

Golf Outing Recap: Thursday, July 19, 2018 | Phillips Park Golf Course

A brief shower could not dampen the spirits of 100-plus golfers and supporters who gathered for the Aurora East Educational Foundation's 17th Annual Golf Outing on July 19.

Under the leadership of Steve “Benny” Kenyon and his wife Jan, the outing's committee and the Foundation's entire board worked very hard to precisely prepare for all the day's activities which were held at Phillips Park Golf Course.

A good time was had by all as the weather cooperated in helping former Tomcats and East Aurora supporters to enjoy a day of wonderful fellowship while also supporting the AEEF's biggest fundraiser of the year, raising close to \$16,000.

Many of the day's participants shared their thoughts about East Aurora and their desire to help to give back and also to “pay it forward.”

“All my kids went to Dist. 131 schools, and the East Aurora staff people were all first class. We have always tried to give back.”

---Larry Malaker, AEEF board member for nine years, and Dist. 131 school board member for 19 years

“Our company (Cordogan, Clark & Associates) has done work for the district for 20 to 25 years. We've been involved with the district, but not just as a vendor. My boss, John Cordogan, and others in the community said 'Rhonda, you know how to run a golf outing.' I've been doing it now since 1999. This gets me outside with the game I love, and for a worthy cause.”

---Rhonda Mont, Cordogan, Clark & Associates

“My dad, brothers, and I are all East Aurora grads... it's part of the Rogers family. Today's outing is just one more link back to this great school and great district.”

---Pat Rogers, inducted as an East Aurora Distinguished Alumnus in 2016

“I don't think I've missed a single golf outing, and to me it's like a mini reunion. Faculty, grads, and people from the community come to this. It is the one I will always make a point of coming to.”

---Dan Barreiro, former AEEF board member and current District 131 Board of Education member

“My thought about today is that every little bit helps. We're able to raise funds and put the money back into the kids and into the East Side of Aurora. I see the work the Foundation is putting into district programs, and it inspires me.”

--- Frankie Zepeda, Tomcat Wrestling Club coach and EA Booster Club president

“It's a good day to know who the East Aurora boosters and backers are. It's good to mix and mingle with the people of our community.”

---Rick Robinson, East Aurora boys' varsity head basketball coach

“I think this is amazing. I was asked to volunteer and said 'Absolutely, I'd love to.' Next year, I'll be here either as a volunteer or golfer. Once a Tomcat, always a Tomcat.”

---Robin Renner, retired teacher and head varsity boys' baseball coach at Neuqua Valley High School

“It was a blessing to see everyone today. Having been the golf outing chairman, I know all about the efforts that go into this, hoping for a good day, and all the details. It's just special to see so many who bleed the red and black.”

---Chuck Solberg, 1966 Alumnus and Aurora baseball coach, recently retired from Northwestern Mutual

“I am a Tomcat through and through and have to be here to support the Foundation. I was on the Foundation myself for a number of years. For supporting the teachers and young people, I'm in 100 percent.”

---Mayor Richard C. Irvin, Mayor of Aurora

“There's nothing like it—everyone is such a big family. The warm, welcoming feeling has been universal. I enjoyed the outing here today, and it shows a caring spirit for the district. People really care about the success of our district. It's very refreshing.”

---New District 131 Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Norrell

The AEEF and the entire East Side WELCOMES Dr. Norrell and hopes for a long and productive tenure for her.

The most “distinguished” people of the day, however, were the golfers who supported us by playing in the outing. It was amazing to hear almost all the participants echo the comments given above. They are truly a caring group who came together for fellowship and fun, but most importantly to support the kids of the East Side

We hope to see all of them back next year—we need their continued support. And spread the word, all of you loyal Tomcats...we had room for more golfers and would like to fill the field completely next time. Our thanks to all for such a successful outing!

Since 1993, the Aurora East Educational Foundation has supported the educational needs of District 131. The AEEF is led by chairman Bill J. Deligiannis (East Aurora class of 1988). Deligiannis sees the organization as existing to recognize superior performance and excellence, and is joined by board members (all volunteers) who are East High School graduates

or retired District 131 faculty and staff members. Five of those board members are East grads as well as retired East Aurora faculty. This group “bleeds the red and black” and is eager to pay forward the benefits they have received from the East Aurora community.

The AEEF has distributed over \$108,000 in “mini grants” to district teachers over the last three years, and would like to increase the annual amount provided during the next school year. The foundation also awarded college scholarships to four East Aurora grads from last school year, five scholarships for the Class of 2018 and looks forward to increasing the number of scholarships next year.