

## STAFF RECOGNITION DINNER



A night to recognize our AMAZING District 88 staff

DISTRICT 88

Building Futures
ADDISON TRAIL
WILLOWBROOK

May 6, 2022

Medinah Shriners 550 Shriners Drive Addison, IL 60101

#### **PROGRAM**

#### Welcome

Donna Craft Cain, District 88 Board of Education President

Dinner

Service Recognition Awards

> Outstanding Achievement Awards

Presentation of Retirees

Closing Remarks
Dr. Jean Barbanente,
District 88
Superintendent

#### DISTRICT 88 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Donna Craft Cain
Dan Olson
Amy Finnegan
Lisa Knauf
Christine Poirier
Diana Stout
Jean Taylor

#### DINNER COMMITTEE

Michael Bolden Dani (Danielle) Brink **Jennifer Burns** Denise Cochran Santa DeAngelo Ben DeFilippis Neenah Federick Jamie Gourley Conor Jansen Shelley Kanara Lisa Knauf Marvellen Marisie Veronica Novola Diana Stout Jean Taylor Mike Warren

#### **COVER DESIGNED BY**

Willowbrook junior Hope Reckamp



## **Service Recognition Awards**

ADDISON TRAIL	DISTRICT OFFICE	WILLOWBROOK
Christopher Bazant Karla Cosio Lilia De La Torre Katie Inzinga Gregory Karis Keith Marston Vicente Martinez Mary McLoughlin Stacey Puccini Lindsey Thomas Ashley Vaca	Dr. Aaroń Lenaghan	Mary Barney Manuel De La Cruz Nicholas Hildreth Robert Krawczykowski Laura Lopez Michael Marotta Irene Mason Amy Peschke Darryl Thompson Clyde Ware
Matthew Bauers Lisa Crotty Laura DiNatale Laura Grunschel Patricia Hochheimer Michele Kalbas Jerry Kelly Cory Little Brendan Lyons Maryellen Marisie Jenna Phillips Karen Pierropoulos Vincenza Spilotro Francesca Terracciano Kendrick Thomas Licel Tornabene Christina Trapani James Ziebka	Michael Bolden Erica Craig Anila Meleqi Debra Muhlena Yvonne Tsagalis	Maria Bazaldua Susan Bower Michael Burns Julio Del Real David Garcia Rachel Karos Peter Makrinski Rachel Morris Brandon Murphy Tara Murphy Laura Nork Diane Vegter Kathryn Wilson Cindy Zamora-Failla
James Ziebka	20 years	
Daniela Ariano Mark Belintende Judith Campbell Denise Cochran Sergio Nunez Keith Santini Caryn Scimeca Natalie Stach Wilen Tiffany Stone Michael Warren	25	Leslie Allenspach Isela Aquino Justine Bryers James Cosgrove Dr. Daniel Krause Scott Kuras Gina Mucha Amy Nowak Shilpa Shah Terri Woebel Guangming Yang
Colleen Brechin Brad Donaldson James Perusich Matthew Thompson	25 years	Fred Arnold Jennifer Burns Christine Calandra Julie Foster Amy Stark
Steve Gilliam Jeff Laschinski Shawn Lewandowski	30 years	

### **Outstanding Achievement Awards**



ADDISON TRAIL Judy Campbell



WILLOWBROOK Charlie Hoehn

### **2021-22 Retirees**

#### **ADDISON TRAIL**

Judy Campbell

Steve Gilliam

Michael Maaske

Sean O'Connor

Steve Orlando

**Ann Peters** 

Megan Salgado

Frank Stawiarski

Dawn Tyler

Giuditta Vitiritti

#### **WILLOWBROOK**

Sue Bower

James Dunn

Megan Graham

Jack Humphris

Charles Klein

Susan Moran

Diane Vegter

## Judy Campbell, Addison Trail

Judy graduated from Elmhurst College in Nursing. She immediately began working at Hines VA Maywood for eight years on the cardiac step-down unit, on the first heart transplant team in the Midwest. She then spent three years at Elmhurst Hospital in the day surgery department as a part-time nurse. Judy worked in Addison School District 4 as a RN for two years and completed her Certified School Nurse program at the end of the two years and worked as a Certified School Nurse. She then found her home at Addison Trail for 20 years.

Judy has enjoyed the opportunity to serve the students, parents, staff and the community.

"It has been so rewarding, and it has been the favorite part of my job," Judy said.

Judy
will miss
assisting the
community
and the staff.
Whether that
is getting
them to the
hospital or
home, she will
miss serving
them as she



has for the past 20 years.

Judy has grandchild No. 4 coming in July, and spending more time with her kids is a priority. Judy and her husband want to travel to see as many National Parks as they possibly can. Judy and her husband also want to volunteer with an organization such as the Red Cross.

#### Steve Gilliam, Addison Trail

Steve began his career with District 88 in 1992 and brought with him the real-world experience of corporate America. Steve spent the first five years of his career in computer hardware and software sales. However, Steve always had a passion for working with young adults and coached while he was in sales.

Steve began his college studies as a physical education major, but later changed his major to business. Steve had no idea at that time, but both areas he studied would play a significant part of his career.

Steve began his career at Willowbrook High School as a part-time business education teacher, which turned into a full-time position the following year. During his 18 years as a teacher at Willowbrook, Steve coached football, golf and baseball. The opportunity arose to teach in the

Physical
Education
Department
at Addison
Trail, where
his kids were
attending,
and Steve
made the
change.
During the
final 12 years
of his career
as a Blazer,



Steve coached baseball, golf, softball and bowling.

"Before kids can believe in themselves, they have to have someone to believe in them," Steve said.

Steve's future plans are to focus on himself and improve his own physical and mental well-being. He plans to golf and fish more, while also traveling with his wife, who is his best friend.

#### Mike Maaske, Addison Trail

Addison Trail welcomed Mike to the Business Department in August 1999. As a new teacher, Mike joined the team with experiences different from a traditional new teacher. Mike decided to change careers after 13 years in corporate America. Teaching was always in his blood, as he came from parents who were both teachers.

Mike attended Doane University in Crete, Nebraska, to obtain his business education teaching credentials. While he was not a traditional college student in the sense of a recent high school graduate, that did not slow him down. He became the residence coordinator for the university and was affectionately known to other students on campus as "grandpa."

Mike's entire career in teaching has been teaching at Addison Trail. Within the department, he taught almost every course offered. Mike would even teach parents and adults in the community keyboarding during the Saturday ESL classes. Through the years, we have found Mike as the Debate coach, the girls

basketball coach, judging BPA and DECA competitions, serving on the scholarship committee and working the clock at Addison Trail football games for the past 19 years.



The memory that Mike will leave with is a time when he took students to Marquette University for a business contest, and they tied for first place. One of his students was hugging the trophy and said, "I have never won anything in my life." Mike will miss moments like that and the friends he has made at Addison Trail.

In retirement, Mike will look for a part-time opportunity in business, travel, golf, fish and garden. He looks forward to seeing his family more and his sister in Hawaii.

#### Sean O'Connor, Addison Trail

Sean joined the Addison Trail learning community In 1996 as a first-year teacher. Prior to teaching, Sean worked for 11 years as a chemical engineer; however his "itch" for teaching finally got the best of him, and he decided to make a career change.

Sean earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois and returned to DePaul University to gain his teaching credentials and complete his career change.

Sean taught chemistry, physics and AP physics during his career at Addison Trail. Beyond his role as a classroom teacher, Sean served as an Instructional Tech Coach for almost 10 years. During his tenure at Addison Trail, Sean also coached the girls swim team for three years. He was a regular fixture as a coach for the Science Olympiad, along

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with helping the Science Olympiad organization at the regional and state levels.

The memories Sean will take away from his career are the times spent Chemistry Caroling and going to Great America with the students. Sean said the thing he will miss the most is working with students in the classroom on a daily basis.

Sean plans to travel to the Grand Canyon, bike the Allegheny Trail from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C., and spend time with his kids and grandkids.

#### Steve Orlando, Addison Trail

Not only is Steve a 33-year-plus employee of District 88, he is a 1981 Willowbrook graduate. After graduation, Steve started working in a plastic plant making moldings. He was brought back to District 88 a few years later as a hall monitor, which lasted for less than a year before he became a member of the Building and Grounds Department as a second-shift custodian at Addison Trail.

After several years on the first and second shift custodial staff, Steve was promoted to the maintenance staff for his ability to fix almost anything. In addition, Steve also has been the custodial foreman, as well as the building foreman.

Steve has had an incredible impact on Addison Trail and the way it looks and operates today, as he was an integral part of the Building The Future project as the building foreman. During the project, several trees had to be removed to make room for the new additions, and Steve took the stumps and made bowls for the staff. Steve is a wood worker and furniture builder at heart.



Steve will remember how the district always treated people as family members. He is proud of how his hands were in so many projects that are there today.

His plans in retirement are to move toward DeKalb County and do some traveling. The Grand Canyon is near the top of the list.

#### Ann Peters, Addison Trail

Ann has been a reading teacher at Addison Trail for 29 years, but her connection and commitment to Addison Trail and the Addison community goes back even farther. Ann is a second-generation retiree from Addison Trail, as her father also retired from AT. Teaching at AT is definitely the family business

Ann has been much more than a teacher at Addison Trail. Ann has coached volleyball and girls track and served as the Reading Department Head. Ann also was part of the teacher mentoring program and can always be found at numerous Addison Trail games, events and performances.

When Ann describes her fondest memories of Addison Trail, she can't help but think of the times she spent in the building as a child, because her dad would always bring her to events. However, as a staff member, Ann cherishes the relationships she has created with the students throughout her career. Not having daily interaction with students



is what she will miss the most.

Next steps for Ann are to volunteer at a Women's Shelter, as well as participate in the bereavement choir at a church. Beyond her volunteerism, Ann plans to travel more to see the fall colors out east, see a figure skating championship live, continue supporting the Blazers, and she has already booked a cruise for February.

#### Megan Salgado, Addison Trail

Megan began her teaching career at the American School in Mexico City for one year and then returned to the area to teach at another high school before finding her home at Addison Trail.

Megan spent the next 33 years at Addison Trail as a Spanish and ESL teacher.

"I can't imagine working anywhere other than Addison Trail. This truly is a second home to me," Megan said.

Beyond her teaching and impact on students in the classroom, Megan was part of International Fest for 20 years. Megan remembers working with other colleagues and building it from the ground up. Growing International Fest from its infancy to still see it as part of the culture of the school today is something she is most proud of. Her memories and sense of accomplishment do not stop there – she also remembers the Spanish

immersion day and partnering with Elmhurst University (formerly Elmhurst College). She also has fond memories of the powerful immigration forum that the school so bravely put on.



"Addison Trail has always lifted up kids and empowered them, and that is why I love AT and will miss it," Megan said.

Megan's first order of business in retirement is a family vacation and getting her daughter settled wherever she lands with her career. Megan has a passion for voting rights and sees herself helping to fight so that everyone has a voice.

#### Frank Stawiarski, Addison Trail

As a 1972 graduate of Willowbrook High School, Frank never imagined he would be retiring 50 years later after working at both schools in District 88. Prior to Addison Trail, Frank worked for 20 years for the Pipefitters Local 597. He would perform service install piping in both commercial and industrial buildings. Frank has worked on the NBC Tower, Sears Tower and even once grabbed coffee with news anchor Jackie Bange. Shortly after his career as a pipe fitter, Frank came to AT in 2011 as a temporary employee and later became a full-time member of the staff.

Frank worked at Willowbrook before coming over to AT, where he developed close working relationships with all the staff on the second shift, but developed closer friendships with retirees Norman DISTRICT 88

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Grubisich and Ranko Igric.

Some of Frank's best memories of working at Addison Trail were trying to explain baseball and what occurred with the Cubs to his friend Ranko, who knew nothing about baseball.

During retirement, Frank plans to work around the house and take care of the honey-do lists. Frank is a big Cleveland Browns fan, and he hopes to see them win a Superbowl in his lifetime.

#### Dawn Tyler, Addison Trail

After 16 years, Dawn Tyler will retire from the Special Education Department at Addison Trail. Dawn has spent her entire time in the Special Education Department and is one of the most veteran staff within the department. Prior to coming to Addison Trail, Dawn spent 10 years teaching PE to elementary and middle school students in a private school.

Dawn shared that she loves being an aide, and it will be difficult leaving the classes. To see the students grow from their freshman year to senior year made her so proud, and seeing students mature and become motivated was incredibly rewarding. Dawn hopes she has been a positive influence on them. She also will miss the staff. They made her a part of the class and would take her input and valued her lesson design

ideas.

Dawn's fondest memory of her career is the annual WSC Sports Spectacular. It is an incredible event for students, and she will always



remember the excitement the students and staff had on this day.

Beyond her work in the classroom and with the WSC Sports Spectacular, Dawn also could be found with Best Buddies and participating in their great experiences and adventures.

In retirement, Dawn plans to spend more time with her husband, Ron, and traveling. They are headed to Ireland, Australia and visiting family in Arizona.

#### Giuditta Vitiritti, Addison Trail

Giuditta joined the Addison Trail learning community in 1994. She has spent her entire teaching career at Addison Trail. Prior to starting her career as the original Addison Trail Italian teacher, Giuditta was an Italian language translator for a bank in Chicago.

When she arrived at Addison Trail, the World Language Department was just beginning to offer Italian. She started with 150 students in the program, and it has grown throughout her career and is still going strong today.

Giuditta has many contributions to the district during the course of her career. She was a cheerleading coach, Italian Club sponsor and has participated in the Village of Addison Sister Cities student-exchange program with Triggiano, Italy.

In addition to her teaching and extracurricular activities, Giuditta also has been heavily involved with the College Board and AP program. She is a National

Advocate
Lead and has
consulted on
policy related
to AP courses
for the past 11
years. She also
was the first
recipient of the
Midwest Award
for Leadership
in the Teaching
of the Italian
Language

and Culture and received a National Endowment of Humanities to study in Rome.

Rome.
In retirement, Giuditta plans to possibly consult more with the College Board. But her real passion is baking, and she is known for her lemon ricotta cookies. She plans to still work part time at Nordstrom, play more golf and volunteer at the rescue shelter where she picked up her 3 dogs.



#### Sue Bower, Willowbrook

Prior to joining Willowbrook High School, Sue began her career as an administrative assistant. In 2008, Sue began working at Willowbrook, first as a volleyball coach, and later as a special education teacher aide. Sue moved into a clerical position a few years later and became the substitute coordinator. Sue is finishing her career as the administrative assistant to Assistant Principal Dr. Jamie Gourley.

Sue's most memorable moments include when she was working in the classroom as a special education teacher aide. She said the interaction with students and staff was incredibly rewarding. Seeing the students grow

and mature both in the classroom and on the courts will be the memory she will hold dear. Sue finishes her career hoping that her



work and coaching will have made a positive impression and impact on the students.

In the future, Sue plans to still be a part of the athletic program at Willowbrook High School by working and scoring games. She looks forward to getting as much time as she can to see her grandson, who lives in Quincy.

#### James Dunn, Willowbrook

James (Jim) started in District 88 in 1986 as a custodian on the third shift. After three years, Jim became part of the maintenance staff. Prior to joining the district, he worked as a custodian and maintenance person at an insurance company in Elmhurst.

Jim also is a veteran, who served our country in the U.S. Army from 1971 to 1973 on active duty in Germany. Jim continued his military career for six years, serving four years on inactive duty.

Jim will miss the staff he has worked alongside throughout the course of his career. While a lot of staff have come and gone during his time, Jim has spent almost his whole career working with Charlie Klein, who also is retiring. Jim will miss the students and the excitement they bring to the building each and every day.

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During retirement, Jim will stay busy as the deacon of his church, where he also serves as the financial secretary.

Jim also spends his free time in a program called Citizens through the Chicago Park District. Members write memoirs of their lives with members of the Goodman Theatre program and then share their stories on stage. He plans to travel and continue to do maintenance at the YMCA.

#### Megan Graham, Willowbrook

In 1993, Megan began her teaching career at Willowbrook High School. Prior to starting her career in District 88, she spent time teaching at St. Joseph School and Golf Middle School. Megan recalls the start of her career at Willowbrook and remembers saying to herself after the first week that she was going to retire from Willowbrook.

Megan began teaching physical science, biology and zoology and has been teaching anatomy for all 29 years at Willowbrook. Megan feels teaching is the most important job anyone can have. As a teacher, she feels you are responsible for the students and the careers they decide to pursue.

Megan will miss the students and the

staff she has worked with during the course of her career. She said the people have been amazing, and they will be missed.

Megan has started an



application to become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and hopes to be able to give her time to young people who need someone in their corner. Megan and her husband are big fans of the national parks and hope to hike the national parks. Yellowstone is at the top of the list. The Galapagos Islands also are a must-see destination.

## Jack Humphris, Willowbrook

In 1992, Jack was selected as the School Resource Officer at Willowbrook. He followed in the footsteps of those who served at Willowbrook as a SRO dating back to 1972 and which continues to this day. As the resource officer, Jack served the police department, the school and the community for nine years – the longest of any officer to date. He then returned to patrol in 2001.

In May 2010, Jack retired from the police department. In September, he returned to Willowbrook as a student supervisor. Just prior to winter dismissals, Jack had the privilege to be Santa Claus for the students and staff at

Willowbrook
- a tradition
and memory
that thousands
of students
will always
remember.

Serving at Willowbrook has been one of the



most rewarding times in Jack's life, and Willowbrook will always be his second family.

In retirement, Jack plans to fill in at Willowbrook when his schedule allows, and he plans to continue to fill the role of Santa.

#### Charlie Klein, Willowbrook

Charlie has worked for Willowbrook for 40 years. He began as a third-shift custodian. He moved from different sections of the building, and he was trying to get off of third shift and be a part of first shift. When the district added a second custodian to the grounds, he was awarded the position and made it to the first shift. After several years of working on the grounds and doing snow removal, he moved to the inside of the building and worked in the student cafe and shipping and receiving, where he finished his career.

Charlie's favorite memory from 40 years at Willowbrook is getting to know the students and watching them at all their games, concerts and activities. He got to know thousands of students during the course of his career, and when asked what he will miss the

most, he emphatically said the students. The interaction with the students and staff, along with the friendships he made throughout the course of



his 40-year career, is what he cherishes most.

In retirement, Charlie looks forward to taking it easy at home. He also is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Barb. They enjoy going to summer concerts and seeing live music. They also enjoy riding bikes together along the Prairie Path and other bike trails.

#### Susan Moran, Willowbrook

In 1996, Susan joined District 88 as a speech and language pathologist after spending 10 years in the New Berlin/Milwaukee area (also as a speech and language pathologist). After her interview in District 88 and several other interviews at other districts, Susan knew District 88 was where she wanted to continue her career.

Susan always wanted to be a speech pathologist, even as far back as when she was in second grade based on the experiences with a close friend who was receiving speech services.

Looking back on her career, Susan said she has worked on some incredible teams, with some great people, who have done some tremendous professional work for students.

One fond memory Susan has of her career in District 88 is the one-day field trip to Walt Disney World with

a group of students. The Roman Corp in Addison chartered a private plane for the event, and the Roselle Fire Department assisted with the students. Students from Addison Trail.



Willowbrook and surrounding schools participated. It was an incredible experience for the students and adults involved.

In retirement, Susan plans to work in some capacity as a speech pathologist, possibly as a long-term sub. She plans to do lots of college visits with her daughter and to some day just go to the airport and travel!

#### Diane Vegter, Willowbrook

Diane began her career at Willowbrook High School 23 years ago as a coach for boys and girls volleyball. While she was at the school so much for coaching, she decided to apply for a position when one opened up. Diane became a full-time member of the staff 15 years ago as the secretary for the Industry and Technology Department, along with the Art Department. The position later evolved to the CTE Department, and she is now ending her career as the English, Music and Art Department secretary.

Diane will miss the countless colleagues she has met and worked alongside during her time at Willowbrook. She also will miss the students. Being a coach for so long at Willowbrook, Diane has had the opportunity to get to know students and their families on a personal level. These relationships and helping students

succeed will certainly be missed. Diane especially will miss seeing students who have worked so hard at a skill finally be successful.





the joy of their accomplishment are what she will miss the most.

Diane's love of coaching and volleyball have been a part of her life since she was a kid. The love of the game, given to her by her mother, has provided her with a wonderful career and incredible memories.

In retirement, Diane plans to spend time with her family and grandkids and looks forward to learning how to play the piano.

# DISTRICT 88

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Congratulations to the 2021-22 retirees!

Thank you for your years of service, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

# DISTRICT 88

## Building Futures ADDISON TRAIL WILLOWBROOK





## District 88 Mission:

To work for the continuous improvement of student achievement

## District 88 Vision:

To prepare students to be college, career and culturally ready



