



the Alumni Connection

News & Information for Ticonderoga High School Alumni and Friends

February 2015

Vol. 12 Issue 1

Alumni Association Recognized

Last July the Alumni Association received the following letter from Rick Dalton, President & CEO of College For Every Student. We are delighted and honored to have received this recognition from a national organization whose sole purpose is helping students.



"Congratulations on another successful year for the Ticonderoga Alumni Association! The strength of the Alumni Association is a testament to what can happen when people take time to learn from one another and commit to the goal of serving students.

I could not be more proud than to know that conversations between educators from Port St. Joe, Florida, and Ticonderoga at a CFES event 16 years ago led to the creation of the vibrant organization that has now awarded nearly \$140,000 in scholarships to hundreds of students. Your commitment to the youth goes well beyond dollars, however. You honor alumni, educators, and friends of Ticonderoga, helping current

students see what is possible and in doing so, create opportunity. You show students that you care about them, building confidence and resilience, essential skills for success.

The mission of CFES is to help first generation and low-income students get to and through college and ready to enter the workforce by engaging students, called CFES Scholars, in three core practices. Ticonderoga Central School and its alumni exemplify this mission and will continue to serve as a national model for CFES.

Please extend my congratulations to this year's award honorees and scholarship recipients. Thank you for all that you do, and please call upon me if I can ever be of assistance."

Ticonderoga Strong!

From the President:

Late on Friday, Sept. 5, 2014 a tragic suspicious fire heavily damaged St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. As our community reeled from the shock of this senseless act, we also stepped forward to help. On Saturday morning community volunteers arrived to help: students, parents, community members with varying religious affiliations, and people just driving by who saw the damage. School materials were collected around town to be donated to the students who had just completed the first days of the new school year and lost their supplies due to smoke or water damage. Books were donated to reestablish all classroom libraries which were also damaged and had to be discarded. Monetary donations also started pouring in for St. Mary's School. "St. Mary's Strong" t-shirts appeared on staff and students. Plans also began to rebuild or repair the building.

The biggest question was "where will the students attend school?" This was quickly answered! Ticonderoga United Methodist Church stepped forward immediately to offer their church classrooms and even the choir room to serve as temporary classrooms for St. Mary's Pre-K to 4th grades. The church office space would be shared with the school. The church's kitchen would be used for student meals and the Fellowship Hall became the cafeteria and gym. St. Mary's Middle School would use the space in the basement of St. Mary's. The town's Armory space would also be used for PE. Ticonderoga School District offered textbooks and revised transportation routes and schedules to accommodate these changes. School resumed on Sept. 15.

I am so proud of our community which has shown itself to be "Ticonderoga Strong". The continuing outpouring of support



Board Member Bob Dedrick, Sister Sharon Dalton, President Joyce Cooper, Vice President Steve Boyce.

for St. Mary's throughout the community is touching as well as phenomenal. To date thousands of dollars have been received in donations including \$500 from Ticonderoga Alumni Assoc. (from surplus administrative funds). But it's more than money, bricks and

books. Once again Ticonderoga has demonstrated its character and values and reinforced what we already know. Ticonderoga is a community, and we support and care for others in time of need. This is a great place to live and raise our children!

Tenth Annual Awards Ceremony

An enthusiastic audience of friends, family, and former awards recipients enjoyed our 2014 Annual Awards Ceremony at the Best Western. An hors d'oeuvres reception was followed by the ceremony honoring the 5 outstanding people whose accomplishments are highlighted below. We continue to marvel at and be touched by the career successes and/or community service of our alumni and non-alumni friends of Ticonderoga High School.

Distinguished Alumni Awards



Allen D. Moore

Allen Moore attended the one-room school in Chilson until it closed and students were bused to Ticonderoga. After graduation from THS in 1965 he attended SUNY College of Forestry at Syracuse. He served as a summer intern at IP's Ticonderoga Mill and upon graduation began his career as a forester marking timber for IP in the Ticonderoga District.

This was followed by promotions and transfers to the Tupper Lake District, Old Forge, and Glens Falls where he worked as the Regional Forester for New York, Vermont and New Hampshire. A year later Allen was recruited back to Old Forge to manage the Adirondack League Club, a 50,000 acre hunting and fishing club with 400 members. When IP approached him to return, he became manager of woodlands and a sawmill in Ashland, Maine. His next move took him south and out of forest management.

Allen joined IP's Realty Group and was given the task of selling properties around metropolitan areas that were worth more commercially than for wood harvesting. His first assignment was in Atlanta, followed by Myrtle Beach. As he watched developers of properties he sold develop golf courses and

communities, he realized an opportunity existed to put in the infrastructure and increase the value of properties he intended to sell. This included water systems, fire districts, schools, etc. He is most proud of the 26,000 home development called Carolina Forest outside of Myrtle Beach. He was soon producing more income through his developments and sales than a fully integrated mill. He was asked to move to Charlotte, NC and become President of International Paper Realty.

Throughout his career, Allen still found time to serve his communities. He was a member of the Chilson Fire Department, an EMT with the Old Forge Fire Department, and a member of the Bay Ridge Fire Department in Queensbury.

Now retired and back up north, Allen has shared his skills with the Putnam Presbyterian Church. He also serves on the Board of the Founders Center in Chilson helping to preserve historic buildings and the heritage of this hamlet. He also is busy with his very efficient sugar house, Moore's Maple Farm. We congratulate Allen for his extensive career success and service to his many communities along the way.



Richard M. Strum

Rich Strum entered THS following the annexation of Hague Central School by Ticonderoga and graduated in 1981. He received a BA in History from Houghton College and his Masters in Museum Administration from William and Mary College in 1989. He was an intern at Shelburne Museum and remained there in administration until 1999 when he left to become Director of Education at Fort Ticonderoga. In this capacity he is in charge of programing, special conferences, and symposiums. He has become a nationally known and respected leader in the field of museum outreach and education.

His accomplishments are impressive. He is an annual presenter at the NYS Council for Social Studies and Vermont Alliance for Social

Studies. He has served as Grant Evaluator of Museum Grant Programs for the NYS Council of the National Endowment for the Arts for 3 years. He also has written 3 books, *Steamboats of Lake Champlain*, and for young readers, *Causes of the American Revolution* and *Biography of Henry Knox*.

Most commendable are the additions he has made to his job responsibilities. He revived the NYS History Day Program in the area and has served as Coordinator of the North Country History Day since 2008. Under his leadership, the program has grown not only in the area of participation but in the number of students involved. Recently 2 local students who were local winners in their category went on to NYS competition and qualified for and attended the national competition in Washington. He initiated a week-long teacher institute at the fort and last year with the receipt of his second grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities expanded it to 3 separate institutes with 90 teachers attending. He also originated the Fort Ticonderoga Teacher Institute which is held annually.

Rich has also found time to serve his community. He has been a member of Kiwanis and is presently actively involved in the Masons. He has served as Master for the Lodge and Assistant Grand Lecturer and as Deacon of his church. He was also a most active member of the committee that organized last year's outstanding celebration of Ticonderoga's 250th birthday.

We thank Rich for sharing his passion for history with students, teachers, and the public and commend his many accomplishments.

Special Service Awards



Grace C. Trombley

Grace is sometimes referred to as "Amazing Grace". At a time when most people her age (91) would be content with a slower pace,

Grace continues to live a most active life and her commitment to spread the joy of music in our community remains strong.

A mother with 4 sons, Grace still managed to study piano and music when her husband's work took them to many other states. At the age of 50 she traveled to Saratoga to learn to play the organ. She describes herself as a "fairly new organist" and continues to play the organ at Ticonderoga Methodist Church's two services. She studied bell choir and formed an adult and children's bell choir, still serving as Director today. She is also the church's Choir Director.

A woman of strong faith, Grace serves as a member of the church's Administrative Council and the Membership Committee as well as Lay Leader of the Congregation, training and scheduling lay speakers for weekly services. She also has served as Conference President of United Methodist Women and is presently secretary of Church Women United.

Grace also served as a den mother when her sons were in Boy Scouts. When the family was involved in all phases of scouting at the same time, they were chosen to represent the Region. She stepped in to take her husband's place as Secretary of the Heritage Museum Board of Directors when he passed away 25 years ago and is still serving.

She has also spread the joy of music to the more than 400 children to whom she has given weekly piano lessons since 1980 and continues today. Grace is a fine example of living life to its fullest and aging 'grace' fully. This remarkable woman is an inspiration to us all.



Edward M. Vosburg

Ed Vosburg has spent almost a lifetime involved in youth sports and in making sure our town has the best recreational facilities possible. His love of sports followed him from THS into his adult life. It manifested itself through his many years of coaching and then officiating Little League. When a need for girls' softball coaches arose, he stepped forward and for many years took his teams to tournaments around the area.

He has also offered volleyball and kickball at the Youth Center and even coached St. Mary's boys' basketball when they were unable to get a coach.

His services have not been limited to coaching sports. He offers Hunter Safety courses to area youth and recently became a Certified Archery Instructor. A dog lover as well, he helped make a local resident's dream of a Ticonderoga dog park a reality. He was instrumental in the selection of an appropriate site and design for the park and helped with its construction.

Ed has been a most valuable advocate for expanding and improving our recreational facilities. He helped expand our second recreational field, ensured the girls' third field was built to proper specifications, helped build dugouts on these fields, and continues to make sure the fields are maintained. He was asked to join the Parks and Rec Committee and served as Recreational Facilities Advisor during his 10 year tenure. Thanks to Ed, our Recreational Fields are the best as well as most extensive in the area.

He also speaks proudly of his 4 years of active duty in the Army followed by 8 years in the National Guard and 20 years in the Reserves. We thank him for his service to our country and especially his continuing service to our community!

Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award



Maria Bagneschi

Maria is a non-alumna whose high school class was almost twice the size of the entire THS student body. Hired in 1996 as a special education teacher, she quickly reached out to the entire school population and "being there" for THS became her focus and passion. Her professional activities outside the classroom have included the Ti High Newsletter, Class Advisor to the classes of '01 and '06, the Building Leadership Team, and presently the District Curriculum Committee and Advisor to the Quiz Bowl Team.

An outstanding photographer, she has chronicled construction projects, events and activities in the district. She became involved with the Carillon yearbook and since 2005 has served as its advisor. Under her guidance the Carillon has developed into an outstanding delight to the eyes that sells out annually. She has also been involved in 10 international educational trips and led the past 7. She welcomes the chance to offer the possibly once in a lifetime opportunity for students to broaden their horizons by experiencing other countries and cultures. In 2014 she was named an Outstanding Educator by the NYS English Teachers Association.

We commend her for putting down roots in our community, making it her permanent residence. Her commitment to our students as evidenced by her presence at most student events and games is admirable. She is truly a "Friend of Ticonderoga High School". We are delighted she has just joined the Alumni Board as our first non-alumnus member!

Want to nominate someone for the Distinguished Alumni Award?

Download the Nomination Form on www.ticonderogaalumni.org and follow the instructions on the form.

Scholarship Awards Reach \$18,500!

Ticonderoga Alumni Association presented \$18,500 in scholarship awards to forty eight members of the Class of 2014. This amount is the largest awarded by the Alumni Association since the program started in 2006, and brings the total monies made available for college-bound seniors to \$130,000.

Graduating seniors who plan to attend college, technical school, or join the military are eligible for the award, which is based on points awarded for grades, attendance, behavior, extra-curricular activities, community service, and family involvement. Payment is made upon successful completion of the student's first semester at school.

The 2014 awards ranged from \$453 to \$269 with an average award of \$385. This June, the Class of 2015 will share a scholarship pool of \$20,000. The scholarship awards program is funded primarily by donations from alumni and friends of Ticonderoga High School. Anyone wishing more information about the program should visit the Ticonderoga Alumni Association's website at www.ticonderogaalumni.org.

In Remembrance

We are saddened by the 2014 deaths of two very special friends of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association and our community: Deborah Breitenbach and Christopher Ida. Neither graduated from Ticonderoga High School but the help and support they gave our students and/or our organization was considerable.



Deb Breitenbach was an exceptional teacher who taught English at THS for 35 years. Her support of her school, its curriculum, and especially her students was exemplary. She also supported our scholarship fund efforts by encouraging students groups to contribute to the fund as well as helped organize a group of recent THS graduates who solicited generous donations to our Scholarship Fund from non-alumni. We are most thankful we were able to honor Deb with a "Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award" in 2013. More information about Deborah Breitenbach is available on our website in our 2014 Newsletter. A copy of 2013 Award Presentation Speech honoring Deb is available upon request.



Christopher Ida was a native of Moriah and lived his entire life there. After graduating SUNY Plattsburgh with a degree in accounting, he worked with his brother Pat helping build their accounting practice in Ticonderoga. His assistance to the Ticonderoga Alumni Association was endless as he helped us get our financial affairs in order, taught our treasurer the most efficient methods to keep financial records, and helped us file NYS and IRS reports. Without Chris's guidance and brother Pat Ida's help in obtaining our 501 c 3 status from the IRS, our organization would not be the effective, efficient and financially well-organized non-profit it is today. We also appreciate Chris's lengthy service as treasurer of Ticonderoga Kiwanis Scholarship Fund which annually gives generous scholarships to three THS graduating seniors.

TICONDEROGA CENTRAL RECOGNIZED as SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

Ticonderoga was selected as a School of Distinction by College for Every Student (CFES) for the 2013-14 school year. CFES is a nation-wide, non-profit organization whose mission is to help underserved youth gain access to and achieve success in post secondary education. CFES schools target 50-100 students, known as Scholars, and provide them with mentoring, leadership training, and college awareness and success activities. Currently, CFES serves over 25,000 students in 200 schools across the United States and Ireland.

To achieve the School of Distinction recognition, CFES schools must not only provide intensive mentoring, leadership, and college awareness programs, but must also create a "college ready" culture throughout their whole school and develop activities that other schools can use as a model. Each candidate school is required to submit a portfolio that documents the school's activities. In the 2013-14 school year, only 33 schools were designated as Schools of Distinction.

The School of Distinction Selection Committee was especially impressed by the school's Give Back Day, in which high school students, acting as mentors, did service projects with groups of elementary and middle school students throughout the community. The School of Distinction banner was presented to faculty and staff at the district's first staff development day. In November, the Middle School was also honored with a plaque at the CFES National Conference.

Sentinel Support Fund Has Busy First Year



4TH GRADERS VISIT NYS SENATE CHAMBER

The Alumni Association's Sentinel Support Fund, created in 2014, provided matching grants of \$250 each to four school projects:

- The fourth grade received funds to go on a field trip to the State Museum in Albany.
- The 7th grade reading lounge received a facelift of new furniture.
- The High School Guidance Department received money to purchase supplies and refreshments for the Community Give Back Day service project.
- The High School Music Department received funding to support an architectural study of the Auditorium.

The goal of the Sentinel Support Fund is to provide financial support for educational activities that may not have been funded by the School Budget.

Applicants must develop a plan to match funds provided by the Alumni Association. The maximum amount of a Sentinel Support Fund grant is \$250.

Monies for this project come from the profits of the Alumni Association's March Bowling Tournament and Annual Golf Tournament.

Alumni Art Show To Be Held

Ten years ago an art show showcasing the skills of alumni artists was held during the 2005 Extravaganza. It was enjoyed by all who visited. This year we will repeat this event with the THS Alumni Art Show to be held in the Downtown Art Gallery in Ticonderoga from July 18 to July 25. The gallery, part of the local non-profit Ti Arts, will be open Thursday through Saturday during that time. This gallery, a wonderful presence on Montcalm Street, is free and open to the public.

All alumni artists are encouraged to display their work at this event. Works may include oil, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, pencil, photography, pottery, wood, and mixed mediums. Pictures should be matted or framed. Work does not have to be available for sale. Work should be brought to the gallery by July 18. A reception will be hosted by the Alumni Association on Wed., July 22 at the gallery

Please contact Jerry Cooper at 518-585-2640 to get information and register.

We'll Miss You!



Two Charter Members have "retired" from the Alumni Board of Directors: Sally (Wickes) Hayes and Margo (Foley) Bartolomeo. Sally and Margo, both Class of 1958 graduates and board members since 2002 (and long-time friends since childhood as well), have provided outstanding service to our organization. Sally served as Vice President from 2002 to 2014. She and her husband Mike organized and planned the 2001 and 2005 Extravaganzas. They were also the

initial organizers of our Alumni Golf Tournament and over the years built the event to what it is today: an effective fundraiser and one of the most popular tournaments in the area. Sally continued this role following Mike's death in 2009 and she will continue to be a presence at our tournaments. All of us on the Board will miss Sally's dedication, energy and organizational skills.

Margo Bartolomeo worked beside Sally and Mike on the projects mentioned above and was always known as a responsible person who would get the job done. She was an original member and continues to serve on our Finance Committee, helping to keep us on the right financial track. Margo has also provided valuable help with our annual newsletter, doing everything from folding and stuffing it for mailing in its beginning years to being the best pair of eyes and grammar/syntax expert one could ask for.

Thank you, Sally and Margo!

Congrats Dr. McDonald!



We are proud to announce that THS Alumnus and Ticonderoga Central School District Superintendent John McDonald Jr. received his Doctorate in Education from Columbia University's Teacher College in 2014. Previous degrees earned were BA from Washington and Lee University in 1988, MA from Northeastern University in 1997 and Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership from Plattsburgh State University in 1999.

John began his career in education 27 years ago at Bayside Academy in Daphne, Alabama where he served as a history teacher, Middle School Head, and Assistant Headmaster. He returned to Ticonderoga in 1995. After 1 year as a THS history teacher, he was appointed Principal of the Middle School and continued in that position until 2000. He was appointed Superintendent of Schools in 2000. The Alumni Association is most impressed with John's accomplishments, his knowledge of our community, and his leadership skills!

We also proudly note that 4 other THS graduates, Dr. William Bolton, Michael Graney, Karen Murdock, and John Witorko have gone on to serve as school superintendents. Bill Bolton, now retired, served as superintendent in 3 NYS school districts. Mike Graney is presently Superintendent of the Bolton Landing School District and John Witorko the Windham-Ashland-Jewett District in New York.

Thank You 2014 Donors!

Sentinel Honor Circle (Cumulative Donations)

\$10,000-\$19,999

Deborah (Clarke) Mars
Bridget (McDonald) Fawcett
Sanford Morhouse

\$5,000-\$9,999

Michael and Sally Hayes
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2014 Donations

Sentinel Circle **\$1,000 and Up**

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*Indicates those who have been donors 3 of the last 4 years.

The Ticonderoga Alumni Association is especially appreciative of all the donors who continue to support our Scholarship Fund.

Every attempt has been made to correctly list our donors.
Please contact Joyce Cooper (518 585-2640) should there be an error.

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Michael Andersen,
Michael J. Arthur, Walt & Dorothy Osier
—DICK & SUE LIDDELL

In Memory of Richard (Dick) Arthur

—BETTY ANN ARTHUR
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In Memory of Dr. Ray C. Beers, Dr. William
and Helen Vilardo

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CHARLES & JANET MAXWELL

In Memory of Paul Davidson

—PATRICIA DAVIDSON GEPPERT

In Memory of Deceased Members
THS Class of '69

—THS CLASS OF 1969

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and Robert W. Dedrick

—JOYCE (DEDRICK) MARTIN BARKER

In Memory of Robert W. & Anita Dedrick
and Renee Hamel

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In Memory of Adolph Diskin, Pauline Chapell,
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—JAMES & THERESA SHARKEY
EDWARD & CATHY STANILKA
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In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Rudolph J. Martin

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In Memory of John (Jack)
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—DEBBIE MCCARTHY

In Memory of Linda Varmette Mjaatvedt

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In Memory of Marion & Edmund Morette

—KATHY AND RON SCHUBIN

In Memory of Francis Nadeau

—GERALD & JEAN FORCIER

In Memory of Francis & Romaine Nadeau,
Jane and Francis Nadeau Jr.

—RICHARD A. NADEAU

In Memory of Antoinette (Toni) O'Bryan

—PAUL & MARY LLOYD BURROUGHS
DICK & SUE LIDDELL

In Memory of Dewey O'Dell

—SANDRA O'DELL

In Memory of Patricia Paniccia

—VIRGINIA LA POINTE

In Memory of Sarah Porter

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In Memory of John Mark Ross

—CHRIS & DAVE ROSS

In Memory of Jeffrey Francis Shaw

—WENDY SHAW

In Memory of Carlton Stacy

—MAUREEN STACY

In Memory of Raymond Thatcher

—ROBBIN THATCHER

In Memory of Carolyn Brown White '43

—JEAN A. HOPKINS

In Memory of Kraig White '65

—JOE AND KATHY (WHITE) LIDDELL

Honorary Gifts

In Honor of Carolyn Malaney's 90th Birthday

—JOHN & ANN MCDONALD
SUSAN RATHBUN

In Honor of the Class of 1960

—DAVID FERGUSON

In Honor of Fay Moore Poczubot

—EDWARD MOORE

In Honor of Jerry's Russell's 80th Birthday

—JOHN & ANN MCDONALD

2014 Alumni Golf Tournament



Another beautiful sunny day was on hand as 96 golfers enjoyed a perfect day for golf and the 14th annual Ticonderoga Alumni Golf Tournament. Alumni and friends joined the fun and played for a number of prizes including a dozen balls for the First Birdie on

each hole. No one should have been hungry with donuts, muffins and coffee available before play, water and apples on the course, hotdogs and Michigans near the 10th tee (all at no charge of course) and a delicious lunch following play.

We congratulate M.L. Coleman, Kathy Liddell, Barb Marriott, and Pat Trudeau for their First Place in the Women's Flight. In men's competition the Champion Flight was won by Tim Malaney, Bob Stacy, Cory Thompson, and Steve Zier. "A" Flight winners were Bill Bolton, Dick LaTour, Tom Morhouse, and Lew Sanders. "B" Flight was

won by Ralph Corbo, Dan Dorsett, Mike Graney, and PJ Graney,. Thank you to all our players!

Many thanks to our annual benefactors Paul Ingrey, Ed Konikowski, Marty Loughlin, Dieter and Miriam Schmidt, and Terry Brannock. Make sure to save July 25 on your calendars for this year's Tournament!



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Would you like to join us as we continue our mission? Volunteers to help us on our various committees and events are always welcome and appreciated. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Joyce at 518-585-2640.

Strikes for Students

Cabin fever was forgotten and laughter abounded as participants enjoyed team spirit and friendly competition during the 2014 Alumni Association's "Strikes for Students" bowling tournament. This was the third year of this event, and many were return bowlers who extended their support by bowling on more than one team and in more than one session during the 2-day tournament.

We thank our volunteers and all who participated. Please note that this tournament directly benefits Ticonderoga school children by funding our Sentinel Support Fund. (see article on page 5)

This year's tournament is being held on March 14 and 15. We look forward to seeing our alumni, school children, and friends at this and future tournaments.

Donate With PayPal!

Want to make a contribution to Ticonderoga Alumni Association through PayPal? We are now accepting PayPal payments through our website. Visit us at www.ticonderogaalumni.org and look for the PayPal box on the right side of our homepage. Click on the yellow "Donate Now" button and begin the donation process.

We thank Superintendent Dr. John McDonald and his wife Andrea for being our first PayPal donors. According to John, "PayPal was easy!"

Remember our association is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit. All donations are fully tax-deductible.