

---

---

*Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County*

---

---



## **Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame**

---

---

*Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702*

---

---

*September 2017*

### **CSHOF Board & Officers Elected**

The election of the Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame was held at its June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting; and at its July 31<sup>st</sup> meeting the Board elected the officers to lead the organization for the next year.



*Left to right, are Randy Anderson, Bob Schmitt, Ron Melquist, Lee Johnson, Russ Ecklund and Bill Race.*

The officers are an experienced group of leaders. Randy Anderson begins his 9<sup>th</sup> year as an officer; Ron Melquist has served 23 years as either president or vice-president; Bill Race has served 18 years as vice-president and Bob Schmitt will serve his 3<sup>rd</sup> term as vice-president. Secretary Russ Ecklund begins his 18<sup>th</sup> year and treasurer Lee Johnson starts his 13<sup>th</sup> term.

The CSHOF is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization with no paid employees. All officers and Board members serve without compensation or benefits. Their dedication to the CSHOF mission can be seen on the following table showing years of service:

### **2017-2018 CSHOF Board of Directors**

DIRECTOR	POSITION	YEARS
Anderson, Randy	president	13
Barton, Dick	director (& inductee)	12
Bongiovanni, John	director	4
Cederquist, Cal	director (& inductee)	7
Deppas, Lou	director	9
DiMaio, Joe	director	11
Ecklund, Russ	secretary	27
Heppler, Tom	director	8
Huckno, Wally	director (& inductee)	15
Johnson, Chip	director	30
Johnson, Lee	treasurer	16
Kindberg, Scott	director	11
Klinginsmith, Phil	director	9
Larson, Fred	director	14
Lassen, Lori	director	2
Marshaus, Stan	director (& inductee)	6
Martin, Keith	director	4
Melquist, Ron	vice-president	29
Painter, Jim	director	9
Peters, Sr., Gary	director	2
Polechetti, Dave	director	8
Pucciarelli, Angela	director	3
Race, Bill	vice-president (& inductee)	22
Rea, Tammy	director	6
Rollinger, Bill	director (& inductee)	20
Schmitt, Bob	vice-president (& inductee)	5
Sinatra, Dr. Charles	director	30
Sirianni, Jay	director	3
Tomassini, Ed	director	7
Diethrick, Russ	founder, emeritus director (& inductee)	
Heslink, Terry	emeritus director	
Lundberg, Denny	emeritus director	
Tane, Komo	emeritus director (& inductee)	

## **Major Initiatives Planned by CSHOF Board**

The Board of Directors has undertaken two big projects that will significantly improve and enhance our ability to honor and preserve the sports history of Chautauqua County.

**The Board plans a total redesign of the CSHOF website.** When the website was launched in 2007, all visitors to the site were using a computer to gain access. Last year, however, 45% of our visitors were on a phone or other mobile device. Because the site is not “responsive” to mobile devices, users do not get a good experience, have trouble navigating and often “bounce” away from the site. In addition, to making the website mobile-friendly, the Board desires to present a bold, new, fresh design symbolizing the vibrancy of the organization. The redesign project will begin in January and is expected to take most of 2017 to complete.

**The Board plans to undertake another facilities expansion.** We currently occupy about 4,000 square feet of exhibit, storage, meeting and office space at 15 West Third Street in Jamestown. Over the past several years we have experienced a substantial increase in the amount of memorabilia and artifacts that have been donated and we expect that growth to continue. The CSHOF Board has identified about 1800 square feet of unused space behind our museum in the Covenant Manor building and is working with our landlord, Millennia Companies, of Cleveland, OH, to secure its use.

## **CSHOF Website and Facebook Page**

**Did you know** the CSHOF website, [www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org](http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org), has a feature that will allow repeat visitors to know when new material has been added to the site? In the top, right corner of the home page is an icon that reads “latest updates.” Clicking on that will reveal a monthly listing of new items that have been added.

**Did you know** the CSHOF website contains a whopping 1200 pages? We are constantly searching for material relevant to our 183 inductees. We welcome webpage submissions from our inductees, their families, our members, and the general public.

**Did you know** over 10,000 visitors came to the CSHOF website last year?

**Did you know** the CSHOF Facebook page is another source for news and updates from the CHSOF? **“Like”** the CSHOF Facebook page for ease of use.

## Remembering Dad and Mom

*Tom Brown, son of CSHOF inductee Walt Brown, shares his heartfelt memories of his parents:*

Frances Burroughs, from Mayville, NY, was one of four siblings: two sisters, Arlene and Bea; and an older brother, Chester. So back in Fran and Walt's heydays (1930s), this is how it all began:

Not only did my dad, Walter Brown, excel on the ball diamond, but starting in 8<sup>th</sup> grade he ran cross-country and track and played basketball, for the Bemus Point Red Dragons, too. Fran was a cheerleader for the Mayville Eagles. So the eye contact and "who's that" started. As Dad would say, "She has that stay away closer look." Let the romance begin.

With steamboats and trolleys being the main mode of transportation, many trips from Bemus Point to Mayville were made.

Believe it or not, I heard Dad tell this story: He grew up on a farm on Brown Road, which was named after his family. In the middle of winter, he would walk down to Chautauqua Lake at Bemus Bay, about a mile, put on his ice skates, and race to Mayville to court Fran. If that is not true love, what is?

I never heard when my parents got engaged – either 1937 or 1938 – but I do know when they got married – June 23, 1939 in Kilgore, Texas.



Dad was playing for the Kilgore Boomers, a Class C team in the East Texas League. Because my mom lost both her parents before her big day, her sisters and brother drove her to Kilgore.

The wedding was unique. Mom was taken to third base, Dad to first. Each member of the respective teams held a bat up to form an arch along the first and third base lines. On a signal, Mom and Dad started walking under the arches to meet at home plate. The ceremony was held in front of 2,500-3,000 baseball fans. Chet gave his sister away.

After the ceremony, Mom and Dad, dressed in his baseball uniform, were escorted to a reserved box seat near the Boomer dugout. Following the game, Kilgore team management hosted a wedding reception and gave the couple a brand-new 1939 Buick automobile!

After a 20-year baseball career, 1934-1954, Walt and Fran settled down in Oriental Park in Bemus Point and raised a family: sons, Barry, Timothy, Brian, Thomas; and daughter, Laurie.

Dad was an avid fisherman, hunter and outdoorsman. Mom was a great homemaker and cook. They spent a lot of their time going to the sporting events of their children. Walt coached the baseball teams of Barry and Tim.

Grandson, Jared Brown, the baseball coach at Southwestern Central, and wife Britta, share the same wedding anniversary as Walt and Fran – June 23<sup>rd</sup>.