



KUTZTOWN STRONG

2019 – 2020 Brief Bios: Board Members & Staff

Kathy Metrick is the founder of Kutztown Strong and former Superintendent of Kutztown Area School District; Kathy is now retired from the school district. She stays busy helping various family members and spending time with her husband. Kutztown Strong, and the young people it supports, is a passion for which she plans to always invest time. She is currently a member of the Kutztown Strong Board of Directors. This is a cause that is too important to ignore.

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**Andy Brett** is a founding member of the Transitional Board of Directors, and President Emeritus of Kutztown Strong. He graduated from Kutztown Area High School, serves as a high school counselor, and was named the 2017 Kutztown Area High School Distinguished Alumni. He attended Temple University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Secondary Social Science. He later earned a Master of Education degree in Secondary School Counseling from Kutztown University. Andy is an active member of the district staff serving as the Scholarship Committee Chairperson for the Kutztown Area Teachers Association as well as the Emergency Staff Person for the High School. He is committed to the students of the high school; serving as the KAHS Debate Coach and Advisor for the Classes of 2013, 2017, and 2021.

Andy also served as a graduate level instructor for Performance Learning Systems and Wilkes University. He has been the Past President of the Albany Township Historical Society and is the Board Secretary of the Kempton Fire Company. He has served for over twenty years as the Foundation Representative for Phi Delta Kappa, a professional organization for educators.

In 2013, Andy joined the Board of Directors of the Kutztown Area School District Educational Foundation, an organization whose mission is to enhance educational opportunities in the Kutztown Area School District and to recognize the superior achievements of district students and alumni. He has been active in the growth of the

Foundation's scholarship program, and is particularly proud of the group's accomplishment in giving over \$25,000 annually to the youth of Kutztown.

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Merry Schlegel is current President of Kutztown Strong. She is retired from her career as an Insurance adjuster. When the call went out to our community to join together and fight the opioid epidemic, I thought of my granddaughter who was four years old at the time and knew I had to sign up and do all I could so she and the other youth in our area would grow up with the skills to handle these dangers.

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**Mrs. Susan Collier** is the Vice President of Kutztown Strong. She is a recently retired teacher with 35 years of experience with adolescents. Mrs. Collier earned her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education degrees from Kutztown University. For her work with special needs students, she was nominated for the Annie Sullivan Award from Berks County Intermediate Unit. Mrs. Collier is a member of Kutztown Strong's Research and Education Committees as well as an Adviser for our middle school youth group. She has been a member of Kutztown Strong since its inception in 2014.

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I'm **Nate Herrlin**, treasurer of Kutztown Strong, father of 4 in the Kutztown School district (ages 9-16). I pastor Cornerstone Community Church and am passionate about making a difference here in Kutztown. I love working one-on-one with individuals & families who are struggling and seeing lives changed for the better. Our church, with a few other churches, launched Oasis Youth Center 5 years ago, which currently runs a casual & fun after school program for middle & high school students 3 days/week at Bethel Church of the Nazarene averaging about 20 students during the school year.

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**Beth Patten** is a 7th-grade Social Studies teacher at Kutztown Area Middle School, Kutztown Area School District since 2005. She has her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction and B.A. in History and Communication Studies from Bloomsburg University. She is currently in the principal certification program at Kutztown University. She serves as educator consultant with Independence National Park, a teacher-consultant with the Philadelphia Writing Project and is on the Hindu American Foundation Teacher Advisory Council. She serves as a facilitator in Princeton's, NJ Not In Our Town, an inter-faith and interracial racial justice group. She is a founding member of peace.love.kutztown, a Kutztown Community Partnership subcommittee, which aims to promote social justice within the community.

Kutztown Strong is an incredible organization. We believe and invest in people. Education is the bedrock of our community.

I believe that if students are educated about healthy living, they will choose to lead a healthy life.



"Hi, I am **Hugh Smith**. I own a small business in Kutztown. I am married, 70 years old and I have three grown children who went through the Kutztown Schools.

I have been involved in coaching Youth Sports in Kutztown for 25 years or so. From soccer, to basketball to T Ball to Football and Basketball. So, I know a whole lot of kids.

As a businessman I have sponsored certain programs and events that support our Youth. My focus is on the prevention of alcohol use, drug use and any addictive behavior that can ruin a child's chance for a healthy, happy and productive life.

I have been involved in certain community organizations and I am active in my church. I helped initiate the Cougar Chronicle which is written by the High School and Middle School and delivered to the K through 5 students to promote healthy and safe activities. This is distributed to the student three to 4 times per year.

I believe in hands on mentoring of Youth. That our actions say more than words. Our challenge, as is every organization, is to move beyond a few dedicated people and involve the whole community in our programs. That our focus should be entirely on prevention as once youth begin the journey into addiction the chance of any meaningful success is extremely limited. That early marijuana and drug use changes the children's brains so dramatically that remediation then is difficult. We need to fight the battle early and go all in, otherwise our chances of success will be dramatically reduced."



**Seth Noggle** is the Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kutztown. He graduated with a BA in Student Ministries and a Sociology minor from Geneva College. Seth has lived in Berks County for almost 9 years, and is currently living in Kutztown. Alongside of working at Trinity he also helps to run the Lutheran Centre, which is a campus ministry house at KU. It houses students during the school year, and also is a satellite of Friend Inc for college students. Seth has seen how much Kutztown Strong has done for the community and hears about it from several of his students, and is excited to come on the board!

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Sherry Christman is the Owner of Elite Business Solutions, LLC. She started working at age 12 with a newspaper route. At 16 she was still delivering newspapers, going to school, and working as a cashier at the Redner's in Trexlertown. Over the years she has worked in various full-time accounting positions. In February 2012 her dad passed away suddenly and in May of the same year she lost her full-time job. With her husband's encouragement she started her own business.

She earned the 2016 Northeast Berks Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur of the Year award.

When she is not working in or on her business, you will find her cheering for her daughter, Sabrina at a tennis match or softball game. She loves spending time with family and friends. She is team captain for Hope, Believe, Dream a Relay for Life Kutztown team. She is an active member of the Northeast Berks Chamber of Commerce and Relay for Life Kutztown. She participates in school career days and loves talking to the kids and sharing her passion of her business.

She is currently working on growing her business and stretching outside her comfort zone.

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Hi! My name is **Sheryl McKlveen** and I have served as the Community Coordinator for Kutztown Strong for nearly five years. I am a licensed Social Worker in the state of Pennsylvania with a master's degree from Kutztown University. After my 5 children finished their educational endeavors, I returned to school to pursue a degree in social work so that I might learn how to be a positive influence for change that disrupts cycles of substance abuse, poverty, oppression, discrimination and other forms of social injustice.

Kutztown Strong's passion for ensuring every child has an opportunity to flourish is a palpable, uplifting energy; a type of synergy that fosters near instantaneous connections amongst groups and individuals. The organization's values of community, integrity, caring and kindness are foundational to all their work and find expression in every activity, endeavor, and decision-making process. I am honored to work beside all the hearts and minds of Kutztown Strong as they bring life's positive perspectives into the community for the purpose of creating the safe places that naturally cultivate healthy youth development.

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