MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

CLASS OF 2022

APRIL 24, 2022

MINNEAPOLIS MARRIOTT NORTHWEST
BROOKLYN PARK
CLASS OF 2022

Ron Ackerman
Official
Fridley

Debbie Driscoll
Coach
Mahtomedi

John Fogarty
Fine Arts
Cannon Falls

Lisa Lissimore
Administrator
Woodbury

Brian Luke
Coach
Stillwater

Larry Martin
Contributor
Minnetonka

Joe Mauer
Athlete
Cretin-Derham Hall

Chris McDonald
Fine Arts
Eagan

Larry McKenzie
Coach
Minneapolis

Mindy Myhre
Athlete
Mahtomedi

Dr. William Roberts
Contributor
St. Paul

John Washington
Administrator
Minneapolis

Jim Weinzierl
Official
Park Rapids
Program

**Program Host**
Dave Lee
*Former WCCO Radio Morning Talk Show Host*

**Spotlight Introduction of Hall of Famers**
Ron Ackerman
Debbie Driscoll
John Fogarty
Lisa Lissimore
Brian Luke
Larry Martin
Joe Mauer
Chris McDonald
Larry McKenzie
Mindy Myhre Shannon
Dr. William Roberts
John Washington
Jim Weinzierl

**Lunch**

**Greetings**
Thomas Jerome
*President, MSHSL Board of Directors*

**Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**

**Closing Remarks**
Erich Martens
*Executive Director, MSHSL*
Welcome to the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

On behalf of the Minnesota State High School League’s Board of Directors, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome all of you to today’s Hall of Fame induction ceremony for the Class of 2022. Today, you will hear stories of spirited triumph, journeys of dedication and examples of purposeful leadership that have 13 individuals on the threshold of induction into the League’s hallowed Hall of Fame.

To be selected, and then inducted, is the League’s highest honor for a Fine Arts educator, an Official, a Contributor, an Administrator, a Coach or an Athlete. The road to the Minnesota State High School League’s Hall of Fame can be a challenging one, yet today’s inductees, all in their very special way and through their career accomplishments, have embraced the wondrous experiences brought by participation in education-based activities.

The Class of 2022 is an incredibly talented and exceptional group of inspirational leaders who are the beacons that light the way for participants in the League’s member schools. Their professionalism, perseverance and value-based service are a great source of pride for the League.

Just like those that preceded them in the prestigious Hall of Fame, the Class of 2022 believes in sportsmanship, honesty, teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty and cooperation as traits that pave the way to success in the classroom and in activities. These values, which the League’s holds as pillar fundamentals in the education of students, have come through in their exemplary careers.

Proof of their success will be heard today through tributes they have received from all that celebrate and support their goals and commitment of enriching the high school experience of students through education-based activities.

As they have reached this pinnacle, it is time to celebrate. Please join me, the Board of Directors and all the League’s member schools as we salute the Class of 2022.
From his childhood home in Pipestone to being on the threshold of the League’s Hall of Fame, Ackerman’s journey through wrestling participation and then transitioning to officiating and leadership spans more than 50 years.

His enthusiastic passion for wrestling and commitment to raise the level of excellence and consistency in officiating has been felt from border to border. On the mat, he officiated 17 Minnesota State High School League state tournaments. He also officiated wrestling at the middle school, junior college and the Division I, II and III levels. He began working Big Ten Conference wrestling matches at the age of 25.

With the League, he has served as the Rules Clinician for 26 years. In that role, he presented rules meetings to officials and coaches while providing rules interpretations, training materials and was the voice of online rules meetings. Ron also represented wrestling on the League’s Officials Advisory Board and will still serves as a wrestling observer.

He was one of the founders of Gold Country Wrestling Officials Association and is in his 40th year as the assignor.

At Pipestone High School, he was a three-time state tournament participant, placing second in 1962 and fourth in 1963. He was the MIAC champion at 123 pounds in 1965 and helped propel Gustavus Adolphus to the conference crown. In 2006, he was just the second wrestling official to be inducted into the national Dave Bartelma Wrestling Hall of Fame. In 2014, he represented Gold Country Officials when the group was recognized by the League with an Officials Citation Award for Exemplary Mentoring Program.

“Ron, I want to thank you for all you’ve done for me and all of the other officials in the state,” said Ed Homan, a longtime wrestling official. “You were in impeccable leader and mentor to all of us. I am so happy and congratulate you on your entrance into the Hall of Fame.”

Acceptance Remarks

“I would like to thank the Minnesota State High School League for this incredible honor. As well, special thanks goes to my colleagues for their nomination, support and friendships over the years. I have enjoyed working with many members of the League Staff in various endeavors and opportunities that they have provided. To my family: wife, Karla, children, Grant, Greg and Gina, for their support and understanding in allowing me to pursue my passion for wrestling and officiating.”
They called her “Ms. D.”

To Mahtomedi gymnasts, she was their coach, inspirational leader, cheerleader, tireless promoter and confidant. Now, they can call her a Hall of Famer.

For more than 45 years at Mahtomedi High School, Debbie Driscoll has made her mark as an educator and gymnastics coach who had a special magic that turned potential into powerhouse performances and a Minnesota gymnastics dynasty. “There is talent in every kid,” she told the St. Paul Pioneer Press in an interview. “It’s what you do with that talent that counts. It’s finding the right buttons to push and giving the athletes the right guidance so they can have a positive experience.”

Title IX was in its infancy when Driscoll graduated from Bloomington Kennedy High School in 1973. Prior to graduating, she had already been competing for the Mini-Hops Gymnastics program. In 1973, she was the Minnesota AAU Intermediate Division State Champion on the floor exercise and the balance beam. She moved on to be a three-year member of the Gustavus Adolphus College varsity gymnastics team and helped the Gusties to the 1975 AIAW national championship.

In 1977, she accepted a position at Mahtomedi High School as a teacher and gymnastics coach. Since beginning her coaching career with the Zephyrs, Mahtomedi has been a Class A power. In that span, the Zephyrs have won 29 seconds team championships and 10 state crowns, including seven in a row from 1987-93. That state meet run includes four runner-up finishes and three third-place finishes. In preparation for the postseason, Mahtomedi has captured 37 conference championships. Under her coaching guidance, Mahtomedi has crowned 42 individual state champions.

Driscoll, who served for several years on the League’s Gymnastics Advisory Committee, has received numerous MGGCA section coach of the year awards and has been inducted into its hall of fame. She has also been enshrined into the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association hall of fame.

Acceptance Remarks

“It is a tremendous honor to be inducted into the Minnesota State High School League’s Hall of Fame. Over my 45 years of coaching, I have enjoyed watching the growth of women’s sports. In Minnesota, that would not have happened without the dedicated work of the League. I have loved every minute of coaching and my amazing athletes, who have made coaching rewarding and fun. A big thank you to (former Mahtomedi Activities Director) Bob Meslow for nominating me. Thank you to my family for supporting my passion and desire to coach, and to my daughter, Kristin, who has coached with me for 17 years. Thank you to the Minnesota State High School League for this incredible honor.”
For more than half a century, John Fogarty has taught students a love of the English language. Whether it is writing, speaking, debating or studying the finer points of speech, Fogarty has guided students through the wonders of words and phrases. At Cannon Falls High School, he has been an active proponent of the Fine Arts through service as a Speech and Debate coach and as an English, Speech and Humanities teacher. The 1965 graduate of St. John’s Prep built the Speech program at Cannon Falls from a grassroots group into an elite-level program that has been respected throughout Minnesota and beyond.

In his tenure leading the program, Cannon Falls has had more than 125 medal winners and 14 state champions in Speech. The Minnesota Speech Coaches Association says that Fogarty “has had a tremendous positive impact on his students’ lives, as well as the speech community at large.”

After graduating from St. John’s University in 1969, Fogarty began his professional teaching career at Cannon Falls. It was one year after Speech had transitioned to a competitive format. He served as head coach until 2009 when he transitioned to a role as an assistant coach. During the 1996-97 season, he was selected Lincoln-Douglas Debate Coach of the Year by Cannon Falls’ region. Following the 2005-07 seasons, he was Minnesota’s Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Speech Coaches Association.

In 2010, he was one of 12 national coaches honored by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Three years later, he was honored as the Outstanding Individual by the Communication Theater Association of Minnesota.

“Even though John is one of the most active experienced coaches in the state, he keeps himself on the leading edge,” said Ross Eichele, Eagan High School’s Speech Coach. “In both the Speech and Debate coaching associations, he advocates to make events as student-friendly and educationally-sound as possible. John could easily step back and rest on his laurels, but he never does. This is why he is so revered across the Minnesota Speech and Debate world, and why he is worthy of being inducted into the Minnesota State High School League’s Hall of Fame.”

Acceptance Remarks

“I am honored and humbled to be recognized by this organization. There is one person who deserves the lion’s share of credit for this honor – my wife, Mary. She supported all of my activities, raised our two wonderful children, Liz and Mike, and pursued her own successful career. Without her and my supportive children, none of this would be possible. I would like to thank all of the coaches that I have had the pleasure to work with, but especially to Cal Vande Hoef and Holly Winget, who have taken our speech program far beyond anything I had developed. And finally, I would like to recognize the school, the parents, and most of all the students at Cannon Falls that I have had the pleasure to work with for the past 53 years. Whether it was directing plays and musicals, coaching the debate team, or coaching the speech team, it has been my privilege to be part of that community.”

Peer Quote:

“Please travel back with me to Friday, April 27, 1990. I am seated at a table with seven other discussants, anxiously anticipating the start of the final round of the Speech State Tournament . . . and in he walks. He is a legend. Some competitors claimed he invented Discussion; others had heard he invented Speech, perhaps even language, itself. He seats himself at the judges’ table, and immediately signs his flow sheet with a single name: Fogarty. Today, I am as awed by Mr. John Fogarty as I was then.”

—Jody Saxton West
Head Speech Coach
Northfield High School
Lisa Lissimore got her first glimpse of the Minnesota State High School League when she was a standout player that helped lead St. Paul Central to the first Class AA Girls Basketball Championship in 1976. She marveled at the spectacle of leaving the city limits to travel to suburban Bloomington to play at the Met Center. The pageantry, prestige and powerful moments of playing in the pioneering days of girls basketball would stick with her forever.

A handful of years later, Lissimore would circle back to the League, and spurred by grateful thanks for having opportunities as a student-athlete, she would travel a path of service during a 34-year tenure as an administrator. Her legacy will be making an incredible impact with her tireless service and commitment to providing co-educational opportunities and leadership growth for the students of the League’s 525 member schools. As an Associate Director, her vision, work ethic and selfless initiatives positively impacted the lives of thousands of Minnesota students and their families. Activities under her direction and leadership include Boys and Girls Cross Country Running, Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving, Girls Basketball, Synchronized Swimming, Badminton and Softball.

In addition to overseeing corporate sponsorships, Lissimore was instrumental in the League’s recognition programs that include the Hall of Fame, and the Triple “A” Award, ExCEL and Spotlight on Scholarship awards that honor students.

At the national level, Lissimore has served in various capacities with the National Federation of State High School Associations, including the Strategic Planning Committee, Citizenship Committee, the Student Services Committee and the Hall of Fame Screening Committee. In 2021, she was selected the recipient of the prestigious NFHS Section 5 Citation Award for distinguished service to schools throughout the country.

“I've always been a servant leader; I’ve known that ever since I was selected to be a captain of my basketball teams that played not only in high school, but my college team as well,” Lissimore said. "I think God put me here to serve. Fortunately, all of the people around me, the coaches, teachers, they, too, were servant leaders and it's by their example that I learn to be this type of leader. I’ve always want to help others and I think through this role, I've been able to do that in more ways than I could have ever imagined.”

Acceptance Remarks

“I am humbled and honored to enter the League’s Hall of Fame. It is a blessing to be lifted in celebration in this way. There are many people who have made this day possible, and I am grateful to all of you—my family, coaches, teachers, colleagues, teammates, and members from the Rondo community. Thanks to all of you I have been able to fulfill my life goal to serve others and to participate in meaningful work that makes a difference in the lives of young people. I thank you with all my heart for your part in my journey.”
It’s no secret in Stillwater where you need to look for Brian Luke. More than likely, you will find the treasured coaching icon at the school district’s pool deck where he is teaching, guiding and inspiring the next group of Ponies’ swimmers. For more than four decades, he is a familiar fixture with a whistle, timer and clipboard as he charts and analyzes the practices and performances of both the Stillwater girls and boys swimming programs.

Simply, he has guided both to a level of gold-medal excellence. In girls swimming, he has led the Ponies to a 384-55-5 record in dual meets since 1978. At the state meet level on the girls’ side, Stillwater has won 11 championships and seven True-Team state crowns. Under his guidance, Stillwater has won 19 section crowns, 26 conference titles and crowned dozens of individual state champions. In boys swimming, Luke has led the Ponies to a dual record of 337-88-3 with 15 section titles, 21 conference crowns and multiple individual state champions. Combined, he has coached 365 all-state swimmers, 185 All-Americans and had 119 student-participants selected as Academic All-Americans.

He is the son of Elmer Luke, the legendary Hopkins High School swimming coach. Elmer Luke assisted his son at Stillwater for about 20 years.

Brian Luke enjoys the science of swimming, finding the strengths of his swimmers and motivating them to reach beyond what they think is capable.

“This is really fun,” Luke says. “And it still is.”

“When I researched his tenure, he was hired on a Friday, first day of practice was the following Monday, and forty-plus years later, here we still are,” said Stu Groskreutz, sports editor of the Stillwater Gazette. “It’s amazing to think about. I can’t think of a time when we haven’t gotten along. I don’t think they lose enough for me to write anything negative!”

Acceptance Remarks

“First, congratulations to the other inductees. It is an honor to be included in this distinguished award. I have been blessed to have had a strong support structure for my career and life. My parents were great role models and instilled many positive life qualities. Throughout my life, I’ve had the opportunity to learn from many great coaches and mentors. By infusing all these life experiences and lessons, I have developed a personal philosophy that has influenced my coaching and teaching success. Most importantly, I could not have devoted my passion to the sport of swimming for almost half of a century without the support of my wife and family. My wife, Jane, is a pivotal member of the Stillwater Swimming, Diving, and Education programs. Thank you to the Minnesota State High School League for this prestigious honor.”

Peer Quote:

“He’s just great with kids. You can win and you can win the right way. He does everything the right way and checks all of the boxes on behalf of kids. He’s been doing this for all of these years and there’s a reason that his success has been what it has been. It’s really remarkable.”

—Stu Groskreutz
Sports Editor,
Stillwater Gazette
It was the voice that greeted you at the start of a swimming meet and wished you well and thanked you for your support of high school activities. In between, he shared information on times, places, seeds and All-American consideration in a clear, crisp and professional manner. If it was a top-level swimming and diving meet, Larry Martin was likely the voice behind the microphone.

Martin served as the public address announcer at both the girls swimming and boys swimming state meets for more than five decades. With his 55 years at the microphone, he is believed to be the longest-serving public address announcer in League history. His smooth tone and professionalism were staples that fans, coaches and participants relied on.

When he retired from his role in 2015, he wrote in a memo to the League: “I’ve been blessed to be associated with swimming and diving for close to 60 years. The chance to assist in running meaningful competitions for young people has been a great source of joy. I have the highest respect for all the coaches and officials who give so much to the sport.”

Martin began his announcing career in 1955 at Edina High School, his alma mater. Five years later, he was on the deck for the League’s boys swimming state meet.

In 1975, when girls swimming was added, Martin became the voice of that event as well. In 1995, the League honored Martin with an Award of Merit.

Acceptance Remarks
“I am honored and humbled to be inducted into the Minnesota State High School League’s Hall of Fame. Thank you for recognizing my contributions to the swimming and diving championships. I enjoyed being a part of a tournament that would honor the hard work and achievements of the student-athletes. Proper pronunciation of student-athlete’s names and assisting in running meaningful competitions was paramount to me. It was a pleasure getting to know the officials and coaches who were building character into students. It was a joy to work with professional staff at the Minnesota State High School League. Thank you for this great honor.”
Billy and Jake Mauer participated in a Cretin-Derham Hall summer instructional baseball league for sixth- seventh- and eighth-graders. One day, they permitted little brother, Joe, a fifth-grader, to tag along. An extra player was needed for an instructional game and Joe was inserted into the lineup and batted in the No. 10 spot. The first time he got up to bat the bases were loaded. The youngster promptly hit a grand slam over the fence.

“He ran around the bases like nothing happened,” former Cretin-Derham Hall baseball coach Jim O’Neill said. “He sat down on the bench and the rest of the kids just stood there in awe.”

It was a prelude of what was to come.

Joe Mauer ranks as one of Minnesota’s most celebrated high school student-participants of all time. He is in elite company as one of just three Minnesotans to receive Division I offers in three different sports. The others are fellow inductees Dave Winfield of St. Paul and Barry Wohler of Bird Island.

In his senior year at Cretin-Derham Hall, Mauer was the national player of the year in both football and baseball. He committed to play quarterback at Florida State, but then opted to play professional baseball when the hometown Minnesota Twins selected him with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 Major League Baseball Draft. Mauer hit .605 as a senior in leading the Raiders to the Class AAA crown and .567 for his prep career. He tied a national record by hitting a home run in seven consecutive games. In 222 high school at-bats, he struck out just once. Also a standout basketball player, Mauer completed two years as a varsity quarterback with more than 5,500 passing yards and 73 touchdowns and two Prep Bowl championship game appearances.

At the professional level, Mauer spent his entire 15-year career with the Twins.

He was a six-time American League all-star and is the only catcher in Major League Baseball history to win three batting crowns. He also is the only American League catcher to win a batting title. Mauer, an imposing figure behind the plate, was equally dominant as a defensive backstop and batterymate. He won three consecutive Gold Glove Awards for his defensive prowess from 2008-2010.

Mauer is a five-year recipient of the Silver Slugger award, an honor presented annually and determined by coaches and managers to the best offensive player in both the American League and National League.

In 2009, he was the American League’s Most Valuable Player.

Acceptance Remarks

“I’d like to thank the Minnesota State High School League for this tremendous honor. I am humbled and privileged to be joining a very distinguished group of individuals who have made a huge impact on the lives of student athletes over the years. I’d also like to thank the Cretin-Derham Hall community for providing a wonderful experience and a place for me to grow as an athlete and person. Thank you to my family, coaches, teachers, teammates and friends for your support along the way.”

—Jim O’Neill
Former Cretin-Derham Hall baseball coach
When he began coaching Speech and Debate at Eagan High School in 1998, Chris McDonald implemented a no-cut policy. All participants made the team. McDonald believed that all students should be afforded the opportunity to tap into their own voice, to learn, to analyze and to have the ability to speak in public. That approach hasn’t changed even when team sizes approach 100 participants. “From whatever walk of life you come from, there’s a place for you here,” he still says.

His belief in students and using the opportunities through Speech and Debate to see them grow, McDonald has grown himself. He has become a beloved coach, revered leader and enthusiastic ambassador of the Fine Arts as an avenue for students to excel and prepare for life beyond high school.

McDonald has led dozens of participants to success at the state tournament and national levels. His teams from Eagan High School are annual entrants and champions, in the various disciplines at the state and national levels. In sustaining that success for students, he has provided unrivaled leadership and service on behalf of the Minnesota Speech and Debate community. He has serviced the National Speech and Debate Association for more than 20 years in leadership and ambassador roles. He was inducted into the NDSA Hall of Fame in 2020.

He has also served on the League’s Board of Directors.

“Whether tabulating tournament results, acting as a travel agent for his students, or raising funds so that those without the means can participate in competitions around the country, Chris embodies a spirit of public service,” said Kevin Troy, an Eagan High School graduate.

**Acceptance Remarks**

“Thank you to the Minnesota State High School League for this honor, as well as the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association and Bob Ihrig for nominating me for this honor. I have been blessed to be mentored by many wonderful debate and speech coaches over the years. I want to thank Randy Keillor and Pat Foley, my high school coaches at St. Francis. I would also like to thank Norm Leistikow, Del Holz, Joni Anker, Scott Sieling and many others that I have had the privilege of working with in my career. I need to thank Dr. Polly Reikowski, the entire administration and staff of Eagan High School for supporting debate and speech activities. I need to thank all of my students who make me proud to have been a part of their efforts to share their voice and make the world a better place. Finally, I need to thank my wonderful wife, Ceil. Without her support, none of this would be possible.”
Midway through the 2021-22 basketball season, Minneapolis North boys basketball coach Larry McKenzie received a note from a former player. It was a moving note filled with powerful thanks to McKenzie for his nurturing guidance during uncertain times. “The young man was earning his Masters Degree from the University of Minnesota,” McKenzie said. “He wanted to say thank you and it wouldn’t have happened had you not given me a chance, not only in basketball, but in life. I’ve had a lot of these kids that need help and direction. I’ve always believed that sometimes the kids that I coach need me to believe in them before they believe in themselves, so maybe that is my legacy.”

McKenzie’s passionate faith in young people, his experienced leadership in the community and his milestone success on a basketball court have paved the way to multi-level successes. He is the first boys basketball coach in League history to lead two schools to multiple championships. From 2003-06, he led Minneapolis Patrick Henry to four consecutive championships. In 2017, he led Minneapolis North to a successful defense of its state championship to secure the milestone achievement. The six state championships rank third all-time among Minnesota boys basketball coaches. He ranks fourth all-time in state tournament winning percentage with a 23-4 record (.852).

Acceptance Remarks

“First, I would like to thank God for without him this wouldn’t be possible. I want to thank my family, my grandmother, Pauline Jones, for being my moral compass, my mother, Retha McKenzie and dad, Lawrence McKenzie, who instilled in me that failure was not an option or “Refuse To Lose.” My wife Pamela, who no matter what the score, I’m always a winner, my kids, Rashida and Lawrence, for sharing their dad with the community and loving me unconditionally. Ellen Stewart and Dave Wicker for giving me the opportunity to use basketball as a tool to change lives, my coaches who have always gone above and beyond, my former and current players for their commitment to be different, especially Johnnie Gilbert, Tony Travis and Greg Patton, who got it all started. I want to thank the numerous administrators who understood that for me, basketball was much more than just a game. The Patrick Henry, Holy Angels and North High staff and communities for supporting the work. My siblings Paula, Carla and John for being always willing to offer up encouragement, the men of Kappa Alpha Psi who have supported me by showing up in any manner that I needed along with their financial support. Let me close with my favorite quote, “Fortunate is the person that sees a need, recognizes the responsibility and actively pursues becoming the answer.”

Larry McKenzie
Coach
Minneapolis

Peer Quote:
“What he’s given to young men for years is being a father figure. There are so many young men in the Minneapolis community that might not know their dads or had a father in their life. He was that person that stepped into that role. He has not only been a coach that helps you understand the X’s and O’s on a basketball court, but he is that strong fatherly person that shows you how to actually work your way into playing the game of life.”

—Lawrence McKenzie
Larry’s son
During her prep career at Mahtomedi High School, Mindy Myhre Shannon was like an artist and the gymnastics mat was her blank canvas. She filled that mat with artistic flair, complete with aerial twists, flips and stunning athleticism accented with just the right amount of grace. Onlookers knew they were watching something special and they were right. She had a high school gymnastics career that stands alone.

When she graduated in 1994, she had won 13 individual state championships and was the cornerstone of three team state titles when Mahtomedi was emerging as a Class A dynasty in gymnastics. Myhre Shannon is the only gymnast in League history to win four consecutive all-around championships, a feat completed from 1991 through 1994.

During state meet competitions, she also had six runner-up finishes and was third once. In compiling a state-record 20 medals at the state meet, she never finished lower than third place. In qualifying for the state meet, she won 13 individual section championships and was a part of four team section crowns. She was a four-time conference all-around champion and four-time team most valuable player.

Myhre Shannon competed collegiately at the University of Minnesota where she was part of one Big Ten Conference championship team.

Acceptance Remarks

"Thank you MSHSL for this recognition. I am honored to be included and appreciative of the great work you do in elevating high school experiences to enrich the lives of students and communities. A special thank you to my parents, Terry and Kaye, for their inspiration to dream big and the unconditional love they gave to support my dreams. To my brothers, John, Jeff, Mike and Mark for always lifting my spirits and giving me the confidence to succeed. To Coach Driscoll and my teammates; their talents and hard work drove me to want to improve each day. In addition, I will always cherish my friends and the Mahtomedi community for their powerful and loving encouragement. I am extremely blessed for the incredible support I received by so many, and this induction is truly a reflection of the impact that support has had on my life. I’m forever grateful."

—Linnea Pratt
Mahtomedi gymnastics teammate

Mind Myhre Shannon
Athlete
Mahtomedi
Dr. William “Bill” Roberts is an internationally-recognized medical professional and leader on the advocacy of the health, safety and well-being of students.

With the League, he is one of the founding members of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and remains as the longtime chair. From its formation in the late 1980s, behind the guidance of Roberts, the SMAC has been a national driving force in increased education of medical issues and stronger emphasis on safety for student participants.

During the pandemic, the SMAC created COVID guidance recommendations and protocols that ranged from general hygiene to sport-specific information. That guidance falls in line with decades of education, research and direction on other topics that include, but are not limited to: weight certifications in wrestling, standardizing health forms and establishing guidelines for participation in the heat and sub-zero conditions.

“Bill Roberts has a lengthy and incredible history of service to student-athletes in our Minnesota schools,” said Dave Stead, former executive director of the Minnesota State High School League. “He has always answered our call and his legacy may never be matched.”

Roberts is a Fellow, Past President and current Foundation President of the American College of Sports Medicine and is a charter member of the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine. He is also a founding member and past president of the American Road Race Medical Society, Editor in Chief for Current Sports Medicine Reports and an editorial board member of Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, British Journal of Sports Medicine and Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine.

In addition to serving as the medical director of the Twin Cities Marathon, he is an internationally acclaimed author and presenter on sports medicine topics.

Acceptance Remarks

“I am humbled to be selected to the MSHSL Hall of Fame’s Class of 2022, an honor I never expected. To receive an award for having fun is “awesome,” as my grandkids would say. When I started providing medical care on the sidelines in 1979, I had no idea that the League would play such a significant role in my career. The League has given me the opportunity to meet fantastic people who have become great friends, colleagues, and mentors. My career goals have always included helping athletes compete safely and return to activity quickly. The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has been a conduit to implement these sport safety strategies. Working the sidelines at tournaments allowed me to see student-athletes perform at the top of their game in activities they enjoy and demonstrate their ability to cooperate, collaborate, and excel. Those attributes will help them throughout life. Thank you to the League, my clinical partners, and especially my family for the opportunity to be a part of high school sports in Minnesota.”

Peer Quote:

“Bill can be described as selfless. He gave of himself every time that we asked a question with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. He was someone that wanted to ensure that when it came to state tournaments, that everything, medically, was covered appropriately. He also rounded up medical personnel and said, “Come on, let’s be a part of this program!” Bill is just exceptional in every possible way.”

— Dave Stead
Former MSHSL Executive Director
John Washington’s legacy of service can be traced along the City of Minneapolis border. Washington, a 1964 graduate of Minneapolis North High School and a standout in basketball and baseball, returned to serve his home Minneapolis Public Schools district in 1969. Much of his 43-year career in education and administration was spent at Minneapolis Patrick Henry High School as a physical education and health teacher, basketball and baseball coach, assistant principal and 17 years as an activities director.

He then served for 10 years as the activities director for the Minneapolis Public Schools before retiring in 2012. As the district administrator, he successfully consolidated the boys and girls hockey programs, restructured coaches pre- and postseason workshops and pursued the vision to provide every Minneapolis city school with turf fields.

Washington also served on the Region 5AA Committee, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation Board of Directors and the AD Advisory Committee. He has also served on a host of advisory and Ad Hoc committees that studied League eligibility rules, sports classification and athletic appeals. For many years, he also was part of the League’s Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

He is a member of Patrick Henry’s Hall of Fame and was honored by the Minnesota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as an Athletic Director of the Year. In 2013, he was recognized by the Minnesota State High School League with an Award of Merit.

“One of the (great things about) John Washington was he was a very nice person and easy to get along with,” said Gerry Keenan, a MSHSL Hall of Fame inductee in 2015. “No matter how serious or how severe or whatever the situation was, John was always pretty calm and very quiet in his response. He always thought things through and did a good job (with decisions).”

Dave Wicker served with Washington at Henry High School and the District Office.

“In the fall of 1985, I came to Henry and John was just becoming the athletic director,” Wicker said. “In typical John fashion, when I came to Henry, he was the baseball coach. In my first year, I was the head coach and John left me with a team that was very talented and we won the Minneapolis City Conference that first year. John probably wishes he would’ve stuck around for one more year, but that’s just the way he did things. He always wanted to leave things much better than the way he found them.”

Acceptance Remarks

“Thank you to the Minnesota State High School League for this honor. I also want to thank my wife and family for their support over the past 43 years. Thanks also to Dave Wicker, my assistant, and to Nancy Goodman, my secretary. Thanks also to the superintendents, board members, principals, teachers and the students of the Minneapolis Public Schools for their support. I have appreciated all of you.”

Peer Quote:

“John is very easy to talk to. You could run things off him and he would always listen. John would always put people in a place where they could succeed. When I think of the three-person staff that we had at the district office, John would listen to our administrative assistant as much as he would listen to myself or any of the school ADs. It was always a very collegial gathering and it was just a joy to go to work every day with John.”

—Dave Wicker
Assistant District Athletic Director
Minneapolis Public Schools
For more than four decades, Jim Weinzierl is synonymous with excellence in officiating, leadership, administration, and serving with professionalism and dignity. He served as a basketball official for 41 years, a run that included working more than 1,800 varsity games. In that span, he made 23 appearances in the League’s state tournaments and 10 championship games. He also officiated volleyball (27 years), football (10 years) and softball (26 years). Weinzierl gives back to officiating by serving in many leadership roles.

For the past 26 years, that includes serving as the League’s Northwest Minnesota Basketball Officials Coordinator and Rules Clinician, an observer of League officials and a role on the State Tournament Selection Committee. He also officiated basketball at the Division II and III levels for 20 years. He currently serves as the Executive Secretary for Region 8A, a role he has had for the past 13 years.

Through his leadership, the Region 8A Academic, Arts and Athletics recognition program has grown and flourished. His influence extends beyond the playing field of competition where he has created participation and excellence through the fine arts activities of Music, Speech, Debate and One Act Play. Weinzierl will retire from his Region Secretary position at the end of the current school year.

He leaves a powerful legacy.

“I hope people will remember that I’ve always been fair and I’ve been honest with people and that I’ve left things in better condition than when I found them,” Weinzierl said. “No matter if its officiating, the region secretary duties, working with a member school or with families, I hope that I was somebody that they could always talk to, to be available anytime of the day or night. You know, just being a good guy, someone that was always willing to do the right thing and go the extra mile for somebody if they needed it.”

Acceptance Remarks

“Thank you to the Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame Committee for allowing me to be a part of this select group of individuals. A special thank you to my wife, Candy, and sons, Ryan and Scott, for supporting me and understanding all of the hours and nights that I was away from home. I would also like to thank Kevin Merkle and Jimmy Robinson for all of the opportunities to work at the state tournaments. Thank you to all of the fellow officials that I have had the privilege to work with over the years.”

Peer Quote:

“In addition to a vast resume of officiating, Jim’s influence extends beyond the field of competition. I have personally witnessed Jim’s approach to the Fine Arts of Music, Speech, One Act Play, to name a few, as well as the ExCEL and Triple “A” Awards with the same level of enthusiasm, respect and sincere appreciation for all involved.”

— Thomas Jerome
Superintendent,
Roseau School District
President, MSHSL
Board of Directors
Distinguished Members of the Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame

Class of 1991
- Anna Anderson
- Paula Bauck
- Manny Beckmann
- Roland Delapp
- Murrae Freng
- James Griffin
- John Hansen
- Donald "Bill" McMoore
- Granville “Granny” Smith
- Thomas Stolen

Class of 1992
- William "Bill" Baker
- Ralph Brynelson
- Carolyn Cade
- Roger E. Carlson
- Kerwin Englehart
- Willard "Ike" Ikola
- Kevin McHale
- Gene Olive
- George Regis
- Jim Seeden

Class of 1993
- Kermit Anderson
- Willetta "Pinkie" Brown
- Martin Carter
- Edwin Cooper
- Paul Krueger
- Alan Raitor
- James Robinson
- Dick Seltz
- Velma Teichroew
- Ruth Westrom

Class of 1994
- Wayne Courtney
- Dorothy Darling
- Vicki Davis
- Wayne Dietz
- Lester "Drex" Drechsel
- Leon hard “Len” McGuire
- Howard Merriman
- Clinton Peterson
- Marlin Spangrud
- William Wettergren

Class of 1995
- Ora Buchanan
- Carleton “Sonny” Carlson
- Elwood “Woody” Hoiseth
- Robert Ihrig
- Robert Miller
- Joan Leigh Paulson
- Lawrence Ross
- Barbara Seng
- Evar Silvernagle
- Floyd Smaller, Jr.

Class of 1996
- Ove Berven
- Ronald Johnson
- Janet Karvonen-Montgomery
- Barbara Kersten
- Frances Kidd
- Tom Mahoney
- Jerry Seeman
- Dorothy Sunne
- Karen Tomberlin
- Linda Wallenberg Bragg

Class of 1997
- Orval Bies
- James Boesen
- Howard Casney
- James Graupner
- Paul W. Lukens
- Paul Molitor
- Delano Mottaz
- Mario Retica
- Louis Todtem
- David Winfield

Class of 1998
- Juel Anderson
- Paul Busch
- Paul Giel
- Hugo Goehle
- Randall Keilor
- Steve Kerzie
- Barbara Knutson
- Erwin Ostlund
- Larry Schnoor
- Peter Veldman

Class of 2000
- Lee D. Alto
- Robert E. Bruggers
- Arthur J. Downey
- Richard J. Maher
- Stacy Robinson
- Darold “Deb” Wold

Class of 2001
- Louis Allen
- Hildegard Bunge
- Marion Bunge
- Kathy Fredricksen
- Wayne “Lefty” Gilliland
- Donald Meyers
- Scott Nobles
- Howard Vaillancourt
- Roy Ward

Class of 2002
- Vernon Berglund
- Don Dravis
- Al Eckmann
- Marguerite “Betsy” Farness
- Robert Hoisington
- Guido Kauls
- Stephen Kjorness
- George Larson
- James Senske
- Harlan Shuck
Distinguished Members of the Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame

Class of 2003
John Bartz
Sally Callahan
Richard Frie
Dallas Hagen
Ronald Malcolm
Dorothy McIntyre
Frank Plut
Paulette “Polly” Reikowski
George Reynolds
Dale Skallerud

Class of 2004
Herb Brooks
Pam Cady Wycoff
Lou Cotroneo
Robert Erdman
Maggie Lambert
Patrick Lanin
Clinton “Tink” Larson
Robert Meslow
Carol Ann Shudlick
William Simpson

Class of 2005
Thomas Backen
Kathleen Borgwarth Reynolds
Carl Britt
Gerald Gingles
Gretchen Heath
Dennis Ranta
Bob Reid
Frank White

Class of 2006
Joni Anker
John Bauer
Elaine Engle
Mary Grinaker
Richard “Mel” Ivonen
Tom Malchow
Wanda Manther
Richard “Dick” Stanford
Rodney Urtel
Virgil Vagle

Class of 2007
Gary Addington
Jack Evans
Myron Glass
Del Holz
Bronko Nagurski
Gail Nucech
Skip Peltier
Gail Sarff
Terry Steinbach
Walter Weaver

Class of 2008
Billy Bye
Jim Christy
William Demaray
Evelyn “Evie” Erdman
Sharon Euerle
Grant Johnson
Kay Konerza-Bachert
Carl Lipke
Ron Sellnow
Carol Visness

Class of 2009
Geri Dirth
Don Fosburgh
Nancy Grimes
Zigurd “Ziggy” Kauls
Mike Kingery
James Kvaaleski
Norman Kragseth
Milan Mader
Robert Nangle
Tom Saterdalen
William “Chuck” Scanlon
Dean Verdoes
Eugene “Lefty” Wright

Class of 2010
Class of 2011
Richard (Dick) Eldridge
Larry Gallagher
Todd Hering
Harry Kitts
Dwight Lundeen
Kevin Merkle
Bill Miles
Marv Peters
Bruce Phelps
Darrell Thompson
Heather Van Norman
Krissy Wendell

Class of 2012
Class of 2013
Natalie Darwitz
Khalid El-Amin
Grand Meadow Girls’ Basketball Teams
Dave Harris
Cliff Janke
Faith Johnson Patterson
Bill Kronschnabel
Byron Olson
Tony Sanneh
Gary Smith
Dave Stead
Bill Webb

Class of 2014
Class of 2015
Bob Brink
Neal Broten
Bob Karn
Gerald Keenan
Hal Miller
Manuel “Buzz” Lagos
Briana Scurry
Courtney Sylvester
Mike Tillman
Carrie Tollefson
Darrell “Bozo” Wincek

Class of 2016
Barry Wohler