

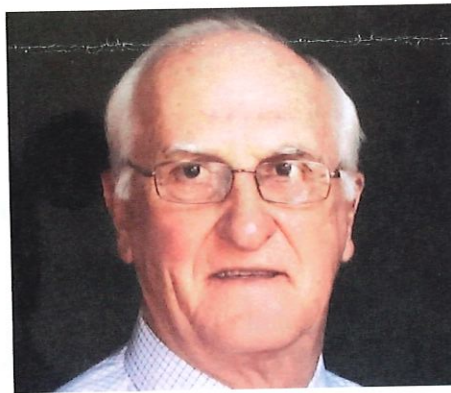
# The RED & BLACK

SPRING 2023

## 2023 OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS RECIPIENT NORMAN BALSEI

Norman A. Balsei is a 1959 graduate of Bellaire High School. As a new graduate, Norman began working with the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union 83 in 1960 and was officially taken into the trade in 1961. He served his apprenticeship from 1961 -1965, taking time off in the middle to serve in the US Army. Norman was a Rank Specialist 5 and Maintenance Sergeant during his service in the Army and Army Reserve from 1963-1969. Norman was awarded with the highest academic standing during his time at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. In 1965, Norman won a local welding and pipefitting competition and then the WV state competition. He was sent to compete in a national competition in Perdue. At the competition, Norman was the overall winner in the Copper / Silver category as well as the Welding competition. He was the first ever winner from WV and the local WV union.

In 1963, Norman married Mary Ann Camsky- Balsei, Class of 1959, also a graduate of Bellaire High School. They have four children – Kellie (Balsei) Cusick, Class of 1984, Scott Balsei (deceased), Class of 1989, Tracie (Balsei) Hughes, Class of 1990, Jason Balsei, Class of 1994. They also have seven grandchildren, and all of his grandchildren have either graduated from Bellaire High School or will be graduates of BHS. Dr. Austin Cusick- 2013, Abbey Cusick- Physician Assistant- 2017, Tenley Hughes -Jr. Year Penn West California Univ. majoring in Business (Marketing and Accounting)- 2020, Talon and Tyce Hughes



-2023, Scott Balsei - 2026, and Jaxon Balsei-2029. As a father and grandfather, Norman's commitment does not waver when it comes to the Bellaire School district. Over the years, Norman has volunteered and built all of the lifting racks for the wrestling mats so that they could transform the area into a girls' basketball locker room. He worked with the After-School Students and built raised bed gardens for them to grow vegetables for the community. He has never turned down any requests from either of his daughters, both teachers in the district, for help at an event, construct, or repair something for the school or just volunteer for an event. This includes he and his wife helping fifth grade students to bake Christmas cookies every year. With Mr. Young, they took on the task of replacing all of the grill bottoms on the seven Touchdown Club grills that had rusted out and getting them usable so that no new ones needed to be purchased. He has assisted in various other projects that were needed for the kids

and never hesitated to turn down any request for help. Currently, he is in his seventh year of volunteering as a welding instructor at Bellaire High School and helping to teach the students advanced welding skills. Utilizing connections with the local union, which he has been a member of for 61 years, he is able to get assistance with supplies, find opportunities for student growth and open a world in which students can make careers.

Not only has Norman found opportunities for student growth, but he has also been directly responsible for six Bellaire graduates to become pipefitters, with a great possibility of two more this year. In addition, many students have found careers in welding-related fields thanks to Norm's guidance. The skilled labor field is an important part of our valley heritage and having Bellaire students continuing that skilled labor force is exciting! Many of Norman's former students keep in contact with him for advice on their careers.

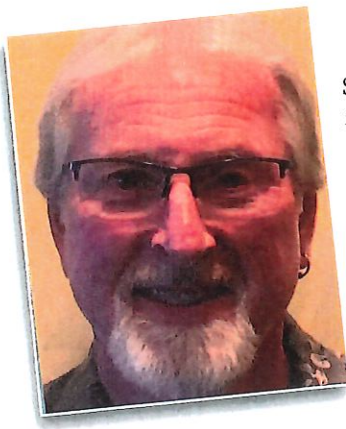
Norman's devotion to the Bellaire welding class is two days a week, and he usually comes in 45 minutes to an hour early to get the day's welding area set up for the students and many times stays after school to complete a particular student's needs.

Norman had become a skilled trade craftsman with impeccable performance, work ethic, and attendance for over 60 years while being a solid family man and showing devotion to the Bellaire District and the Bellaire community.

### A BIG THANK YOU!!

The Alumni trustees want to say, "Thank You" to everyone for their continued support buying tickets for the Reverse Raffle Fundraiser. This yearly fundraiser has proven to be very successful with a lot less work for the trustees. We appreciate your donations which help us give back to the schools and students. Here are the names of the winners from the 2022 raffle; Mike Banig, Dave Freeman, Stanley Stein, Steve Chirpas, Dusty Holt, Gary Sechrest, Dennis Pogany, Kathy Doan, Mike Gorshe, John LaRoche, Marla Krupnik, Tracie Hughes, John McCloud, Cathy Chirpas, Tony Piehowicz, Kathy & Dawn, Shirley Caldwell, Barbara Davis, Alyse (Perko) Ellingson, Michael Busack, Barbara Hubbard, Shauna Walker, Sharon Putinsky, Heidi Camsky, Don Clark, Linda Thornton, Steve Sorvalis, Brooke Ferrel, Nancy Tedeschi, Ron Bumgardner, Gatto Foods, Joann Sullivan, Bruce Young, Austin Cusick, Christy Marinacci, Tom/Linda Rataiczak, Adam Lucci, Greg Mehlman, Richard Balwanz, Forrest Merryman.





# Message from the President

Spring is in the air which means it's that time of year for our annual spring banquet. This year's banquet will once again be held at the Wheeling Country Club on Saturday, May 20 with a Social Hour from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm with dinner immediately following. We chose this venue again after deliberation and careful consideration of comments from past years' events.

Your board did a trial run of the venue earlier this year addressing the issues we experienced during our first time there. The sound system is ready to go, and a modified layout will allow all to have a good view and hear the presenters. We will be honoring the 50-year class of 1973, achievement recipients and Mr. Norman Balsei, this year's Outstanding Alumnus. Do not hesitate to make a reservation now to celebrate your Alma Mater and past graduates.

We once again held a very successful virtual reverse raffle in October with many watching the event via live stream. Please know we considered going back to a live person event, but after running the numbers, securing a venue and other costs, the decision to continue streaming was an easy one. The streaming version not only allows players outside of the area to participate, but it also supports our main purpose in raising funds making our association as effective as possible.

We are in the planning stages for a Night at the Races the evening of Saturday, September 16th at the Sons of Italy. Details to follow in the fall newsletter.

Please visit our website and take advantage of the available options. Helping us keep accurate records and interacting with the Association makes us an effective organization in keeping the Pride, Spirit and Tradition of BHS alive.

Hope to see you in May!

Your President,  
Dan Angus '74

## SENIORS NOMINATED FOR 2023 SENIOR SERVICE AWARDS

The Senior Service committee members reviewed each student's personal biographies including community service and school activities. All five students were then interviewed by the Senior Service Committee members. Two winners, one boy and one girl, will be announced at a luncheon provided by the Alumni Board, and each will receive one thousand dollars.

*From left to right, Jake Heatherington, parents, Hedy and Jennifer Heatherington, Abby Craig, parents, Renee and Danny Craig, Anna Pramik, parents, Justin and Holly Pramik, Sophia Porter, parents, Anna and Kelly Porter, and Chance Maffee, parents, Scot Maffee and the late Kim Maffee*



## SPRING BANQUET 2023

The 2023 Bellaire Alumni Association Spring Banquet will be held Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the Wheeling Country Club located at 906 Oglebay Drive, Wheeling, WV. We encourage all alumni to attend and celebrate together our 118th gathering.

We will be honoring the 2023 Outstanding Alumnus, Norman Balsei, addition to the following past graduates for their achievements, Louis Horvath, Civics, Class of 1965, Richard Exner, Journalism, Class of 1981, Susan Maria Rataiczak, Business, Class of 1981 and Kyle Cook, Arts, Class of 2008. The 50 year Class of 1973 will also be recognized. Social and cocktail hour begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$35.00 per person and must be purchased in advance either by mail to Bellaire Alumni Association PO Box 307 Bellaire, OH 43906 or on our website at [www.bellairebigredsalumni.com](http://www.bellairebigredsalumni.com). This year's menu includes Hunter Chicken served with salad, green beans, roasted potatoes, rolls and dessert. Coffee and iced tea are also included. Bar service with additional drinks will be available with payment by credit card only. No cash will be accepted. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Several accommodations near this venue include the Hampton Inn Wheeling, Wilson Lodge and Springhill Suites.

## ASKING FOR MEMBERSHIP HELP!

It is the job of the Alumni Trustees to keep the Association Membership active for years to come. We need some help from you in doing that. After reading this, you may come in contact with another alumni of BHS who is not a member. Please ask if they would like to join the Alumni Association by paying their dues.

The purpose of forming the BHS Alumni Association was to promote the interests of the Bellaire Local School District and all alumni of said high school.



# HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH (HOBY) 2023 REPRESENTATIVE

The Hugh O'Brian Youth representing Bellaire High School this year is Ashlyn Rose. She is a Sophomore who was chosen by the faculty. She exemplifies leadership qualities and shows positive examples to others in the school and in the community.



HOBY is designed to be a fun, life changing experience and cultivates leadership skills that will serve students long into the future.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON A BIG RED: BROOKE McVEY FERREL

Brooke was inducted into the BHS Performing Arts Hall of Fame for 2023. She is a 2007 Bellaire High School Graduate. Brooke was crowned as Bellaire's Queen of Queens that year as well. She has a Bachelor's degree in Broadcasting from West Liberty University and a Master's Degree in Special Education from Concordia University. She has coached cheerleading for different squads around the area and has judged numerous Queen of Queens Pageants in the Ohio Valley.

As a college student on the hilltop, she performed in *Cave of Lost Toys* as "Myrtle the Turtle." Additionally, she is a member of the group Artists on Call, which is a nonprofit organization that performs plays, shows, and musicals. She has performed vocal numbers in their annual Christmas show at The Strand Theater and portrayed the role of "Maria Montini" for a few productions of *Nutcrackers*. She has also performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Additionally, she has been in murder mystery theater shows locally. She has sung at weddings, churches, political, and sporting events where she has performed the national anthem for the Belmont County Democratic Dinner, the Belmont County NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Belmont County Retired Teachers and Delta Kappa Gamma events. She has also



performed at The Monroe County Fair. She has been a member of the Bellaire High School Alumni Association Board of Trustees for ten years where she organized and performed in the BHS Alumni Fine Arts Talent Showcase. Brooke is currently an Intervention Specialist at Skyvue Elementary School in the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District. She teaches Special Education students in grades 4-8. Conclusively, she has performed in and helped organize projects in the school district too. Brooke resides in Bellaire with her husband, Frank, and her stepson, Codin.

## CLASS REUNIONS

### 1963

The Bellaire High School Class of 1963 is pleased to announce that we will be holding our 60th. Class Reunion on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the Bellaire Sons of Italy. Any inquiries about the reunion can be made by contacting James Mowery at 740-676-7745.

### 1978

The Class of 1978 will be having our 45th year reunion the weekend of September 15 and 16th, 2023. Plans are still up in the air for Friday's activities.

Saturday's event will be at Wheeling Park. It is going to be held at the shelter across from the playground. The first meeting to make plans is March 23 at the Bellaire Library starting around 4:30/5?

Please keep checking the Class of 78 Facebook site for updates, and spread the word! We want to have as many as we can possibly can get to come this year. Let's all catch up!

In case you think we do not have your current contact info or address, please email that information to me at [gtgruber@comcast.net](mailto:gtgruber@comcast.net).

Thank you and hope to see you all in September.  
-Tammy (Ramsay) Gruber

## ADVERTISE CLASS REUNIONS IN THE RED & BLACK NEWSLETTER

Any class planning a reunion can send information to Arleen Sabatino at [asabatino@altmeyer.com](mailto:asabatino@altmeyer.com) or Greg Mehlman at [gregmehlman@hotmail.com](mailto:gregmehlman@hotmail.com). Any summer reunions (June, July & August) we would need the information sent by the middle of March for it to be in the Spring Newsletter. Any fall reunions including August, September & October, we would need the information sent by August fifteenth.

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## HOMECOMING 2023

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

Tour BHS and Archive Room 9am - 10:30am, Homecoming Parade begins at 11am, Bellaire vs Cambridge 12:30pm, End the day with the BHS Alumni Association for some fun with a Night at the Races at the Sons of Italy Lodge (More race details to follow in the Fall Newsletter)



# DONORS FROM FALL OF 2022 & SPRING OF 2023

Alumni members that have generously made donations to one of the many funds which helps the alumni association give back to Bellaire Local Schools and students.

## GENERAL FUND

Tenley Hughes, Class of '20  
Joseph and Brenda Dumas  
Michael Kinter, Class of '64  
Ben Taylor, Class of '96  
Elizabeth Ann Goldsmith Hodges Class of '59  
Frank & Arleen Brunori Sabatino, Class of '73 & '76  
Rick & Joann Forte Wise, Class of '73 & '74  
Andrew Sabatino, Class of '09  
Dirk Fitch  
Beth Heil, Class of '72  
John Redpath, Class of '87  
Sharon Pramik Banig, Class of '69  
Michael John Banig, Class of '97  
Michael D. Banig, Class of '69  
Rick Shimble, Class of '82  
Terri Heil, Class of '74  
Bruce Dunlap, Jr, Class of '55  
Lois Taggart Palicka, Class of '63  
Jerry Buti, Class of '73  
Elizabeth Prisner Gasbarre, Class of '62  
Shelva Davis, Class of '58  
Wayne Travniczek  
Albert Piatt, Class of '66, In Memory of Robert Weekley, Class of '66  
Steve Sorvalis, Class of '59  
Barbara Derry Hubbard, Class of '72  
Al & Charlotte DeVaul Vaglianti, Class of '68  
Donald Brinker, Class of '51  
Paul Toxie, Class of '51  
John Mike & Linda Zacchini Marinacci, Class of '65 & '68

Sharon Putinsky, Class of '74  
Patricia Willerton Shimble, Class of '55  
Robert Marshall, Class of '70  
Jebb Linch, Class of '66  
Joan Roy Hazard, Class of '66  
Francis & Joyce Johnson Mellott, Class of '56 & '58  
Randy Clouston, Class of '74  
Cathy Holloway Chirpas, Class of '73  
Steve Chirpas, Class of '74  
Mike Gorshe, Class of '66  
Geoff Cooper, Class of '73  
Dale Tschappat, Class of '84  
Saundra Capitini Hill, Class of '65  
Richard VanFossen, Class of '69  
Brian Gianangeli, Class of '92  
Janet Gosnell  
Sheri McCulley Miller, Class of '84  
Cindy Clark Freeman, Class of '73  
Gene Freeman, Class of '76

## SPECIAL GIFT FUND

Marie Shipley, In Memory of Cathy Chirpas  
Catherine Tuttle, In Memory of Cathy Chirpas  
Karen Sabinsky Conrad  
Diane Weaver, In Memory of Jim Piatt, Class of '53  
Tenley Hughes, Class of '20  
Donald Long, Class of 1953  
Frank & Arleen Brunori Sabatino, Class of '73 & '76  
Andrew Sabatino, Class of '09  
Albert Piatt, In Memory of, Larry Ramsay, Class of '67, John Koci, Class of '66,

Duane Gill, Class of '65 & Craig Beveridge, Class of '77  
Betty Wallace Busack, Class of '71  
Tom Gorshe, Class of '70  
Norman & Mary Ann Camsky Balsei, Class of '59  
John Mike & Linda Zacchini Marinacce, Class of '65 & '68  
Paul & Cathy Dodrill Latham, Class of '76  
Sharon Putinsky, Class of '74  
Patricia Willerton Shimble, Class of '55  
Robert Marshall, Class of '70  
Edward Exner, Class of '73  
Karen Stewart Hutchins, Class of '73  
Carole Mayhugh Hurst, Class of '63  
Randy Clouston, Class of '74  
Norman Papola, Class of '69  
Tom Olexa, Class of '60  
Richard Jones, Class of '72  
Terry Brinker, Class of '73  
Saundra Capitini Hill, Class of '65  
Roberta Boyd Bragan, Class of '66  
Daniel Gross, Class of '73  
Barbara Tomlinson Bradford, Class of '65  
Dan Angus, Class of '74  
Dan Angus, Class of '74, In Memory of Sister "B", Brenda Angus Kotera  
Frank & Arleen Brunori Sabatino, In Memory of Derek Cronk  
**EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FUND**  
Gerry Mendelson  
Joe Buti

Tenley Hughes, Class of '20  
Frank & Arleen Brunori Sabatino, Class of '73 & '76  
Andrew Sabatino, Class of '09  
Nancy Steele Tedeschi, Class of '61  
Dan Frizzi, Class of '70  
Albert Piatt, Class of '66  
Wilda Trigg Cain, Class of '55  
Robert Hubbard, Class of '72  
Norman & Mary Ann Balsei, Class of '59  
Dennis Burech, Class of '64  
John Mike & Linda Zacchini Marinacci, Class of '65 & '68  
Deborah DeGenova, Class of '74  
Patricia Willerton Shimble, Class of '55  
Robert Marshall, Class of '70  
Craig Tschappat, Class of '75  
Fran Bonfini D'Áquila, Class of '63  
Bill & Carla William Banig, Class of '71 & '72  
Jebb Linch, Class of '66  
Edward Exner, Class of '73  
Karen Stewart Hutchins, Class of '73  
Francis & Joyce Johnson Mellott, Class of '56 & '58  
Randy Clouston, Class of '74  
Richard Jones, Class of '72  
Marci Bonar Quirk, Class of '00  
John "Dixie" Purtiman  
Jennie Capitini, Class of '70  
Elizabeth Ann Goldsmith Hodges, Class of 59  
Saundra Capitini Hill, Class of '65  
Roberta Boyd Bragan, Class of '66

Linda Thornton  
Daniel Gross, Class of '73  
Robert Kinter, Class of '58  
Dan Angus, Class of '74  
**THEATRE & ARTS**  
Tenley Hughes, Class of '20  
Frank & Arleen Brunori Sabatino, Class of '73 & '76  
Andrew Sabatino, Class of '09  
Bill Gasbarre, Class of '62  
Shawn Bolon, Class of '82  
Marian Corbett Clark, Class of 1949, In Memory of the Class of '49  
Robert Hill, Class of '49, In Memory of the Class of '49  
Robert Marshall, Class of '70  
Edward Exner, Class of '73  
Randy Clouston, Class of '74  
James Gooch, Class of 69  
Richard Jones, Class of '72  
Marci Bonar Quirk, Class of '00  
Don Marik, Class of '74  
Sharon Gooch Wozniak, Class of '65  
CJ & Kelly LaRoche, Class of '04  
Class of 1970, In Honor of Classmate Kathy Wallace  
Dr. Bill Lovejoy, Class of '45  
Dale Tschappat, Class of '84  
Saundra Capitini Hill, Class of '65  
Dan Angus, Class of '74  
**BELL TOWER**  
Tenley Hughes, Class of '20  
June Paulich Valocik, Class of '59  
Richard Jones, Class of '72