

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Name: Keith Fortner

Year of Graduation: 1971

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

Following graduation, I attended Pennsylvania State University majoring in Mass Communications/Radio & TV Broadcasting graduating in 1973 with an associates degree. A few weeks later I married the former Andrea Dubots from Coudersport and we just celebrated our 50th anniversary.



We have two children Denise and Scott who are also PAHS graduates. We have seven grandchildren and are expecting our first great grandchild in May, 2024.

I worked in broadcasting for 4 years but soon discovered the 60-70 hour work week didn't mesh well with our young family so I looked for another profession. I began work at the First National Bank of Port Allegany on April 18, 1977 which was the bank's 89th anniversary. I started out as a teller and worked my way through various positions culminating in being named President/Chief Executive Officer in 1995, a position I held until I retired in November of 2015. I was the second longest serving president in the bank's history just 55 days short of the record held by my friend and mentor Lloyd Eastman.

Where do you currently live?

We split our time between Port Allegany and Sebring, Florida.

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

I have two...Mary Gregg and Terry "Doc" McCormick. They treated their students with respect and I believe genuinely enjoyed teaching and I think at least most of the time, they enjoyed being around the students.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

I guess the one that makes me smile the most was the day Doc McCormick came into class and said, "OK class, get your books out....today we're going to 'blah-blah-blah' whatever his plan for the day was.....Our reply was, "Well Doc,change of plans 'cause today we're going to make popcorn," and we promptly fired up a bunsen burner and pulled out the Jiffy Pop. I don't recall a lot of teaching taking place that particular day.