



PHILADELPHIA AREA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

5/8/19

Preamble to John Batley Award Presentation

By Michael Noonan

The John Batley Award is given each year in honor of John Batley, who served as Business Manager for Westtown School from 1966 to 1997. Although John passed away on February 9, 2017, his presence is felt each year at this Annual Meeting.

John was a very hard working and dedicated business officer for his school. During his 31 years at Westtown School, he served his school extremely well. Like most of us he wore many hats as his actual responsibilities well exceeded his job description. Most importantly he touched many lives in meaningful ways over those years.

John was a mentor to many of us who were new (and not so new) to the business officer world. He was always available to lend advice or information. When he saw you, he would always check to see how things were going. If you were wrestling with a problem, he had probably encountered it and would share how he handled it and how things turned out. He was a very humble man who liked to stay in the background, which was a challenge for him with his booming voice along with his 6 foot 6 frame. In an interview in the school paper during his first year on the job, he shared that his role was “to help the business department make a significant contribution to the program set up by the faculty and the administration.” That was the focus of his work as business manager – to help others do their jobs better.

John envisioned the potential of independent schools in the Philadelphia area coming together in areas of common need and purpose. In 1989, this vision motivated him to call a few business managers to join together and begin more direct contact with and ultimately negotiating with our medical insurance carrier at that time. That small group of schools very quickly grew to over 50 schools. This helped pave the way for the formation of PAISBOA and the group purchasing consortium that we have today. Without this successful move with the health insurance program led by John Batley, PAISBOA would not be what it is today.

After he retired, and when returned to the PAISBOA Annual Meeting each year to present the John Batley Award, John would marvel about how far PAISBOA had developed since it was formally organized in the mid-nineties. He felt very good that so many schools and business officer colleagues were working together for the good of our schools and the betterment of our profession.

On a personal level, I feel very fortunate to have known John. He was a great help to me in the 19 years that he was a colleague. I am sure that others in this room who were fortunate enough to cross his path feel the

same. While I am sad that John is no longer here for the presentation of the John Batley Award, I am very happy that John, and the contributions he made as a business officer for his school and in service of PAISBOA, will be remembered each year this award is given.

Thank you.