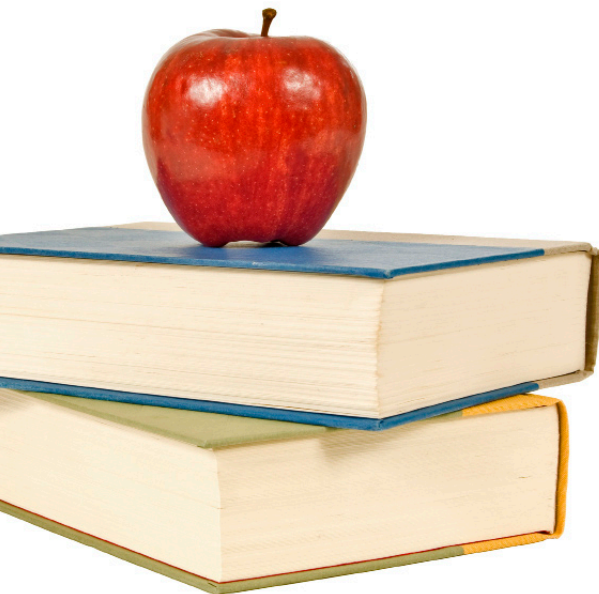




# Staff Recognition Dinner



| May 15, 2015 |

Medinah Shrine Center  
550 Shriners Drive in Addison

## PROGRAM

### Welcome

*Jay Irvin,*

District 88 Board of  
Education Vice President

### Dinner

### Service Recognition Awards

### Outstanding Achievement Awards

### Presentation of Retirees

### Closing Remarks

*Dr. Scott Helton,*

District 88  
Superintendent

### Master of Ceremonies

*Brendan Lyons*

## DISTRICT 88 BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Donna Craft Cain,*

President

*Jay Irvin,*

Vice President

*Sharon Kucik,*

Secretary

*Jan Donovan*

*Thomas Edmier*

*Timothy Gillen*

*Lisa Lullo*

## DINNER COMMITTEE

Maria Bazaldua

Michael Bolden

Danielle (Dani) Brink

Jennifer Burns

Rebecca Cibulka

Denise Cochran

Ben DeFilippis

Vanessa Duffin

Neenah Federick

Nina Fedorchuk

Timothy Gillen

Patty Kraegel

Sharon Kucik

Julie Mazzone

Nancy Oskin

Pam Sifuentes

Doug Wildes

Marilyn Zydlo



# Service Recognition Awards

## ADDISON TRAIL

## DISTRICT OFFICE

## WILLOWBROOK

*10 years*

Itzel Carranza  
Jessica Connolly  
Christopher Grice  
Justin Hegner  
Anna Louise Jakubka  
Alison Nix  
Joseph Quinn  
Michael Ross  
Crystal Seitz  
Andrea Stawieri  
Dawn Tyler  
Michael Valeski

Sara Courington  
Stephanie Ennis  
Brian Eslick  
Daniel Fliegel  
John Fouser  
Jamie Gourley  
Julie Mazzone  
Kimberly Mikesell  
Domenico Scrivo  
Courtney Vala  
Dana Whittaker  
Joshua Zwart

*15 years*

Rita Christopher

David Bendfeldt  
Thomas Bendicsen  
Julie Johnson  
Laura D. Jurik  
Shannon Lange  
Michael Maaske  
Joseph Mahoney  
Theresa Marzullo  
Donald Miller  
Amy Murphy  
Patrick Sikorski  
Patricia Subers

Daniel Bannon  
Andreas Munger  
Annette Whitaker  
Debra Wilson  
Victor Wisner III  
Matthew Zaucha

*20 years*

Juliann Boudouris  
Mark Chorazyczewski  
Shane Cole  
Thomas Hubner  
Terry Kramer  
Janine Nacht  
Donna O'Neill  
Maria Heotis Ramon  
Martin Schatzman

Steve Chojnacki  
Marcia Ivancevic  
Anthony Mika

*25 years*

Margaret Bell

Kathleen McColaugh  
Daniel O'Connell

Pam Bradford

*30 years*

Pamela Sifuentes

James Dunn  
William Eufrazio  
Barbara Willson

*35 years*

Charles Klein Jr.

# Outstanding Achievement Awards



**ADDISON TRAIL**  
Jason Bugajsky



**WILLOWBROOK**  
Richard Rentner

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## 2014-15 Retirees

### DISTRICT OFFICE

Rita Christopher

### WILLOWBROOK

Deborah DeGeorge

Tom Domin

Karen Feyereisen

Rachel Frese

Richard Rentner

Annette Whitaker

## **Rita Christopher, District Office**

Rita began her official career in District 88 in 2000 as an Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principal for Operations at Addison Trail. After 10 years at Addison Trail, she transitioned to the District Office as the Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer for five years.

Unofficially, her involvement began years earlier as a parent. All three of Rita's sons are Addison Trail alumni. Rita had positive experiences during their schooling. She always knew it would be a great place to work and felt very blessed to be a part of the system.

One of her favorite experiences working at Addison Trail was being part of the Building The Future project that modernized the learning environment, which was truly needed. She notes it was amazing to watch the progress as the weeks went by.

In retirement, she will miss the many friendships she made through the years and the daily interaction with her co-workers. Rita felt the best part of her job

was learning new things and knowing she was appreciated. She advises new employees to ask a lot of questions and take initiative to be responsible for doing what needs to be done.

Retirement for Rita will include more traveling and spending more time with her wonderful husband of 42 years, Joe, and her children and grandchildren. Rita hopes "the best is yet to come."



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## **Deborah DeGeorge, Willowbrook**

Deborah joined the District 88 learning community in August 1999, bringing with her 10 years of teaching experience from Lyons Township High School District 204 and Glenbard Township High School District 87. She has been an educator for 26 years. She earned her bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and her master's degree in business administration from Lewis University. She has taught business education, economics and social studies during her career in District 88.

Being a teacher is all Deborah ever aspired to be. She declared her profession during her junior year in high school and has never changed her mind. Deborah had the opportunity to be "teacher for the day" in her senior year. She truly enjoyed creating lesson plans to teach her peers.

Willowbrook has served as a second home for Deborah, and she is thankful for the opportunity to work with such professional and committed faculty and staff. She will miss working with her colleagues, and Deborah will treasure her memories of working with her students and pushing them to succeed.

In retirement, Deborah plans to pursue her hobbies, including crafts, acrylics and photography. In addition to traveling, she will spend time with her husband, Robert, and children Ashley and Jason.



## **Tom Domin, Willowbrook**

Tom's history with District 88 began when he was a student at Willowbrook. He went on to University of Notre Dame to earn his bachelor's degree and began working in the field of marketing. His desire to work with youth as a coach inspired him to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago to complete his teaching certification. Tom then returned as a student-teacher to Willowbrook, and in 1981, Tom was hired as a student supervisor. Within two months, he was hired as a teacher, and he taught business education and physical education for 32 years.

He also has played an active role in the building by serving as a Dean of Students, Department Chair and Athletic Director. Coaching has played a significant role in Tom's career. He has coached boys baseball, basketball and football. He also coached girls badminton and bowling. Some of his favorite memories of District 88 are the state championship wins by the girls

badminton team in 1998 and 1999, while in the role of Athletic Director. He also has fond memories of his team winning the Conference championship in 1987, while he was the head coach.

Tom advises new teachers to try new things in the classroom and to not be afraid to be different.

Tom is looking forward to his upcoming wedding to his fiancée, Laurie. After that, he plans to spend more time with his daughters Jillian, Angela and Olivia and new immediate family Joe and Billy. He plans to continue working and to squeeze in some traveling.



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## **Rachel Frese, Willowbrook**

After 39 years in education, Rachel will retire from Willowbrook and begin the next phase of her life. While only spending 12 of those years in the special education department at Willowbrook as a teacher aide, she spent 19 years supporting the EISED school community, four years working for Addison Elementary School District 4 and four years teaching in Lutheran schools.

Rachel was drawn to the field of education because of her desire to teach students. Her bachelor's degree in education and music was completed at Concordia University in Seward, Neb.

Throughout her career, Rachel has enjoyed working with the students. They are full of energy and are passionate about the things that interest them. She loves seeing the students' faces when they finally understand a difficult concept.

Rachel has made a commitment

to educating special education students. It prides her to see students who are connected to the school environment and receive the individualized attention they need.

Rachel recalls her favorite memory as the success of the Special Olympics Basketball Team qualifying for the State-level competition. She was overwhelmed by the phenomenal student support to send the team off to state.

Rachel's plans for retirement include resting, singing in the church choir, playing the church organ and spending time with her husband, Paul, her children Elizabeth, Jonathan and James and her grandchildren.



## **Richard Rentner, Willowbrook**

Richard joined Willowbrook in 1983 and has provided many contributions to the school's learning community during his 32 years as a student supervisor. Richard has strived to make the safety of students and staff the top priority and to always set an example for his students.

In addition to supervising the school's parking lots and community education program, Richard has been highly involved in the athletic program. His involvement spans across a variety of sports, including football, soccer, basketball, wrestling, gymnastics and volleyball, during which he fulfilled a variety of duties such as concession-stand worker, score keeper, time keeper and announcer. Most notably, Richard has been the time keeper for the McDonald's Girls Basketball Tournament for 19 years.

Richard graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a bachelor's degree in business and marketing. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a sergeant.

After 32 years with Willowbrook, Richard

will miss the daily interaction with staff and students. He enjoys working with the next generation.

Richard jokes it's too late in life for long-range plans, so he will just enjoy one day at a time. In retirement, he will continue enjoying his hobbies of genealogy, history and working with tools. He will increase his visits to Wisconsin and will enjoy spending time with his children Laurie Anne, Nancy Ellen, Richard Hyde, Donna Jo, Thomas Herbert and Carrie Anne, as well as his 12 grandchildren and his three great-grandchildren. Richard said the greatest decision of his life was marrying his wife of 57 years, Nancy, who passed away in 2007.



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## **Annette Whitaker, Willowbrook**

Since 2000, Annette has committed herself to the success of the Willowbrook students. Her 15-year career as a student supervisor has contributed to the Warrior Pride culture that exists at the school today.

Interacting with students is Annette's favorite part of her job. It is a pleasure to see their progression from freshman year to senior year. She believes the purpose of her job is to try to help them and understand where they are coming from. She enjoys being able to put a smile on their faces and lift their spirits when they are sad.

A high point in her years with District 88 was working in the same role with her husband, David, across town, as well as her extended law enforcement family. In retirement, Annette will miss the kids and the staff members. Because she lives in the area, she knows she will still have a connection

to the students and the Willowbrook community.

Her advice to new employees is to make sure you have patience with the kids, and exhibit lots of understanding and compassion.

No matter which position you hold, you play a part of the development of the students. Remember to give respect in order to receive it.

Annette has committed to coming back and visiting the staff and students during retirement. She also hopes to pursue other interests such as traveling, as well as spend time with her husband.





**District 88**

**Mission:**

To work for the continuous  
improvement of student  
achievement

**District 88**

**21st-Century Vision:**

A learning community that  
welcomes, excites and  
challenges