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**Executive Board Members**

**President:**  
Kate Wiltsie '94  
Middletown  
[bonsante1@aol.com](mailto:bonsante1@aol.com)

**Vice President:**  
Jeff Gartman '08  
South Windsor  
[jeff.gartman@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.gartman@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**  
Harry Best '71  
Avon  
[hbest001@gmail.com](mailto:hbest001@gmail.com)

**Secretary:**  
Lisa Sands '83  
West Hartford  
[sands151@yahoo.com](mailto:sands151@yahoo.com)

**Alumni Admissions:**  
Dean Delach '76  
Farmington  
[ddelach@comcast.net](mailto:ddelach@comcast.net)

**Board Members:**

Nina Webb '77 Rocky Hill  
[ninajim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ninajim@sbcglobal.net)

Greg Malone '95 South Windsor  
[gmalonepsu@yahoo.com](mailto:gmalonepsu@yahoo.com)

Steve Putterman '78 West Hartford  
[putterman.ct@gmail.com](mailto:putterman.ct@gmail.com)

Terry Schnure '63 Windsor  
[taschnure@aol.com](mailto:taschnure@aol.com)

Glenn Zinn '83 South Windsor  
[glennzinn@yahoo.com](mailto:glennzinn@yahoo.com)

Mimi Douet  
[mariadouet@gmail.com](mailto:mariadouet@gmail.com)

Rose Stepnik  
[rosenick10@yahoo.com](mailto:rosenick10@yahoo.com)

# PSU Connecticut Valley Chapter Newsletter

March, 2020

## Annual Spring Dinner & Scholarship Fundraiser Thursday, April 30th.



We are excited to announce our Annual Spring Dinner and Scholarship Fundraiser on Thursday, April 30th at the Wethersfield Country Club. Our Keynote Speaker for the event will be **Brian Evanko**, Penn State class of 1998 and president of Cigna's US Government segment. Brian will be discussing the role of public vs. private health care in the US including the concept of Medicare for All.

Brian has worked at Cigna for over 20 years, beginning his career as an actuary and progressing through various leadership roles which included his living in Singapore and Hong Kong for several years. He is on the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Science Center, serves as a race guide for runners with disabilities through Achilles International, and has testified before Congress about health care reform.

Doors open at 6pm with dinner starting at 6:30. The cost of the event is \$40 per person, non-members \$45 per person. Recent alumni, \$35 per person (within the last 5 years or current or prospective students). The event will include a silent auction to benefit our Freshman Scholarship Fund. There are some incredible auction items including vintage memorabilia, and a signed basketball by Pat Chambers! We will also have raffle prizes, great food, new chapter golf shirts available, AND..... Creamery Ice Cream!!

- Cash Bar Available (no credit cards accepted at the bar)
- Cash, check, and credit cards accepted for silent auction and raffle items

## 2020 Membership Drive - WE WANT YOU!

*In 2020, our goal is to double the PSU CT Valley Membership. Please help us achieve this goal!*

**Why Join?**

\*You will be benefitting current PSU students by contributing to the scholarship program. Each year, the PSU CT Valley Chapter awards 5-6 students with scholarships. Your membership fees help to support this program. Did you know that at \$300,000.00, YOUR chapter has the highest endowment of any chapter in the country? This is something we can all be very proud of!

\*Becoming a member gives you discounts to some of our event fees.

\*You stay connected with all chapter events

\*Pride in Penn State and being affiliated with the best and largest alumni association in the country!

**Who Can Join?**

\*Current Students including all World Campus students

\*All Alumni

\*Family members of students

\*PSU Faculty and Staff

\*Friends and Fans of Penn State

**Membership Drive Deals**

\*If you refer a friend, family member etc, and both of you join, you will each receive \$5.00 off Your membership fee, paying only **\$15.00** instead of **\$20.00**.

\*Recent Graduates, within the last 3 years, pay only **\$15.00**

\*Current Student Half Off! Only **\$10.00**

*You can send in an check along with your membership form included in this newsletter or go to*

*[www.psuctvalley.org/membership](http://www.psuctvalley.org/membership) to renew or join.*



**A Note From The President, Kate Wiltsie**

I have always felt a deep connection to Penn State, in part, because I put myself through college by working and taking some loans to do so. In doing that, I feel as though the experience and the accomplishment is completely mine. My PSU connection has only deepened as I have taken on roles that give back to our members, our community, and most importantly, the current PSU students.

After four years of serving on the board as the Freshman Mentor Coordinator, in July of 2019 I volunteered to run for President of the chapter, having a pit of uncertainty and nervousness in my stomach while doing so. I wasn't sure of exactly what I was getting myself into and not sure if I would be able to handle the responsibilities. But, I had decided that 2019 was going to be the "Year of Yes" for myself and that I would take some risks; do some things that might be uncomfortable in order to grow and learn. As a result, I am learning many new skills, meeting and working with fantastic people and having a lot of fun doing so! The current board members are so generous with their time and work hard to make the chapter the success that it is. It is wonderful to be a part of such a community of people.

Being almost eight months into the term as president, I am hopeful that I have served the membership well so far and that I continue to learn and grow into the role. If there are any suggestions that you have for the chapter, including new activities, communications, or ways to improve upon what we already do, please reach out to me at [Bonsante1@aol.com](mailto:Bonsante1@aol.com), I would love to hear from you!

Kate Wiltsie

**New Chapter Golf Shirts Available!**

We now have high quality men's and women's Greg Norman golf shirts available for purchase. Both men's and women's available in blue or white, size small- XXL. Cost is \$35.00

**\$5.00 off with any new membership!**

**We will have shirts on display at the Spring Dinner and available for purchase!**

*(Men's shirts run true to size /Women's shirts are fitted and run small, recommend sizing up at least 1 size)*



**Upcoming Chapter Events 2020**

**Thursday, 4/30 Annual Spring Dinner & Scholarship Fundraiser**

6-10pm Wethersfield Country Club  
76 Country Club Rd., Wethersfield, CT

**Sunday, 8/16 Freshman Sendoff**

1PM—Northwest Park, Windsor CT

*We have several new committees such as Membership, Social Events, and Admissions, among others. There are opportunities to volunteer for one of the committees or even on a single project. You can check your interests on the enclosed membership form or contact one of the board members to volunteer.*

**Home for the Holidays Bus**

For over 25 years, the chapter has coordinated a chartered bus service that brings local PSU students to and from school at Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Last year over 400 students took advantage of the service and any profits made from it are either put towards our freshman scholarship endowment or used for activities to support PSU students. Check out our website at: [www.psuctvalley.org](http://www.psuctvalley.org), Outreach-Bus for more information.



**Congratulations 2020 PSU CT Valley Scholarship Recipients!**

- Samantha Sacier*
- Avery Duprey*
- Alison Simmons*
- Paige Remillard*
- Sureaya Inusah*
- Jenna Sanzo*
- Jared Andrea*



**2020 Football Schedule**

***Please Join the Chapter at Buffalo Wild Wings, 1267 Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield Ct each football Saturday for Penn State Football Viewing Parties (H=Home/ A=Away)***

9/5 Kent State (H)	9/26 Northwestern (H)	10/24 Ohio St (H)	11/14 MI State (H)
9/12 Virginia Tech (A)	10/3 Michigan (A)	10/31 Indiana (A)	11/21 Maryland (H)
9/19 San Jose St (H)	10/17 Iowa (H)	11/7 Nebraska (A)	11/28 Rutgers (A)

## Meet The Board! Current PSU CT Valley Board Members



**Kate Wiltsie** PSU class of 1994, majoring in French/International Business. She has served on the board since 2015 and is currently the Chapter President. In addition, she is the Freshman Mentor Coordinator and Communications person, handling email campaigns and social media posts. She lives in Middletown with her husband Charles and is an empty nester of 5 children. She is the owner of Swedish Bodyworks, a therapeutic massage practice and has been a massage therapist for 12 years.



**Greg Malone** PSU class of 1995, majored in actuarial science and has worked as an actuary at Cigna for the past 25 years. He has served on the CT Valley chapter board since 2004, was president from 2007-15, and has coordinated the bus service since 2017. Greg also served on the Alumni Association's Alumni Council from 2011-14. He lives in South Windsor with his wife, Ann, and three children ages 11-17



**Lisa Sands** CT Valley Chapter Secretary, grew up in Middletown, CT. Lisa graduated in 1983 with a Business degree in Marketing and has worked in the staffing recruitment industry for over 30 years. She has worked for Kelly Services for the past 18 years in a variety of sales, marketing and management roles. Lisa has many fond memories of her times at Penn State as a student, but one of her most beloved memories came when she traveled to New Orleans to watch Penn State win its first national championship in the 1983 Sugar Bowl. An active CT Valley Chapter board member, Lisa served as the Alumni Admissions Volunteer Coordinator for over 8 years and currently coordinates the Chapter's Career Services activities in addition to being Secretary.



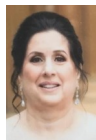
**Dean Delach**, '76 math, Active board member for many years including several years as president, alumni admissions coordinator, and for 19 years coordinator of our award winning student bus service. My wife Judy and our two children are also PSU grads. Football season ticket holders for 20 years---and we go to all the games! We are so fortunate to have a chapter that has been very active and brought so much of Happy Valley to the CT Valley for many, many years.



**Terry Schnure** Building on many fond memories of Penn State, I have been actively involved in Connecticut Valley Chapter activities for nearly 50 years. Have served as Chapter President and continue to be actively involved in many Chapter initiatives that currently include Alumni Admissions College Fairs and the Freshman Send-Off as well as many Chapter Administrative Activities that include the Chapter Newsletter production and its distribution. Is a Penn State Engineering Graduate, served five years in the United States Navy, and retired from a career with the State of Connecticut. His son is a Penn State graduate. Terry lives in Windsor.



**Jeff Gartman** Jeff graduated in 2008 with a degree in Information Sciences and Technology, and has built a career in IT at Cigna. He is currently a director supporting digital technologies. He joined the Connecticut Valley chapter in 2013, and started by redesigning the website and volunteering at events. Jeff currently serves as the Chapter's Vice President, and continues with his technology responsibilities. Jeff lives in South Windsor and has two children, Lilah (9) & Levi (7), who hope to become future Penn Staters themselves - you can often find them on football Saturdays at the viewing parties! Jeff recently became engaged to a fellow Penn Stater, Danielle Nitopi '10! In their limited free time, they enjoy traveling, running, and Disney.



**Nina Webb** Graduated from Penn State in '76 with a degree in Math. She spent 30 years working as the Casualty Actuary for The Hartford. She has served on the PSU CT Valley board for over 25 years, including 10 years as Treasurer. She currently coordinates all of the football watch parties with Buffalo Wild Wings.



**Harry Best** is Treasurer of the Chapter and having been born at Penn State while his father was a student he started his passion at a very early age. He has a BS in Acctg '71 and an MBA '74 and has particularly enjoyed supporting school recruiting fairs. Harry lives in Avon with his wife Laura who has become a solid fan.



**Glenn Zinn** Graduated in '83 with an Associate in Computer Science from the Scranton campus. I've worked for Lux Bond and Green for the past 34 years as their IT Manager. I live in South Windsor with my wife Bonnie. I have 3 daughters and one grandson. My youngest daughter is a current student at University Park. I've been on the board for 3 years.



**Maria Douet** Maria or "Mimi" is the newest Board member and her son just graduated from Penn State in December, while her daughter is a freshman at PSU Altoona. Mimi jumped in right away and coordinated the pie fundraiser this fall. We are happy to have her on board! (literally!)



**Rose Stepnick** Rose coordinates Bowl-A-THON, and loves the Freshman Send-Off Picnic. She graduated in '77 with a BS in Art Ed, and completed her MBA at UConn. Her husband Dave is also a Penn State graduate - EMEch '75, '78 ; they met on the basketball courts during freshman year. Spent 10 years in Ligonier, PA on a 57 acres as a goat farmer, and a 4-H Fair sponsor through the Penn State Ag Extension. Completed the Ligonier Valley Trail bridge that was ultimately named the ***Rose Stepnick Crossing!*** Daughter Kristin '06 I Eng, is current President of Mid-Hudson NY Alum Chapter.

### Connecticut Valley...

### A Chapter of Distinction



PSU CT Valley Chapter achieved the highest level evaluation in its activity levels, outreach and supporting programs, giving us A Chapter of Distinction at the Elm Level! The participation of the alumni of our chapter made this possible.

Connecticut Valley Chapter  
Penn State Alumni Association

Terry Schnure  
34 Broadleaf Circle  
Windsor, CT 06095-1633



This is our annual newsletter mailing to PSU alumni in the CT Valley chapter area. Part of the mailing is paid for by the Penn State Alumni Association. We keep members informed about our activities by e-mail the rest of the year, so please send your e-mail address to Kate Wiltzie at Bonsante1@aol.com if you'd like to be on the distribution list and are not already. Our website and/or Facebook pages contain a chapter membership form, officer contact information, news about upcoming events and student bus service, and more. Costs for many of our events such as the football TV parties and freshmen sendoff are supported by annual dues from members, so please continue to support the chapter!

If you would like to join the over 300 alumni and friends with official Connecticut Penn State license plates, please contact Jeff Gartman at: [jeffgartman@gmail.com](mailto:jeffgartman@gmail.com) to receive an application. The vanity plates feature a PSU shield and "WE ARE PENN STATE" slogan and a portion of the proceeds generated go towards our freshman scholarship fund.



Penn State CT License Plates