

# Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 10

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

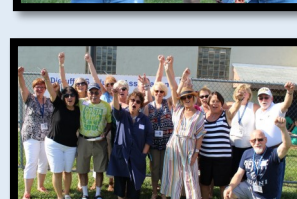
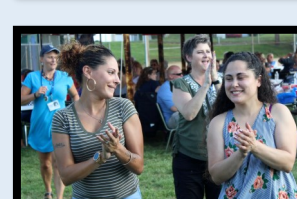
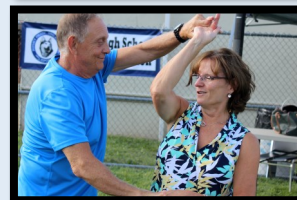
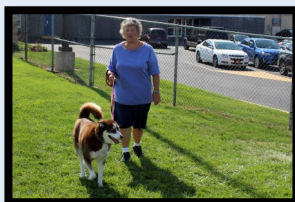
June-July, 2019

## 2019 Fandangle Is Here...Get Your Tickets Today!

Photos By: John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

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**Dieruff High School Alumni Association**  
*Husky Pride... Unleashed*

## Dieruff Fandangle

### A Mega-Reunion For All Classes

Join fellow Dieruff Alumni (All Classes) and Friends  
for an afternoon of great fun, music, drinks (beer,  
soda, water), and all-you-can-eat catered food.

## Saturday, July 27, 2019

### 2:00 - 7:00 PM

**East Side Youth Center**  
**1140 East Clair St., Allentown, PA**  
 Advanced Tickets Only

**\$20 Per Person**

**Tickets Available  
 at Stahley's,  
 DHS Main Office,  
 or online**

[www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)



## President's Message

*John G. Hughes, Jr. '61*

The stars were certainly in alignment during the last eight years. Mrs. Susan Bocian was selected to serve as the Principal of Louis E. Dieruff High School nine years ago. Our Alumni Association was founded eight years ago. To say that we enjoyed a "healthy partnership" would be an understatement, indeed!

It seemed like we have been in sync every step of the way. Each proposal we presented to her was greeted with a "thumbs up". Every idea we discussed transitioned into reality.

Some of the ideas were simple, and required relatively little effort or consideration. For example, we were able to launch the "Sew What?" Club, that after school sewing club with ease. And gaining approval for members of the Alumni Association to participate in school pep rallies and Commencement was a snap. Even projects like decorating the main lobby with photo collages of the Theatre Department performances, or adorning the Meilinger Media Center with alumni photos and collages, gained rapid and enthusiastic acceptance.

Several of the major projects took some work... and required some teamwork... and playing "politics". But the rewards were great. In 2014, we were able to raise \$10,000 to send the Dieruff Band and AFJROTC Cadets to Canton, OH to march in NFL Hall of Fame Enshrinement Parade for Dieruff Alum Andre Reed. And then, one year later we worked with Mrs. Bocian to gain City Council approval to rename Washington Street adjacent to the school "Andre Reed Way" and Irving Park "Andre Reed Park". Naming the field at J. Birney Crum Stadium in honor of Andre Reed was a bit more of a "challenge", dealing with the School Board. But we got it done! Once again, thank you Sue Bocian.

Another significant initiative was naming the school auditorium in honor of Mr. Peter Carpenter. The dedication ceremony was so very emotional and memorable for all of us.



With the pending retirement of Mrs. Bocian on the horizon, we knew that we wanted to gain her approval to begin the "Alumni Wall of Distinction" project. As we presented our proposal for this project, we were thrilled to learn that no additional approval was required from "up town", and that Mrs. Bocian was able to endorse the project quickly and with enthusiasm. The inaugural induction ceremony of the six alumni to the Wall occurred on June 20th.

At the conclusion of the Alumni Wall of Distinction ceremony, we surprised Mrs. Bocian with a special tribute and a gift from the Alumni Association. The truth is that no gift, nor words of praise, can thank her enough for helping our association gain the traction and develop as it has during these last eight years. She has truly served as our "Champion" and our faithful friend. We wish her abundant joy in her retirement.

Warmest Husky Regards,

John



## Profile Special: Susan Bocian, Going Full Circle

David Ziegenfuss '86



Outgoing Dieruff High School Principal Susan Bocian is the following: A teacher, mentor, administrator, wife (to Blaze), mother (to Zach and Veronica), grandmother (to Layla and soon-to-be born Blaze), gardener, cook, bowler, a hellava card player and, a survivor. She was born to be a Husky...literally.

"When Henry Widner was named as the new high school's first Principal, he arrived a year before to take on all the additional planning needed before the school opened in September of 1959," Susan begins. "Mr. Widner had a secretary that he brought to the new school with him, Mrs. Doris Haffner, who sat in all the meetings with contractors, sales reps and prospective employees. She worked with Mr. Widner to get Dieruff High School ready to open." In 1960, Mrs. Haffner became pregnant, and as was the custom of the day, left Dieruff until after her child was born. In 1961, Tom and Doris Haffner welcomed Susan into the world. That little baby would grow up to one day become Principal of Louis E. Dieruff High School herself. Going full circle from the womb to retirement at Dieruff High School.

Susan Haffner grew up not too far from the East Side, in Catasauqua - Small Town U.S.A. "A lot of hard working people, not too different from the families on the South Side and East Side," Susan tells us. She was an honor student, "I loved, loved school! I was a reader and my parents would beg me to go outside and play. I was such a nerd for learning."

She had come from a family involved in education. "I was going to be a teacher. Teaching was very familiar to me. My father was a teacher, my mother worked in schools, my sister was a teacher, and my great-grandmother worked in a one-room schoolhouse in Hellertown. Education of women in my family has always been a priority."

After graduating from Catasauqua High School in 1979, when choosing

colleges, she first thought that she would attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), even having already enrolled there. But her mother suggested that she visit Penn State before she made her final decision.

"I got there and right away I thought, *This is it, I'm coming here*," and with that Susan decided on Penn State. "It was great, I got to meet all these people from all over the country and to experience different things. I took downhill skiing and they would bus us to the mountains. I bowled, and the school had their own (bowling) lanes. Besides, they had great football teams coached by Joe Paterno. And of course, that's where I met my husband Blaze."

After graduating from Penn State, Susan found it difficult to find a job teaching immediately, so she went to work at a bank. Susan explains, "I would work in the summer at 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank as a relief teller, mostly for the regular tellers who went on vacation, but when I needed a job, they hired me full time to work at the 7<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton location".

In the winter of 1984, Susan was offered a job as a teacher at Northern Lehigh for the Spring Semester. At only 22 years old, she was teaching students who were only 4 or 5 years younger than she was.

After her review at the end of the semester, which she was given glowing remarks by Northern Lehigh's principal, she was offered a job to return as a substitute. She also was offered a position she thought was at South Mountain Junior High, which she accepted, only later to find out it was a school she wasn't familiar at all with... Harrison-Morton, by then turning into a middle school.

It became a school and a job she loved, "I taught English there for 13 years. Middle school kids are the best. They are so funny, though they don't mean to be. They're awkward, yet they are becoming adults. They

were so much fun to be around. I really enjoyed my time there."

But how did she finally come to Dieruff? Susan tells us, "I decided that I wanted to do something different in teaching. I came to Dieruff one day and spoke with Mr. Meilinger. He was so sweet to me. I told him that I would like to teach at Dieruff, and he made it happen. He just reassigned me."

It took Susan a couple of years at Dieruff to get established, "I didn't even have my own classroom. It was a big victory when I finally got one." But once she did become an established teacher, Susan (who was far junior to most of the other English teachers) was given an honor which would lead her to her final objective - she was made the English Department Chair. "I loved the chair position and I was successful at it."

Susan realized that leadership was important to her and she could go back to school to get her certification. It took 2 ½ years and "a lot of trips on the turnpike and a family to still take care of", but Susan finally got her certificate. She knew that if she was going to be an administrator, she had to once again leave her comfort zone and take an Assistant Principal's position at William Allen High School. "I had received offers at both Dieruff and Allen, but I knew it would be good for me. I was too comfortable at Dieruff. If I wanted to be an Assistant Principal and I was going to be one of the bosses, then I needed to make that break. I had to be the boss somewhere else. It was an enormously challenging time. It was so big!" But when the opportunity opened as the Academic Assistant Principal at Dieruff, Susan came home, or as she said, "got to get back to the family."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

## Dieruff High School Celebrates Alumni Wall of Distinction

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61



For the Huskies, it was a "family affair". Many of the distinguished alumni honored at the inaugural induction ceremony of the Alumni Wall of Distinction were accompanied by a large contingent of proud family members, some traveling in from California and Canada.

Scheduled to coincide with the 60th Anniversary of Dieruff High School, the ceremony was held in the auditorium on June 20, 2019. Appropriately, the program opened with the National Anthem, sung a cappella by Miss Milajiah Torres, newly graduated and recipient of a coveted Freddy Award for her performance in "Once on this Island". Mr. Peter Carpenter, composer of the Dieruff Alma Mater, and the "living legend" for whom the auditorium is named, then sat at the baby grand and led the audience in the Alma Mater.

The expressed purpose of the Alumni Wall of Distinction is to recognize

alumni for their exceptional accomplishments, and also to promote Husky Pride among current students by displaying the accomplishments of those who grew up in their neighborhoods and walked those same hallways.

For the initial class, six alumni were chosen by a selection committee from a large pool of nominees. Those selected included a celebrated jazz musician, a county sheriff, a well-known pastor, an accomplished college professor, a brilliant physicist who passed away at the age of 31, and a highly respected physician.

The honored alumni were:

Rick Braun, Class of 1973, is an internationally known jazz trumpeter, vocalist, song writer, and record producer. Living in California, Rick is often on tour, and when he performs in the Lehigh Valley, he makes it a point to play the Dieruff Fight Song.

Joseph Hanna, Class of 1974, has spent his career in law enforcement. He rose through the ranks in Allentown, PA from patrolman to Chief of Police. Then after serving as a Detective with the Lehigh County, Joe was elected Sheriff of the County.

Timothy "Tim" Keller, Class of 1968, is a highly recognized minister and author. He is the founding pastor of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, a church that typically enjoys weekly attendance of over

5,000. Tim has also written three New York Times bestselling books, and has also authored almost thirty books on religion.

Pamela Kistler, Ph.D., Class of 1971, is a chemistry professor at Cedar Crest College, where she has served as Chair of the Department of Chemical & Physical Science. She is also Councilor of the American Chemical Society.

Kirk Shinsky, Ph.D., Class of 1970, was a brilliant physicist who launched his career when he was a senior in high school. He won a national science competition, and was selected as the Nation's #1 Scientist. He earned a full scholarship to Cornell, received his Masters and Doctorate degrees at Princeton, and then became a professor of Physics at the University of California at Berkeley.

John Stevens, Jr. D.O., Class of 1963, is an extremely popular physician, specializing in Obstetrics/Gynecology. He is Chair, Ob/Gyn at St. Lukes's Hospital and is a Associate Clinical Professor at DeSales University.

The well-attended program concluded with an emotional tribute to Mrs. Susan Bocian, who is retiring after 35 years in the Allentown School District, serving the last nine years a Principal at Dieruff High School. She has been a faithful friend and "champion" of the Louis E. Dieruff Alumni Association.





## Accolades for Kay Kurtz!

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

The accolades, the awards, the rewards! They just keep rolling in for Kay Kurtz! For the last several months it has been an absolute bonanza! And how deserving she is!

At the end of March, Kay was selected as the "Honorary Co-Chair" for the Allentown School District Foundation High Notes 2019 Gala. She has since been invited to serve on the 22-person board of the Foundation. She will surely represent Dieruff High School with pride and dignity.

At the June 15th Dieruff High School Commencement, Kay was the keynote speaker and was the 2019 recipient of the Honored Dieruff Alumni Award. The award recognizes Dieruff graduates who have made significant contributions to their community and who have attained a measure of accomplishment and success in their life endeavors.

The profile printed in the Commencement Program Booklet is impressive, indeed! It reads, "Kay has always prided herself as being a product of the 'First Ward' and the Allentown School District. Growing up near the corner of Linden Street and Ridge Avenue, Kay attended Sheridan Elementary and Harrison Morton Junior High School before graduating from Dieruff High in 1974.



*Kay chose to enter the work force after graduation and has made a life-long career (42 years as of last month) at People First Federal Credit Union. She started as a teller and has worked her way up through the organization and currently holds the position of Business Development & Community Relations Manager since 1993.*

*Kay took advantage of her company's tuition reimbursement program and after 10 years of taking evening courses at LCCC, she earned her Associate's Degree in Business Administration.*

*In her position, Kay has given back to our local community and has participated on committees and served on*

*boards of many local organizations including Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County, KidsPeace, Mayfair Festival of the Arts and the ASD Foundation.*

*Kay's proudest accomplishment has come from her work and dedication to the Dieruff High School Alumni Association. Kay currently serves as Vice President and Website Administrator."*

Kay's comments and words of wisdom during her Commencement Address were warmly received. She paid tribute to retiring school Principal Susan Bocian. She saluted the members of the Class of 1969 for their ever-faithful Husky Pride. Her final challenge to the graduating class of 2019 was quite profound. She said, "the diploma you will receive today is just your learner's permit for the rest of your drive through life. Remember, you don't have to be smarter than the next person; all you must do is be willing to work HARDER than the next person. Class of 2019 - God bless you, enjoy life and remember - once a Husky, always a Husky. Go out there and make us proud!"

In the eyes of her family and friends, Kay Kurtz has certainly worked harder than the next person. She has earned the respect and the accolades that have rained down upon her. She has made us all so very proud.

## Class of 1964 55th Reunion

David Ziegenfuss '86

Saturday night, June 1st, over 60 members of the Class of 1964 held their 55th year class reunion at the Brass Rail on Lehigh Street. Also attending the event was Dr. Thom Persing, the class advisor who was the special guest of the class.

During an evening of dining, dancing and most of all reminiscing, a 50/50 drawing was held and \$160.00 was won by classmate Sandy Rosenberger. In turn, Sandy proudly donated it all to the LED Theatre Department on behalf of the Class of 1964. Thank you all for your continued Husky Pride!



## Scholarship Winners Announcement at 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Troika Awards

Kay Kurtz '74

This is the fifth year the Alumni Association has offered School Spirit scholarships to graduating seniors. The essay theme was **"What is the value of School Spirit in Today's World and in the Future?"** The 2019 School Spirit Scholarship recipients are:

**Caroline Dwornicka** – in her essay, Caroline wrote "School spirit means having pride **even when** you know your teams are not the best or when the school goes through a rough patch. She hopes that her spirit has influenced the way her younger siblings view Dieruff High School...." Caroline will be attending Lehigh University in the fall.

**Nikki Perez** - in her essay, Nikki wrote "School spirit is more than just pep rallies, it's a sense of community

in and outside of school- where **we motivate and encourage each other**. We're part of a husky pack and stick together when times are tough." Nikki will be attending Moravian College and will major in Nursing.

**Heba Salloum** – in her essay, Heba wrote: "School spirit gives people a sense of identity with one's peers as a community along with a combination of love and pride for one's school. **It gives us the drive** to get involved and to make our school proud." Heba will be attending DeSales University this fall.

**Mary Yacoub** – in her essay, Mary wrote "School spirit makes students realize that nobody is alone; we are all in this together. School spirit doesn't just revolve around sports,



but academically as well. Our love for the school may not be a physical representation but an intangible effort to raise the reputation and pride of our school." Mary will be attending Northampton Community College in the fall.

## Class of '69 Spearheads Commencement

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

George Raad, President of the Dieruff Class of 1969! If there ever was a class president who ever did more to keep his classmate bonded together, then I sure would like to hear about him or her. For my money, George is the consummate high school class president.

Year after year, George and his faithful team of Huskies have rallied the troops, that spirited group of classmates from the class of 1969, and they have gathered to reminisce and rejoice in a unique bond of Husky Pride.

On June 15th, on the 50th Anniversary of their own graduation from Dieruff High School, two dozen members of the class of '69 gathered at the PPL Center in Allentown to continue the tradition that our Alumni Association initiated several years ago. With the familiar notes of "Pomp and Circumstance" raising the rafters, George Radd led his entourage of

"able-bodied seniors" through the gauntlet of cheering faculty members. Holding placards aloft, the exuberant "sixty-niners" preceded a graduating class of over four hundred members of the Dieruff Class of 2019 into the massive arena.

The next scheduled gathering for this jubilant group of "party animals" is the Fandangle, that mega-reunion for all classes. The date for that event is Saturday, July 27th, to be held at the East Side Youth Center.

Concluding the year of celebration, the class of 1969 will be holding it's 50th Class Reunion on September 21, 2019 at the Coplay Saengerbund. Stay tuned for more details.





## Cheers and Love Reunion

David Ziegenfuss '86

It had been a long time coming, but it finally happened. Saturday June 22, a group of former DHS cheerleaders got together at the home of coach, mentor and friend Paulette Kish.

Over 60 girls turned up for this dynamic celebration. Kalean Wagner who helped organize the celebration says that, "the response was so overwhelming."

The girls did some of their old cheers, shared memories and

Paulette and Barb Weiss (Paulette's assistant) did cheers to the group, and remembered some of their friends that have passed.

Next year's celebration will be held at the 2020 Fandangle. Details to follow soon!

Enjoy some of the photos from a terrific day.



## Kiska's Korner

Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Been busy, Nadia and I worked the Kiska and Troika Events together. She can really yodel. But with each event she is showing more and better mascot behavior. She loves people, which is great. We really seem to work well together, although I still miss my best friend Misha.

Did get my play date in with Elsa and Misska. It was part of Mom's birthday celebration. She wanted to be with good friends and huskies. So Aunt Cindy, Kathi, Mom and me went to visit. It was great to see everyone. I remembered where everything was located, the water dish, the toy box, and the treat drawer. Had some really good play time. Got a little tired, so had a nap on MY chair. The ladies went out to dinner, that really good chicken the cheerleaders sell for a fundraiser. They brought some home for me and I gobbled it up on the way home.

We worked graduation together. It is a little scary, because at our level, all we see are feet, legs and flapping gowns. We led the class around the PPL Center and into the arena. The drum escort really hurt our ears. Will suggest using herald trumpets next year.

We also attended the Wall of Distinction Event. We did a Meet and Greet. Nadia and I stayed in the Meilinger Center and the ceremony was in the auditorium. I got there early and then I saw THE CAKE. While Mom was watching for Nadia, I made my move. Got a lick of the icing. Had a blue nose. Mom fixed it as best she could. Could have been worse, a whole paw print. But got cake, vanilla, at the reception. Showed everyone how I can eat off a fork.

Getting ready for football and the Fandangle. We will have some awesome items for the silent auction. Some professional photog-

raphy done by Mom's step-daughter. She was up for a visit and tried many times to photograph me. As with Uncle John, I see a camera and hide my face and show the rear side. But hoping she might have a print of me and I know such a treasure will get many bids. HA-HA !!!!!

Hope to see everyone at the Fandangle.



Love,

**Kiska Diva Dog**

## SUSAN BOCIAN Continued

In 2010, Susan was offered the Principal's position at Dieruff, "A lot of people, including some wonderful people downtown who 'tapped me on the shoulders' wanted me to take that job. I thought, if they believe in me...and when I was offered the job, I couldn't believe it."

In 2011, a new group of strangers came into Susan's life. Susan explains, "I met Fred Schuler and he said that he was planning to start an Alumni Association at Dieruff. I thought that it was a fantastic idea. Fred really wanted to be the catalyst to get the alumni association going."

Susan is proud of what the Alumni Association has done for the students of Dieruff, "The Alumni supports the kids. The members have become extended surrogate grandparents. They come out, cheer at games for them, go to their concerts and shows or give them a reception after an event. It's important to the students to know that when their family can't be

there, their extended family will be. The Alumni Association is a wonderful support network for the students."


One person Susan wanted to mention who has changed the Dieruff students directly is Alumni President John Hughes. "The magic you can create with a camera. The pictures he takes forms Dieruff into a family. A family displays pictures around the home of everyone in the family. Through the photographs, by printing hard copies, the photos can be passed down through the generations. So by John doing that, the photos become part of the culture. I had to buy more frames for all the displays. Dieruff finally has its own family photo album."

Susan's a fighter in more ways than one...she uses Rocky as an inspiration, "When I taught my first class at Northern Lehigh, I would sit in the car and cry. I didn't think I could do it. But like Rocky in the first movie, I was going the distance, no matter how bad I thought it was...and I got a glowing review." In 2014, Susan was diagnosed with cancer and had to take a

leave of absence for her treatment and once again went the distance and returned the following fall to resume her duties. "In August I'll be cancer free for five years," she says victoriously.

As Susan's career comes to an end, what is she looking forward most to in retirement? "I'm anxious to get to know myself again. I'm looking forward to doing nothing for a while."





**Class of 1969**  
50th Reunion Year Long Events

June 15 - Graduation Walk PPL Center  
 July 27 - Fandangle 2PM-7PM East Side Youth Center \$20.00  
 September 21 - 50th Year Reunion 4PM-10PM Coplay Saengerbund

**Class of 1974**  
45th Reunion

July 27 - Fandangle 2PM-7PM East Side Youth Center \$20.00


**Class of 1977**  
60th Birthday Celebration

July 27 - Fandangle 2PM-7PM East Side Youth Center \$20.00

1969

[1974]

1977



Send your Class Reunion/Birthday Party Announcements to:  
[DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net](mailto:DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net)



**The Every Ribbon *Counts***

**Dinner Comedy Show**

**Fundraiser**




**Tyler Rothrock's  
1 hour special**

**Doors open 6PM**  
**Tickets \$35 general admission**  
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**Host Belynda J. Cleare**



**Special Guest  
Kris Fried**

**Saturday  
September 21**

**Palace**  
CENTRE  
623 Hanover Avenue Allentown, PA 18109

Dinner Start at 7PM  
Show starts at 8PM  
Buffet Dinner: Herb Roasted Chicken, Penne in Vodka Sauce, Vegetable Stir Fry, Salad, Dessert, Cash Bar

For information on this event please contact:  
Dr. Susan Mattes Bostian 610 417 2448 email: [info@everyribboncounts.com](mailto:info@everyribboncounts.com)

Tickets and information available at [EveryRibbonCounts.com](http://EveryRibbonCounts.com) under the EVENTS tab.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

To get your event listed, please email event before the 24th of each month to: [dhsalumninews@ptd.net](mailto:dhsalumninews@ptd.net)

**July 27:**      **7th Annual Fandangle 2PM-7PM \$20.00**  
 East Side Youth Center  
 Tickets on sale at Stahley's, Dieruff High School and  
 online **[www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)**  
 (1969, 1974 & 1977 Classes will also be holding reunions there)

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: [www.Dieruff-Alumni.org](http://www.Dieruff-Alumni.org)

## A Message From The Publisher...

Hello fellow Huskies, this is the final edition of **Volume 4** of the Newsletter. We're heading into year FIVE!  
 We have even designed a logo to help celebrate this accomplishment:



I wanted to take a moment and thank those that help put this together...Kay, Karen, John and especially Dana.  
 We wouldn't have a newsletter without all of your hard work and dedication to this venture.  
 Thank you, the readers for all your wonderful comments...they really do mean a lot.

*With Much HUSKY PRIDE!*  
**David Ziegenfuss '86, Publisher**

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Louis E. Dieruff High School  
**Alumni Association Newsletter**

David Ziegenfuss '86, *Publisher*  
 Dana Ziegenfuss, *Editor*

Monthly Contributors

John Hughes '61  
 Joanne Ogrydziak '76

Kay Kurtz '74  
 Karen Coleman (Faculty)

We publish an online digital.pdf copy of the Newsletter 10 times annually.  
 All digital copies will be emailed monthly between September — May and a double issue will be emailed for the June/July Fandangle edition.  
 There is no August edition

Publication dates may vary, but most issues will be published by the 20th of the month. Deadline for inclusion for each month's edition will be by the 5th of the current month, unless arrangements are made. Please email articles, advertising and events to:

**[DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net](mailto:DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net)**

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