



## Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame

John Louis Popple Chapter

### CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## AGAINST ALL ODDS

### **- A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Well, we made it to 2021. Covid 19 continues to rear its ugly head into this year, but we keep moving forward. We persist in our efforts to celebrate the area's best athletes and make the extra effort necessary to establish our reputation as a community service provider. Determined not to have a gap year, we selected a class of inductees for 2020. The class is a bit smaller, but boasts a tremendous amount of talent and achievement. In addition, instead of stepping back on our community service efforts, we actually chose to step up our efforts considering how much need was being created by the pandemic. I am proud to say that these efforts have been much appreciated by those who we have been able to help and it is my sincere desire to continue to help as many people and organizations as we can. I am so proud of the members of our hall who have helped build these efforts or contributed to these causes. It comes as no surprise to me that a committed team of athletes have the motivation, the smarts, and the heart it takes when it comes to helping others. I am so proud to be a part of this group. -Jim

### IN THIS ISSUE



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### MEMBERS ONLY

### CLASS OF 2020

### MUSEUM UPDATE

### SAVE THE DATE

### HELPING OUT

### T-SHIRT SALE

## MEMBERS ONLY

### **-ALL FOR JUST 10 BUCKS**

If you have not yet paid your membership fees, there's good news! The deadline for this year has been extended to December, 23, 2021. Membership, is not limited to inductees and can be purchased by anyone with an interest in belonging to our chapter. Fees are ten dollars a year or seventy-five dollars for a lifetime membership. The fees buy three things. First, they provide you with an opportunity to belong to a group dedicated to preserving athletic history along with a variety of volunteer opportunities to serve the group in this mission. Second, fees give you a voice in deciding who gets inducted at both the local and state levels. Paid membership gets you a ballot from the state hall and allows you nominating powers on the local level for free. Finally, for just ten bucks you gain access to an organization rededicated to doing good works in the community. So if you haven't renewed yet please do. You can renew or buy on our website [www.luzernecountysportshalloffame.com](http://www.luzernecountysportshalloffame.com)

# CLASS OF 2020

## -SMALL, BUT MIGHTY

The typical number of inductees for an incoming class is fifteen. However, 2020 proved to be everything but typical. Determined to not skip the year, despite the pandemic's every effort to cancel our every move, we did finally pick a class for the year. The class number is eight, but we feel it is still a terrific representation of our area's best of the best. The inductees are:

- Julian Campenni – Football
- Glenn Frey – Football
- Kathy Goeringer – Basketball/Volleyball/Official
- Kathy Healey – Basketball/Softball/Coach
- Bill O'Boyle Sr. – Baseball/Founder
- Dr. Michael Portonova – Tennis
- Paul Richards – Swimming
- Judy Sholtis – Softball

This list boasts the same qualities of every class inducted into our hall. It is replete with all stars, MVP's, All Americans, founders, inspiring coaches, excellent officials, and professional athletes. Each has left an indelible mark along the way. We hope to honor them this spring at a time and place to be determined. Until then, we want to welcome the newest members of our hall of fame. It is our hope that you feel as honored as we do on your selection.

## CLASS OF 2020



Campenni  
Healey  
Portonova

Frey  
Richards

Goeringer  
O'Boyle Sr  
Sholtis

# LCSHOF MUSEUM

## - BRAND NEW LOOK

You may have not done whole lot of flying in the past year, but our airport museum is flying high with a brand new batch of memorabilia featuring the Class of 2020 and a brand new tribute in our Hall of Fame Spotlight corner. State medalist teams representing the catchment area of both LCSHOF and the Northeastern Chapter are this year's entries. The teams are all PIAA gold medalists this year. Wyoming Seminary field hockey, a repeat champ from last year is joined this year by Scranton Prep boys golf and Bloomsburg girls soccer. Each team is represented in the spotlight with a complete uniform and a few mementos. Jim Martin, and Mary Jo Hromchak spent an entire day reorganizing the cases while Jack Monick worked his camera magic shooting picture after picture for our updated virtual tour. The final result is both a visual celebration of our blasts from the past and a huge shout out to our future hall of famers. Honestly, the airport folks love it and so do we. Check it out at either AVP Airport or online on our website.



## BANQUET 2021

### -SAVE THE DATE

Planning has begun for this year's banquet. The selection committee is currently going over the credentials of all possible candidates in order to select a full hall of fame class. The date for the banquet has been secured and that date is Sunday, August 8, 2021. As the pandemic continues, we and Genetti's are wrestling with the ever changing state guidelines and making the necessary adjustments to provide a safe and special event for our inductees and their families. We remain hopeful that we will indeed be able to celebrate our inductees in the same year as their selection. Fingers crossed that with a little imagination, creative thought and flexibility, we can pull everything together. Check the website and all of our social media for updates. Until then mark your calendar and save the date – August 8, 2021.



# HELPING OUT

## -HELPING CHALLENGER AND HIP

Determined not to miss a step when it came to our community service initiatives, we managed to help two of our favorite causes, despite the pandemic. The first being Challenger Baseball. Jim Martin assisted in successfully acquiring a \$5000 grant from The AllOne Foundation to pay for the Safety and Cooling Project at Evercor Field. The monies will help build a medically safe environment for Challenger athletes and spectators. Additions will include, the purchase of an AED and other medical supplies necessary to handle player and spectator emergencies. Also, a misting/cooling system will be built to provide a favorable environment for anyone predisposed to heat intolerance. The whole effort is to make the field emergency ready for the boys and girls of summer and their fans. Challenger and Little League baseball, in turn, awarded our chapter a beautiful certificate and plaque for our outstanding volunteer support and loyalty to the Challenger kids. How great was that!



Left to Right Dan Mulherne, Sr Challenger Baseball, Carol Hurley, LCSHOF, Jim Martin, LCSHOF, Larry Wills, Challenger Baseball

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Pictured at the ALLOne check presentation, left to right: Jim Martin, President, LCSHOF, Carol Hurley, Executive Secretary LCSHOF, John W. Cosgrove, Executive Director AllOne, Mikey Ash, Challenger Baseball Player Rep, Larry Wills, Challenger Baseball President, Dan Mulherne, Sr. Evercor Field Manager, and Nicole Ash, Medical Adviser/Parent Liaison

Our second project, spearheaded by Karel Zubris and David Kanavich, was done to benefit the Hazleton Integration Project's (HIP) nutritional programs and food bank. These programs were hit hard by the pandemic and facing shortages like never before. The idea was to petition the business and private sectors to donate money or grocery gift cards through our organization. We agreed to match the first 500 dollars in donations with our own 500 bucks to give the effort a healthy start. It wasn't very long before our dollars were matched and moved to totals beyond. The generosity of donors, like the Popple family who donated in honor of our chapter namesake, John Louis Popple helped to make the effort a real success. We thank them and all the donors who contributed. We and the HIP center appreciate all the relief that was given during this very difficult time.

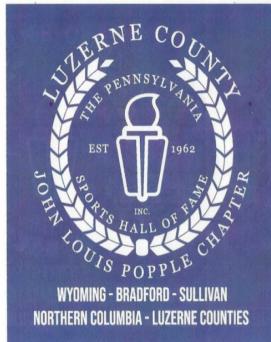
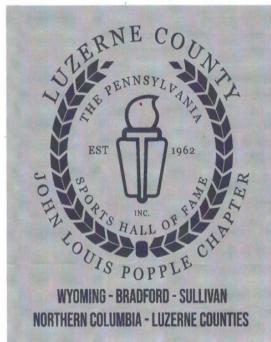


Karel Zubris accepts a donation from Mark Popple in honor of his father, John Louis Popple for the HIP Center's nutritional and food bank programs.

# WANNA BUY A SHIRT?

## -SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

Looking to upgrade your t-shirt collection? We have just the shirt. Our LCSHOF tees are available for sale through our website. Shirts come blue or gray and in all sizes. The shirts proudly display our chapter logo and list all of the counties we serve. Money from the purchase goes directly to funding our LCSHOF High School Scholarship Program. Each year we present area graduating seniors with monies to help support their future college endeavors. This year's candidates are being screened right now for selection. The school's on the ballot this year are Nanticoke, Wyoming Valley West, and Hanover. Cost of the shirt is 15 bucks plus shipping if you request mailing. Purchase on the website: [www.luzernecountysportshalloffame.com](http://www.luzernecountysportshalloffame.com).



## THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

*John Louis Popple Chapter*

*Wishes to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those who have passed.*

**BOB BESSOIR  
EDD BROMINSKI  
PAUL J. MAHER  
ROBERT SIEMINSKI**



**LCSHOF  
Officers - Members  
Friends - Families**

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# OUT AND ABOUT

## -HALL OF FAME SPOTLIGHT



Our HOF Spotlight is now featuring three state gold medal winning teams from our area. Wyoming Seminary Field Hockey, Scranton Prep Boy's Golf and Bloomsburg Girl's Soccer. Team coaches were presented with meritorious achievement proclamations to take back to their schools.

Pictured above Scranton Prep Boy's Golf coach, Ed Cimoch with Eve Hennigan, AVP. Below Bloomsburg Girl's Soccer Coach, Aaron Flook, with MJ Hromchak LCSHOF, Carl Beardsley AVP Ex. Director. Wyoming Seminary's Coach Karen Klassner was unable to attend the photo shoot.

