



NEW TWIST BREWING FOR SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

APRIL 3-4 – TILLER RV RAFFLE PARTY; PURDUE SPRING GAME
JUNE 14 – NFF HONORS DINNER, CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVI
SEPT. 18 – TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING
SEPT. 18 – NFF HONORS RECEPTION AND SILENT AUCTION

Sometimes change is good and 2020 will definitely be a year of change for the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana.

Something that will not change is our goal of putting on first class events and honoring individuals for their accomplishments. Details are still evolving, but we will have at least four important events involving our chapter as we roll through our 16th year of existence.

Prior to the events, however, are two key deadlines for the awards process. Nominations are due Feb. 1 from the high schools in the 17-county area of Northwest Indiana for the judging of the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. Also, Mar. 31 is the deadline for nominations for the other chapter awards (see awards and nomination form on adjoining pages).

TILLER RV RAFFLE PARTY

For an investment as low as \$25, you could become the owner of Joe and Arnette Tiller's 2013 Winnebago Rally Vista. Arnette has turned the recreational vehicle (pictured to the right and on page 5) over to our chapter to help find a new owner, hopefully before the end of 2020.

The "Tiller RV Raffle" will start April 3-4 weekend at Purdue's Football Reunion and Spring Game. Raffle information and tickets (\$25 each or five tickets for \$100 or 75 tickets for \$1,000) will be available at the Reunion Golf Outing and Dinner and at a special tailgate party at the Tiller RV in the Ross-Ade Parking Lot prior to the game.

The sale will end no later than mid-December when proceeds reach a goal of \$80,000 and the raffle drawing will then take place at a public event still to be scheduled. After all expenses are paid, proceeds will eventually go to the Tiller Endowment Fund, helping to make progress toward our goal of raising \$500,000 for the endowment. Once that goal is achieved, it is expected that the interest from the endowment will provide the resources to cover the chapter's financial commitments (for scholarship stipends and expenses) forever.

A special feature of the raffle sales project may be the opportunity for individuals to use the RV for a Purdue home game tailgate party during the 2020 season.

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CHAPTER NETS OVER \$31,000 FROM RECENT BREES OFFER & TILLER MEMORABILIA SALES

Thanks to last fall's ticket offer from Drew Brees and the donation of hundreds of memorabilia items from Arnette Tiller, along with the wonderful generosity of many Purdue fans and local businesses, the NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana netted more than \$31,000 in 2019 for the Tiller Endowment.

Started in December of 2018 with an initial "deposit" of \$30,000, the endowment now stands at nearly \$65,000 and lives at the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, where the annual interest will be used to help keep the chapter alive long into the future. The goal of raising \$500,000 to honor the legacy of Joe Tiller remains a lofty target, but we will continue to work toward that.

Brees, who shattered every Purdue and Big Ten passing record during his years (1997-2000) as Boilermaker quarterback under Coach Tiller and now has shattered virtually every NFL passing record (mostly as QB of the New Orleans Saints), has been a major factor in getting the Tiller Endowment off the ground.

In the fall of 2018, Brees purchased and donated 28 tickets for the Saints' game in Cincinnati for our first fund-raising bus trip and this past fall he donated 35 tickets for the Saints-Bears game at Soldier Field for the same purpose. Even though Drew couldn't play in the Oct. 20 game due to injury, he still made the trip and held a "Meet & Greet" photo session after the game for our bus-load of fans. (See pictures and details on pages 6 and 7.)

Drew's generous offer, which helped to "kick-start" the endowment project by netting more than \$50,000 in the two years, is matched by the wonderful donation of Tiller Memorabilia from Arnette Tiller, Joe's wife.

Hundreds of Tiller items and souvenirs were delivered by Chapter President Kelly Kitchel from Arnette's home in Buffalo, Wyo., to West Lafayette last spring and then sold at various events and auctioned on-line during the summer and fall of 2019. Those sales have totaled more than \$13,500 so far, with the biggest item, the Tiller RV (recreational vehicle) still available. See adjoining details and pictures about new efforts to find a "lucky winner" for that piece of Tiller history.

This is a great beginning for the endowment, but there is still a long way to go. Tax-deductible donations may be made at any time via a check to the Joe Tiller Chapter of NFF (note: Endowment Fund). Please send to the attention of Jim Vrugink, the chapter's executive director, at 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906.



Drew Brees (center) greets Boilermaker fans, (left to right) Garrett Jeong, Rosemary Ricci, Sharon Kraebber and Hank Kraebber, who attended the Saints-Bears game of Oct. 20 at Soldier Field on tickets provided by Brees as part of a fund-raiser for the Tiller Endowment. For more details, see pages 6 and 7.

Awards for Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a graduating high school senior football player who exemplifies excellence as a student, an athlete and a citizen. Scholarship money from the National Football Foundation is provided to the winner as long as he is not receiving full athletic aid to attend the college of his choice. He is not required to continue his career as a football player.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted in early winter from high school coaches and/or administrators in the counties covered by this NFF chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the Scholar-Athlete Committee, which recommends at least one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner. Other nominees will also be recognized at the Honors Dinner.

2003 Honorary S-A; Clayton Richard of McCutcheon High School
2005 Honoree: William Bowman of Lafayette Jefferson High School
2006 Honoree: Brett Courtney of West Lafayette Harrison High School
2007 Honoree: James Wodicka of West Lafayette High School
2008 Honoree: Griffin Richeson of Lafayette Central Catholic High School
2009 Honoree: *Matt Lancaster of West Lafayette High School
2010 Honoree: *Daniel Wodicka of West Lafayette High School
2011 Honoree: Alex Hegg of Seeger Memorial High School
2012 Honoree: Dayton Snyder of West Lafayette High School
2013 Honoree: #Ryan Spesard of Carroll High School
2014 Honoree: *Andrew Ralph of Chesterton High School
2015 Honoree: Joshua Brune of Belmont High School
2016 Honoree: Cody Colbert of Tri-Central High School
2017 Honoree: Jack DeGroot of Winamac High School
2018 Honoree: #August Schott of West Lafayette H.S.
2019 Honoree: #Jack Kiser of Pioneer H.S.

* Midwest Region S-A of Year; # State of Indiana S-A of Year

“PURDUE IS PROUD OF YOU” AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a person from Purdue who is closely involved with the game of football and who has provided positive exposure for Purdue through his or her efforts, in a role other than being a player or coach. The recipient will have maintained a lifetime of interest in the football while exhibiting exceptional qualities in his or her profession or activity.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2011 Honoree: Drew Brees, Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year
2012 Honoree: Otis Armstrong, College Football Hall of Fame Selectee
2013 Honoree: MerrieBeth Cox, Miss Indiana and Purdue's Golden Girl
2019 Honoree: Rondale Moore, Purdue's First Consensus All-American as Freshman

ARNETTE TILLER “SERVICE TO FOOTBALL” AWARD

This award, which is sponsored and funded by the IFCA, is intended to provide recognition to a woman closely related to the game of football who has given tirelessly and effectively for the betterment of the game and its participants. The recipient will have exhibited exceptional service and dedication to a football program covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and IFCA members and considered by the IFCA Awards Committee in conjunction with Mrs. Tiller and the NFF chapter, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. The presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner in the appropriate IFCA Region. It is recommended that this award be rotated between Region 1 (odd numbered years) and Region 4 (even numbered years).

2012 Honoree: Arnette Tiller, wife of Coach Joe Tiller, Purdue University
2013 Honoree: Jamie Marsh, wife of Coach Leroy Marsh, Munster HS
2015 Honoree: Sarah Lim, 7-year student mgr, WLHS & Purdue University
2018 Honoree: Jan O'Shea, wife of Frank O'Shea, mother of Kevin O'Shea

PATRICK MACKEY COURAGE AWARD

This award is given to provide recognition to an individual in our region who has exemplified great courage by surviving extreme personal hardship or difficulty OR who has assisted someone else in doing the same. The award-winner must be a high school, college or professional athlete, coach or administrator.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted in early winter from members of this chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the awards committee, which recom-

mends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at either Scholar-Athlete Banquet or the annual Honors Dinner.

2012 Honoree: Danny Anthrop of Lafayette Central Catholic High School
2013 Honorees: Cooper Fulmer of Winamac/Patrick Mackey of Lafayette Central Catholic High School
2014 Honoree: Jack Folkers of West Lafayette High School
2016 Honoree: Josh Turanchick of Oak Hill High School
2017 Honoree: Riley Lowder of Delphi High School
2018 Honoree: Tyler Trent of Purdue University
2019 Honorees: Cody Payne/Drew DeBoer of Lafayette Jefferson H.S.

BERNIE FLOWERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to an individual whose efforts and activities support the goals of the National Football Foundation on the local level. The award identifies an individual who works tirelessly out of love for football and a desire to help children play the game. The award winner can be a league organizer, administrator, fundraiser, coach, doctor, athletic trainer, official or anyone who excels in representing and supporting the foundation's fundamental creed.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2005 Honoree: Kay Hunt of West Lafayette Little Gridiron Football League
2006 Honoree: John Robinson of Lafayette 56ers Youth Football League
2007 Honoree: Dr. Bob Hagen of Lafayette Orthopaedic and Sportsmedicine Clinic
2008 Honoree: Brad Smith of Attica and Indiana Football Coaches Association
2009 Honoree: Tom Kubat of Lafayette Journal & Courier Sports Department
2010 Honoree: Joe McConnell of Learfield Sports and Purdue Radio Network
2011 Honorees: Lane Custer and Jon Speaker of West Side Flag Football
2012 Honorees: Clay and Chris Oppy of Dream Season
2013 Honoree: Mark Ebelhar of West Lafayette Little Gridiron
2014 Honoree: Linda Rohrman of Lafayette
2015 Honoree: David M. Williams of Lafayette Area Little Gridiron
2016 Honoree: Larry Leverenz, Eric Nauman and Tom Talavage of Purdue Neurotrauma Group
2017 Honoree: Darren Hicks of Lafayette Central Catholic Little Gridiron
2018 Honorees: Brad Cohen of Arni's and Orlando Itin of Bruno's
2019 Honoree: Tracy Brown of Harrison Youth Football

TODD CLARK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GAME OFFICIAL

This is an annual award to provide recognition to an individual game official in our region as identified by the Western Indiana Officials Association. The award, which is named for its first recipient, recognizes an individual who works tirelessly out of love for sports and the demands for fairness. The award winner can be an official of any sport who shares the values and goals of the National Football Foundation.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from WIOA members coordinator by NFF board member Max Bales, who also officiates. The WIOA's award recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2018 Honoree: Dr. Todd Clark of West Lafayette, Ind.
2019 Honoree: Todd Ransom of Frankfort, Ind.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD

This annual award is given to provide recognition to an individual who has consistently excelled in three areas paramount to the National Football Foundation - academics, athletics and service - while maintaining an exemplary record of citizenship in his school and/or local community. The award-winner can be a high school, college or professional athlete.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted in early winter from members of this chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the awards committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at either Scholar-Athlete Banquet or the annual Honors Dinner.

2011 Honoree: Kyle Adams of Purdue University
2012 Honoree: Kurt Lichtenberg of Purdue University

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- 2014 Honoree: *Rob Henry of Purdue University*
- 2018 Honoree: *David Blough of Purdue University*
- 2019 Honoree: *Aaron Lai of Purdue University*

LEGENDS AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a person closely related to the game of football who has given tirelessly and effectively throughout his or her career for the betterment of the game and its participants, without being a player or coach. The recipient will have maintained a lifetime of interest in the football while exhibiting exceptional leadership qualities in his or her profession and bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

- 2012 Honoree: *Denny Miller, head athletic trainer of Purdue University*
- 2014 Honoree: *Joe Rudolph, executive director of Purdue Alumni Association*
- 2015 Honoree: *John Friend, coach, athletics director, administrator in NW Indiana*
- 2016 Honoree: *Tom Spurgeon, student manager, supporter and Trustee of Purdue*
- 2017 Honoree: *Roy Johnson, "Voice of the Band" at Purdue for 43 years*
- 2018 Honoree: *Jeff Washburn, former sportswriter in Lafayette community for 40 years*
- 2019 Honoree: *Larry Clisby, play-by-play announcer for Purdue and local high schools*

DREW BRES MENTAL TOUGHNESS AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a college or professional athlete who exemplified exceptional mental attitude or toughness while competing within the counties covered by this NFF chapter. Exceptional mental attitude includes displays of high academic achievement, superior leadership, dogged determination, tenacity, moral character, bravery, humility and concern for others, in addition to remarkable athletic accomplishments. The award is named in honor of its first recipient, who also assists in the selection process.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and Drew Brees and presentation made at the Honors Dinner.

- 2005 Honoree: *Drew Brees of the San Diego Chargers*
- 2006 Honoree: *Rob Ninkovich of the Purdue Boilermakers*
- 2007 Honoree: *Rosevelt Colvin of the New England Patriots*
- 2008 Honoree: *Nick Hardwick of the San Diego Chargers*
- 2009 Honoree: *Akin Ayodele of the Miami Dolphins*
- 2011 Honoree: *Ryan Kerrigan of the Washington Redskins*
- 2012 Honoree: *Robbie Hummel of the Purdue Boilermakers*
- 2013 Honoree: *Ryan Grigson of the Indianapolis Colts*
- 2014 Honoree: *Cliff Avril of the Seattle Seahawks*
- 2015 Honoree: *Kyle Orton of the Buffalo Bills*
- 2016 Honoree: *Danny Anthrop of the Indianapolis Colts*
- 2017 Honoree: *Roosevelt Barnes & Caleb Swanigan of Purdue Boilermakers*
- 2018 Honoree: *Elijah Sindelar of the Purdue Boilermakers*
- 2019 Honoree: *David Blough of the Purdue Boilermakers*

"HE PLAYED FOOTBALL" AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a former football player in the geographic region of Northwest Indiana who went on to become highly successful in life-after-football. Emphasis is placed on individuals who were not necessarily stars of their teams but who built their later successes on their skills instead of their "football name."

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

- 2014 Honoree: *Francie Gutman, Purdue quarterback and Director of Cleveland Eye Clinic*
- 2015 Honoree: *Carl Buegler, Purdue walk-on quarterback, now COO of Jimmy Johns*
- 2016 Honoree: *Doug DeVos, Purdue walk-on quarterback, now President of Amway Corp.*
- 2017 Honoree: *Mike Berghoff, Purdue walk-on, now President of Lenex Steel*

NOMINATION FORM FOR 2020 AWARDS

(Submit by March 31, 2020, to Jim Vruggink via phone at 765-427-3303, email at jvruggink@purdue.edu or mail at 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906)

Name of nominee _____

For which award? _____

Phone/address of nominee _____

Reasons for nomination _____

Your name _____

Phone or email _____

and Chairman of Purdue's Board of Trustees

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a citizen who has maintained a lifetime of interest in the game of football and who has exhibited enviable leadership qualities and patriotism while making a significant contribution to the betterment of amateur football or sports in general in the United States while bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

- 2005 Honoree: *Gene Keady, emeritus basketball coach of Purdue University*
- 2006 Honoree: *Bob DeMoss, football coach/administrator at Purdue University*
- 2007 Honoree: *Henry Rosenthal, play-by-play announcer/owner of WASK*

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a citizen who has maintained a lifetime of interest in the game of football and who has exhibited enviable leadership qualities and patriotism while making a significant contribution to the betterment of amateur football or sports in general in the United States while bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

- 2005 Honoree: *Gene Keady, emeritus basketball coach of Purdue University*
- 2006 Honoree: *Bob DeMoss, football coach/administrator at Purdue University*
- 2007 Honoree: *Henry Rosenthal, play-by-play announcer/owner of WASK*
- 2008 Honoree: *Bernie Flowers, Purdue All-American, sales extraordinaire*
- 2009 Honoree: *Joe Tiller, emeritus football coach of Purdue University*
- 2011 Honoree: *Leroy Keyes, Purdue All-American/administrator*
- 2013 Honorees: *Noble Kizer and Noble Kizer, Jr., football coach and athletic director at Purdue University and his son, Lafayette businessman*

GOLD MEDALLION AWARD

This award is given on rare occasion and in special circumstances to recognize the career of a highly-successful person in this region. It recognizes an outstanding American and/or loyal Hoosier who has achieved significant career success while demonstrating integrity and honesty and bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

- 2007 Honoree: *Dr. Martin Jischke, President of Purdue University*
- 2010 Honorees: *Drew Brees, Len Dawson, Bob Griese - Purdue's Super Bowl Champion QB's*
- 2011 Honorees: *Neil Armstrong, Eugene Cernan, Jerry Ross - Purdue Astronauts*
- 2013 Honoree: *David Boudia, Olympic Gold and Bronze Medalist in diving*
- 2017 Honoree: *Morgan Burke, Purdue's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for 23 years*

Executive Director's 2019 Report: CHAPTER HAS SOLID YEAR,

TRACKING TOWARD TRANSITION

The calendar year of 2019 was notable from a financial stability standpoint for our Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana. It was also notable from a leadership standpoint as the chapter prepares for transition in our 16th and 17th years of existence.

With president Kelly Kitchel still at the helm, the focus is to continue developing our long-range plan for chapter stability, both in terms of financial support and leadership. Priorities are to keep building on the endowment through various forms of fund-raising and creating a transitional plan for delegation of leadership while your executive director contemplates a timetable for retirement.

As some of you are aware, I retired from Purdue last August and informed our Advisory Board that I would work at least one more year as executive director of the NFF chapter as we determine who will step forward to take my place. This is my 16th year in the role ... and the time is right.

It is important to the board to continue honoring and recognizing scholar-athletes, former athletes and coaches and to continue to support charitable causes (including our own leadership/scholarship programs) in this region, especially within Tippecanoe County, where most of the fund-raising takes place.

Our chapter's financial status remains stable (see paragraph below). Mainly due to donations to our endowment and Tiller memorabilia sales, we saw an overall increase in total revenues, but a decrease in advertising/sponsorship sales and attendance in 2019. As a result, our scholarship commitment for last year resulted in a decrease of about \$4,000 compared to the previous year. The board wants to place an emphasis this next year (and for several years to come) on fund-raising with the goal of growing our endowment fund to help assure long-term stability.

Our membership numbers increased by 10 to 184 since a year ago - which ranks us fourth largest in the country among 120 chapters and largest in Indiana among the four chapters. We have a terrific board and many effective committee members, so there are probably other chapter members ready to step forward. Please contact me (via email jvruggink@purdue.edu or phone 765-427-3303), if you would like to help.

Our 15th annual NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends" on June 9 was a success, with a crowd of 357 (down 11 from the previous year). Also, last spring, May 10 to be exact, we had 65 golfers (up five from the previous year) participating in the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing, sponsored jointly by the NFF and Purdue's Trademarks & Licensing Office at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex, marking the end of that event as we knew it after 10 years of success.

Total chapter income for 2019 was \$111,876 (including donations of \$49,061 involving the endowment and \$18,905 in trades, services and gifts-in-kind). After paying all expenses, our total distribution to charity and scholarship recipients for this year was \$13,877, raising our 15-year total to more than \$310,000, and we were able to divert \$31,000 to the Tiller Endowment.

Through our first 15 years as a chapter, we have honored 446 individuals for their accomplishments, including 305 qualified scholar-athletes who have been awarded nearly \$245,000 in scholarships and honorariums for college.

Special thanks to our chapter members and non-members who participated in the Tiller Memorabilia Sales and Auction that generated \$13,272 so far and the Drew Brees Ticket Offer that produced \$22,364. Together they helped us net the above-mentioned \$31,000 for the endowment, following expenses.

A list of all our donors, sponsors, advertisers and partners is available for public viewing on our website: www.nfftillerchapter.org.

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Vrugink, Executive Director

NEW TWIST BREWING FOR SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

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Anyone purchasing at least \$5,000 worth of raffle tickets will have that option. The chapter is in the process of identifying four additional valuable items to serve as "runner-up" prizes.

The RV was the largest of a motherlode of more than 300 items provided by Arnette for the Tiller Memorabilia Sale of last year, featuring a wide variety of stuff from Joe's 15-year coaching career at Purdue (including his stint as assistant coach). More than \$13,500 was raised from a sale last July and an on-line auction/sale that took place throughout last fall. The RV was part of the on-line sale, but no acceptable bid was offered. The raffle idea was suggested by former Purdue quarterback Drew Brees.

More details about the raffle ticket sales will be made public in March.

TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING

Our chapter's annual golf outing is taking on a different look and direction. After several years as the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing as a combined effort between the NFF Tiller Chapter and Purdue's Trademarks Licensing Office, a new partnership became necessary when Jim Vrugink retired from Purdue. First priority will be to lock in an agreement with the Tyler Trent Family, the Elks Club of West Lafayette and Purdue's Center for Cancer Research.

Primarily, the revised event will raise funds for cancer research and will honor the legacy of Purdue "super-fan" Tyler Trent who passed away on the first day of 2019 after a news-making battle with osteosarcoma cancer. This year's golf outing will take place at the West Lafayette Country Club on Sept. 18, the Friday before Purdue's home football game versus Air Force.

Costs are still to be finalized for foursomes and individuals but will not exceed last year's prices, but will cover the cost of lunch, golf cart and 18 holes of golf.

Contact Jim Vrugink (765-427-3303) for more information.

HONORS DINNER/RECEPTION BECOMING 2 EVENTS

The chapter's primary function each year is to recognize accomplishments of our scholar-athletes and award winners. For the first 15 years of this chapter, we held the NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends" in early to mid-June.

This year, we will divide that event into two separate functions - one to focus on high school athletes and coaches on Sunday, June 14, in the early afternoon at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette and the other to focus on college and professional athletes, coaches and community members at the Shively Club in Purdue's Ross-Ade Stadium. The later event will be an evening reception and program, probably Sept. 18.

Top scholar-athletes from throughout Northwest Indiana, who are nominated by their schools for the scholar-athlete of the year awards given by our chapter and by the Lafayette Journal & Courier, will be the guests of honor along with eight or nine specialty award winners. Highlight of the events will be the induction of at least two former football players or coaches into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. Additional details will be announced in early spring.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW
YOUR NFF MEMBERSHIP
WHEN IT COMES DUE**

NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2020

PRESIDENT - Kelly Kitchel

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Jim Vrugink

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECT - TBD

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and WEB-MASTER - Travis Baugh

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION MANAGER - Jonathan Gandolf

PHOTOGRAPHER - Sandra Dukes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Voting Members) -

PRESIDENT - Kelly Kitchel

PAST PRESIDENT - Bart Burrell

TREASURER - Janet Schweikher; assistant

Elisheba VanWinkle

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assistant Leroy Marsh

AWARDS PROGRAM CHAIR - Jim Vrugink;

college assistant Tom Schott; high school assis-

tants Sam King and Jon Speaker

EVENTS CHAIR - Brooke Kitchel; assistant Nate Barrett

ENDOWMENT CHAIR - Kelly Kitchel; assis-

tants Max Bales, Bob Hagen and David R. Williams

SPONSORSHIPS & ADVERTISING CHAIR - Travis Baugh; assistants Tim Bobillo and Mark Walpole

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assistants Chris Fleming, Young Lee, Andrew Pogar

SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIR - Brad Smith

(IFCA) and Jim MacDonald (DGC)

AT-LARGE - Orlando Itin, Trent Johnson, Jeff

Love, Chris Oppy and Rex Trautman

MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES:

Erika Austin, Paul Branham, Drew Brees, Don Collier, Quincy Davidson, Jake Franklin, Dwayne Greer, Tim House, Ryan Isaac, Race Johnson, Trent Johnson, Leroy Keyes, Kris Klink, Matt Lancaster, John Langenkamp, Noah Mattern, Keith Schwingendorf, John Shelbourne, Dakota Simon, Ryan Spesard, Craig Voll and George Wodicka

INTERNS:

Sean English, Mike Folta, Nick Schutkovske and

Dylan Spesard
CONTACT US: Via phone at 765-427-3303, via email at jvruggink@purdue.edu, or via postal at NFF, 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906

TILLER RV RAFFLE: STARTING APRIL 3-4

(Stay tuned for more details in March)

For an investment as low as \$25, you could become the owner of Joe and Arnette Tiller's 2013 Winnebago. Arnette has turned the recreational vehicle over to our chapter to help find a new owner, hopefully before the end of 2020. It could be yours! The "Tiller RV Raffle" will start April 3-4 Weekend at Purdue's Spring Football Game. Sale of raffle tickets (\$25 each or five tickets for \$100 or 75 tickets for \$1,000) will start that weekend at the Purdue Football Reunion Golf Outing and Dinner and at a special tailgate party at the Tiller RV in the Ross-Ade Parking Lot prior to the game. The sale will end when proceeds reach the goal of \$80,000 and the raffle drawing will, hopefully, take place by mid-December. After all expenses are paid, proceeds will

eventually go to the Tiller Endowment Fund, aiming toward a goal of raising \$500,000.

Once that goal is achieved, it is expected that the interest from the endowment will provide the resources to cover the chapter's financial commitments (for scholarship stipends and expenses) forever. A special feature of the raffle sales project may be the opportunity for individuals to use the RV for a Purdue home game tailgate party during the 2020 season. Anyone purchasing at least \$5,000 worth of raffle tickets will have that option. Additional items will be identified as "runner-up" prizes. The raffle idea was suggested by former Purdue quarterback Drew Brees.

RV Details: 2013 Winnebago Vista Rally 26H with just 11,000 miles; built on a Ford truck chassis; runs on regular gasoline. It is 26 feet long and was purchased new by Joe & Arnette Tiller before Joe became ill. He passed away in the Fall of 2017.

(PROCEEDS GO TO TILLER ENDOWMENT TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF JOE TILLER CHAPTER OF NATIONAL FOOTBALL)



BREES IN THE WINDY CITY

For the second straight year, former Purdue quarterback Drew Brees provided tickets for a bus-load of Boilermakers to make a trip to one of his NFL football games in the Midwest. This year's game was the New Orleans Saints-Chicago Bears' Oct. 20 game at Soldier Field as Drew purchased 35 tickets for our fund-raising trip aboard a Reindeer Shuttle Motor Coach to generate contributions to the Joe Tiller Endowment. These next two pages feature pictures taken that day as our group, thanks to Drew, was able to have field access prior to the game, seats for the Saints victory (although Brees did not play due to an injury) and post-game "Meet & Greet" opportunities for photos with Drew. Including donations from several Purdue fans who had their own tickets and/or met us at the game but still participated in the fund-raiser, the event raised \$22,364 for the endowment.

Special thanks to Mike Bauer of Subway for donating the box lunches.

Here's the list of donors who participated in the event, many of whom are pictured on these pages: Cory & Erin Adams; Jerry Brand & four friends; Paul Branham & friend Jo Pruitt; Doug & Mel Campbell; Brad Cohen & friends Troy Greene, Brad Marley & Jon Speaker; Amanda & Jonathan Gandolf; Garrett Jeong & Rosemary Ricci; Barb Kapp; Chris Kearney & friend Mark Murphy; Ryan Kennedy & son; Sharon & Hank Kraebber; Aaron Palos; Jessica & Jack Roback; Eric Ross; Tom & Sam Schott; Lee Schweitzer & Pastor Joe Townsend; Keith, Lisa & Ryan Schwingendorf; Dakota Simon; Jake & Jennifer Stigall; Rex Trautman; Michael Violi; Marion, Jaime & Jim Vrugink.



DREW BREES AND BOILERMAKER FRIENDS



MEETERS & GREETERS WITH DREW:

(Top Row) – Eric Ross, Michael Violi, Rex Trautman;

(Center Row) – Joe Pruitt and Paul Branham, Mark Murphy and Chris Kearney, Tom and Sam Schott;

(Bottom Row) – Jim, Jaime and Marion Vrugink, Garrett Jeong, Rosemary Ricci, Sharon and Hank Kraebber.



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Chapter Name (if known): Member ID#:

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E-Mail: Phone:

Membership Level

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\$40 One-Year Membership

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\$1,000 Lifetime Membership

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- Please charge my membership to my: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

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Exp. Date:

Signature:

(Please indicate cc billing address if different than above)

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Please Mail to: Membership Department
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433 Las Colinas Blvd. East, Ste. 1130
Irving, TX 75039-5508

OR Submit via: Email: membership@footballfoundation.com Fax: 972-556-9032

NFF Chapter Honors Joe Tiller Legacy

More than 16 years ago, Purdue Head Football Coach Joe Tiller presented a challenge of creating one of the largest chapters in the National Football Foundation to support football in Northwest Indiana. In the years since receiving its charter, this chapter (renamed the Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana) has enlisted more than 800 members, becoming the largest in the state. Within seven years, it was the second largest in the nation and now stands at No. 4. Please honor the legacy of Joe Tiller and join or renew today!

KEY POINTS:

* Having a large chapter means more former players and coaches are getting inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and Indiana Football Hall of Fame. Mike Phipps, Mark Herrmann, Otis Armstrong, Dave Butz and Rod Woodson were inducted since 2006 in the CFB Hall and Joe Tiller, Mike Alstott, Leroy Keyes, Otis Armstrong, Pete Quinn, Jim Young, Bernie Flowers, Rod Woodson, Len Dawson, Dale Samuels and Dustin Keller have been selected for induction since 2012 in the Indiana FB Hall of Fame.

* Residence in Northwest Indiana is NOT a requirement.

* Fee is tax deductible, going to national office with a portion returning here for scholarships.

* Chapter supports youth football at all levels, including scholarships and stipends worth nearly \$245,000 in 15 years for scholar athletes and other students. Chapter's total charitable donations exceed \$310,000.

* NFF has 120 chapters and more than 12,000 members nationally, awarding more than a million dollars in leadership scholarships per year.

* Members receive:

- Voting privileges in selection for College Football Hall of Fame
- Invitations and special seating/pricing for chapter events
- Listing as member in NFF Honors Dinner program and website.
- Satisfaction in joining Joe Tiller's challenge to make Northwest Indiana Chapter among largest in nation.

To become a member, fill out the enclosed form and mail it to NFF Headquarters or give it to Jim Vruggink, the chapter's executive director. You may also contact Vruggink by phone (765-427-3303) or email: jvruggink@purdue.edu or see our website at: www.nfftillerchapter.org



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