



**PalatinePicklers.com**

**palatinepicklers@gmail.com**

## **DECEMBER, 2024 NEWSLETTER**

### **MENTOREES' SEMI-ANNUAL TOURNAMENT**

We stage two Mentoree Tournaments each year – one for the summer Mentorees and one for the winter Mentorees. The first 24 of our summer group to sign up competed in two tournaments on November 5<sup>th</sup>. One was for the first half of Mentorees in alpha order, and one was for those later in the alphabet. Each Pickler partnered with each of his 11 peers for one game. Here's what it looked like.



Mary, Paie, Kevin, SueCarol, Sally, Matt, Pam, Janet, Tom, Annette, Natalie, Mary, Jacquie, Peggy, Barb, Jeff, Kate, Judy, Deb, Gail, Angela, Dawn, Jim, & Lucy



If you look closely, you can see a Ref beside each court's net. We're all Mentors but gave no instruction or assistance. We just called absolutely every fault, no matter how minor or even foreign to the Mentorees.





Refs Bear, Dennis, John, Marv, Dan, & Frank with Scorekeeper Colleen. 2<sup>nd</sup> Scorekeeper Kevin Hogg is not in photo.

Games were to 8 points so a perfect score would be 88. Our top 3 in each tournament are shown below with totals.



Group 1 Kate 2<sup>nd</sup> (77), Dawn 1<sup>st</sup> (78), Jeff 3<sup>rd</sup> 76)



Group 2 Tom 3<sup>rd</sup> (85), Matt 1<sup>st</sup> (86), Pam 3<sup>rd</sup> (77)

Though not everyone got to play with everyone, we're calling Matt the MVP of the day, with Tom 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dawn and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you'd like to play in our next Mentoree Tournament, get into a few indoor mentoring sessions. The tournament will be the first week of May and open to all who have participated in at least two, indoor mentoring sessions.



**UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER TOURNAMENT** ... This year our annual tournament will be held Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. The judging will be up to each Pickler – ugly, creative, colorful, humorous, statement, whatever. After the judging, you may remove anything from your head, hands, and feet to play. Truth be told, I'm sympathetic to those who claim their sweater is too hot so I'll roll my eyes and let you take it off too, but I'd rather you didn't.

Once we're done, put your sweater back on for lunch. I'll try to get us reservations in the holiday basement of Kelsey Road House. (I think I'll succeed.) When I ask for your final confirmation on the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, I'll also ask if you'll be joining us for lunch. Part of our great relationship with KRH is based on my giving pretty accurate reservations so they can be ready for us.

OK ... Here's what you need to do: email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com) that you want to compete in the sweater judging and play in the annual tournament. Thanks.

## **MEET PICKLER BRAD NAHRSTADT**

This profile I have to preface with a coincidental experience. Kathy and I went down to Monmouth College a couple years ago, for my Sig Ep (Sigma Phi Epsilon) chapter's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There was an effervescent, engaging emcee named Brad. One of the speakers mentioned, "Well, Brad, we may not share your love of pickleball, but...." Well, I knew he was from the north suburbs of Chicago so I HAD to talk to him about pickleball. After all the speakers were finished, I stood in line to talk to Brad. I asked where he lived – Northbrook. Cool. I asked where he played. Wheeling and Buffalo Grove. I asked if he'd consider Palatine. He said he JUST joined the Palatine Pickleball Club. I asked, "Have I sent your welcome email yet?" "Are you Bear?" I smiled, and he hugged me. That's how I met Brad.

Brad was born October 21, 1967 (the day I got married) in Elmhurst, Illinois (where I was born). He attended Genoa-Kingston High School where he sacrificed sports for Student Council, JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) Team, served as Student Director of the school play, and was President of the National Honor Society.

He graduated from Monmouth College in 1980 with degrees in English Literature and Political Science. Then he graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1992 with a *Juris Doctorate*.

From 1992 to 2012 Brad was a trial attorney with Williams Montgomery & John. Starting as an Associate Attorney, he was promoted to Income Partner and then Equity Partner. From 2012 to 2019 he was President and Managing Partner of Lipe Lyons Murphy Nahrstadt & Pontikis. As a founding partner, Brad helped grow the firm from 5 lawyers to 17. He continued to try high-stakes cases in state and federal courts, for corporate clients and insurance companies.





He met Debby the first week of law school. They got married in 1992 and lived in Glenview. In 1993 they moved to Buffalo Grove where they lived until 2019. Then they moved to Ancient Tree in Northbrook. On the left, Deb & Brad enjoy a lake cruise in AZ.

From 2019 to 2021 he was Chief Operating Officer of Donohue, Brown, Mathewson & Smith

a 40-lawyer litigation firm in Chicago. Brad retired in 2021.

Let's regress. They have two sons ... Benny, 30 and Josh, 28. Benny married Stephnie this year. Brad and Deb have an English Bulldog named Cora. In the photo at right Brad is with Deb, Josh's girlfriend Emily, and Josh at a George Strait concert.



Brad has a pretty rare hobby. He collects campaign buttons and posters. He has almost 2,000 political buttons from all the presidential elections from 1896 to the present. His poster collection goes back to 1880.

Brad volunteers at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center. He's served on the Monmouth College Board of Trustees since 2002. He's a member of the Executive Committee.



He serves as the Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee and as the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. He's also volunteered with the Sig Ep fraternity for 32 years, and currently serves as the Grand President of Sigma Phi Epsilon.



At left Brad is in San Antonio making his inaugural address as Grand President. At right he's speaking at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sig Ep chapter at University of Cincinnati.

In 2000 Brad was recognized as the Monmouth College Outstanding Young Alumnus. In 2006 he was recognized by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company as one of the 40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to watch. In 2008 he was elected to membership in the American Law Institute, an honor reserved for less than 1% of attorneys practicing in the U.S. In 2012 he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by Sigma Phi Epsilon. FYI the headline is Sig Ep's red and purple.

In 2013 he was invited to become a Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America. The LCA is a trial lawyer honorary society whose membership is limited to less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers. There are approximately 93,000 practicing attorneys in Illinois, and only 161 are Fellows in the LCA.

In 2014 Brad received the Monmouth College Distinguished Alumnus Award. In October of 2015 he was one of three inaugural inductees into the Monmouth College Order of Omega Fraternity and Sorority Hall of Fame. Two years later he was inducted into the Genoa-Kingston



High School Hall of Fame. In 2018 he received the Defense Research Institute Exceptional Performance Citation.



Pickleball entered Brad's life while wintering in AZ 2021-2022. Their Westbrook Village development has a large pickleball club. Its members taught him the game.

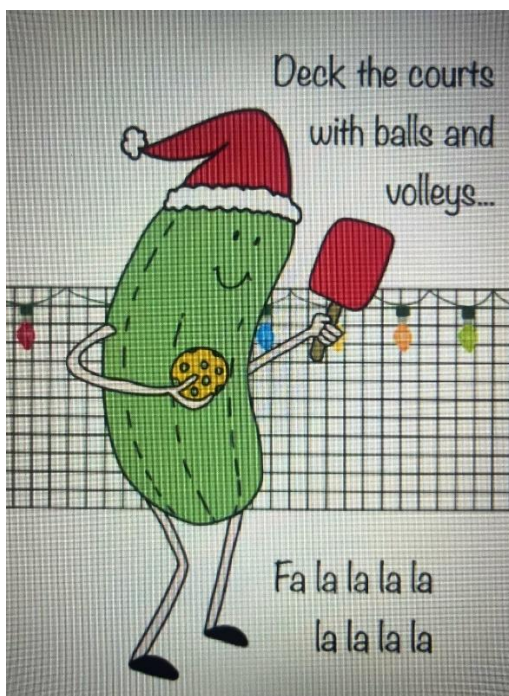
What Brad likes most about the Palatine Pickleball Club is that everyone is so friendly and welcoming. Having so many good players at Hamilton makes mornings a real pleasure.

As for bucket list things checked off are Machu Picchu (photo at right), the Galapagos Islands, and visiting Florence, Venice, and Rome. Still on that list is visiting Portugal, Spain, and Australia. He'd also like to go on an African safari.



Pickleball and his Sig Ep responsibilities don't leave time for Brad to explore other sports, hobbies, clubs, etc.

He is the author or co-author of three books. His first, *Alton B. Parker: The Man Who Challenged Roosevelt*, was published by SUNY Press in January of 2024. His second was co-authored with his wife and titled *Pre-Trial Litigation: A Practitioner's Approach*. It was published by Amazon in July. His third, *The Democrats in Turmoil: The Bitter Fights to Select a Presidential Nominee, 1986-1924*. Is to be published by Bloomsbury Pres in June of 2025.





For some mysterious reason, I put a pic of the top three “Least Young” Ladies in the newsletter twice. Once where it was appropriate and once where the top three Health Workers belonged. So let’s bring up again those Health Care Workers AND their top three.



Paul, Scott, Sue, Gina, Jacquie, Barb, Diane, Mary



2<sup>nd</sup> Mary, 1<sup>st</sup> Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> Gina

## MAY STILL BE ROOM FOR YOUR UGLY SWEATER

Our annual ugly holiday sweater tournament on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. needs another promo. We’ll judge the sweaters first and then play right up to lunch. I’ve made reservations in the holiday-decorated basement of Kelsey Road House. Always festive fun. See if you can get it ... email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). Yeah, this deserved a 2<sup>nd</sup> mention.

## MENTOR APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Joanie Willmeth, a.k.a. Purple Person, recruited 13 Wednesday Mentorees to help host a luncheon at her home to thank 5 Mentors for their Wednesday service. Sadly, neither Big John nor Scott could attend. That left Dennis, Marv, and me. Our wives were invited too. Again sadly, my Kathy was suffering her first ever episode of vertigo so stayed sedentary at home.

To my surprise this event seemed more about my birthday than Mentorees. Both events were really appreciated, but I left with a lot more goodies than Dennis and Marv. Thanks, Ladies.



Wednesday Mentors Dennis, Bear, Marv



Susie & Marv



Dennis & Beth





Front: Natalie, Linda, Judy, Susie Middle: Beth, Barb, Halina, Peggy, Nancy Back: Anna, \_\_\_\_.  
Charlotte, Joanie, Dennis, Bear, Marv







## **IF YOU PLAY INDOORS IN PALATINE, BUY TEN-PACKS NOW**

For the past several years, we've paid \$5 per day or a 10-play passes for \$40. (Out of district may be more.) That's going to DOUBLE in January. It will cost \$10 per day. HOWEVER, you can buy 10-play passes at the current rate, and they never expire. I plan on playing at Falcon, Birchwood, and Community a lot over the next few years so I bought \$200 worth (50 play days), while the price is still low. Just sayin'.

## **MAY NOT BE ROOM FOR YOU, BUT ...**

Our Christmas luncheon is "sold out," but you can still try to get in. It will be Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in the Schwaben Athletic Club in Buffalo Grove. Clay Farnsworth ([Claytonicus611@yahoo.com](mailto:Claytonicus611@yahoo.com)) is our organizer and emcee and solo singer. He'll be glad to add you to his waiting list. We're piggybacking on the Schwaben holiday lunch, but we will have our own section. It's only \$20 per person for a great buffet, including dessert. There's also a very affordable cash bar. So email Clay, if you'd like to join the fun. If he still has room for you, he'll tell you to write a check for \$20 per person to Schwaben AC and deliver it to them on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Clay will let you know a week earlier, if you made the final roster of 80 Palatine Picklers. If you didn't know about this, it's a sign that you really need to read the newsletters earlier. They are usually in [PalatinePicklers.com](http://PalatinePicklers.com) by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

## **NO PICKLEBALL ON THESE DATES**

Falcon will not have open play from 12/23 through 1/3

Birchwood will not have open play 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, and 1/1

Community Center will continue to have open play Monday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Harper College ... Check Team Reach or the Palatine Picklers Facebook page.



Most important is getting you to add your names to Expect To Be Available (ETBA) lists for our 9:00 to Noon, every other Tuesday morning sessions. Here are the dates for the entire season in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington:

12/3 12/17 1/14 1/28 2/11 2/25 4/8 4/22 These are by invitations which will be sent on Sunday afternoons. In May we'll be back outside on Wednesday mornings with two, 90-minute sessions, as in recent years. So email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com) with the dates you think you can participate. Be sure to mark your calendar with the dates you give me so you can email me to take you off any ETBA list when a conflict arises.

Of course, at noon all whose schedule allows drives a mile to Kelsey Road House for a fun lunch with peers.

Now let's look at this past season. In early 2024 at Canlan, we served 85 Mentorees. On Wednesdays through the outdoor season, we served 101 students. No records of Thursday and Saturday walk-on sessions, but I'd guess we worked with about 60.

Mentoring is our most successful and popular program. Many Mentorees have expressed that they've gotten more out of one session with us than they did in weeks of paid lessons elsewhere. These sessions are, perhaps, the biggest reason our club has grown to an enormous size. There is no end line for mentoring. We are happy to have some in their third or fourth year.



### LOVE OUR PALATINE PICKLERS **DI\$COUNT\$**

**5% OFF anything** sold on PickleballCentral.com, when you use the code **CRPALATINEPB**.

**10-20% OFF** Paddletek paddles from Chuck at 847-877-7770 or [grtfuldad@aol.com](mailto:grtfuldad@aol.com).

**20% OFF anything** at engagepickleball.com, with the code **20jon**.

**25% OFF anything** from Gammasports.com, with the code **ba\_soderborg25**

**\$10 OFF** Vatic Pro paddles ... [https://vaticpro.com?sca\\_ref=3606076.ir5retg8qU](https://vaticpro.com?sca_ref=3606076.ir5retg8qU) Use code **CHICAGO**

**5% OFF anything** purchased at Badminton Warehouse in Schaumburg, when you mention  
Palatine Picklers

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**10% OFF anything** purchased at Strings Attached IN Arlington Heights, when you mention  
Palatine Picklers

### A PAIR OF PICKLER SILVER MEDALISTS



Sue Cole & Camie Hildebrand – BioFreeze Nationals in AZ -  
80+ 4.0/4.5/5.0 Women's Doubles - Silver  
*italics indicates non-Palatine Pickler*



Stephanie Douglas – Lapiplasty  
World Championships – 50-59  
3.0 singles – Silver

### “WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD FROM NEAL?”

I've been asked this several times lately. So I asked our 7-year veteran Mentor for an update.



Neal has been teaching Beginner and Advanced beginner classes in their community, along with a few private lessons. He drives the mile and a half to the courts in their golf cart. He's played in a few tournaments too. Neal and Mary's new home is about 2,000 sf, a bit smaller than their 3500 one they left in Barrington. He misses teaching his Relax4Life relaxation,



meditation, Reiki, Quantum Touch, etc. but will be teaching a 3-hour workshop next Page 11 of 25  
Relaxation/Meditation/Emotional Freedom Technique. He is taking a weekly Tai Chi class to help with balance. He'll also be playing the Ghost of Christmas Future in "Doom," a musical based on "Scrooge." Neal wants to be remembered to all his Mentorees.

## OUR "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN" AFTERNOON

In November, for the fifth time, a team of Palatine Picklers spend 90 minutes packaging four-part packets which would become several meals for kids starving in any of numerous nations served by the non-profit organization. Thanks to Maureen Greene for organizing this event.

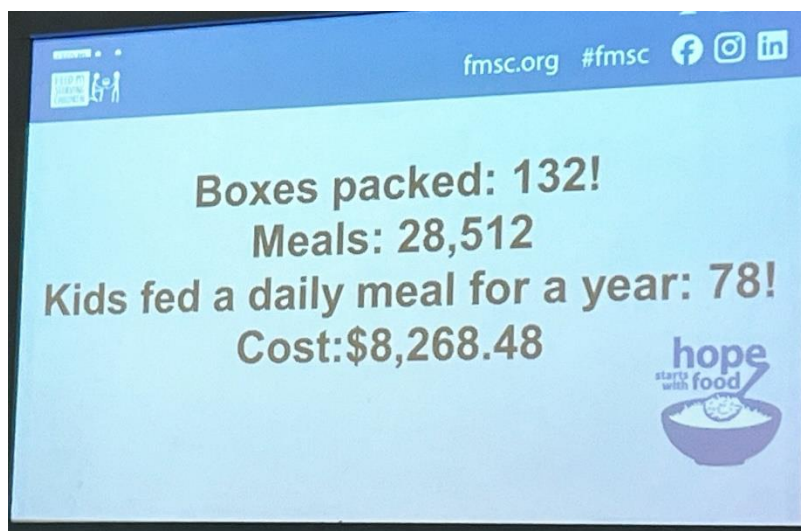


We worked in teams of 6 or 7. It's always a lot of fun. Hope you'll join us next time.



From left to right regardless of row: Linda, Chris, Clay, John, Janice, Maureen, Bear, Dan, Kathy, Jerry, Joanne, Mystery Lady, Angela, Sheila, Elizabeth, Deb, and Mike.





We feel pretty good about that. The FMSC goal was one box for every participant. We had 125 participants so we excelled. There's a gift shop stocked entirely by artisans in the countries served. That was a lot of fun too. Kathy and I bought a beaded dog that looks like our Rusty with antlers. So cute. And SO much work for the dollars. Hope to see you there next time.



## LET'S TRY A NEW TOURNAMENT – IT'S A GAMBLE

I've reserved three courts in Canlan for the morning of Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Let's see if we have at least twelve Palatine Picklers who were not born in Illinois but would like to play in the new year's first, fun tournament. Just email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com) with your birth place.

Let's call this one the "Non-Native Picklers Tournament."





The premise was to be eligible to play, you needed to have metal in your body, excluding your mouth. For our group photo, I wanted Picklers to point to where their metal was hiding. A couple Bionics didn't get that memo, but you'll read where everyone's metal is located.



Marcia (R knee), Bear (2 shoulders, R hip, L knee), Jeff (2 knees), John (L knee), Don (L shoulder), Carl (chest), Brian (R knee), Gerd (R ankle), Ron (2 hips, neck)



Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, Don 1<sup>st</sup>, Jeff & John teamed for 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Marcia (A) finished 4<sup>th</sup> and (B) won the Ladies **division**

After eight months of Thursday and Saturday mentoring at Hamilton, it all came to an end with the season's first snow. We were happy to have several sessions, after the Wednesday sessions ended at the end of October. We'll start up again in April. For the next five months, our only mentoring will be three-hour sessions in the Canlan Sportsplex every other Tuesday morning. Again, these are by invitation so email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com) the dates you expect to be available to participate. Check your email Sunday afternoons for the possible invitation.

## **HALF OUR HUGE MEMBERSHIP IS ELIGIBLE**

That's how many would be considered "intermediate." We're targeting 3.0 to 3.5, if you're into those ratings. These are the Picklers who would love participating in our intramural matches every other Tuesday morning in Canlan. Every other Sunday afternoon I invite eight men and eight ladies to represent either the Whippersnappers or the Wise Ones on Tuesday. Rosters do not repeat. I try to get everyone somewhat similar playing time. I put the youngest four men and ladies that week on the Whippersnappers, while the older four on the Wise Ones. With rosters having such variety we've had blowouts in each team's favor, but we've had a whole lot of pretty close matches. Over the three years we've been having matches every other week, the victories differ by only two matches. It's all for fun. Then we go to lunch.

In my humble opinion, roughly 50% of our members are appropriate for these intramural matches. A quarter of our members would get bored beating up on us, and a quarter of our members need to develop their skills a bit more before fitting into the group.

So ... please email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com) with the dates you could play.



## **I'VE GOT THIS SPACE TO FILL, WHILE WAITING**

I'm a few days ahead of schedule on this newsletter. No rush at all, but since I don't have Mary Werling's Newbies and Walkers sections or Jonny Storm's named Picklers and layout for action shots, I'd like to use this space to promote again the NOT BORN IN ILLINOIS tournament described above. It's Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. If this describes you, email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). After 3 hours of play in Canlan, we'll lunch at Kelsey Road House.



I keep trying to create more fun tournaments and events for our members to try. In alpha order, here's what I offered you in 2024.

Ad quotes challenge  
Bionic Bodies tournament  
Heal My Starving Children 2x  
Least Young Ladies tournament  
Least Young Men tournament  
Lefties tournament  
Mentorees tournament 2x  
Most Grandkids tournament  
Movie quotes challenge  
Oldest Ladies tournament  
Oldest Men tournament  
Pickle Haus tournament 2x  
Red & Pink Couples Valentines tournament  
Singles tournament (as in unmarried)  
Teachers tournament  
Ugly Holiday Sweaters tournament  
Untall Ladies tournament  
Widows tournament

And, of course, there's our every other week intramural matches for intermediate level Picklers which has been fun for almost three years, year round.

Feel free to suggest more tournaments, to get even more Picklers into our fun events. All my tournaments are held indoors in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. They are too much work to risk the weather. I may not embrace your suggestion, or I may modify it, but I certainly welcome your ideas. Email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). As I write in my welcome to Newbies, we are the most welcoming, most nurturing, and most event-oriented club around. Let's keep that going.



## TIME TO SEE SOME PICKLERS PICKLING



Angela



Ann



Barb



Barb



Barb



Bess



Bill



Bo



Brian



Carl



Carole



Chris



Chris



Christie



Cindy



Colleen



Connie



Dan



Dan



Danny





Dave



Deb



Debbie



Diana



Diane



Diane



Diane



Don



Elise



Evely



Frank



Fred



Fred



Freddy



Gary



Gary



Gary



Gerd



Gina



Goria





Greg



Heather



Hillary



Howard



Jacquire



Jaime



Jean



Jeff



Jeff



Jeff



Jenny



Jesse



Jim



Jim



Jim



Joanie



Joanne



John



John



John





Judy



Kai



Karen



Karen



Karyn



Kathleen



Kent



Kurt



Linda



Linda



Linda



Lisa



Lucy



Marcia



Marianne



Marv



Mary



Mary



Mary



Michelle





Mike



Mike



M  
i  
l  
i  
e



Monica



Natalie



Nancy



Paige



Pam



Peggy



Polly



Rhea



Ron



R  
U  
N  
E



Sally



Satish



Scott



Steve



Steve



Sue



Sue





Ted



Tina



Tom



Tom



Tommy



Valery



Vera

Sorry, Evelyn, Diane, Jacquie, and Mary Jo for altering your name. Evelyn was missing her 'n.' Diane, changing your 'e' to a 2<sup>nd</sup> 'a' gave you two pics. Jacquie, don't know how that 'r' snuck into your name. Mary Jo, sorry for no "Jo."

## NOVEMBER NEWBIES



AMBER



BESS



BRIAN



CHRISTA



CINDY



DON





DONNA



GARTH



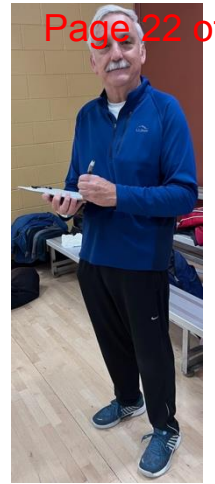
GEOFF



GRACE



HEATHER



JACK



JEN



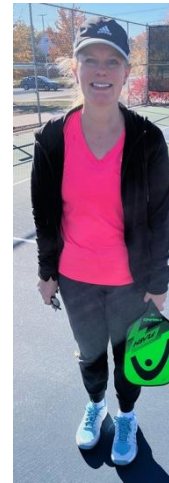
JOHN C.



JOHN M.



KAYLA



KIM



LINDA



LORI



NANCY



RICHARD



SUSAN





SUSAN



TED



TOM



VERA

## IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

### SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)



24,486

Denise Hopkins

22,196

Jeff Colish



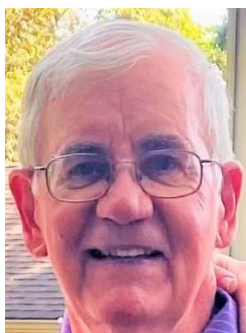
22,055

Jeff Greenberg



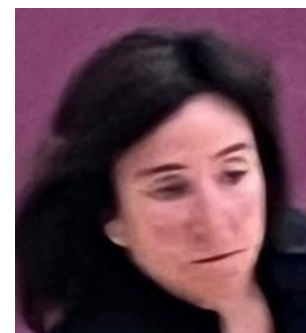
22,005

Mardy Manis



21,143

Bob McGowan



20,478

Karyn Picchiotti

19,731



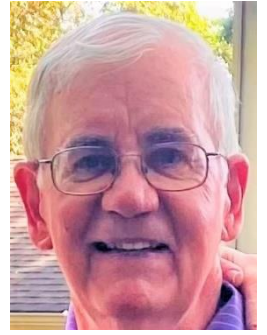
Karyn Picchiotti

17,476



Bear Shatwell

16,694



Bob McGowan

15,947



Kathy Ford

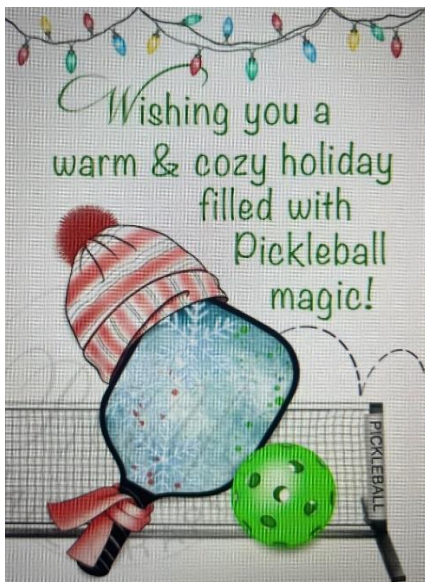
15,843



Denise Hopkins

### CHECK YOUR PHONE (LITTLE RED HEART) & JOIN US HERE

Many of you don't realize it, but your phone may be tracking your daily steps. If you have a little, red heart icon, that's where you'll find your daily steps. If you get 15K or more, just take a screen shot and email it to me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). You too can be featured in this walker-honoring section!





## MAY YOU ALL HAVE A PICKLERIFFIC HOLIDAY SEASON

We've had an incredible 2024. We've added more than 500 new members, 150 of whom are



Palatinians. We've had fun with all those tournaments itemized above, a few of which were new this year. We've had two Mentoree tournaments limited to 24 Picklers each. We've again helped three figures of newer players develop their games, through our five mentoring programs. We've loved everyone embracing our "paddle up" policies for assigning courts. We've seen a lot more shirts being sold. I've had demo paddles available which has resulted in numerous purchases. And, for the first time in years, I haven't written a single obituary for a Palatine Pickler. Life is good. Pickle on into 2025 with pride and a smile. Bear Shatwell, PicklersPrez, [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). BTW that's Rusty, Awesome Puppy.