

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 3  
Fall 2017

# C of E NEWS

## REUNION 2018

The 2018 C of E Alumni Association Reunion will be held October 19 – 21 on the banks of the Delaware River in the Pocono Mountains at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. This area is noted for both its spectacular fall colors and rich variety of bird-watching opportunities.

The resort, located in Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, PA, boasts an extraordinary golf course, the Shawnee Inn, the “Shawnee Craft Brewery” and a self contained restaurant “The Gem and Keystone” is located right on the property. The course is located on an island in the middle of the Delaware River on land on which once sat Fort Dupuy, a French & Indian War fortification. The course was a fixture on the early PGA Tour and hosted the PGA Championship in 1938.

Waterfall tours, boat rides, a spa, an indoor pool, a fitness center, and more await at the resort. Nearby you can find antique stores, a wolf preserve, an extraordinary casino and the Brook Hollow Winery, which offers tastings six days a week.

Reunion attendees will enjoy a Friday morning golf outing and a Friday evening campfire, hayride and mixer with a cash bar and a buffet. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, memorabilia room and a dinner dance with plenty of “Oldies but Goodies” music with a DJ and a photo booth are already planned. More will be announced. Most important will be ample opportunities for camaraderie with classmates.

This reunion will mark the 50th for the Class of 1968 and the 60th for the Class of 1958. The classes of 1967, 1969, 1957 and 1959 may wish to piggyback their own reunions on these events. If you are interested in helping out with your class reunion, please contact reunion Chair **Mary Jayne (Barnes) Gamble, A70**, at [maryjaynegamble1970@gmail.com](mailto:maryjaynegamble1970@gmail.com). Also, everyone is urged to contact Mary Jayne to volunteer to help with reunion planning as well as reunion activities such as registration, merchandise sales, decorating and more.

Room rates will be \$165 per night. Reservations can now be made by calling 1-800-742-9633, ext. 1414. Tell the person on the phone that you will be with the College of Emporia reunion, give the dates of your stay and the number of individuals who will be in your room. A special rate will be available for extending your stay, if you wish to do so but will not include breakfast. Reduced room rates are available Thursday through Sunday, with a Monday check out. Reunion registration cost will be \$165 per person for the weekend. Forms will be sent out in mailings and future newsletters.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit with friends and enjoy a wide variety of activities at one of the Northeast’s premiere resorts. You don’t want to miss it.

## President's Remarks: By Jim Brooks, A72

Hello fellow fighting Presbies.

There are several items that you need to be aware of and be thinking about. At the last Board of Directors meeting in July 2017, there was a reaffirmation of the association's purpose, and a very deep desire to continue the work that is being done. However, as time marches on, the duties that need to be undertaken are beginning to fall on a fewer number of our members who are willing and able to be involved.

The membership of the group is growing smaller as you know, since there has not been any new alumni since 1974. The association was established to keep the flame alive for all of the friendships created, and all of the contributions alumni have made to our society. The two main tasks and events that lay before us are basically organizing reunions, and continuing to award scholarships to worthy descendants of C of E Alums. We have a very capable newsletter team headed by John Acomb that does a stellar job in keeping all of us informed and up to date.

However, there will come a day, when volunteers to help the association, and members to contribute their talents to the Board of Directors, will be difficult to find. We need to reflect on this fact, and begin to visualize where we will be in the next five years, ten years, etc. Where do you see us going? To that end, the Board has agreed to extend the meeting time in January and do some real soul searching as to what will become of the board and the association in the near term. Changes have been discussed to change the bylaws by reducing the number of board members, and to eliminate the term limits. People heading committees would like to take a breather, and see others get involved. Other bylaw changes -include

clarifying the roles of the board officers as far as their right to vote and be counted as part of the meeting quorum. At the July meeting Linda Myers announced that she will be leaving her position as Historian, since she feels that her objectives have been accomplished. However, I have asked her to step up to another task, and that is to bring to the next board meeting ideas for our future, that would be rooted in our past, but have an eye to where we are going. Anyone that would like to be in Emporia on January 20th, 2018 for the afternoon planning meeting, please consider attending. If you wish to share thoughts with Linda prior to the meeting, you may e-mail Linda at ounanab@neoknet.com. You may also write to Linda at the alumni association address: P.O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405.

Mary Jayne Gamble is working hard on the next East coast reunion at the Shawnee Inn Golf Resort in October of 2018. That venue will be a wonderful place to renew our Presby spirit, enjoy the entertainment and, most of all, continue to celebrate the lifelong relationships that we developed as C-of-E Alumni. I hope to see many of you there!

Lastly, delve into the Jack Mitchell dissertation "The closing of the College of Emporia: an attitude survey" posted on the website. It may help you with understanding how we got here, and what puts us in our current situation.

May any of our members that have been affected by the hurricanes and fires in our great land during these past few days and weeks be assured you are in our thoughts and prayers!

*C of E Fights*

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## Scholarships awarded

The C of E Alumni Association has awarded six college tuition scholarships, each worth \$2,000, for the 2017-2018 academic year. The recipients were selected from a group of 24 applicants. They will attend college in three different states and pursue six different academic specialties.

The recipients and the schools that they are attending are: Alexa Ast, Fort Hays State University; Kallie Gibson, Grace University; Taylor Haddad, Penn State University; Emily Jasnosi, Pittsburg State University; Maryn Robson, Tabor College; and Mitchell Taylor, Kansas State University.

Descendants of former C of E students, faculty or staff are eligible to apply. Scholarships are awarded

annually. Application forms are available on the alumni association's website [www.c-of-e.org](http://www.c-of-e.org). Those interested in applying are urged to download the information now in order to see what information is required. The next application deadline is April 1, 2018.

## Keep Us Informed

Please send us news about yourself. We want to hear from you. E-mail John Acomb, newsletter editor, at [jacomb2@mac.com](mailto:jacomb2@mac.com) or Les Palmer at [lepalmer@aol.com](mailto:lepalmer@aol.com). If you prefer, please write us at P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405.



## By-Laws Revisions Proposed

A proposal to make some amendments to the C of E Alumni Association By-Laws was discussed at our association's July board meeting. The proposal is designed to address what is seen as an unwieldy 21-member board.

The size of the board is reduced to 15 and the quorum number is correspondingly reduced. Also, term limits

for Directors are eliminated, and voting rights for board officers are clarified.

The board at its next meeting, scheduled for January 20, 2018, will vote upon the proposal. The revised By-Laws will then be published on our alumni association's website.

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## Library Update

Attendees at the 2016 C of E Alumni Association reunion in Emporia had an opportunity to tour the Anderson Memorial Library to view renovation progress. A year later, a July 29, 2017, open house gave Emporia citizens a chance to get up-to-date on the building preservation efforts.

Work is completed on repairs to water damage to plaster and wood and on bringing the building into ADA compliance. The original stained-glass windows have all been given new frames. A larger parking lot, wheelchair-accessible entrance, new boilers and ADA compliant bathrooms were some of the more noticeable changes in the building. The dome at the top of the building remains in its original state, with the walls of the dome containing

signatures from the graduating classes of both C of E and The Way College.

The building was placed on the National Register of Historical Buildings in 1987. The current preservation effort is compliant with the guidelines for such buildings.

Currently, the building is for sale. Additional construction work, if any, will be done to suit the needs of the new owner. Current co-owner Steve Haught indicated that he and co-owners John and Justin Mallon will be "picky" about to whom they sell the building. He continued stating we "are very dedicated to keeping this property for the community. When we get the right fit, it will be good for us and good for the community."

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## Transcripts

Your alumni association continues to receive inquiries about college transcripts. When C of E closed in 1974, transcripts were placed at Emporia State University. Subsequently, some of the transcripts were returned to the C of E campus after The Way purchased the college's name, campus and accreditation. The Way closed its Kansas operation and vacated the former C of E campus during

the 1980's. Our understanding is that all transcripts were returned at that time to Emporia State. Alumni wishing to request a copy of their C of E transcript may contact the Registrar's Office at Emporia State at (620) 341-5419. If you wish to request via e-mail, the address is <https://www.emporia.edu/regist/trnscpt>.

## Conservationist of the Year

The Conservation Federation of Missouri has honored **Dr. Bob Kipfer, A62**, and his wife Barb, a retired nurse, with the 2017 Conservationist of the Year Award.

Bob, also retired, and Barb live in Springfield, MO but spend a majority of their time at their 32-acre property in Christian County. The property borders Bull Creek, an Ozark stream, which has captured the Kipfer's attention.

During the 22 years that they have owned the property, they have continually worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation to pioneer various approaches to stream bank stabilization. Moreover, Bob and Barb have worked with other Bull Creek landowners to protect the watershed.

The Kipfer's property has been a certified tree farm since

2008. They continue to implement a Forest Stewardship Plan. Additionally, they value their trees' role for serving as riparian corridors and water quality protection for Bull Creek. In 2015 the Missouri Tree Farmers and Private Woodland Owners recognized Bob and Barb as Missouri Tree Farmers of the Year.

Bob is a Master Naturalist volunteer with the University of Missouri Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Kipfers are regularly in classrooms in both Springfield and Branson educating about invasive species, native wildlife and more. They regularly host Boy Scouts and classroom field trips. They write educational blogs, which can be linked through [www.Springfieldmn.blogspot.com](http://www.Springfieldmn.blogspot.com).

## Enrollment

Enrollment numbers and trends are among the more telling statistics in the College of Emporia's history. Even in the post-war years, C of E remained a very small college with an enrollment at or under 300 total students. A steady climb in enrollment began in the 1960-1961 academic year. This trend continued through 1969-1970. Then a steady decline began, which ultimately contributed to the college's closing in January 1974.

As a part of his doctoral thesis reported in our previous issue, the late **Jack Mitchell, A59, FF**, utilized records from the C of E Registrar's Office to document the rise and fall in the college's enrollment. Here are those numbers.

Year	Freshmen	Total
1950-1951	80	251
1951-1952	68	218
1952-1953	78	205
1953-1954	98	245
1954-1955	73	206
1955-1956	94	244

Year	Freshmen	Total
1956-1957	114	280
1957-1958	135	290
1958-1959	113	303
1959-1960	114	300
1960-1961	204	400
1961-1962	360	629
1962-1963	306	620
1963-1964	286	649
1964-1965	332	756
1965-1966	336	808
1966-1967	465	1,022
1967-1968	401	1,004
1968-1969	417	1,043
1969-1970	465	1,116
1970-1971	263	858
1971-1972	158	631
1972-1973	153	510
1973-	120	434

## Important Notice

On Saturday, January 20, 2018 your alumni association's board will hold its regular meeting at 10:00 a.m. on the lower level of Kenyon Heights. Lunch will be brought in, and after eating the membership is invited to join

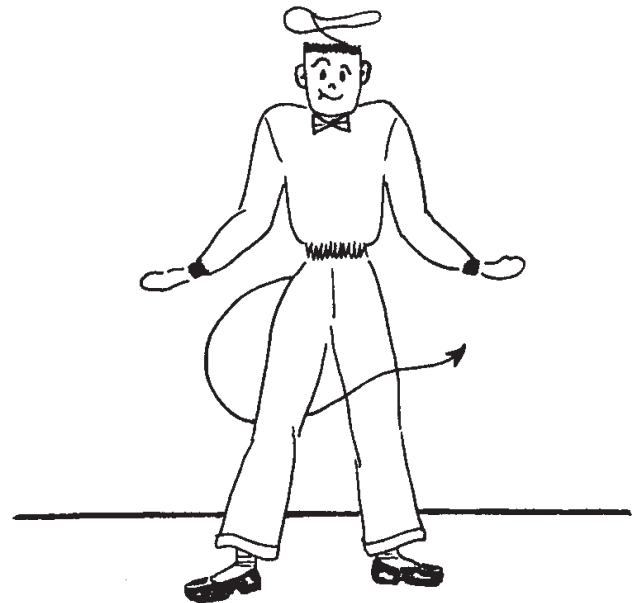
a discussion about future directions for our association. Please consider attending or adding your input before the 20th by contacting Linda Myers as outlined in the President's remarks, found elsewhere in this issue.

## "Pete the Presby"

Various issues of this newsletter have correctly identified **Jack Rickard, A57**, as the creator of Presby Pete as we know him today. Recently your editor heard from **Donna (Lockard) Sciascia, A53**, who spoke of a Presby Pete predecessor, which she personally liked better than the familiar current icon.

A visit to the archives brought us to the 1950 Alla Rah where we discovered "Pete the Presby," a male student who was depicted with both a halo and a devil's tail. The yearbook describes him as a "little man" with a "mischievous face and indomitable spirit."

So, yes, Donna, there was indeed a Presby Pete predecessor. He was very different from the Presby Pete that we know today, but those who attended C of E in the late 1940's or the early 1950's still remember him fondly.



Pete the Presby



Display in the College of Emporia Room in the Sauder Alumni Center on the Emporia State University campus. The display is currently maintained by the Lyon County History Center.

An original letter, sent from the front lines in World War I by **Paul Wilson, X17**, was recently donated to the National World War I Museum. A copy of the letter, which paints a grim picture, has been added to the alumni association's memorabilia collection. Paul left C of E after his junior year to enlist. After the war he stayed in Europe performing duties connected with the armistice. He did not return to C of E.

**Jean (Truex) Dringmann, X49**, writes that she and her husband continue to live in their Great Bend, KS, home at ages 87 and 86. In August they celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary.

A movie due in theaters this fall or early winter called "A Crooked Somebody" will feature song written and recorded for Sun Records by **Jerry Dyche, A60**, titled "Come In Mr. Lonely." Jerry recorded with Sun Records from 1967 – 1973. In 1986 Jerry wrote and sang "Starship Fly On," memorializing the tragic explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger. This song and the accompanying video were the official song and video of the Challenger 7 fund. Both songs can be accessed on YouTube by typing in Jerry Dycke.

**Ken Miller, A60**, was honored as Keeping Seniors in the Game! first pitcher in the feature game of the July 25, 2017, National Baseball Congress (NBC) World Series in Wichita's Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. Nominations for the first pitch honor recognize the important contributions that older Kansans make to their country and their hometowns. For 35 years, Ken has worked very closely with Camp Hope-Heartland, a non-profit organization that works to improve the health of children and adolescents with cancer. He also currently serves as a board member of the Love Chloe Foundation, another organization benefiting children with cancer.

**Clay Alderson, A61**, continues to spend his winters in Tagish in Canada's Yukon Territory. In the summer he volunteers with the U. S. Forest Service in the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Western Wyoming, where he does back country patrol on 80 miles of trail in a remote part of the forest.

**Bob Cromwell, A67**, retired as Vice-President of sales for an equipment company in 2009 after the death of his wife of 35 years. Bob was school photographer at C of E, and he still loves photography. He collects classic cars and has a fully restored '57 Chevy that he shows in classic car shows in Florida.

In 2015 the Scott City (KS) High School Class of '78 and the Scott City Alumni Association honored former track coach and athletic director **Kent Craft, A68**, by naming him one of their "most inspirational" coaches. This honor came almost forty years after he left the school. After leaving teaching and coaching, Craft became a successful professional fundraiser for Kansas Wesleyan University. He then went on to serve as Vice-President for Development and Alumni Relations at Kansas College of Technology (now Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus). Craft is now retired.

**Gary Feldkamp, A71**, has retired after teaching 43 years of high school math, chemistry and physics. Retirement brings him enjoyment as he helps his son in a farming operation, and he substitutes in the math and science areas during the winter months.

**Robert Rivard, X74**, co-founder and editor of the Rivard Report in San Antonio, TX has assumed the title of publisher. The editor-in-chief of The National Law Journal will assume the editor-in-chief position at Rivard's rapidly growing publication.

**Dr. Merrill D. Athon, X49**, of Overland Park passed away July 26, 2017 at age 93. A graduate of KU Medical School, Dr. Athon formed a medical clinic in Overland Park where he practiced medicine for fifty years until his retirement in 2004. He was very active in his church, serving there as Boy Scout Master and committing time to mission work, both locally and in the Dominican Republic. His wife, **Lois (McFerrin) Athon, A46**, predeceased him. He is survived by his sister **Hazel (Athon) Zink, X61**, four sons and seven grandchildren.

**Betty Jo (Penna) Commons, A49**, of Emporia died July 29, 2017 at age 90. After her graduation, she taught high school Home Economics for four years. Subsequently, she was a homemaker. Her husband, two sons, five grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren survive her.

**Helen (Cramton) Pfeltz, A50**, of Cincinnati passed away June 25, 2017 at age 90. Her husband, **Dr. Clifford N. Pfeltz, A50**, and a daughter predeceased her. Two sons survive her.

**Carol L. Grahl, D.D.S., X51**, of Brevard, NC died November 8, 2014 at age 87. He was a World War II veteran who also served in the Korean War. A graduate of the School of Dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he established his dental practice in Brevard, which he continued for 44 years until his retirement. Dr. Grahl served on his local school board for many years, some of those years as chairman. His wife and a son survive him.

**Martha (Crampton) Heald, A51**, of Lisbon, IA died March 25, 2016 at age 86. She was a teacher at Erskine Elementary School in Cedar Rapids. Nieces and nephews survive her.

**Michael Polovitz, FF**, of Grand Forks, ND died December 14, 2013 at age 86. After serving in the US Navy and then obtaining his MA in music from the University of Michigan, he came to C of E in the fall of 1951 as a music professor. He taught at C of E for three years before moving on to the University of North Dakota, where he taught for 32 years before retiring. He taught instrumental music, specializing in woodwinds, and conducted both the concert and the marching band programs. He was very involved in his community serving on both the Grand Forks School Board and city council. Subsequently he served as Mayor of Grand Forks and as a State Senator. His wife, four children, eleven grandchildren and five great grandsons survive him.

**Ruth C. (Palmer) McKenzie, N54**, of Shawnee died

June 29, 2017 at age 82. She worked as a nurse for many years while raising two children and being an active mother. She was also active in her community. She served on the Shawnee City Council and as a member of the board of Johnson County Developmental Supports. She was a candidate for Mayor of Shawnee in 1986. Her husband, **Gale McKenzie, A56**, her brother **Edward Palmer, A53**, and another brother predeceased her. She is survived by two children, five grandchildren, three great-granddaughters, a sister, her brother, **Les Palmer, A63**, sister-in-law **Barbara (Atteberry) Palmer, X55** and another sister-in-law.

**Rev. Thomas E. Parsons, A62**, of Pinehurst, NC died August 26, 2017 at age 77. An outstanding student and athlete at C of E, Parsons received both the Senior Science Award and eleven varsity letters. He is in the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduation he joined the USMC. He completed Officer Candidate School and Naval Aviation Training. Subsequently he flew over 400 combat missions in Viet Nam, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and numerous additional medals and citations. After his military career, Tom returned to find success in business. Then in 1992 he entered Holyrood Seminary and subsequently began his ministry. He served in Georgia, Alabama and Virginia. In 2004 he was called to serve as the founding rector of Christ Church Anglican in Pinehurst. He retired in 2011. His wife and a sister survive him.

**David Ware, A63**, of Wichita passed away June 24, 2017 at age 76. A retired insurance manager, David is survived by his wife, four children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**John C. Schmidt, A64**, of Marysville, KS passed away October 16, 2016 at age 74. John worked at the Exchange Bank of Schmidt and Koester from 1964-1987 and then for Landoll Corporation, a heavy equipment manufacturer headquartered in Marysville. His wife and three daughters survive him.

**William "Bill" Swartz, A65**, of Leavenworth passed away July 14, 2017 at age 73. Bill was an outstanding football player at C of E. He is a member of the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduation he signed a contract with the Los Angeles Rams. A knee injury in a preseason game, however, ended his football career. He then took a position teaching math and coaching in California before moving

back to his hometown of Leavenworth to coach and to teach both math and driver's education for over twenty years. He also owned and operated his own driver's education school. After his retirement he continued to accept teaching assignments when needs occurred in neighboring districts. His wife, four children, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild survive him. He is also survived by his brother, **Ron Swartz, A70**, sister-in-law, **Carol (Jermansen) Swartz, A69**, sister **Diane (Swartz) Nixon, A66**, sister **Cheryl (Swartz) Matto, X69**, brother-in-law, **Julius Matto, A69**, another sister and two additional brothers-in-law.

**Robert "Bob" Aman, A67**, of Emporia died August 13, 2017 at age 73. After graduation from C of E Bob earned a Master's Degree from Emporia State. He went to Rochester, NY, to teach middle school music. When he returned to Emporia, he served as Director at Hetlinger Developmental Services, a facility for individuals with developmental delays and disabilities. He spent 32 years as the teacher of severely mentally handicapped students and those with behavior disorders at Emporia High School. He finished his career by serving as an instructor at Emporia State in areas related to his expertise. His wife and two children survive him.

**Pamela (Patterson) Ireland, X67**, of Girard, KS died on June 21, 2017 at age 69. Pam attended Newman School of Nursing and later attended Ottawa University where she received her bachelor's degree in nursing. She was director of the home health department at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg. She served as president of the Kansas Home Health Association from 2007 to 2009. Her husband, **Charles L. "Chuck" Ireland, Jr., A67**, three children and five grandchildren survive her.

**Walter E. Klarner, Jr., A68**, of Mission, KS passed away January 8, 2015 at age 73. He was a master professor at Johnson County Community College and taught there for over 30 years. A son and a grandson survive him.

**Thomas F. Reynolds, A70**, of Durham, CT passed away on June 13, 2017 at age 68. Tom received his Juris Doctorate from Western New England College, School of Law in 1977. He was a licensed claims adjuster and a member of the Massachusetts Bar and American Bar Association. He worked on claims litigation and structured benefits for various insurance companies. Tom was known for his Irish wit and love of history. His wife survives him.

## Membership Information for the College of Emporia Alumni Association, Inc.

Please write legibly. Make checks payable to the C. of E. Alumni Association.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class
<hr/>				
Spouse's Info	Spouse's First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class
<hr/>				
Street/Mailing Address		City	State	ZIP + 4
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Phone #		E-mail		
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\*C. of E. Class is the graduation year of the class with which students were associated, whether or not they graduated. Please use prefix "A" for alumnus, or "X" for former student or non graduate. "O" here means did not attend.

Membership dues (\$15 per year per member): Number of memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ For Years \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund (Voluntary) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**  
C of E Alumni Association, P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405



College of Emporia Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 405  
Emporia, KS 66801-0405

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## Ballot

The The following have agreed to serve on the C of E Alumni Association Board of Directors. Please vote for no more than seven (7) for the three-year terms ending in 2020.

You may write in your name or the name of another C of E Alumni Association member who would be interested and able to fulfill the duties of a board member, which include attendance at two meetings per year held in Emporia in January and July.

**Joanna (Mutchler) Brooks, A71**       **Norman Tice, X61**

**Carolyn (Cruikshank) Day, A60**       **Jim Mathis, A61**

**Olivia (Medina) Moore, A64**       **Jim Hoyt, X60**

**Ray Sager, A65**      Write-in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Mail ballots, postmarked no later than October 31 to: C of E Alumni Association, P.O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405. You may include dues and/or a scholarship donation with your ballot. Utilize the form printed on the back of your ballot. You may instead e-mail your vote no later than October 31 to Les Palmer at lepalmer@aol.com.

**c-of-e.org**

