

BILL ALLMANN



A 1974 graduate of Freedom, Bill Allmann becomes the third member of his graduating class to be inducted into the FAEF Hall of Fame, following J.D. Haglan and Elder Vogel.

In addition to a successful academic career at Freedom, he was a member of the football team. Two of those teams (1972 and 1973) are generally considered two of the best in Freedom history. In his four years in a Freedom uniform, the Bulldogs had a total of six losses. Bill, admittedly, had a minimal impact on the team, but football had a lasting impact on him.

Bill received a bachelor's degree from Duquesne University right after high school and eventually added an MBA from there. His initial career was in credit unions where he was, at one time, the youngest Certified Credit Union Executive but, after deregulation, he changed careers.

As he explored career opportunities, Bill answered an ad for a Beaver County Times correspondent, and that changed everything. For the past 32 years, he has written for The Times, 31 of those years as a freelancer, while occasionally writing for other outlets as well.

His primary emphasis at The Times has been covering high school sports, including local and state championship games in 19 sports—but more important than the events, Bill notes the highlight was the people involved. Who wins or loses and the scores are a matter of record, but the people who contributed to make that happen are what Bill enjoyed writing about—whether it was the last game of the season or the first.

Bill has also covered local colleges regularly as well as the Pirates, Steelers, Penguins, Passion, and Riverhounds. He is one of the few who can say he has written about both rattlesnakes and Diamondbacks, and he covered his college alma mater's basketball team in the postseason, and was The Times outdoors writer for many years.

While answering the call to work freelance (usually evenings and weekends) for The Times, he worked four years as Geneva College Sports Information Director at a time when they became only the second college in NAIA history to make the national tournament in four consecutive seasons. For the last 21 years, his day job has been doing reports in the medical billing industry.

No matter who was paying the bills, though, he never forgot that he learned at least as much on the athletic practice fields behind Freedom High School as he did in any classroom and paid it forward. Starting with his own children—Krista and Bill Jr.—he has coached youth baseball, basketball, and football over the past 33 years. Football has typically been the focal point, though, as he has held every office that exists in the Freedom Lil Bulldogs organization. He is a life member and currently secretary of the club while also Vice President of the Beaver County Youth Football League.

While an officer in the baseball organization, he was also Vice Chairman of the New Sewickley Township Recreation Board and helped coordinate efforts when the park was renovated to its current layout, doubling the number of baseball fields while making other upgrades.

It was more by chance that one other major accomplishment occurred. While visiting the Beaver Rotary Club, Bill heard a presentation about the Beaver Educational Foundation. At that point, a seed was planted for the Freedom Area Educational Foundation. There was an initial meeting with Superintendent Bob Cercone to begin the process, and it eventually reached fruition under Dr. Ron Sofo. Bill was vice president of the initial board and eventually served as president.

As well as those secular activities, Bill has kept active in his church, St. Peter's Reformed Church in Zelienople, all his life and has been called upon to deliver the sermon more than once. In addition to serving as Vice President, Treasurer, and Sunday School Superintendent, he has served as President three different times. He is currently in his second year as President now with all the challenges the pandemic has presented.

If forced to describe his career in one word, it would probably be eclectic. Bill has been honored by groups as varied as the Pennsylvania Credit Union League, Cranberry Rotary, Geneva College, Freedom Lil Bulldogs, and the Associated Press, but this honor outranks them all.