

DUPAGE HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 88

ADDISON TRAIL
WILLOWBROOK

2024

*Staff Recognition
Dinner*



*550 Shriners Dr,
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
Gail Galivan
Christine Poirier
Diana Stout
Jean Taylor

DINNER COMMITTEE

Michael Bolden
Dani (Danielle) Brink
Jennifer Burns
Denise Cochran
Santa DeAngelo
Ben DeFilippis
Neenah Federick
Amy Finnegan
Gail Galivan
Jamie Gourley
Shelley Kanara
Maryellen Marisie
Veronica Noyola
Christine Poirier
Darryl Thompson
Mike Warren

COVER DESIGNED BY

Willowbrook sophomore
Andrea Castro



Service Recognition Awards

ADDISON TRAIL

Jeffrey Angle
Kira Bonk
Daniel Fernandez
Nadia Gomez-Moran
Dana Marine
Claire Shoup
Angel Vega

DISTRICT OFFICE

10 years
Marla Biesiada

WILLOWBROOK

Brian Chelmecki
Barbara Juvan
Jeffrey Mersch

15 years

Lynda Jrab
Annette Severino
Jessica Sokolowski
Laura Zaccaro

Christopher Perkins

Carmen Avdiu
Brandon Collings
Eduardo De La Cruz
Katherine Lipowski
Margaret Porter
Amanda Seymore

20 years

Robert Budler
Jason Bugajsky
Michael Kennedy
Eric Norberg
Kevin Redding
Robert Serio

Matthew Clapper
Scott Forcash
Scott Grobstein
Ivan Jimenez
James Kedvesh
Maureen Lindhorst
Miguel Molina
Michael Phillips
Eduardo Romero
Beata Zawojaska

25 years

Carolyn Erwin
Colleen Kane
James LaRosa
Andrew Mitchell
Mark Olson
Charlene Restivo

Brett Blair
James Bolsinger
Benjamin Fenske
Maritza Francisco
Charles Hoehn
Gary Strzelczyk
Eastman Tiu

30 years

LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer
James Hoeflinger
Kirsten Olson

Dr. Jean Barbanente
Jian Zhang

Peter Montgomery
Julie Rasso

40 years

Matthew Reiter

Outstanding Achievement Awards



ADDISON TRAIL
Mark Corey



WILLOWBROOK
Kathryn Wilson

2023-24 Retirees

ADDISON TRAIL

Kathie Anderson
Mark Corey
Jeffrey Laschinski
Theresa Wilson

DISTRICT OFFICE

Ann Eakley
Roseann Janusz

WILLOWBROOK

Pamela Bradford
Genaro "Hank" Chanez
Maritza Francisco
Maureen Lindhorst
Peter Makrinski
Charles "Chuck" Sheridan
James "Jim" White
Karyn Wolcott

Kathie Anderson, *Addison Trail*

Beginning in 2011, Kathie Anderson joined the Addison Trail staff as a teacher assistant in the Literacy Department. As a licensed elementary teacher, working with high school students was a new and exciting experience. Kathie was encouraged by her Department Head, Jenna Phillips, and staff member Kathy Smead to take the Spanish Bilingual test. She did, and she gained her credentials as a bilingual educator. Kathie then went on to teach at another school until 2018. After completely retiring from the teaching, she came back to Addison Trail to continue aiding and has done so since 2018. Kathie also is a product of District 88, as she is a graduate of Willowbrook High School.

During her time at Addison Trail, Kathie has worked in the Literacy Department, supporting our bilingual students. She also filled in for a semester as a bilingual math teacher when we were in need of teaching a group of students who knew very little

English. One of Kathie's favorite moments at Addison Trail was working closely with the math teachers. She has loved collaborating with the staff in math and literacy and will miss working with and seeing them every day.

In retirement, Kathie still plans to work and volunteer, similar to what she does today. She volunteers at her church's food pantry and might volunteer more time in retirement. Kathie also loves taking care of her yard and flower garden and looks forward to having more time to dedicate to those efforts. She also has considered working at the Morton Arboretum as another retirement possibility.



Mark Corey, *Addison Trail*

Before arriving at Addison Trail in 1995, Mark worked in Lyons District 103 for four years as a band teacher. After settling into Addison Trail, Mark knew this is where he wanted to be, and he has never looked back. Mark always knew he wanted to be a band teacher, as he was influenced by his own music educator, Leo Henning from Brother Rice.

Mark has been an incredible educator and has impacted thousands of students during his career. Many of whom have continued to pursue music education and are playing music professionally. Mark has had a large impact on Addison Trail and the entire community. Mark was influential in starting honors music classes and AP Music Theory, along with creating incredible performances at music concerts, halftime band shows, local parades and amazing music trips. Those experiences provide wonderful

memories for thousands of students and their parents.

Additionally, Mark has sponsored Tri-M, was an ILMEA District rep in 2002, ILMEA District President in 2005 and

ILMEA State President from 2013-2017. He also has taught music educator courses at Elmhurst University since 2012.

In retirement, Mark plans to continue teaching at Elmhurst University and, if the right opportunity comes up, take a part-time teaching position. He also plans to play in some rock bands whenever possible.



Jeffrey Laschinski, *Addison Trail*

Jeff began his career at Addison Trail in 1992, following his first year of teaching at Burlington Central High School. After 32 years as a Blazer, Jeff has taught almost every business course we have offered. However, Jeff has contributed more than just teaching. Jeff has been involved with starting new courses such as Hotel Restaurant Management and Sports and Entertainment Marketing. He also worked with several local businesses to place our students in the work program, allowing kids to gain valuable work experience.

Jeff's legacy at AT goes beyond the classroom and curricular impact he has made - it can be seen in all the clubs and sports he has been a part of throughout his career. He has sponsored DECA since 1998 and BPA since 2003. He has been part of the football program for 30 years and coached baseball for 21 years. As a sponsor of DECA and BPA, Jeff has helped provide opportunities for students to compete and show off their talents in the business world.

After attending Elmhurst College, Jeff originally wasn't going to go into teaching.

In fact, some people even pushed him away from education. However, his love of sports and coaching drew him back in, and he knew this is what he was meant to do. Jeff shared he will miss the relationships he has built with other staff. Working with kids outside of class also has been a highlight of his career. The kids have motivated Jeff to keep trying to do a better job. Jeff plans to finish traveling to baseball stadiums until he has attended a game at each one. He has most of them completed, but there are still a few more on the list. After he completes that goal, he might consider starting on football. Jeff is excited to be a free agent and to be able to pick whatever he chooses. Additionally, he looks forward to his son's wedding and spending time with his wife and entire family.



Theresa Wilson, *Addison Trail*

Pursuing a career as a teacher was never a question for Theresa. She comes from a family of educators. Her dad was a teacher at York High School, and her mom was an elementary teacher and reading specialist. Even her aunt and uncles are educators. The family tradition will continue, as Theresa's daughter is a special education teacher. Theresa's career at Addison Trail began in 1991 and, after 33 years, her legacy will live on in the Math Department at the school.

Theresa's start at Addison Trail is different from most. While a typical candidate would complete an application to be interviewed for a position, somehow Don Layne and Carl Slaughter knew she was looking for a math teaching position and called her for an interview. After the interview and follow-up call from Don Layne to make an offer, Theresa was not even the first to know she had the position. Her husband took the call and accepted the position on her behalf. Well, 33 years later, her husband made the right decision.

During her career at Addison Trail, Theresa has taught many courses in the department, but one in particular was her favorite. Teaching Geometry Honors in a nontraditional format with a much more

inquisitive and problem-solving approach was her favorite class. What she will miss the most after retiring will be the kids. "(They are) why we do this job," Theresa said. She also will miss the people she works with every day.

Theresa plans to explore her family history and lineage with a trip in August to Germany. She also looks forward to helping her kids when they need it and being involved with her grandkids.



Ann Eakley, District Office

Ann started with District 88 in 2003-04 as a teacher aide in the Special Education program at Willowbrook High School. Her own children were in college, so she felt the need to have more kids in her life. After being a teacher aide, Ann went back to college and received her credentials to be a special education teacher. Education was a career change, as Ann's bachelor's degree was in communications and theater arts, along with French.

Ann will miss the kids the most upon her retirement. Ann considers the students she teaches to be "her" kids, and her love and commitment to the student and their family is authentic. She will also miss the daily interaction - not just with the students, but the staff in the Transition Program. Ann enjoys her team and appreciates them for all they do. When Ann joined the program, she was the only teacher, along with the support of teacher aides. Ann has had a lasting effect on growing the program and leaving her legacy with District 88.

Ann reflected on the favorite part of her

career, and watching the students grow over a four-year period takes the top spot. A close second is the Perks and Possibilities Coffee Shop. She recalls going to former District 88 Superintendent Dr. Steve

Humphrey and asking for our students to run the coffee shop. While it seemed overwhelming at the time, it has become one of her favorite memories.

In retirement, Ann's immediate goals are to organize her house and focus on gardening. She looks forward to getting her grandkids involved with gardening. She also is excited to be involved with her three grandsons, as this is new territory for Ann (who raised three daughters). She looks forward to finding her passion and ways to make a difference as well.



Rose Janusz, District Office

Rose came to District 88 in 2010-11, after deciding on a career change. Rose originally worked as a typesetter and then in graphic arts. Following her role as a stay-at-home mom, Rose was recruited by her son's school to work as a teacher aide in a special education classroom. After three years of working in a school setting, Rose decided to go back to school and get her master's degree in library science. After gaining her credentials, she obtained her first position as a school librarian at Berkeley District 87. Following a one-year stint in District 87, Rose moved to District 88, where she is finishing her 14th year.

Rose has been a library person her whole life. Her first job was typing the card catalog cards at a library in Oak Park. At that time, she did not think of the library as a career. It wasn't until she was working as an aide in the library at her son's school that she considered it a career choice. While she regrets not entering the education field sooner, she is an example of "it is never too late to follow your passions." Her favorite part of her career has

been putting resources into the hands of kids and teaching them how to use them.

During her time in District 88, Rose has directed the Library Media Centers at both schools. She has sponsored NHS for three years, the GSA at Willowbrook for six years, and she has continued the tradition of bringing in great speakers for the Author in the House program. Rose shared she will miss the students and staff the most in retirement. Rose has had a chance to build relationships and friendships with staff in both buildings.

Rose's future plans include a trip in September to Italy, working in her garden and working a few hours a week at the Glen Ellyn library in the Youth Department.



Pamela Bradford, *Willowbrook*

Pam joined the District 88 family in 1990 as a teacher aide in the library at Willowbrook High School. However, Pam was involved with Willowbrook long before that through the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) - where she served as President - and Parents of Willowbrook organizations. When the principal at the time had an opening on the CAC, he personally invited Pam to apply, and the rest is history. Pam has worked in the Library Media Center her entire 34-year career.

As a member of the LMC staff, Pam has had contact with the entire student body and staff. It is incredible to imagine the thousands of students she has served during her 34 years. While Willowbrook is a place where she worked and called home, it really has an even more significant role in her life, as all six of her children graduated from Willowbrook.

Some of her fondest memories are working at Willowbrook while her daughter was attending. Pam will always remember the staff and students at the school and said, "I have learned and loved a lot."

Pam's future plans are to go where she is needed. She has nine grandchildren, and her children are in different parts of the country. Whether she is helping out family members who are local or out East, she will be there to assist - just like she has for the past 34 years at Willowbrook High School.



Genaro "Hank" Chanez, *Willowbrook*

From corporate America to a mainstay at Willowbrook High School, Hank has left a lasting impression on the staff and students. Prior to joining the Willowbrook family in 2011, Hank worked in the banking and finance industry, as he has an accounting degree from New Mexico State University. The opportunity came to make a change, and he gave working in schools a try. After working at Glenbard East for a short period of time, Hank came to Willowbrook, where he started as a teacher aide in the ESL program. He then transitioned into the clerical group with the Financial Office, followed by the mailroom, where he will finish his career.

Beyond the various positions listed above, Hank has integrated himself into the culture of Willowbrook. He can often be found working the athletic games in the evening and providing supervision for the various rentals. This has allowed Hank to really get to know the students and see them compete and perform

in their own element.

When asked what he will miss most, Hank immediately said "the people." Interacting with the staff on a daily basis is what he looks forward to each day when he comes to Willowbrook.

He also added he will miss the interactions he has with students when he is supervising events. He has built great relationships with students. Meeting kids on their own terms after school has really led to great connections.

Hank plans to keep working in retirement, as he feels work is good for people. However, work in retirement will be on his terms, where he can pick the hours he will work. He also has a trip planned in September to visit Yellowstone National Park.



Maritza Francisco, Willowbrook

Maritza started her career as a social studies teacher in 1990 in the Chicago Public Schools - a time she calls her "bootcamp." After a successful bootcamp, Maritza joined the Willowbrook family in the 1999-2000 school year. For her first eight years at Willowbrook, Maritza was a dean of students. She then moved to the Social Studies Department, where she co-taught with Colleen Smith in the EL program. She later moved to teaching Human Geography, U.S. History and AP Human Geography.

Maritza comes from a family of educators, and teaching is what she knew from the time she was a little girl. She will miss watching her EL students grow and develop both in their education and skills, but also as individuals. Seeing them become more secure in the language will always be her

favorite memory. Maritza also will miss the camaraderie of her colleagues, and she said, "The friendships and support that has occurred throughout the years has made my teaching career a success."

While Maritza is retiring from Willowbrook, she still plans to continue her work and passion in education. She hopes to work with young teachers during their student teaching or to take on some part-time ESL and bilingual classes, as she still has knowledge and a love of learning to share.



Maureen Lindhorst, Willowbrook

Willowbrook was a home for Maureen well before she began working at the school in 2004. Maureen's children went to Willowbrook, and one of her fondest memories is working in the same school where her daughter was attending. Maureen has always been interested in education and received her degree in education from Elmhurst College.

Maureen has been a teacher aide in the Literacy Department for her entire 20 years at Willowbrook. She has found the position so rewarding. For the last eight years, she has worked with students as a resource, helping them in a variety of academic areas. She said seeing the students be successful and gain more confidence in themselves is rewarding, and she will miss the kids the most. Seeing them transform from young

freshmen to more mature and confident seniors is a memory she will take away from her time as a Warrior. Maureen has loved the notes students have written to her, and she keeps them on her

refrigerator. It reminds her of the impact she has made on students.

In retirement, Maureen looks to expand her garden now that she will have more time to devote to it. She also looks to spend more time with her three grandchildren (two of whom are local, and 1 who is in Virginia Beach). She would love to go to England and spend time with family there as well.



Peter Makrinski, Willowbrook

After 17 years as a Warrior, Pete will write the next chapter of his life. Prior to his arrival in 2007, Pete worked at Archbishop Quigley Seminary High School in Chicago for 17 years. He also worked in other Chicago-area parochial schools leading up to his time at Quigley.

During his time at Willowbrook, Pete worked in the Behavior Intervention Center (BIC) for four years. Pete then moved to credit recovery - the afterschool program and the full-day program - where he is currently working. Pete has enjoyed working in the program, as he has been able to create personal relationships with the students. Helping students recover the credits they need to graduate has been rewarding. He also will take away the great memories and friendships he has made with staff.

Pete turned to education after he started his career in broadcasting and journalism,

where he found the industry too unstable and volatile. Working in schools, along with his passion for history, made the transition to education an easy decision. While he does not have a specific memory that stands out, all of his experiences and interactions with students and staff have provided him with a positive career that he will cherish.

The first thing Pete is going to do after he retires is sit down and relax. He wants to recharge his battery. He sees himself slowing down, but still being engaged with schools through working athletic events and being involved - just not all day, every day.



Charles “Chuck” Sheridan, Willowbrook

Teaching is a field for which people have a calling. Chuck is a prime example of following your passion. Before starting in education 25 years ago, Chuck received his law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. After a few years working in school law, he could no longer ignore the voice calling him to teach. He started his education career at Neuqua Valley and, after four years, found his home at Willowbrook, where he has been teaching for the past 21 years.

Chuck was integral in starting AP Comparative Government and AP U.S. Government at Willowbrook. During his tenure, he has taught AP Psychology, AP Government, AP European History and Sociology. While he is proud of the curricular impact he has made at Willowbrook, he is most proud of the relationships he has built with the students. Reflecting on the thank you notes he has

received from students through the years is what he will remember most. Not having the opportunity to continue to build relationships with students will be a difficult challenge in retirement

The advice he shares for new teachers is twofold: build relationships with your colleagues, and build relationships with your students.

In retirement, Chuck plans to continue to work and is looking for an opportunity to continue to teach in some capacity. He plans to spend more time with his family and to follow his passion for drawing. He has been encouraged to start drawing again and, with his newfound time, Chuck plans to get back at it.



James “Jim” White, *Willowbrook*

Jim started his career in education at Willowbrook High School in 1991. Prior to teaching, Jim worked for a brief period of time at United Airlines. While coaching football after college, Jim was influenced by some of the coaches (who also were teachers) to get his credentials to become an educator. Jim knew teaching and coaching was what he was meant to do. After graduating from Southern Illinois University and working at United Airlines, Jim went back to school at North Central College to get his teaching credentials.

After starting in 1991 as a speech teacher and coach, Jim has gone on to coach multiple sports, including football, track & field, softball, basketball and golf. In the classroom, Jim has taught thousands of students during his career and has had a lasting and impactful influence on each one. However, Jim reflects on the impact the students have had on him throughout his career. They have made him

a better teacher, coach, parent and human being.

Jim’s advice for new staff is to “be involved and be engaged” with the school and students beyond the classroom.

Be around the students as much as possible, and you will get as much out of it as the students do. You can learn from the students - be open to their input and learn from them.

Jim’s plan in retirement is to not slow down. He plans to continue to coach and work with kids in some capacity. Since Jim’s wife also is an employee of District 88, he plans on still being around to support the school and community. “Willowbrook High School and District 88 is the only place I know,” Jim said.



Karyn Wolcott, *Willowbrook*

The Willowbrook Music Department has had the pleasure to have Karyn as the Choral Director since 1998. Before arriving at Willowbrook, Karyn was an adjunct professor for a variety of community colleges in the south suburbs. She spent most of her time and had the largest impact at Moraine Valley Community College, where she built up a strong program with a large choir. Following her time in the community colleges, Karyn wanted to continue to work with talented young musicians and grow another program, so she turned to high schools. After an extensive inquiry search, District 88 called - and the rest is history.

Karyn has served as Choral Director, Department Chair, Tri-M sponsor, Vocal Jazz sponsor and even worked on a few musicals during her time at Willowbrook. She is proud of the work and success her musicians have had in ILMEA competitions, as she has had two choirs featured at ILMEA concerts (in 2004 and 2018). She also is proud of the musicians who have achieved All-State and All-District

honors.

Karyn attended Millikin University and received a bachelor’s degree in music, with choral focus. She then received a master’s degree in choral conducting from Northwestern University and a second master’s degree in principal leadership from Roosevelt University. Her favorite memories will be all the choir tours she has organized and attended with her students. The experience of making beautiful music in some of the most beautiful places has been something she will never forget.

In retirement, Karyn plans to “travel a ton,” have weekly visits with her grandkids and see her youngest kid off to college. She has no plans to work during her first year of retirement, but might consider it after a year.





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Congratulations to the 2023-24 retirees!

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