

HURRAH Times

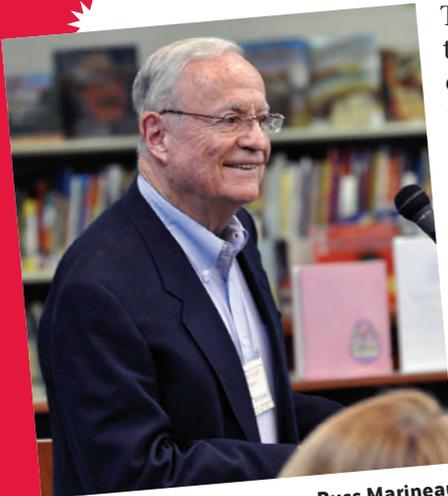
HURRAH
 Happy Upbeat Retirees
 (& OTHER) Residents
 Actively Helping

Winter 2014

A publication about Happy Upbeat Retirees (& other) Residents Actively Helping in Naperville Community Unit School District 203

HURRAH for Volunteers!

Prior to retiring in 1991 after 32 years at IBM, I had gone to several IBM Retirement Planning sessions where we were told we would miss the structure, status, social contact and sense of accomplishment that work offered, and we were told that volunteering could provide these elements in our retirement years.



Russ Marineau

The day I retired, there was a knock on my door. It was Mary Ann Bobobsky, a friend and neighbor, who was the Director of Community Relations for District 203 schools. She said, "We have a deal for you.

My wife was a teacher, we had two daughters

who were teaching at the time and our five children had received over 60 years of high quality education in District 203 Schools; so, my decision was an easy one. The HURRAH Program provided me the things that the IBM Retirement Seminars had told us we would miss about work, and it was an opportunity to give back to my community.

Being a HURRAH volunteer has been just great for me. I spent most of my time commuting during my career years and there wasn't much time to get involved, meet new

people or to volunteer. Now, I'm paying back. I look at life being divided into three stages: school days, career days, and more school days rather than retirement days.

In my 23 years as a HURRAH volunteer, I have served as a mentor, as a teacher's assistant, and now I volunteer as a homework assistant helping students with special education needs.

In 1996, I conducted a planning session where teachers, volunteers and administrators were asked: What are the objectives of the HURRAH program? What are the inhibitors that could keep us from meeting them? What do we need to do to overcome the inhibitors? From their answers, a strategic plan was created; one that is updated each year to assure the program continues to meet the needs of the schools it serves.

Two years later I was named the Chairman of the HURRAH Executive Committee. The Executive Committee interfaces to District 203 on all matters related to HURRAH. During the following years I developed a Recruiting Brochure for HURRAH and presented the HURRAH Program around Illinois. In addition, I consulted with the Geneva and

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For more information, contact the District 203 Office of Community Relations at 630-420-6475

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Naperville 203
 Community Unit School District



Point of View: Volunteer Coordinator, Karen McKissick

For the last eight years, Library Resource Center (LRC) Director, Karen McKissick has served as the HURRAH coordinator at Scott Elementary School.

Karen tells us that the Scott program started with a reading specialist, but it was a natural fit for the LRC Director to assume responsibility because most of the students were working with reading specialists in the LRC.

At Scott School, the LRC Director is uniquely positioned for her role as HURRAH coordinator because she is already working with parent volunteers. Moreover, Karen boasts that “The (Library Resource Center) is the great room, the space you invite people into...We have a big picture of what is going on around the building; we understand the varied student and class schedules, as well as the needs, and rhythms of the school.”



Karen McKissick

What we love most about Karen as a coordinator is that she appreciates the value of building relationships with everyone who

wants to help our students. She also understands the value of a “personal” appeal for assistance.

To be successful as a coordinator, Karen knows that her program will only be as strong as the volunteers she employs. Making the right match is critical. To ensure positive outcomes for students, staff, and volunteers, Karen learns the strengths and schedules of the volunteers. She notes that many volunteers enjoy literature-based interactions such as reading to or with a child. Yet others enjoy fun games based on word-play, and then there are those who prefer Math games. Some volunteers, like Jim Rose, like to work early in the day.

Karen’s approach to building relationships and finding the right fit for volunteers leads to celebrations with her HURRAH friends. She notes, “You get to know them well. I was even invited to a HURRAH volunteer’s birthday party!”

Feeling like part of the family makes sense when you consider that many of the Scott School HURRAH volunteers, like Chuck and Peg Price, are grandparents of students in the school. Karen’s special relationship skills and the meaningful work she provides for volunteers have a lasting impact. Some of the volunteers, like Doris Gott, remain at Scott even after their grandchildren matriculate to junior high and high school.

While volunteer preferences are important to take into consideration, Scott School also has a few HURRAH members who will participate in a variety of tasks. “Doris still spends a

day with us weekly. She will do anything teachers ask; teachers appreciate all of her time, and the planning she puts into her work.”

Scott School also enjoys when former staff come back to volunteer. Looking to maintain that social connection to colleagues and students, some come to help in the LRC. They update bulletin boards, and often stay all day to help with a variety of projects and needs.

“Making the right match is critical. To ensure positive outcomes for students, staff, and volunteers, Karen learns the strengths and schedules of the volunteers.”

Many HURRAH volunteers support the Naperville Education Foundation supported Study Skills Academy. At Scott, this program operates after school three

afternoons per week. From 2:30-3:30, HOMEWORK HELP often includes Math, and long-time HURRAH volunteer, Jim O’Donnell “is very calm and so helpful.” Another volunteer is the father of a Scott School teacher, Mrs. Kim Castner. Karen explains, “Tuesdays are fun because it’s Men’s Day. Kids come and enjoy 50 minutes of undivided attention. This is very powerful for our students. The dependable consistency matters - the kids’ faces light up!”

If that weren’t enough reason to keep coming back, Karen knows that the opportunities she offers HURRAH volunteers provide them with fulfillment. But there are benefits for the school district too. Karen sees that “(HURRAH volunteers) understand what is going on in schools today and

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HURRAH and Benedictine University Wellness Program 2014-2015

Students in our Physical Education Teacher Education (PETE) and Exercise & Sports Studies (ESS) majors have two classes where it is very beneficial for them to work with older adults in order to apply the knowledge learned in the classroom. In the fall, students take Applied Exercise Science with Dr. Regina Schurman. The Exercise Science course includes coverage on how the body adapts to exercise training. In the spring, students take Kinesiology with Dr. Beth Bell. The Kinesiology course studies what muscles and joints are involved in performing various activities.

In the fall, participants have their fitness and balance assessed by the students using standardized assessments developed for the senior population. Students then use this information to develop a customized exercise program. Follow-up sessions guide the participants through their exercises as well as allow for modification to the programs in order to progress with the exercises as the participants become more experienced.

In the spring, the HURRAH participants serve as models for the

students' Muscular Analysis project. Students choose one upper extremity movement, one lower extremity movement, and one combination movement. Students often discuss with their participant what particular movements they have difficulty with. These are the best to analyze and discuss possible changes that could be made to improve movement. It is highly recommended that participants work with movements or activities of daily living (reaching up to a shelf, picking something up from the ground, etc).

The benefits for participants are many. First, they receive an assessment as to how their fitness and balance compares to that of others their age. Second, they receive exercises tailored to help improve any deficiencies identified. Finally, they get information that can help them improve their ability to perform

their activities of daily living. Best of all, they get the opportunity to be a positive influence on a young student's life!

Participants need to be able to commit to be available for both the fall and spring semesters. Our fall semester ends mid-December and our spring semester starts in mid-January. A minimum of 4 meetings will be required each semester.

For more information, please contact Dr. Regina Schurman at rschurman@ben.edu (preferred) or at 630-764-7768. *



A Benedictine student measures a participant's stretch.



Benedictine students assist participants to correctly execute exercises specially recommended for them.



Meet the New President – Pat Harrison

Born and raised in Michigan, Pat studied mechanical engineering at General Motors Institute, now called Kettering University. Students at GMI entered a work-study program while employed at a General Motors division for 5 years and then graduated with an engineering degree. Pat continued his studies at Michigan State University where he earned his MBA.

Pat continued working for Buick Motor Division where he spent most of his career at various assignments in sales, marketing, and advertising across the Midwest. After two tours in Chicagoland, the Harrisons identified Naperville as the community where they ultimately wanted to reside. After a post-GM career in advertising, Pat eventually retired in 2011. The next day he joined HURRAH.

If you know Russ Marineau, that day after retirement enlistment may sound familiar. Russ retired from IBM, and that same day, the District 203 Community Relations Director recruited him to lead HURRAH. There seems to be a pattern emerging for the leadership

of our Happy Upbeat Retirees and other Residents Actively Helping.

What is even more interesting is how Pat knew to call Russ after he retired...In 2002, the Harrisons were searching for a home in Naperville. At that time, several articles ran in the Naperville Sun suggesting that the district was approaching deficit spending. To gather input on this topic, District 203 was forming a task force of community members. According to Pat, "Because property taxes are one of the only things Americans have a direct vote on - based on where we choose to live and how we vote on local taxation - I wanted to have a say in this matter. So, I called District 203 with concerns about buying a house and explained that I wanted to get involved." He closed on his house on a Friday, and the task force held its first meeting that next Monday.

As a participant, and a new Naperville resident, Pat remembers the experience as "Refreshing. It was conducted very professionally. I met extremely bright and talented people right away. It gave me a say in the future and helped me get connected to the community." One person he met on that task force was Russ Marineau.

Pat stayed connected to our school community. When the facilities study recommended rebuilding Naperville Central High School, making capital improvements in buildings across the district, and building a LEED Certified Early Childhood Center for our most vulnerable student population, Pat volunteered again to work on the 2009 "Build the Future" campaign.

Pat is proud to have served these efforts. As a HURRAH leader, he participated in the Future Focus community engagement initiative. What he learned about the changes

in our school district demographics prompted additional research that has shaped his platform to lead other HURRAH volunteers in our schools.

According to a Larry Summers article dated June 9, "A recent study found that the average affluent child now receives 6,000 hours more enrichment activity - being read to, taken to a museum, coached in a sport or other kind of stimulation provided by adults - than the average poor child, and this gap has greatly increased since the 1970s." To help close such gaps, Pat asserts that we have an obligation to help ALL of our students, but particularly those whose families may not have the same resources as their more affluent peers. Therefore, Pat aims to level the playing field by positioning HURRAH to support enrichment activity, including the extracurricular programs offered throughout District 203 schools. With a broad range of skills and experience in Information Technology, Business, Engineering, Government, Military and Legal sectors, HURRAH volunteers often have expertise to support club activities and can lend a hand to help teachers and students.

Pat is passionate about the future of our community. He advocates that everyone should get involved because the experience of "social interaction with our kids is way more important than reading about what they are doing in school today. When you get engaged, you truly understand." Pat notes that when he leaves our schools, he walks away "immensely impressed and proud of the kids we have. That is obviously a result of what great teachers and parents do to raise quality kids in our community. Stability. Support. Enrichment. All kids need that for success." *



Pat Harrison and Russ Marineau

Generations Serving Generations engages older adults

Generations Serving Generations began as a National Governors Association project called the “Illinois Policy Academy on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults.” The goal is to engage older adults, Boomers through the Greatest Generation, in service, learning and work.

HURRAH President, Pat Harrison, and Chairman Emeritus, Russ Marineau, represented District 203’s Happy Upbeat Retirees and other Residents Actively Helping at the Senate Forum on June 10. After hearing presentations on Intergenerational Programs across the State and participating in breakout sessions to discuss key issues, they also enjoyed a nice luncheon at the Governor’s Mansion.

2015 Set as the Year of Volunteerism

Sixteen members of the Illinois Senate sponsored a Resolution that dedicates 2015 to volunteers.

SR 1002 sets in motion a celebration of the accomplishments of volunteers and requests new thinking about the implications of volunteerism for Illinois.

From SR 1002

“It is in the interest of the citizens of this State to strengthen the infrastructure of volunteerism as a resource for meeting the challenges of education, promoting healthy lifestyles for all ages, and boosting the independence of older generations.”



Pat Harrison and Russ Marineau

What is the impact of volunteerism?

*Students succeed, elders stay involved, workers learn new skills, organizations are enriched, the citizenry is more informed, generations are more engaged, communities are more connected, and research shows that those who volunteer are happier and healthier. **

HURRAH for Volunteers! *continued from page 1*

Dekalb school districts in the implementation of the HURRAH model in their Districts.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to volunteer on several District 203 special projects, and in so doing, I met and worked with many teachers and administrators as well as other District 203 citizens. Meeting and working with these people and working with many HURRAH volunteers over the years has been the most rewarding part of my years of volunteering.

In addition to many awards bestowed by the Naperville school district, I have received awards

from the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois State Board of Education. In 2003 I won the Naperville Jaycees Distinguished Service Award—Senior Citizen, and in 2006 I won a State of Illinois *Continuance* magazine “Spirit of Generation Award.” In 2007, I was appointed as a delegate to the Illinois Senate Forum on Intergenerational Leadership by the then-president of the Illinois Senate, Emil Jones. In 2011, on IBM’s 100 year anniversary, IBM recognized outstanding IBM volunteers, and I was one of the volunteers honored.

I still volunteer at Washington Junior High, helping with special education students. “When I retired after 32 years with IBM, I told people that my mother

lived until 93, and if I could live that long, I would be a HURRAH volunteer longer than I worked at IBM.” That is still my goal today.

Every time I do a presentation on HURRAH, I tell the audience: “Volunteers are not paid. This is not because they are worthless—it’s because they are priceless.”

HURRAH is considered one of the finest intergenerational programs in the state of Illinois and was recognized nationally by *Midwest* magazine in 2004 with a \$1000 award. I fully believe HURRAH will continue to contribute to the success of District 203 and its education programs in the future. HURRAH has been great for me personally, and I am happy to continue to be a part of the HURRAH Program. *

Volunteer Profile: Bob Plummer

Last spring, Community Relations received a phone call from a member of the Grace United Methodist Church congregation looking to “adopt a school” in District 203. Director of Community Relations, Julie Carlsen, returned the call to learn that this desire started with a sermon in association with President Obama’s inauguration. Grace Church hosted a visiting pastor who spoke about how his Kansas City church was helping in the schools. They undertook a partnership with the entire school district which included six elementary schools. Bob Plummer said this sounded so interesting that a group of church members we were inspired to engage with the schools here in District 203.

Knowing that District 203 has a proud history of engaging Happy, Upbeat Retirees and other Residents Actively Helping, Julie introduced Bob to the HURRAH program. She coordinated a meeting with Bob and members of the HURRAH Executive Council: Russ Marineau, Founder and Chairman Emeritus; Ray Hill and Pat Harrison, President. Their enthusiastic endorsement of District 203 and its support for HURRAH convinced Bob it made sense to join HURRAH.

Bob tells *HURRAH Times* that the Executive Council provided, “Information about the length of their partnership with District 203, the amount of supports received from the school district, particularly the superintendent’s office.” There is a General

Meeting kick off in the fall, which involves a gathering of volunteers and teachers to help match volunteers with the right needs of the schools. The District also provides assistance with the newsletter. All things presented made HURRAH seem well-organized, supported and appreciated. But what impressed Bob most is that District 203 “works in concert with the HURRAH organizational structure to keep the program vital, well managed, and active.”

Since joining HURRAH, Bob and his wife, Donna, have participated in two of the HURRAH benefit programs: “The Social Network: Smart Device Training at NNHS” and the Fitness Program with Benedictine University.

When asked about his experience at Naperville North High School, Bob started with this observation: “District leadership makes all the difference with the reception visitors receive in the schools. Another impression... everything was so clean, so modern; kids were so well mannered and behaved. As I left that first time, my reaction was - my tax dollars are being well spent!”

Bob also noted that the timing of The Social Network class was perfect. “We had just gotten a new smart phone. It is a daunting task to learn how to use it as

it is not necessarily intuitive.” The Plummers prepared for training by writing down a list of questions. During each session, they would go through the questions. Bob asserts, “Those guys are so smart! I found the students to be as knowledgeable as those people at the Apple Store. My wife got a lot of help with Facebook, and I got help with pictures, editing memos (copy/paste), using the maps app for navigation, and email activity.” The Plummers have children and grandchildren who live in Texas. Thanks to their training at NNHS, Donna now uses Facebook to keep in touch with family in both Texas and Plainfield.

With grandchildren who range in age from six to eleven, Bob and Donna need to be able to keep up with their activity. By participating in the Benedictine Fitness Program, the Plummers learned that “Mobility is so important! The Benedictine program was very, very helpful. They were helpful and interested. We continue to use the stretches

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“Another impression... everything was so clean, so modern, kids were so well mannered and behaved. As I left that first time, my reaction was - my tax dollars are being well spent!”



Karen McKissick

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how much is changing: the type of reading kids do, and the inevitable 'Ah-Ha Moment' that occurs when they realize how Math is now taught."

For Karen, there are benefits to coordinating the HURRAH program at Scott School.

"Most rewarding are personal relationships I form with the volunteers. Seeing them with kids is very special." Scott School staff is very welcoming. Staff sees volunteers as part of our family. HURRAH volunteers are different from parent volunteers because parents are in the class with their own children; HURRAH folks work with ALL students in the entire school.

After many years in her role as coordinator, Karen has some advice to share with other schools: "Start up is the challenge, but once it is up and running, you will appreciate the benefits. Like any program, sustainability for the HURRAH program requires consistency, dependability, trust, and adaptability. Knowing that the work is needed and valued is important. This is all easy when district and building leadership



Author Kevin Emerson and Karen McKissick.

and teachers are willing to have volunteers. Another key to sustainability is appreciation."

Karen models appreciation for students. She has the kids make the volunteers a book of gratitude and thank them with little notes, candy, and cupcakes.

While it reads as if there is a perfect volunteer program in place at Scott, Karen notes that they do have a few unique needs going unmet in the building... She would like to see volunteers

better represent the school population which means they have a need for more African-American volunteers. They have a school garden and need seasonal volunteers to help tend this space. Veterans are always welcome. And because of the LEGO MINDSTORMS – Scott could use extra engineering minds in the classroom.

THANK YOU, Karen McKissick, for sharing your best practices, warmth and wisdom. We appreciate you too! ✨

Bob Plummer

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and exercises that were designed for us. It has been really helpful and makes a difference in how we feel and how we move."

HURRAH Times asked Bob to rate his experience as a new HURRAH volunteer. Without hesitation, he told us that "HURRAH has exceeded all expectations and we would definitely recommend the program to friends."

Since HURRAH is a program designed to recruit and support community members to provide their time and talent to benefit our students, we are thrilled with Bob's reaction to working in our schools. "The best (aspect of volunteering) has been the reception we have had at the junior high schools. Everyone is so welcoming and appreciative. At Kennedy Junior High School we have been working with group of kids staying after school getting help with homework.

It has been rewarding; I leave feeling that I was helping and doing good."

Thanks Bob and Donna and all of our HURRAH volunteers. You are helping and "doing good" on behalf of our students. You are the model community contributors who make Naperville School District 203 a special place to learn and grow. ✨

Naperville Community
Unit School District 203
HURRAH
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For Members Only! Lifetime Free Admission Activity Pass

Valid for any school activity, game play or program regularly scheduled by any school, grade, group or organization or class within Naperville Community Unit School District 203 during the school year. (Please note: exception of Illinois High School Association playoff or tournament athletic events).

Please be advised that a limited number of tickets will be held at Will Call for pass holders. Unclaimed tickets will be released 15 minutes prior to the start of shows. To guarantee a seat for the production, please call the student activities office (NNHS 630-420-6812/ NCHS 630-420-6649) to reserve your ticket or purchase additional tickets.

Naperville Central HS

Theatre Central Holiday Show:
December 11, 12, 13

Spring Play: March 5, 6, 7

Spring Musical: April 24, 25, 26

Drum Show

One Acts: May 7, 8, 9

Naperville North HS

Spring Play: March 6, 7, 8

Musical: April 29, 30, May 1, 2, 3 *

Stay Connected with District 203

Did you know that you can receive email from District 203 about events, volunteer opportunities, and honors and awards earned by our students and staff? Sign up for Community Talk203 through our website!

Simply go to:

<http://www.naperville203.org/domain/80>



Just click on the Community Talk203 graphic and fill out the short form.