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# LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC



*A Message From NAFC Education Foundation  
Executive Director, Tyler Bliss*

As summer break comes to a close, we look forward to a fantastic school year ahead. Approximately 800 new kindergarten students will enter the halls of NAFCs, starting their long, yet far too quick journey, of donning a cap and gown in 2035. We wish all of our students, teachers, and staff members a successful and fulfilling school year!

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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Recently, Joe Hale (NAHS '67) accepted the position of Director at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. At age 71, the multi-talented Hale had never held a position running a museum before. How does someone get to be a museum director? As you will read in this issue, there is more than one way.

Hall of Famer Sally Newkirk (FCHS '72) took quite a different career path. At age 26, she joined the all-volunteer Board of the Floyd County Museum (later renamed the Carnegie Center for Art and History in 1999). She stayed with the Carnegie Center for 38 years, serving as its director from 1988 until she retired in 2018.

Two very different approaches and each was a bit of Ying to the other's yang. In both cases, these two model alumni served a greater good in the community. Sally Newkirk was centered in our own backyard. Joe Hale literally trotted the globe (yes, literally... he ran 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 months). He built an incredibly broad-ranging set of skills and experiences and brought it back to Indiana. We think you'll enjoy reading how it all came to pass.

**Submitted By Rex Bickers, FCHS '70**

## JOE HALE, NAHS '67

One key goal of all the arts and humanities is to tell a story. Creating and nurturing a museum is a mega-blend, combining the written word, the keen eye of the visual arts, and the expressiveness of music, the stage, and film. Over a span of nearly 50 years, Joe Hale prepared himself to hold his current position at The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum.

The foundation of Joe's early career was in the performing arts. He's a graduate of Harvard University's Institute in Arts Administration, following his undergraduate education at Hanover College, he excelled as an educator



(1971-1973 at FCHS and then, as a high school teacher of theater in Germany), moving on to management and leadership with three years as executive director of the Metropolitan Arts Council of Indianapolis.

Outside the arts arena, storytelling talent can manifest as abilities in sales, business communications... and sometimes in the “C-suite” running a company. Joe honed those skills in commercial real estate, then ascended to VP and Chief Communications Officer of Cinergy Corp. (now Duke Energy). He went on to be President of Cinergy Foundation while serving as President of Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company.

He provided leadership on countless non-profit boards and helped to oversee charitable donations of over 135 million dollars. One incredible example was cited in the introduction to this month’s spotlight. As a marathon runner, he raised \$250,000 for the March of Dimes and saw the world in the process.

In 2016, Joe became Executive Director of The Dreamland, Nantucket’s year-round film, and cultural center. Joe and his wife Linda have had a summer home there for decades. The Dreamland might have been his final employer, but happily... he was beckoned back to find his Hoosier roots again. Nantucket’s loss is Indiana’s gain. He assumed the position of Director at the Speedway Museum in January 2021.

Like many kids in Floyds Knobs, I knew Joe’s parents for years. His mother Peggy was an inspiration to many. I asked Joe to reflect on her life.

He answered: “Mom and Dad were very committed to being Bulldog parents, before they caught Superhicks fever - - even more fervently, for my brother Jerry (FC ’71 and team captain). It would have taken much more than polio and a wheelchair to keep mom’s light from shining for all - - or from ever missing a game!”

## **SALLY LEWIS NEWKIRK, FCHS ‘72**

Sally Newkirk was inducted into the FCHS Hall of Fame in 2012 for her many awards and achievements at New Albany’s Carnegie Center of Art and History. At the Hall of Fame banquet, her profile in the printed program pointed out that two things appealed to her in high school - - community involvement and service to others. They turned out to be important building blocks of her career.



In 1980, Sally joined a dedicated group of volunteers who made up: the Board of the Museum (known as the “Floyd County Museum” until 1999). They were trying to save the original home of the “old library” and transform it into something that few could envision at the time. In a matter of years, Sally was serving as the board’s president.

In 1988, there arose some serious fiscal threats to the museum’s very existence. Sally was asked to serve as “interim” director for one year. That “interim” went on to last another 29 years. It was a counter-intuitive path to becoming a museum director. Sally chose to “grow the museum” while she grew her career there. She used what she found locally: subject matter, experts, and organizations that stepped up to support her plans. In 1996 and 1997, she took a leap up the ladder of professionalism, completing Smithsonian Institution training in both museum management and management of collections. In 2006, she oversaw the Center’s most ambitious exhibit ever... on the Underground Railroad... then followed with other highly acclaimed projects, including “Remembered: The Life of Lucy Higgs Nichols”. She introduced New Albany to artist Penny Sisto, beginning with “Heartbeats: Art Quilts” and later collaborated with her on five other shows. Sally and the Carnegie Center took a step onto the world stage in 2008 when portions of Sisto’s Slavery series were displayed at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds (England).

In 2019, the center unveiled the Sally Newkirk Gallery, a space for rotating exhibits from its permanent collections. In retirement, Sally has shown similar passions and enthusiasm through her involvement in New Albany Rotary. She and former Floyd Central teacher Mike Newkirk have been married for 46 years and they live in Louisville.

I wanted to know more about how the Carnegie Center took off at the beginning of her tenure there.

She replied “Building relationships within our local community was everything. The many, many teams of people who backed up what we sought to do - - they were just as vital to our successes as I was.”

The link to the blog page, which features the alternative, more reminiscent introduction to this month’s Alumni Spotlight is [here](#).



# Education Foundation Welcomes New Teachers with \$100 Each



We had a fun morning meeting 76 new teachers joining NAFCS at the new teacher orientation! The NAFC Education Foundation awarded each educator with a \$100 gift certificate to Teachers Pay Teachers (an educator resource website) to help them with classroom tools for the year ahead. We appreciate all they do and wish them the best of luck this school year!



# Play FORE! Education Golf Scramble Results



We had a great day at Champions Pointe for our 14th annual Assured Partners Play FORE! Education Golf Scramble. Over \$56,000 was raised for NAFC students, teachers, and schools. Thank you so much to all our sponsors, players, and volunteers!

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**NOT A MEMBER YET?**

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The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that works in conjunction with NAFC Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. NAFC Alumni Nation is an alumni program of the NAFC Education Foundation. Legacy NAFC is the official support group of NAFC Schools, NAFC Alumni Nation, and the NAFC Education Foundation.



[www.NAFCEdFoundation.org](http://www.NAFCEdFoundation.org)

<https://nafcalumni.nationbuilder.com/>

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