



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boys & Girls Club LNV's Alumni Association Hall of Fame 2009 Inductees

Shelton, CT, January 13, 2009 – The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley's Alumni Association has selected 8 former members or staff as the third group of inductees for the Alumni Hall of Fame. On Saturday, January 31, 2009, the Club will honor the following people:

- Derby Parks & Rec Director and Probation Court, Dennis O'Connell
- Boys & Girls Club Unit Director, Jim Queen
- Alumni Association Volunteer, Pam Hinton
- Boys & Girls Club Director of Operations, Michael Cotela, Ed.D.
- Local businessmen Wayne Rydzy, Chris Jones, and Dave Mikos
- Former Monroe Parks & Rec Director, Ron Wallisa (posthumously)

Each candidate was nominated by either our Alumni Association, Board of Directors, Board of Corporators, or the general public. The criteria for selection included being a former member of the Shelton-Derby Boys Club, the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, or the Community Center. Each candidate was judged on notable contributions in his or her life which would serve as a role model for children. Each candidate's outstanding leadership and dedication to children and their service to our community were important factors in the selection process. Non-members of the Club are nominated and judged on their impact on children at the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley.

The induction ceremonies will take place Saturday, January 31, 2009, beginning at 6 pm at John J. Sullivan's Restaurant in Ansonia. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley. The ticket includes a cocktail hour from 6-7 pm, when we will honor all past award winners; a buffet dinner; induction ceremony; and a DJ for dancing until midnight.

More information on the inductees:

James Queen. Member of the Shelton Derby Boys Club, outstanding baseball and football player at Shelton High School. Staff member at the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley for more than 20 years; Unit Director for Ansonia Clubhouse.

Chris Jones. Member of the Shelton-Derby Boys Club. Owner of All Premier Hardwood Flooring, LLC, and volunteer fireman at Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Co. #1. Serves on Shelton's Board of Aldermen and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Member of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Board of Directors. Major supporter of

both the Boys & Girls Club LNV John “Red” Larsen Golf Classic and the Alumni Golf Tournament, golf committee member.

Dennis O’Connell. Member of the Shelton-Derby Boys Club. Director of Derby Parks & recreation. Works for Adult Probation in the Derby-Milford courts. Former outstanding football player at Derby High School and University of Connecticut.

Wayne Rydzy. Member of the Shelton-Derby Boys Club. Owner of Pauway Co. in Wallingford, CT. Major sponsor of the John “Red” Larsen Golf Classic, founder of Amity Youth football, Boy Scouts Troop 163, Grand Knight-Notre Dame High School, and Shelton High School Booster Club.

Ron Wallisa. Honored posthumously. He was a member of the Community Center Boys Club. Former Shelton High School baseball player. He worked as the Monroe Parks & Recreation Director for many years. Also was a board-certified basketball referee.

Dave Mikos. Shelton-Derby Boys Club member. Salesman for Connecticut Plywood Co. Has volunteered to coach and organize Boys & Girls Club state travel basketball program for the past 11 years. He is also a referee and a member of the Derby Rec Commission

Michael J. Cotela. Member of the Shelton Derby Boys Club. Has worked at the Club for the past 26 years. Currently Director of Operations. Former Shelton High School and Eastern Connecticut State University basketball player. Received Doctoral Degree in Education in 1999 in Education (Children & Family Program Management).

Pam Hinton. Non-Alumni member nominated by the committee. Has volunteered for the past 20 years for the Alumni Association: golf tournament, picnics, fundraising, and trips. Served as the Alumni Association Treasurer. Former Shelton Savings Bank and Derby Savings Bank employee. She is also on the Club’s Board of Corporators.

As the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley celebrates more than 50 years of service to the children of the Valley two years ago, it is fitting to honor our “own” with a Hall of Fame. Former Club members are making an impact in all areas of life, and the Boys & Girls Club is proud to recognize them. This year our Club membership reached 3,000 members. As we move forward with our new Clubhouses in Ansonia and Milford and our outstanding programs in our Shelton unit, we honor those former members who have paved the way for today’s youngsters to be productive citizens of the community.

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