

2023 Annual Dinner Meeting Highlights!

After being postponed for three years due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the annual Mechanicsburg Area High School (MAHSAA) Alumni Dinner was held June 16, 2023 at the Mechanicsburg Club. It was well attended and the dinner was outstanding. Following the dinner, six alumni were officially inducted into the MAHSAA Hall of Fame. Each gave a brief talk about their lifetime experiences. You can read their bios on this website under the Hall of Fame tab.

Please join us for the next Alumni Dinner, June 7, 2024 at the Mechanicsburg Club. We will be celebrating the fiftieth graduating class, the Class of 1974. Also, we will be inducting the following people into the Hall of Fame:

- Thomas Andrew Fisher, Class of 1962
- Jeanne A. Fernbaugh Souder, Class of 1964
- Olaf Thomas Mueller, Class of 1968
- Scott Roth, Class of 1973

Look for details regarding this year's Hall of Fame Inductees in the *Roar*, April 2024. If you have never received the *Roar*, please pay your dues and you will be placed on the mailing list.



(Pictured above are the 2023 MAHSAA Hall of Fame inductees. From left to right: Gary Weber, Tonya Brown, Bill Runkle, Eunice Longenecker Stoner, Greg Diehl and Stan Risser)

Bill Runkle

Class of 1962

Bill was inducted into the MASHAA Hall of Fame for his Loyalty to Mechanicsburg High School.

Upon graduation, he attended college at Clarion State College where he became a Biology teacher. In 1967, he returned to Mechanicsburg High School where he taught Biology for thirty-four years. During his time at Mechanicsburg, Bill was involved with numerous student activities like clubs and intramurals and biological activities like taking interested students to Wallop's Island Marine Science Consortium for over twenty six years. In addition, Bill started the first Ski Club and the first Tennis team at Mechanicsburg. Throughout his career, Bill received numerous awards like the "Outstanding Service to Students Award." He retired in 2003.

(Below, in support of Bill, members of his family attended the celebration)



Eunice Longenecker Stoner

Class of 1966

Eunice was inducted into the MASHAA Hall of Fame for her Outstanding Service to Humanity.

Upon graduation, she attended Messiah College where she majored in Home Economics. Shortly after graduation,

she married her husband Ben and moved to New Mexico where she began a Missionary career serving God and the Navajo people.



Left, Steve Fish, presents the Hall of Fame Plaque to Eunice.



Gary Weber

Class of 1967

Gary was inducted into the MASHAA Hall of Fame for his Loyalty to Mechanicsburg High School.

Upon graduation, he attended Lebanon Valley College

where he majored in music. After graduation, he found his way back to Mechanicsburg Area School District in 1975 as a music teacher. In time Gary earned the position of Vocal Music Department Chairman. He also received a Citation of Excellence from the PA Music Educators Assoc.



Greg Diehl

Class of 1970

Greg was inducted into the MASHAA Hall of Fame for his Outstanding Achievement in Athletics.

He attended Delaware University where he played baseball for the Blue Hens and graduated with an engineering degree. After college he went on to play baseball in the Minor Leagues, both in New York and then in a Florida league. In New York, he threw a perfect game.

In 1977, he was invited to the New York Yankees Spring Training. While there he was offered an engineering job. So, he decided to retire from baseball, marry the love of his life, Nancy, and move to California where he began his working career.

Today he and his wife Nancy live in Colorado.



Stan Risser

Class of 1971

Stan was also inducted into the MASHAA Hall of Fame for his Outstanding Achievement in Athletics.

Upon graduation Stan attended Juniata College where he played basketball and baseball. After college he married his wife, Bonnie, went on to coach basketball in high school and to coach at Juniata College. He coached the Juniata Lady Indians for four years, 1991-1995. During his tenure, the Lady Indians would make the Mid Atlantic Conference playoffs three out of the four years he coached.

Stan also was a PIAA Basketball official and a PIAA Baseball official for many years. Stan and Bonnie still live in PA today.



Tonya Watts Brown

Class of 1982

Tonya was inducted into the MASHAA Hall of Fame for her Loyalty to Mechanicsburg High School.

She attended Messiah College where she earned a bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation. Upon graduation she married her high school sweetheart Dirk and was hired by the Mechanicsburg Area School District in 1989.



In 1998 she was promoted to Recreation Director and worked on over 250 community programs. She also has belonged to and served as President of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society.

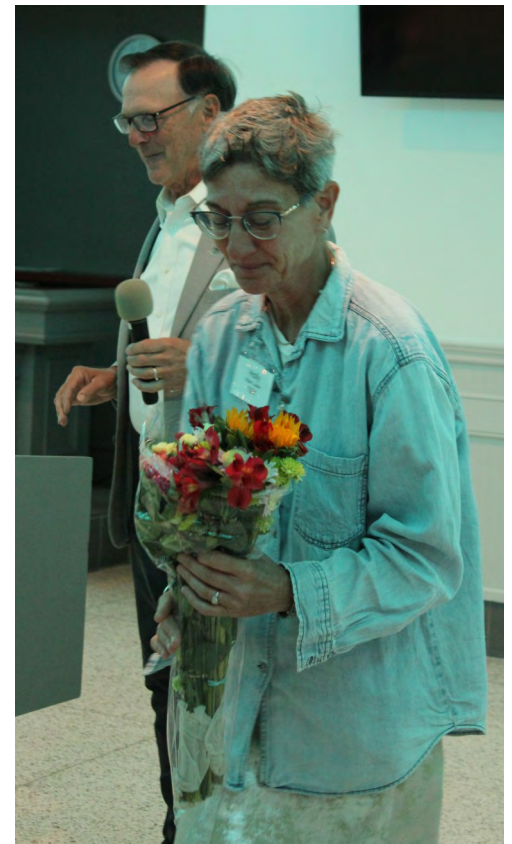


Holly Rider Laufer Retires

For years Holly served on the Mechanicsburg Area High School Alumni Association Board of Directors. She was active on various committees and was the Editor in Chief of



Roar, the official publication of the association. For personal reasons she decided to move to North Carolina where part of her family now resides. Pictures are of President Gary Weber presenting Holly with a bouquet of flowers and thanking Holly for her time and service. We wish her the best in her new life endeavors.



Scholarship Recipients Speak at the Annual Dinner Meeting

Through members financial support over the years, the Mechanicsburg High School Alumni Association has been able to give scholarships to deserving Mechanicsburg graduates. This past year, the Alumni Association awarded scholarships to eight students totaling \$35,400. In addition, these scholarship recipients are invited to attend the annual dinner and encouraged to tell the audience a little bit about themselves and where they will be attending college in the fall. This past year four of those scholarship recipients were able to attend the dinner.

(Scholarship recipients speak to the audience below. Looking on after introducing the students is Alan Vandrew, D. Ed., class of 1976, retired Assistant Superintendent and past MAHSAA President and Scholarship Committee Chairman.)

