaching/coaching position was at Ada where he was the Head Football Coach and taught OWA for the next four years. After Ada, Rick accepted the Head Football Coach at Waynesfield-Goshen High School and taught OWA. In 1996 he became the athletic director at the school.

In 1998 Rick became the Athletic Administrator at Indian Lake High School. During his tenure he was instrumental in moving the school into its current athletic conference--the Central Buckeye Conference; oversaw the development, planning and construction of the new football/soccer stadium as well as the addition of an all-weather track two years later. During his last four years at Indian Lake, he served on the Executive Board of the Southwest Ohio Athletic Directors Association (SWOADA). In 2013 Rick retired from education.

Rick is a member of NIAAA, OIAAA and SWOADA. SWOADA inducted him into their Hall of Fame in 2014. Currently he is the Ohio representative for the athletic scheduling company- 8 to 18/Athletics 2000.



**Tom Bryan**  
Hawken School &  
Gilmour Academy

Tom Bryan has compiled an impressive resume as an athletic administrator, which includes nearly five decades of service in a profession in which the career expectancy is only an average of three years. What's even more remarkable is that his 48-year career was completed at just two schools, including Hawken School and Gilmour Academy. Upon retirement, he received the Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NEOIAAA) and the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) Hall of Fame Award in 2013 in recognition of his contributions to athletics.

Bryan's longstanding career is characterized through the connections he made with student-athletes, coaches and fellow administrators in which he still

has contact with today. While an administrator, he worked tirelessly to identify, hire and support excellent coaches who fulfilled his personal mission to give student-athletes the ability to be mentored by the best coaches available.

Bryan began his career in 1963 as the Hawken Middle School Athletic Director. At that time, he was also the school's head football, basketball and baseball coach, while serving as a counselor for their Summer Day Camp. In 1970, he was named athletic director of the Upper School, in addition to taking over as Summer Day Camp Director and the varsity boys basketball head coach. During his coaching career, the Hawks earned more than 300 victories and made two trips to the regional finals. Bryan was named Plain Dealer Coach of the Year and Greater Cleveland Coach of the Year, on several occasions. In his directorship of the Hawken Summer Camp, he grew the program from a modest enrollment of 50 boys to a membership of more than 600 with the inclusion

of preschool-aged children as well as female students. He was responsible for hiring 100-plus counselors, which helped make the camp one of the most well respected in the Cleveland area.

In the final 10 years of his career, Bryan served as the athletic director of Gilmour Academy where he was instrumental not only in building a solid athletic program, but also in developing the school's multi-million dollar Athletic Center, which opened in December 2009.

Besides athletic administration, another passion in Bryan's life was football officiating. For more than 20 years, he never missed a Friday night assignment. He advanced through the ranks of collegiate officiating, working for several different conferences and culminating with a 15-year stint in the Big Ten. He had a number of major bowl assignments, including a Sugar Bowl National Championship game. Bryan even made the cover of Sports Illustrated the week after Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart threw the infamous 64-yard Hail Mary pass to beat Michigan on September 24, 1994. Additionally, Bryan spent 10 years in the professional Arena One Football Indoor League. After retiring from officiating, he went on to become the supervisor of officials for indoor leagues and mentored many present day NFL officials. He also served as the Cleveland Browns official game clock operator for 15 years and became a member of the Cleveland Football Officials Hall of Fame. Bryan was awarded the prestigious Bobby Brown Officials Award by the Cleveland Touchdown Club.

Bryan is a lifelong Ohio resident, having graduated from East Liverpool High School before earning a bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace College and a master's degree from Kent State University. He and his wife, Dorothy, have been married for more than 50 years. They have two sons, Brad (wife Diane and daughter Maddy) and Ted (wife Lisa and sons Cooper and Finn). Bryan presently spends the winter months in Cape Coral, Fla.



**Art Bucci, RAA**  
Fremont Ross High School

Art Bucci has served Fremont Ross High School for 39 years as a teacher, coach and athletic director. Throughout Mr. Bucci's career he founded the Fremont Area Foundation in 1996, received the Harold Meyer Sportsmanship award in 2010, assisted in the development of the Three Rivers Athletic Conference; helped create 7 new classrooms to bring the 9th grade classes to the high school, built a new football stadium, completed two new

baseball and softball diamonds along with new tennis courts, multiple practice fields, new wrestling room, training room as he negotiated 12 million dollars with private donations to make this happen. He has been honored in the Hall of Fame at Fremont Ross High School as well as being named at Northwest Ohio athletic administrator of the year in 2006, Ohio swimming coaches association coach of the year from 1975-1980. In 2006 he was inducted into the Swimming coaches hall of Fame.

Art and his wife Lisa have been married for 41 years. Both his son and daughter work in education. Art is the proud grandfather of four grandchildren.

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**Mike Ferguson, CAA  
Whitehall-Yearling  
High School**

Mike has served as the Athletic Administrator at Licking Heights High School and the last 13 years at Whitehall-Yearling High School. He received the OIAAA and COIAAA Athletic Administrator of the Year in 2008, the OIAAA/COIAAA Citation Award in 2010 and the OIAAA/COIAAA Meritorious Service Award in 2011.

Mike has been a member of the NIAAA, OIAAA and the Central District Interscholastic Athletic Administrators since 2001 and has been a member



**Mike Hoyng  
Highland High School**

Mike Hoyng is starting his 30th year at Highland High School and his 27th year as Athletic Director. He has been in education for 36 years. He graduated from Fostoria St. Wendelin in 1967, where lettered in football, basketball, and track; earning all-league honors in both football and basketball. Mike graduated from Bowling Green State University with a B.S. in Health and Physical Education and Distributive Education in 1971. He received his Master's degree in Athletic Administration from Ashland University in 1986 and a Master's in School Administration in 1992 from Ashland.

Mike's teaching career began in 1972 at Celina I.C. where he was K-8 health and physical education teacher and boys 7-8 basketball coach. He left in 1975 for Highland H.S. as the OWA coordinator and assisted in varsity football and basketball. During that span Highland won their first ever league and district championships in basketball. He left teaching in 1978 for business opportunities. Mike came back to education in 1984 at Ashland H.S. as a OWA coordinator and assistant varsity basketball coach. In 1986 he returned to Highland H.S. as OWA coordinator and head basketball coach. Mike became assistant principal and athletic director three years later, where he has remained until this year. He is now athletic administrator and assistant to the superintendent.

As head basketball coach, Mike served the school for 28 years compiling a 358-260 record. His teams won 11 conference titles, 13 district appearances (6 champions and 5 runner-ups), 6 regional appearances (3 champions and 1 runner-up), 3 final fours winning a State Championship in 1998. Highland teams were ranked in the top 15 in the state 7 times and ranked number 1 in the Central District 4 times. His highlight would be that he shared the state championship with his 2 sons, senior JT who was the MVP of the tournament and All Ohio Player of the Year that season; and Seth who made the all tournament team as a sophomore and the next two years named All Ohio in basketball and also as a senior an All State high jumper.

As the athletic administrator for the last 26 years, he has had the opportunity to overall the entire athletic complex including the building of a new high school. In 1990



**Mark Hughes, CAA  
Oakwood High School**

Mark is a 1978 graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School and a 1982 graduate of Miami University. He began his teaching and coaching career at Willard High School where he taught Business courses and coached baseball and golf. In 1985 he returned to Gahanna Lincoln High School as a Business teacher, Varsity Softball Coach, and Assistant Athletic Director. In 1990 he became the Athletic Administrator at Gahanna Lincoln and served in that position for 5 years. In 1995 he became the Director of Athletics and Student Activities at Oakwood High

of the COIAAA executive committee since 2003. He has served the COIAAA as president for 3 years and the Central District representative to the OIAAA executive committee for 5 years. Mike is currently serving as president of the Mid-State League and site manager to sectional and district tournaments.

Mike is a graduate of Whitehall-Yearling High School, earned his under graduate degree from The Ohio State University, a graduate degree from Ashland University and his CAA certification. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Gahanna and have a daughter, Kelly, a graduate of The Ohio State University and currently teaching in the Westerville City Schools District.

Highland built it first out building, which would serve as a weight room, locker room, and wrestling room (currently has just become a wrestling room and locker room). In 1996, we completely redid the baseball and softball complex - new fields (grass infield for baseball), fencing, hitting cages, and new dugouts. The year 2000 we added another outside building, which now is our major weight room, football locker room, and inside batting cages. In 2010 the new high school was built, which provided the opportunity to work with the architects and the new gym which showcased a wrap-around seating. This past summer the complex was completed with new visitors and home football bleachers. Along with these accomplishments, Mike has maintained the financial picture of never being in the red and no participation fee for it's athletes. He has rewritten the handbook several times over his career to reflect current best practice and changing needs. He continues to develop coaches at all levels, and ensures they are up-to-date with certification, coaching procedures, and education in their fields. Mike believes one of his best accomplishments to be that of longevity in the same position and school.

Mike believes that athletics is an important part of the overall development of the student. He stresses competing at a high level, being a positive role model (good sportsmanship), playing within the rules, and maintaining high standards in academics. Mike wants all students who participate to have a great experience but to understand the values gained through athletics may never be fully realized until later in life. All of his accomplishments were realized through a great family, supportive administrators, outstanding coaches and student/athletes, and school and community organizations.

Some of the honors received during his tenure - 2003 & 2013 Central District A.D. of the year, Mt. Vernon coach of the year five times, District 11 coach of the year 4 times, Central District coach of the year four times, A.D. of the year Delaware Officials Association, and North/South coach in 2010. He is active member in COIAAA as secretary of executive committee, OIAAA/NIAAA member, CDBCA, OHSBCA, and NBCA member. He belongs to and attends St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church and is a K of C member. He has been involved with the United Way, American Red Cross, and Cancer Society of Morrow County. Mike has been married for 39 years to his wife Carla. He has two sons J.T. and Seth, daughter-in-law Amy and two young grandsons Nolan and Rylan.

School where he served for 18 years. Mark retired from Oakwood in 2013. Mark became a Certified Athletic Administrator in 1994. He is a member of the SWOADA, OIAAA, and NIAAA and has attended 16 National Conferences. Mark was elected to the Southwest District Athletic Board in December of 2006 and reelected in the spring of 2008. During the 2008-09 school year he served as the SWDAB President. He served a two year term on the OHSAA Board of Directors during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

Mark and his wife, Betty, reside in Oakwood and have two children, Maya (a graduate of The Ohio State University and working for the L'Oreal Corporation, and Mason (a senior at The Ohio State University)



# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**Jack James**  
South Galia  
High School

For the past 35 years Jack James has been a teacher, coach, and athletic director in the Gallia County Local Schools. He has dedicated his entire educational career to the community, students, and athletes of Gallia County Local Schools. He is retiring at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Jack holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wilmington College. He has taught 35 years of Business Education

and has been the Athletic Director for 17 years. He has coached football, baseball, basketball, track, and golf at various levels. During his career he has spent 19 years as Head Football coach at Southwestern, River Valley, and South Gallia. He was Head Baseball coach for 19 years at Southwestern, North Gallia, River Valley, and South Gallia. He currently serves as Assistant Football coach and Boys Track coach at South Gallia.

Jack lives in Patriot, Ohio with his wife Beth of 30 years. They have one son Craig.



**Kevin Keffer**  
Dover High School

Kevin Keffer is a graduate of Claymont High School and Akron University with a BA in History Education. Kevin earned his Master's Degree in Education at Ashland University. He started his teaching and coaching career at Tuscarawas Central Catholic, but soon returned to his alma mater of Claymont High School to teach his favorite subject of history and coach football and basketball. Kevin then accepted a teaching and coaching job with Perry High School. In 1989 Kevin made his first move to Dover High School as O.W.A. Coordinator and history teacher, along with coaching football and basketball.

of a new press box, concession stands, turf, scoreboard, upgraded sound system, and refinishing of the track.

Presently, Kevin is working on improvements to the soccer field by installing permanent seating, a new scoreboard, and upgraded sound system. These are just a few of the improvements coordinated by Kevin as he works with the Board of Education, booster clubs, local businesses, and numerous volunteers.

Kevin has also served as an OHSAA tournament manager in football, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball. He has served on the EIOAAA as secretary, vice president, president, and other numerous committees, including the OHSAA Committee on Out of Season Participation. He was named East District Athletic Administrator of the Year in 2005.

In 1993, Mr. Keffer took on the responsibility of Athletic Director at Dover. He continued in this role for 4 years, during which time Dover sports excelled. Missing the classroom, Kevin returned to teaching for a short time to teach history. In 2000, Kevin became the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Garaway High School. After just 5 years, Kevin returned to Dover as the Athletic Director. Over the last nine years, Kevin has facilitated many changes in the Dover Athletic Department. Kevin was instrumental in starting the girls' golf team and has overseen the renovation of Crater Stadium, with the insulation

Kevin has been an athletic director for a total of 18 years. He has also coached football for 24 years, basketball for 20 years, baseball for 3 years, and track for 1 year.

Kevin and his wife Pat have been married thirty-seven years and have three children: Coast Guard LCDR Ben Keffer, Anne Keffer, Navy ENS Ella Keffer and two grandchildren, Ross and Reagan.



**Richard A. Kenney**  
Austintown High School

Dick is a 1971 graduate of Austintown-Fitch High School. A highlight of his high school athletic career was being selected to the All Steel Valley Conference Football 1st Team as a Middle Guard. He then went on to attend Kent State University and received his Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Mathematics. Upon graduation in 1975, he accepted his first teaching and coaching job at Heskett Junior High School in the Bedford Local School District. After one year, he returned to Austintown for the next 29 years. There he remained until retirement

budgeting, equipment purchasing, ticket manager, event coordinator, site preparation, and many more. Dick is proud of Austintown's reputation in hosting athletic events. Dick managed Sectional Wrestling, Girls Sectional/District Basketball, District Boys and Girls Track & Field, Regional and State Semifinal Football Tournament Games, as well as being the site manager for Regional Boys and Girls Track & Field. In addition, each season was highlighted by invitationals like the Josh Hephner Memorial Wrestling Tournament and The Optimist Track & Field Meet. Dick would like to be remembered as a "hands-on", dependable and energetic athletic director with reasonable organizational skills, who always had the best interests of all student-athletes as his top priority.

in 2005. While at Fitch, Dick started his career as a Mathematics Teacher and Football & Wrestling Coach for 9 years. He then served as a Mathematics Teacher and Assistant Athletic Director for 4 years. In 1989 he became the Austintown Local School District's Athletic Director for the next 16 years. During his 30 years of service, Dick also continued his education and received two Masters degrees: Master Teacher- Mathematics (YSU), and Sport Administration (KSU).

Since retirement, Dick has worked as a Motorcycle Bike Night Parking Coordinator for Quaker Steak & Lube, Event Security at the Covelli Centre in Youngstown, and a Stand-in I Stunt Double in a movie. A Certified Performance Enhancement Specialist, he was employed as a personal trainer at Creekside Health and Fitness Center in Boardman before moving to Stuart, Florida where he holds the same position for the YMCA. Dick is a proud member of the Eastern Ohio Wrestling League (EOWL) Hall of Fame, a 2013 inductee into the Northeastern Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NEOIAAA) Hall of Fame, and Austintown-Fitch Athletic Hall of Fame (2014).

As Athletic Director, Dick was responsible for the administration of seventy high school and middle school teams. His duties ranged from personnel supervision, scheduling,

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**Mike Kovach, CAA  
West Branch  
High School**

Mike Kovach is a graduate of Bedford High School, Baldwin-Wallace College and Kent State University. He began his teaching and coaching career at West Branch High School in 1970 where he taught physical education and coached football, baseball and wrestling. His 1973 baseball team was state runner-up in Class AA. He coached 12 state qualifiers, 6 state place winners and 2 state champions in wrestling. He became the third Athletic Administrator at West Branch in 1988. During his 20 year athletic administration, many teams were added at both the middle school and high school, along with upgrading and building new athletic facilities. West Branch High School is a charter member of the Northeastern Buckeye Conference and has won championships in

many of the sponsored sports and claimed state championships in Division III football in 1994 and Division II Girls Basketball in 2004.

Mike received a CAA in 1997 and was a member of the NEOIAAA, the NEOIAAA Executive Committee, OIAAA, NIAAA and S4A (Stark County Athletic Administrators) serving terms as secretary, treasurer and president. He was honored by the NEOIAAA with the Sportsmanship Award in 2003 and 2006 and awarded the State Award of Merit in 2004. In 2002, Mike was elected to the Northeast District Athletic Board. He served on the tournament committee, assigning teams to tournament sites and headed the tournament officials committee, assigning officials to sectional and district tournaments in the Northeast District in 8 sports. Mike was also instrumental in revamping the seeding procedure at the tournament draws. He served as president of the Northeast Board in 2007-2008.

Mike retired in June 2008 after 38 years at West Branch High School. He and his wife Helen moved to Tampa, Florida in 2009. He enjoys playing golf and tennis and works part-time with the Tampa Bay Rays and the Tampa Bay Lightning



**Jim Offenkaker  
Lima Senior High School**

Jim is a Newark native, graduating from Newark High School in 1975. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio University in 1979 and his master's degree from the University of Dayton in 1994. In 1999 he completed his principal certification from the University of Findlay.

Beginning his career in education as a driver's education teacher and athletic trainer at Lima Senior in 1979 he also taught Health, Anatomy and Physiology, Sports Medicine and Biology. He has served in many capacities at Lima Senior in the past 34 years- science department chair, athletic trainer, equipment manager and academic advisor. As Athletic Administrator he has served the OHSAA as a tournament manager in football, volleyball, soccer, basketball and baseball.

opened a new building and under his guidance the Lima City Schools has installed an artificial surface at Lima Stadium, designed a new area for the shot put and discus, built two soccer practice fields, two new softball fields and new lighted Varsity Softball and Baseball diamonds ultimately making the new school site a complete campus for the athletic teams. In 2009 the East Grandstand at Lima Stadium was replaced through private fundraising. Currently, the Lima City Schools is in the process of replacing the west grandstand, press box and locker rooms at Lima Stadium. In 2011, Lima Senior became a charter member of the Three Rivers Athletic Conference under Jim's guidance.

Jim also served on the Northwest Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators (NW-OIAAA) executive board 2000 - 2013. In 2005, Jim was honored as the Northwest Ohio Athletic Administrator of the year as well as the State Athletic Administrator of the year.

Jim retired in May 2013 after 34 years at Lima Senior High School. He enjoys traveling, playing golf and fishing. Jim has three children - Samantha, Tyler and Abigail. He still serves the OHSAA as the Tournament Manager for Soccer, Volleyball, Football and Basketball at contests held at Lima Senior.

Jim was instrumental in gaining entrance into the Greater Buckeye Conference for Lima Senior in 2002 after spending 3 years as an independent school. In 2004, Lima Senior



**Michael K. Schiering  
William Henry Harrison  
High School**

Mike Schiering started at Harrison high School in the fall of 1979 after attending Hanover College where he majored in Physical Education and played football and baseball. Mike was hired as a Physical Education teacher Asst Varsity Football Coach and Head Softball Coach. In eleven seasons as the Head Softball Coach, Mike compiled a record of 261 and 60 with nine league titles and three city titles. While on the football staff the Wildcats reached the playoffs three times. Mike was the defensive coordinator on the back-to-back undefeated regular season teams in 1988 and 1989. Also during this time he was a varsity basketball official and in 1987 became assistant athletic director.

the athletic facilities have seen a complete over hall with the renovation of the football stadium, baseball, softball and soccer venues. Mike has been involved in the construction of a new weight room, auxiliary gym and the 2500 seat arena, which has become the centerpiece of Harrison athletic facilities. Mike also brought structure to the athletic program in the form of budgeting, coaching evaluations fund raising in conjunction with the athletic boosters. Mike started with the boosters help the Athletic Hall of Fame at Harrison, which is now heading into its 20th year.

Professionally outside of Harrison High School Mike has been involved in the Southwest Ohio Athletic Directors Association having served as secretary, vice president and president of the organization. Mike was named Southwest AD of the year in 2006. Mike has also served as Tournament manager for Girls Basketball Sectional and District Tournaments.

Mike has been married to his wife Carol for 33 years and has three wonderful children Megan, Kirsten and Grant. He would like to thank his family for all of their love and support they have given with demands of being an Athletic Director. He would also like to thank all the coaches, support personnel, administrators and the Southwest Local School District for allowing him to work at this job that he loved.

The spring of 1990 Mike was named the Athletic Director at Harrison High School, which began his 24-year tenure that ended this past spring with his retirement after 35 years at Harrison. During his 24 years as the AD at Harrison Mike was instrumental in growing the program both in sports offered, budget, coaching positions and facilities. During Mike's tenure

## OIAAA SERVICE AWARDS 2014

NAME	LEVEL	SCHOOL	20 YEAR AWARDS
<b>15 YEAR AWARDS</b>			
Bo Arnett		Waverly HS	Michael Boysell Philo HS
Rory Fitzpatrick	CAA	St. Ignatius HS	Mark Schienkel RAA Mt. Notre Dame HS
Gary Geller		Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholics HS	Mike Dellapina CAA Springfield City Schools
Reese Snyder		Northwood Local HS	
Maggie Lash		Cleveland Central Catholic HS	25 YEAR AWARDS
Christopher Farroni	RAA	Cleveland Diocese	Kent Smith CAA Orrville HS
Matt Szyndler	CAA	Maumee HS	Jeff Jump Columbia HS
Patrick Stevens		McClain HS	30 YEAR AWARDS
Joe Kimling	CAA	Madeira HS	Rhonda Rickelman Magnificat HS
			Ed Matey Youngstown City Schools



## STATE AWARD OF MERIT



**Tim Cook, CAA  
Western Brown  
High School**

Tim is a 1980 graduate of Fairfield High School in Leesburg, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Wilmington College in 1984 and his master's degree in educational administration from the University of Dayton in 1987.

Tim has been at Western Brown Local Schools his entire career (31 years). He began his teaching and coaching career in 1984 at Hamersville Elementary and Middle School, where he taught P.E. in grades K-9.

During that time he coached 9th grade basketball and junior high football. The next year, he was transferred to Western Brown High School where he taught physical education until 1997. Tim was the head boys basketball coach from 1991-1997 and the head girls fast pitch softball coach from 1989-1998. In 1997, he was named the Assistant Principal and Athletic Administrator at Western Brown High School. Tim is currently in his 18th year in that position.

Tim was elected to the Southwest District Athletic Board in 2011 and served as President in 2013-14. Tim was an officer on the Southwest Ohio Athletic Director's Association Board from 2001-2009 and served as President in 2005-06. Tim was appointed to serve as the Southwest District Representative and served on the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Board of Directors from 2009-2014. He was the Southwest Ohio Athletic Director of the Year in 2007 and received the OIAAA Citation Award in 2014. Tim was appointed to serve on the OHSAA Board of Directors in 2014 and 2015 and is currently the Vice President. He has been a SWDAB Tournament Manager for the past 11 years and during his tenure has won the All Sports Award 11 out of the 13 years since it was established.

Tim and his wife, Lilly reside in Mt. Orab. Lilly is the Assistant Principal at Mt. Orab Middle School. They have raised six children (4 boys and 2 girls) who were all very active in high school athletics. Tim's father, Jim Cook, was an athletic director for 31 years at Leesburg Fairfield and is in the OIAAA Athletic Directors Hall of Fame and the Ohio High School Softball Coaches Hall of Fame. Lilly's father, Heckie Thompson, was the Head Boys Basketball Coach at Western Latham for 22 years and is in the Ohio Boys Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

## RALPH & NANCY YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP



**Marie Conley  
Fairbanks High School**

Marie is a 2014 graduate of Fairbanks High School. She is the daughter of Steve and Mary Ann Conley of Marysville, Ohio.

Marie attends Ashland University where she will be majoring in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. While in High School, Marie was a Four year varsity letterman in Volleyball and Basketball and lettered her freshman year in Track

This past volleyball season, Marie was selected first team All- Central District and was named the Central District Div. III Co-Player of the Year.

Marie helped her volleyball team win 4 consecutive league championships in her 4 years of varsity competition and was also selected as the team MVP in 2013. Marie was also

selected to play in the OHSVCA, Division III All Star Volleyball Match in Wooster. In Basketball, Marie was selected the team MVP for the third consecutive year and lead her basketball team to a Central District Div IV District Championship. In her only season of Track, she earned all league honors in two events.

While in high school, Marie has been a member of the National Honor Society, the Interact Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Science Club, Project More, which involves tutoring an elementary student every day in reading and she is a coach for the Union County Special Olympics Track Team for the past 3 years and has helped with the Our Lady of Lourdes Vacation Bible School and various United Way of Union County projects throughout the years.

With all of these sports, clubs, and activities, Marie has been able to stay at the top of her studies while taking the most vigorous courses available at Fairbanks High School. She will be graduating with a 4.05 GPA on a 4 point scale and will be graduating 6th in her class.

## DOW NELSON SCHOLARSHIP



**Elizabeth Frombach  
Avon High School**

Elizabeth Frombach is a 2014 graduate of Avon High School. She is the daughter of Erich and Jackie Frombach. Erich is the athletic director at Avon High School. Lizzie has two brothers, Jake, 15, and Moose, 9, and one sister Jules, 13.

Ever since 7th grade, Lizzie has participated in just about everything possible. In 7th and 8th grade she cheered for the football team and then would "run" right over to cross country practice. She also participated in basketball and track. In high school, she participated 4 years in soccer, 3 years in cheerleading, and 4 years in track. She was honorable mention all West Shore Conference

and Lorain County in soccer her Senior Year. She was also awarded the Avon Soccer Association Eagle Award for outstanding character.

Lizzie has also been involved in the following clubs and organizations: National Honor Society, WSC Sportsmanship Conference, Orchestra, Key Club, and Yearbook.

Next year, Lizzie plans to major in exercise physiology at The Ohio State University or University of Akron.

## NELSON THINNES SCHOLARSHIP



**Leah Leist  
Western Brown  
High School**

Leah Leist is a 2014 graduate of Western Brown High School where she earned a 3.97 grade point average and finished 8th in her class out of 197.

She was a Post-Secondary student at the University of Cincinnati at Clermont College her junior and senior years where she obtained an Associate's Degree. Leah participated in volleyball and basketball as a Bronco. She excelled in volleyball where she received Southern Buckeye Conference 1st team honors her 11th and 12th grade seasons and was also selected to the All City team. She started on Varsity for three years and was part of 3 SBC titles where they only

lost one league game during that time. Leah received the 2014 SWOADA scholarship and a full tuition scholarship to attend Shawnee State University in the Fall of 2014, where she will be studying mathematics and eventually earn a degree in Education.

Leah is the daughter of Tim and Lilly Cook of Mt. Orab and Neil and Candy Leist of Beaver.




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