After 19 years of organizing, convening, writing, mailing, energizing, calling, and much more, Ann Comstock, ’64, St. Benedict Academy Alumnae Association Coordinator, is pulling back to allow the “younger girls who know all the new technology” to take the lead. SBA Alumnae Association board president Darlene Kerstetter, ‘82, and board member Valerie Purzycki, ’88, will take the helm. “We’re grateful to Ann for her many years of service,” said Darlene, who has been on the board for 10 years. “And we’re looking forward to her continued support.” Ann will remain on the board and continue serving as treasurer.

Leadership change

Helen Heil Kiehlmeier ’46
Audrey Jersey Wilson ’49
Theresa Kuzma Taft ’52
Evelyn Marie Dobrzynski ’54
Dorothy Rose Rutkowski Dahl ’54
Mary Ann Rogers Hedderick ’55
Patricia J Krauchen Mezzacapo ’56
Mary Anne Kaczenski Kleiner ’56
Barbara Anne Becker ’60
Patricia Alice Cackowski Kirk ’61
Judith A Schaaf Bentley ’61
Ruth A Page ’62
Marilyn Wisinski Eickley ’64
Rosemary Benim Winschel ’66
Christine Wisniewski Rudolph ’67
Rosemary T Trott Allgeier

Let us pray for our SBA alumnae who have passed into eternity—

Contact Us

Have an address change? Story to share? Idea to highlight your class in the newsletter? Email: sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org
“I have raised a pediatric RN, a mechanical engineer, an educator and an ICU mobility technician,” said Cindy Rettger, wife of 41 years, mom to four children and grandmother (or Busia, Polish for grandma) to five. “My proudest accomplishment is my family.”

For the past 35 years Cindy has made a career of making and decorating cakes, attributing this passion to Sister Rosanne Loneck, in an inter-term class. Her other enduring SBA influence was Mrs. Lucille Powers who instilled in her a love for sewing. “I have made several outfits for my family over the years.”

Another thing for which I will be forever grateful to SBA is my circle of friends. I am still close to several of these dear people. In fact, a group of four of us have been going away for a “girls weekend” every summer for several years. We come together from three states, even during this year’s pandemic, as we decided to appreciate our own hometown,” said Cindy.

Cindy Rettger

Mary Beth Cermak

22
“Although I never thought I would be in politics, my God saw something different for me,” said Susan Pacinelli DiVecchio.

Susan was appointed City Treasurer by Erie City Council in 2005 and then ran for the position in 2006 and won. She won reelection every four years until she retired in January 2020.

“What I really liked about this job was helping people in any way I could, if they needed information about city services. Even while campaigning I found that people just want to be heard and tell you about themselves,” said Susan.

“SBA has always been a part of me. My teachers taught me things I remember to this day, including Mrs. Bedford’s needlepoint class. The girls from my class will always mean so much to me even though we do not see each other too often. They will always have a special place in my heart,” she reminisced.

Diane Adkins Tobin is happy to be a proud alum of SBA. She was elected associate judge for the Circuit Court for Harford County, MD, in November 2018, and three of her ’76 SBA classmates attended her investiture in January 2019.

“I always wanted to be an attorney because that is a good way to help people who are undergoing a crisis in their lives. After I began practicing law, I realized that I wanted to be a judge. I defeated three male candidates to win my seat, and am the first woman in the history of this county to defeat a sitting judge in an election,” she told us. Diane’s law degree is from American University in Washington, DC, and she spent her entire legal career in the courtroom. As a prosecutor, she specialized in prosecuting people who commit crimes against children and vulnerable adults.

“I credit the education I received at SBA for giving me the confidence to believe in myself and my abilities. This confidence carried me throughout my education and my legal career.”

Jane Earll is an attorney and served four terms as a member of the Pennsylvania State Senate (1996-2012). “I fell into the political arena by an opportunity presenting itself...I was recruited to run for the State Senate, and ultimately decided that some of the same people were holding elective office in Erie County since I was a young girl. It was time for a change. New leaders needed to step forward to serve and I thought, ‘Well, why not me??’”

“I participated in SBA Student Government and was class president. So in hindsight, that was the beginning of my political career, I guess!” From St. Ben’s, Jane remembers in particular Sister Phyllis Schleicher, Mr. Paul Kovacs, and Sister Mary Lou Kownacki. “Sister Mary Lou had us make placards and form picket lines to support Cesar Chavez and the National Farm Workers. I didn’t appreciate it at the time, but I now believe that exercise instilled in me a belief that we all have a responsibility to do things outside of our own personal wants and desires. We need to be cognizant of the issues impacting a larger community,” she said.

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