

## **Waconia High School Hall of Fame – Class of 2010**

### **Class of 2010: Bee (Bahr) Bleedorn, Peg (Bean) Chamberlin, Wayne Mortensen & Jim Weinzierl**

#### **Bee (Bahr) Bleedorn:**

Berenice “Bee” (Bahr) Bleedorn was a 1929 graduate of Waconia High School. In 1930, Bee began her teaching career in one-room schoolhouses, first at Rutz Lake, near Mayer, Minnesota, then in District 46 between Waconia and Cologne. During her career, Bee founded the Institute for Creative Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she developed courses on creativity in business, education, and futures studies. She is the author of five books: *An Education Track for Creativity and Other Quality Thinking Processes*; *The Creativity Force in Education, Business and Beyond*; *Education is Everybody’s Business: A Wake-Up Call to Advocates of Educational Change*, and most recently, *Never Too Late: A Beyonder’s Story*. Bee has published many articles and delivered numerous presentations to students and colleagues both locally and internationally.

Honors and awards include Outstanding Teacher Award, Metropolitan State University; Inducted Founder’s Medal for Distinguished Leadership, Creative Education Foundation, Buffalo, NY, 1993; Honored by Dr. Torrance for visionary leadership, 1998; Ageless Hero Award for Love of Learning, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, 2001; into the Hall of Fame, Creative Education Foundation, Buffalo, NY, 2005.

Bee earned her Bachelor’s degree at the University of Minnesota in 1967 after years of marriage to John Bleedorn, a public school principal, who grew up in Mayer, Minnesota, and raising two daughters. Two years later, she earned her Master’s Degree in Educational Psychology, also at the University of Minnesota. During her undergraduate years, she was a Research Assistant to her mentor Dr. E. Paul Torrance in the Education Psychology program where Torrance pioneered the teaching of creative thinking.

At the age of 73, Bee earned a Ph.D. in Leadership and Human Behavior from the United States International University in San Diego, CA. Her dissertation was on *Creative Leadership for a Global Future*. She continues to champion the work of Dr. E. Paul Torrance in support of educational reform.

#### **Peg (Bean) Chamberlin:**

Peg (Bean) Chamberlin graduated from Waconia High School in 1967 and began her college journey that fall at Hamline University. She transferred to the

University of Wisconsin-Madison and then to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. She also changed her major five times (she reports this to encourage those who don't find their niche right away). In 1973 she graduated from Wisconsin-Parkside where she graduated with distinction.

She was always very engaged in church related programs and projects. She attended the Waconia Moravian Church where she still maintains her membership. After the denomination determined that they would ordain women, she began to take seminary classes. Again she attended a number of seminaries between 1975 and 1982 when she graduated from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She was given the History Award at graduation. In 2008 she was awarded the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Distinguished Alumna award.

During seminary she served on the ministerial staff at Chaska Moravian Church, Mizpah United Church of Christ, and First Congregational Church of Grand Marias. In 1992 she was intern pastor at St. Paul's Moravian Church, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Her first call out of seminary was as campus minister at United Ministries in Higher Education at St. Cloud State (1982-1988). While there she helped to found the Campus Advocates Against Sexual Assault, and functioned as an adjunct professor teaching in the College of Education. In 1985 she received the NOVA (Non-Violent Alternatives) Peace and Justice Award, St. Cloud State University.

From there she was called to be the director of Minnesota FoodShare at the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches where she served from 1988-1995. In 2003 she was the Honorary Chair of the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign.

Other awards include: Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson's award for Women of Excellence, 1994; and Angel of Reconciliation award, Unity Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, 2003.

In 2009 she was made an honorary canon in the Episcopal Church by the Rt. Rev James Jelinek.

Chemberlin is currently executive director of the Minnesota Council of Churches. At the MCC she has galvanized the relationships of its constituent members, brought the council to be a predominate actor for the faith community in other sectors, and increased its budget more than five-fold.

In 2009 she became the president of the National Council of Churches of Christ. The NCC has 35 member denominations and more than 45 million constituents. She is the first person elected from a state council of churches position. Her focus there is governance, relationships with local and regional ecumenism, relationship building in Washington DC, and anti-poverty work.

Chemberlin was a member of the first White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, under President Obama. Her relationships with the White House and the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships of the 12 federal departments are strong and growing.

Peg is the daughter of Dr. Charles and Donna Bean and is married to Mark Greenawalt and mother to Anne Chemberlin Cammack.

**Wayne Mortensen:**

Wayne Mortensen was actively involved in District 110 for 31 years, from 1970-2001, serving as a teacher, coach, and an administrator.

Wayne graduated from St. Olaf College in 1966 with a B.A. in English Education. He began his career in Buffalo Lake, MN, as a teacher of English, head football coach, assistant wrestling coach, and drama director. From 1969-1970, he taught freshmen English at Bemidji State University while completing his Masters Degree in English education.

In September of 1970, Wayne began his career in Waconia as a senior high English teacher, department chair and head football coach. While continuing his teaching in Waconia, he became the District's first ever Community Education Director in 1979, successfully developing the program into a joint powers cooperative, involving the District and the cities of Waconia, St. Bonifacius, and New Germany. During his years in community education Wayne also served as editor of the District 110 newsletter. Wayne was named Teacher of The Year in 1981. Later, in 1986, he took leave of full time teaching duties to become the District's Activities Director in combination with his community education directorship. However, in 1991, he resigned from community education and completed his career in District 110 as Director of Student Activities, all the while teaching at least one English course per quarter. Notable courses developed and taught by Wayne include Advanced Writing, the Bible in Literature Art and Music, and Literature of the American West. During the course of his career, Wayne held numerous offices including chairmanships of District 17, Region 4, and the Wright County Conference; he was also a director for the Minnesota State High School League.

Since his retirement, Wayne has continued his active church involvement at West Union Lutheran Church in choir, Bible studies, and various committees. He also currently serves on the Library Foundation Board for Carver County.

Wayne and his wife Katherine are celebrating 45 years of marriage in August. They have two married children, Josh and Jeff, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

**Jim Weinzierl:**

Jim grew up in Waconia, the son of Ed and Norma Weinzierl. He attended school at St. Joseph's Catholic School and Waconia High School, graduating in 1968. He was active in Boy Scouts and had a large paper route in Waconia for many years.

During his high school years, Jim participated in Football (Captain, MVP, All-Conference as a Junior and Senior, All State Honorable Mention), Basketball (Captain, MVP, All-Conference as a Junior and Senior), Baseball (Captain and All Conference as a Senior) and Band. He received the VFW Award, Senior Athlete of the Year Award and the American Legion Award.

His post-secondary education included attending and playing basketball at Normandale Community College and St. Cloud State University, graduating in 1973 with teaching & coaching degrees.

Following graduation, Jim taught Special Learning Disabilities for 18 years, and then served as a High School Academic advisor for 16 years until his retirement. As a coach, he coached basketball, baseball & football and is currently the head boys golf coach at Park Rapids High School. He was a coach for the Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball programs for 8 years. He umpired softball for 26 years, working a National Tournament three times. Jim has worked as an official for the Minnesota State High School League in football, volleyball and basketball for over 30 years, officiating 21 years in the State Basketball Tournaments, which includes working 9 State Boys Championship games. He also received a Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota High School Basketball Coaches Association. Jim has also officiated college basketball in the NCC & NSIC for 18 years. Jim is presently serving as a basketball rules clinician for the Minnesota State High School League and is also the Region 8A Executive Secretary for the High School League.

Jim and his wife Candy (Clasen, Waconia '68) have been married for 38 years and live in Park Rapids, MN. They have two married children, Ryan and Scott and three grandchildren.