

PONTIUS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Number 115

NEWSLETTER

January 2021

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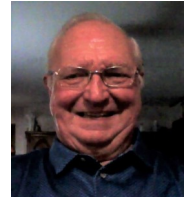
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Message from the President



Dear Pontius Family Association Members,

Under the circumstances the COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted on us all, I hope that you passed the holidays at least somewhat happily. We cut Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year celebrations down to just Bernadette, myself and our unmarried oldest son. It is disheartening to see our modern world so affected and struggling to adapt to all of this. We have thus been alerted that our Association needs changes to handle this and future crises.

On December 5, 2020, our Board of Directors finalized a new set of Bylaws to give us the means and flexibility to deal with this and possible future situations. In-person meetings and voting are still our preference for annual meetings. The new Bylaws supplement our traditional ways with possible e-meetings and e-voting with shorter notification times. A new Article XV was added to provide contingency procedures.

Once the Bylaws Committee was into revising the July 2009 Bylaws to deal with the pandemic, it was soon apparent that this was an ideal time to do a comprehensive update. Almost all of the protocols of the 2009 set are retained in the proposed 2020 set. One big change is that we propose to add two permanent committees, each to be led by a vice president and staffed with two appointed members. You can read all of the details in a printed 2020 Bylaws copy that is included in this Newsletter.

Also included is a ballot. Voting instructions are listed on the ballot. To save printing and shipping costs, we are not including a copy of the July 2009 Bylaws. If you want an Adobe portable document format (pdf) copy of the 2009 set to review, please email your request to me. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

It is probable that we can not have an in-person annual meeting in July 2021. Regardless, it would be detrimental to our Association to wait for a next in-person voting opportunity.

I thank you for your support and hope to see you in Ohio,

Harry F. Pontious
President
hfpjr@hotmail.com
540-308-7704

Directors Emeritus: Janet Pontius, John David Rees,
Eileen Pontious Surridge, Ruth Zimmerman

The Pontius Family Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to research, education, and preservation of family history and genealogy.

www.pontiusfamilyassociation.org

Message from our Dayton Reunion 2021 Hosts:

As Dayton was home to the Wright Brothers and is the Birthplace of Aviation, we're looking for **flying** Pontius family members! If you have a copy of an old, or new, or anywhere in-between photo of yourself or any Pontius relative with an airplane - either private or commercial, as pilot, passenger, or onlooker – that you are willing to share, please send it to us. If there's a story to go with it, and you are willing, we'd love to have that, too! Pictures and stories will be compiled and shared at the reunion. Even if you are unable to attend in person, we would love to have copies of your photos. Possibly, some might appear in a future Newsletter.

Identify the Pontius member(s) in your photos, please. Any additional information, anecdotes, or stories pertaining to the photo or to flying Pontius's would be wonderful. If you have a Pontius aviation story but no photo—we'd love to have that, too.

Please don't send us your precious original photos—copies only — just in case the mail goes awry.

If you would scan and email these to Dawn Currie at pontius2021@gmail.com or mail to Dawn Currie, 4080 E US Rt 36, Fletcher, Ohio 45326, we would be delighted!

Thank you,
Your 2021 Reunion Hosts,

Dawn Currie, Reta Wagner, and Rachel Currie



FUTURE MEETINGS:

2021 We hope to be meeting in Dayton, Ohio, July 15, 16, and 17.

The Birthplace of Aviation

Hosted by Reta Dawn Currie, Reta Wagner, and Rachel Currie.

2022 We hope to be meeting in Springfield, Illinois, July 14, 15, and 16.

Home of Abraham Lincoln.

Hosted by Ginger Johnson and Betty Hall.

2023 We need a host and a location for July 20, 21, and 22. We would like to be near Reading, Pennsylvania, for the 285th Anniversary of Johannes, Nicholas and Maria in the USA.

We sincerely hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and hope that we will be able to meet again in July of 2021 in Dayton, Ohio. More details will be provided in our Newsletter in April. Please mark your calendars and join us.

MEMBERSHIP

Regular Changed to LIFE Membership

Susan Thompson of St. Paris, Ohio

Member since 2017

WELCOME NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

Ann M Pontius (J-23441221) of Staunton, Virginia Daughter of long-time member James Roscoe (deceased) and Norma Pontius of Michigan.

Dana Marie (Pontious) Fularz of New Kensington PA Daughter of David Eugene Pontious. Nicholas Pontius was fifth Great Grandfather.

BRIDGE BUILDER

Please continue to send any articles for future issues to our Bridge Builder Editor, Joan Pontius at 4879 Manor Lane, Ellicott City MD 21042 or joanpontius@yahoo.com or call her at 443-963-4403.



Message from the Editor—Bobbie Bongorno

The Board has been learning how to meet by ZOOM. It is an interesting process. We have had several meetings to finalize the new 2020 Bylaws Draft which is included in this Newsletter. Please review these Bylaws and cast your Ballot by USPS, email, or text as noted on the Ballot form as soon as possible. We encourage all members and their spouses to vote. The Ballot form includes sections for both member and spouse.

Our Bylaws Committee—Harry Pontious, Dave Bongorno, and Betty Hall—worked very hard to update these. Then our Board of Directors reviewed all the updates and approved them. This was a very time-consuming process, and we very much appreciate all their efforts.

If you have anything you would like to have included in the April Newsletter, please let me know. We would be glad to include items of interest to our membership.

CORRECTION TO Newsletter 114 October 2020:

New member John McGee of San Marcos, Texas, is the son of Lester Pontius, but not the son of Rev. Lester Linn Pontius from the State of Washington who was a Director Emeritus of the PFA, as reported in Newsletter 114. I apologize for this inaccuracy.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Remembering their families in sympathy.



James R. Pontius (1925 – 2020)

James Roscoe Pontius, age 95, died October 29, 2020 Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. James was born in Green Springs, Ohio on July 21, 1925.

He attended the Ohio State University after serving in the US Army Airforce as an officer. James graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. James was a district sales manager at National Machinery Company for 38 years. In early 1951, while working in the corporate headquarters of National Machinery in Tiffin, Ohio as a salesman, he became acquainted with the pretty new receptionist, Norma. He drank a lot of water from the cooler in the lobby by her desk, leading to a first date to a Cleveland Indians game. In June 1952, they got married. James converted to Catholicism to be married to Norma in the Catholic Church and became one of Catholicism's strongest supporters.

James never stopped inventing, enjoyed golf, and loved flying. He owned a Cessna aircraft. He and Norma enjoyed traveling and visited Japan, Scandinavia, Australia, Europe, and Africa. On fall Saturdays, you could bet that Jim would be watching OSU football on TV, wearing his scarlet and grey, and on Sundays and every morning, you could find him at St. Hugo of the Hills mass.

James is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Norma, and his four daughters: Ann (Michael Stahl), Kathleen (Michael Zack), Sharon, and Lisa (Jasen Barrett). Grandchildren include: Katie Zack (Mike Keeler), Kristen Zack (Scott Moore), Andrew Zack (Megan Zack), James Barrett, and John Barrett. He also has six great grandchildren. He is survived by his older sister, Elizabeth Schubach, age 98.

James and Norma were members of the PFA since 1991. Their daughter Ann Pontius is a new member.

William (Bill) Robert Pontious (1927 – 2017)

William Pontious of Bradenton, Florida, died on Dec. 19, 2017 at 89. A native of Sterling, Illinois, Bill was the son of Ledger and Elizabeth Pontious. Bill married Dorothy Irene Gisi Aug. 19, 1950.

He proudly served during the Korean War. In 1959, he moved his family to Bradenton which he and his brother Wayne started the Sunshine Lawn Mower Company. After retirement, Bill and Dorothy enjoyed traveling in their motor home across the United States. Bill was a lifetime member of the Bradenton Elks Lodge #1511 and the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 in Florida.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother and brother, Wayne. Bill is survived by his loving wife Dorothy of 67 years, his daughter, Pamela Pontious Walters (Chuck), his son, Steven Pontious (Pam) and his brother, Neil Pontious (Carol) of Sterling IL and Texas. He also leaves grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved them all more than life itself.

William and Dorothy joined the PFA in 1971 and have been Life members since 1998.



Roy L. Surridge (1932 – 2020)

Roy L Surridge, 88, died from Multiple Myeloma (bone cancer) November 13, 2020 in Pittsburg, KS. He was born May 3, 1932, on a farm near Seneca, MO to Thomas James and Emma Rillis (Murphy) Surridge.

Roy served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1954 in Korea as a Battery Clerk with the rank of Corporal. He received the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 3 bronze stars, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

On September 18, 1954, he married Eva Eileen Pontious in Columbus, KS. Roy was employed by the City of Pittsburg for 36 years and retired in 1994. He was a member of the Pittsburg Kiwanis Club for 59 years with perfect attendance. He was honored with a Life Membership award from Kiwanis International. He served on the Kiwanis Board of Directors for 24 years. He and his wife have participated in the annual Kiwanis Pancake Day for 61 consecutive years.

He was a member of several Masonic organizations including a 60-year member of Pittsburg Lodge #187, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas where he held a life membership. He was Master in 1964. He was a 50-year member of the Royal Arch Masons, the Knights Templar, and Mirza Shrine. He was a 50-year member of Rob Morris Chapter No. 74, Order of the Eastern Star of which he was Worthy Patron eleven times. He was a Rainbow Dad several times and received The Grant Cross of Color from the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Survivors include his wife Eileen, one brother, Jerry Surridge (Phyllis) of Springfield, MO and 24 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant daughter and three sisters, Anna Gutierrez, Margie Lankford and Marie Davis, and six brothers, George, Charles, Clarence, Elmer, Harold "Bob", and Fred Surridge. Burial at The McCune City Cemetery.

Eileen (Pontious N-65-10-1111) and Roy joined the PFA in 1985 and have been Life members since 1987. Eileen is a Director Emeritus.



Don Campbell Pontius (1945-2020)

PONTIUS, Don Campbell, age 74, of Midlothian, Va., died May 11, 2020. He was born on May 30, 1945, in Bethesda, Md.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Kathryn Pontius; his twin brother, John Pontius; and brother, Bill Pontius. He is survived by his wife, Linda, of 50 years, and his children, Scott Campbell Pontius (Angella), Carrie Elizabeth Setina (Sean) and Anne Kathryn Fierbaugh (Cody), and his seven grandchildren; and by three brothers, Harry and wife, Beverly, of Burke, Va., Robert and wife, Carol, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Patrick and wife, Lyn, of Midlothian, Va.; and sisters-in-law, Jane Pontius of Rockville, Md. and Judy Pontius of Ijamsville, Md.

Don was the brother of Life members Harry Edgar Pontius of Burke, VA, and Robert Southworth Pontius of Cincinnati, OH. Don and Linda attended the Richmond VA Reunion in 2016.

Mary Ellen (Pontius) Reade (1919—2019)

Mary Ellen of Ossian, Indiana, was born August 4, 1919 and has passed away. She was pre-deceased by her husband Kenneth. She is buried in Woodruff Gardens Cemetery in LaGrange Cty, Indiana. Kenneth died in 1986. Mary Ellen was the aunt of Life member Sharon Kay Pontius Schrock (formerly Dawson) of Edwardsburg, Michigan.

Mary Ellen joined the PFA in 1967 and was a Life Member since 1990.

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We have printed partial obituaries in this Newsletter. To read the entire obituary, please search on Google or contact Bobbie Bongorno at 216-360-9561 to have a copy mailed to you.

Bridge Builder *Articles for the next Bridge Builder are needed!* Please submit to our Editor, Joan Pontius, 4879 Manor Lane, Ellicott City MD 21042 or joanpontius@yahoo.com or call Joan at 443-963-4403.

Future **Newsletter** articles may be sent to Bobbie Bongorno at bjbongo@sbcglobal.net.

Reunion Photo Books

Picture books created by Dave and Bobbie Bongorno are available for past reunions. If you would like a copy, please send \$7.50 each to cover the booklet and postage to: Pontius Family Association, Roberta Bongorno, 21810 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland OH 44118-4816. Be sure to indicate which year(s) you would like.

2018 Iowa City, Iowa	2013 Denver, Pennsylvania
2017 Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania	2012 Circleville, Ohio
2016 Richmond, Virginia	2010 St. Louis, Missouri
2015 Frankenmuth, Michigan	2009 Belleville, Michigan
2014 Bryan/College Station, Texas	2008 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Email List - If you are not already on our "email" list and would like to receive PFA updates during the year between the published Newsletter mailings, please send your email address to Bobbie at bjbongo@sbcglobal.net. Be sure to edit your settings to allow our group email to be received from Bjbongo@sbcglobal.net.

Address Changes - Please remember to send any address changes to Bobbie Bongorno at the address above or Bjbongo@sbcglobal.net or call 216-360-9561. Thank you--this helps us keep our postage costs down.

Also, if you know of someone's passing, please forward specific information and/or obituaries.

Membership Applications are available at www.pontiusfamilyassociation.org or from Bobbie Bongorno at 216-360-9561.

Mark your calendars for July 15, 16, & 17, 2021, in Dayton, Ohio!