

Port Washington Youth Activities
PYA HALL OF FAME

Dennis J. O'Brien

Dennis J. O'Brien served as a PYA Board member for 8 years while coaching boys' baseball and basketball for 8 years, and girls' basketball for 4 years. He was a member of the very first dinner dance committee in 1991 which recommended the establishment of the PYA Hall of Fame as an annual fund raising initiative to support additional operating needs as our organization grew.



Dennis attended Regis High School and LeMoyne College. He played baseball in high school and baseball and basketball in college. After college, Dennis earned a regular commission as a Marine Corps officer. He served for 9 years in various command assignments in the US and overseas and earned the rank of Major.

He has been a Financial Advisor & Certified Financial Planner at Merrill Lynch for the past 20 years, teaming with his wife Kathi to form the O'Brien Group. Dennis also is the Head Coach of the Varsity girls' basketball team at Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead, still leading and learning from his players.

Dennis has been married to his wife Kathi for 37 years, and gives full credit to her for making it possible for him to spend so much time in gyms and on ball fields. His sons John (32) and Jim (30) both played and learned baseball, basketball and lacrosse at PYA before playing basketball and lacrosse at Chaminade High School and lacrosse in college at Harvard (John) and Princeton (Jim). Daughter Eileen (26) played basketball and lacrosse at PYA and later played lacrosse at Sacred Heart Academy before attending Colgate University.

More important than the specific sport skills, Dennis maintains that through PYA, his children always had great fun, developed sportsmanship, learned how to compete, and through the power of the team experience, made lifelong friends they still enjoy today.

Dennis emphasizes that the players, parents, coaches and leaders of PYA made a great contribution to his life, and he concludes that "Team O'Brien" has already received more from PYA than they could have ever imagined or given back.