

THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXIX, Number 9

May 2021

Dr. Phyllis Deringis, "Service to Maine Youth" Award

The Maine Principals' Association understands the motto "it takes a village," and recognizes the tremendous number of hours that people around the state volunteer to help support Maine students. Because of this, the MPA established the Dr. Phyllis Deringis, "Service to Maine Youth Award" in honor of Dr. Phyllis Deringis, Assistant Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association who retired after 16 years of service.

The first recipient of this award is **Jon Thurston** of Searsmont. Glen Widmer, Principal of Captain Albert Stevens School in Belfast, proudly nominated Mr. Thurston because of his significant contributions at Troy Howard Middle School as well as Captain Albert Stevens School. Jon was responsible for much of the work in the creation of a thriving Farm to School program at both schools. Upon retiring from his job as the garden coordinator at Troy Howard, he continued to donate hours of his time to working with youth, tending to the gardens at Troy Howard, and expanding his attention to a languishing garden at the local elementary school.

Not only did he help out in the garden but he frequently brought his cider press and apples to the school to do cider pressing with all of the classrooms in the

school. Most recently, he worked with ReTreeUS in the planning and planting of a school orchard with apple, pear, and peach trees.

According to the current Garden Coordinator at Troy Howard Middle School, David Wessels, "Jon's compassionate, fun-loving, and no-nonsense style has been so valuable to young people, he has often brought them to the garden to fulfill volunteer hours, cultivating a new generation of volunteers!"

The second recipient of this award is **Chelsey Carrier** of Skowhegan. Ms. Carrier was nominated by Bruce Mochamer, principal of Skowhegan Area High School. According to Mr. Mochamer, "Chelsey became active in the district years ago with the students at Skowhegan Area High School and the Somerset Career and Technical Center and decided to create a food pantry as part of the SkillsUSA Program. The students connected with the Rotary Club, of which she is a member. Together, they not only helped with the food pantry, they also helped with the Backpack Program – prior to the pandemic, students at SCTC packed 60

(Continued on Page 2)

"Larry LaBrie Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Interscholastic Division"

The Larry LaBrie Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Interscholastic Division award was created by the Interscholastic Management Committee to honor former Assistant Executive Director Larry LaBrie, who retired in June 2008 after sixteen years of service to the association. The award recognizes individuals who make outstanding contributions to the Interscholastic Division of the Maine Principals' Association.

The first Larry LaBrie Award recipient is **Lynn Ruddy**. Ms. Ruddy graduated from Oshkosh West High School in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 1972. She then attended the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh and earned her Bachelor of Science, majoring in Physical Education with an emphasis in Aquatics along with a minor in Biology and one in Health. In 1976, she worked at Bowdoin College. Since arriving at Bowdoin, she has been the Assistant and Head Women's Cross-Country Coach, the Assistant and Head of Women's Track and Field, Assistant Coach of Men's and Women's Swimming, Head Coach of softball and volleyball, Director of Intramurals and Club Sports, then the Facilities Coordinator in 1987. In 1986 she was named the Assistant Athletic Director, in 1992 she was the Senior Women's Administrator, and in 2001 she was named the Associate Athletic Director. During this time she was a meet director and referee for numerous MPA track and field championships held at Bowdoin College as well as various other sites throughout Maine. She served as the site director for both Class A and B MPA swim championships held at Bowdoin College since 2003. She

(Continued on Page 2)

Rhonda Merrill Named 2021 Secretary of the Year

Rhonda Merrill is the Secretary of the Etna Dixmont School in Etna. Ms. Merrill was nominated by almost every student and staff member at Etna Dixmont School.

Here is a poem which was written and illustrated by students that sums up just how incredible Ms. Merrill is: "Ms. Merrill – Our Super School Secretary... Dedicated to Ms. Merrill, Our school is so lucky to have you. You can do it all! Endless phone calls you will take. Endless deadlines you will make. Answering questions all day long, making sure nothing goes wrong. Your organization is beyond compare, knowing exactly what to find and where. Your smile reaches far and near and tells all they are welcome here. Thank you, Ms. Merrill for all you do, we would be lost without you."

WE ARE HERE TO HELP ALL NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Are you in the process of hiring someone new to administration?

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the Mentor Program and click [HERE](#) to apply to be matched with a TRAINED, EXPERIENCE mentor!

Give your new hires the opportunity to be the best they can be for their school and your district! (No person named for this position yet? Sign them up as “TBD” and save them a space in the program—space IS limited!)

Dr. Phyllis Deringis, “Service to Maine Youth” Award . . .

(Continued from page 1)

backpacks of food each week to go home with students.

When the schools closed, she organized a group of community volunteers to collect all of the food from different pantries in the district and brought it to the school. Within a day, Ms. Carrier helped organize a crew to pack and deliver 350 boxes of food to local families.

Since this time, with Ms. Carrier being able to obtain funding through the Rotary Club, the Masons, Good Shepard Food Bank, New Balance, the John T. Gorman Foundation, and private donations, the backpack program has tripled in size and is now up to 180 bags each week.” It is because of her hard work and dedication that 180 families who are food insecure know where their next meals are coming from.

“Larry LaBrie Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Inter-scholastic Division” . . . (Continued from page 1)

has also served as the site director for Kvac track and field and swimming and diving championships held at Bowdoin College since 1989.

Ms. Ruddy has served on the NCAA Division 3 Track and Field Committee; served on the Brunswick Golf Course Board of Directors as the secretary for 11 years; was a golf course rater for the Southern Maine Women’s Golf Association and directed Brunswick Women’s Golf Association Member/Guest tournaments for 10 years. As of June 30, 2021, Lynn plans on retiring from Bowdoin College.

Our second awardee is **Shannon Whiting**. Ms. Whiting graduated from Inter-Lakes High School in Meredith, New Hampshire in 1979. She attended Husson College where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Recreation Management, Her Master of Science Degree in Business Administration and her Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership.

Shannon has been a field hockey high school official for 34 years. She has served on the Maine field hockey board of directors from 1990-1999; the Maine field hockey umpires association executive board from 1999 – 2018; and during this time she was a Maine Field Hockey State Rules Interpreter. She has run field hockey rules clinics for high school officials; field hockey clinics and camps for high school students; was the MSSPA site director for soccer state championships at Husson College; the MSSPA site director for swimming state championships also at Husson; and was the site director for state cheerleading championships. She officiated 23 games of the MSSPA Field Hockey Championship Games as well as 29 Eastern/Northern Maine Championships and was a high school varsity softball coach for a combined 14 years at Orono and John Baptist High Schools. She was the Maine Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women’s softball Coach of the Year in 1993 and 1994; Maine Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1994; and the NAIA District #5 Coach of the year also in 1994. She was a collegiate Field Hockey Official for 22 years and took her team to the Northeast Athletic Confer-

ence Field Hockey Championship for 14 years. She has presented for the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conference; and for the Central and Southern Maine Guidance Counselors on sports management curriculum.

Our third awardee is **Pamala Hennessey**. Ms. Hennessey graduated from Coney High School in 1962. She then went on to the University of Maine where she earned her Bachelor of Science, Master of Science in Education, and her Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership. She served as a high school basketball official for 17 years – this included the first Class A Girls’ State Championship! She was also a softball high school official for five years and a high school field hockey official for 54 years – this includes more than 20 state championship games. She was the field hockey assignor for Northern Maine for 36 years and president of Maine Field Hockey Umpire’s Association from 1999-2018. She has run summer field hockey workshops and camps for high school student athletes at the UMaine Augusta and Husson Colleges. She has also run the state of Maine field hockey rules clinics. Ms. Hennessey was a representative to the first MPA basketball committee for the girls’ tournament, served on the IAABO Executive Committee and was the Maine State Field Hockey High School Tournament Director as well as the site coordinator for several MSSPA events at Husson College for State swim meets, cheerleading, soccer, and field hockey.

In 1993, Pam was given the State of Maine Leadership Award for Women Athletic Administrators; in 1996 she was inducted into the Husson College Sports Hall of Fame; was named National Athletic Director of the Year; and the Northeast Region Athletic Director of the Year. She has been published in several journals and newsletters and has presented at multiple conferences including the Women in Leadership Conference for the MPA, the University of Maine, the Competition for Middle School Students Symposium and the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conventions.

PROFESSIONAL OFFERINGS

Maine Student Council State Conference

“Celebrate Our Success”

with Keynote Speakers: Kaylee Porter and Adam Regan

Virtual ~ Zoom

May 18, 2021

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

ELE’s Kappa Class

Education Leaders Experience (ELE) is returning to **full in-person** this year! ELE is a year-long, experiential professional development experience for leaders.

ELE is all about building relationships and connections across Maine. Developed by Unum, administered by Educate Maine, and in partnership with MPA and Thomas College, this unique program brings together education leaders to spend roughly one day per month learning about Maine industries, businesses, and current and emerging workforce needs.

ELE is an opportunity to build a network of personal connections with business leaders, create strong relationships with other educators and education leaders across the state, and gain a better understanding of the knowledge and skills required of your students to participate in the rapidly evolving workforce. Education plays a critical role in Maine’s economy. The ELE sessions highlight that intersection.

Recent participants in the ELE class say: *“Without a doubt, this is one of the most powerful professional development experiences I have had in over twenty years of being an educator.”* *“This was such a powerful experience. It is 100% worth the time, effort, and cost.”*

A sample calendar for the year, along with more details about the program, is on Education Maine’s website (Click [HERE](#)). Thanks to generous financial support from Unum, tuition for the 2021/2022 program is only \$1,100. A link to the online application can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Please do not hesitate to reach out to Dolly at dolly@educatemaine.org or Holly at hcouturier@mpa.cc with any questions.

Great Beginnings Series

with

Chad Bell, Principal,
Winslow High School
and

Jennifer McGee, Principal,
Atwood (Ralph) M. School, Oakland

Session I ~ August 20, 2021
Session II ~ October 29, 2021
Session III ~ January 28, 2022
Session IV ~ April 8, 2022

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

Maine School Finance Summer Institute

8 Interactive Zoom Sessions!

July 21 - August 13, 2021

Space is Limited!

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

Maine School Law Summer Institute

7 Interactive Zoom Sessions!

July 12—20, 2021

Space is Limited!

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

ED506: Teaching English as a Second Language

Spring 2021—Summer I
May 10—July 2, 2021

Location and Time: Online via Moodle

Click [HERE](#) For More Information.

Follow us on Twitter!

Holly Couturier —@HCouturierMPA
Mike Bisson—@MikeBissonMPA

Congratulations Retirees

Please congratulate the following individuals who will be retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 school year:

- ◆ Donna Brunette, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham;
- ◆ Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School, Turner;
- ◆ Allan Martin, George J. Mitchell Elementary School, Waterville;
- ◆ Paul Michaud, Fort Kent Elementary School; and
- ◆ Charles Potter, Smith (Margaret Chase) School, Sanford.



Interested in Becoming A Mentor for a New Principal or Assistant Principal?

The MPA is proud to offer mentor/coaching for new principals and assistant principals in our state. The program, now in its 15th year, has the highest number of new administrators working with mentor/coaches in MPA history.

The MPA will offer a Mentor/Coach Orientation and Training on August 11, 2021. Give consideration to joining the cadre of trained mentor/coaches who are giving back to the profession by working closely with our newest colleagues.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and Click on link below for the Application.

<https://form.jotform.com/MainePrincipalsAssociation/application-for-potential-mentors>

PR Tips for Principals

Mitigate Isolation as Principal

Principals need a vibrant support system that won't tell them what they want to hear, but what they need to hear. They need to connect, communicate, and collaborate to keep from being isolated.

Below are some tips on how to cultivate school building and community relationships to mitigate isolation as a principal:

- Develop and maintain a key communicator network that's more than an email list or followers on social media.
- Have a two-way communication advisory system built on strategic messaging and listening.
- Create a principal blog, podcast, or YouTube channel and post on it at least twice a month on topics pertinent for your school building community.
- Work with the school building or district IT department and communications department to assess if your personal and professional communication tools are current, fresh, and fully integrated.

—National School Public Relations Association,
PRincipal Communicator,
April 2021.

DATES TO CELEBRATE

- * **May 1-31**
 - *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month* ~ Join in paying tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
 - *Better Hearing and Speech Month* ~ Sponsored by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, this month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders. The theme for 2021 is "Building Connections." Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- * **May 3: World Press Freedom Day** ~ Learn more about this day on the United Nations Website (click [HERE](#)).
- * **May 3-7: National Teacher Appreciation Week** ~ Access the Teacher Appreciation Toolkit (Click [HERE](#)) from the National PTA, and be sure to #ThankATeacher on social media.
- * **May 6: National School Nurse Day** ~ This event helps to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses. It is celebrated the Wednesday of National Nurse Week, which is May 6 -12 every year. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- * **May 7: School Lunch Hero Day** ~ Recognize the hardworking school nutrition professionals in your school cafeterias and the difference they make in children's lives. Celebrate with the School Nutrition Association. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- * **May 9: Mother's Day**
- * **May 9-15: Food Allergy Awareness Week** ~ Sponsored by the Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) Organization Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- * **May 31: Memorial Day**

Virtual Regional Meetings

Elementary Level Virtual Regional Meeting
EVERY TUESDAY, AT 8:30!
Grades: PreK-5

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89296738921?pwd=WEdEdzBvMlZlZUJtUTkvdEovb1JQUT09>
Meeting ID: 892 9673 8921 ~ Passcode: 091459

High School Level Virtual Regional Meeting
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 8:30!
Grades: 6-12

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87687770287?pwd=eFZKS2FObGdzQm15NGdKdi9hOXI4UT09>
Meeting ID: 876 8777 0287 ~ Passcode: 163686

Save the links above for the regional meetings. They will be used every week until further notice.

**Are your educators
struggling with
student loan debt?**

It doesn't have to be this way.



Horace Mann Student Loan Solutions will help your staff manage their student loan debt, apply for federal loan forgiveness and get on a path toward a brighter financial future — helping you better attract, support and retain the quality, full-time educators you need.

Learn more at horacemann.com/student-loan-debt-help/schools.



The information provided here is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered a recommendation. Horace Mann's Student Loan Solutions program includes services provided by a third party. Horace Mann is a private, independent company not affiliated with the Department of Education or the federal government. Horace Mann does not negotiate, adjust or settle debts. No assistance provided by Horace Mann constitutes official action for purposes of student loan forgiveness programs or guaranteed results. Horace Mann's Student Loan Solutions program terms are subject to change. Horace Mann and its affiliates enter into agreements with educational associations where Horace Mann or its affiliate pays the association to provide services aimed at familiarizing association members with the Horace Mann brand, products or services. For more information, email your inquiry to association.relations@horacemann.com.
AM-C04509MPA (4-21)



#1 SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS PLATFORM FOR K-12



VISIT [GOGIPPER.COM/MPA](https://gogipper.com/mpa) FOR MORE INFO AND 10% OFF!

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



CREATE AND SHARE IN SECONDS

- Ready-made static, motion, & video templates
- Seamless social media sharing & scheduling



WORKS ON ANY DEVICE

- Mobile fully-supported
- Add photos in real-time from any device



NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

- Easy plug and play editing
- Built for non-technical, non-designers

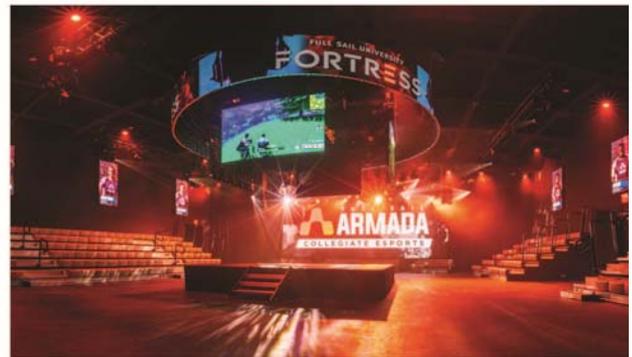


ESPORTS SEATING SOLUTIONS

ARLINGTON ESPORTS ARENA - Arlington, TX

YOUR VISION – OUR EXPERTISE

Hussey Seating Company is the leading spectator seating manufacturer trusted by venue operators, owners, architects and developers around the world. Located in North Berwick, Maine since 1835, Hussey Seating is proud to partner with the MPA in support of esports programs across the state. In addition to the gymnasium, auditorium, and performing arts center seating you are accustomed to seeing Hussey products in – we’re also experts in creating esports venue solutions. We ensure your esports venue is designed to maximize both your usable space and investment.



FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY - FORTRESS - Winter Park, FL

FREE DESIGN CONSULTATION

Bring your vision to life. Contact us today for a free design consultation session with our experts or order your Clarin by Hussey Seating team seating.

+1.207.676.2271
www.husseyseating.com/esports
esports@husseyseating.com

Proud partner of MPA



PENN COLLEGE - Model 3400



BOISE STATE - Model 3400

