

In Memoriam

Debra Lee DeBois

Quota International of Iosco County, Michigan, United States

September 30, 2016



"Debra Lee DeBois, age 64, of Tawas City, formerly of Gladwin, passed away Sept. 30, 2016.

She was born July 15, 1952 to Frank and Helen DeBois in Gladwin. She graduated from Gladwin Area Public Schools and Central Michigan University where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in education. She began her teaching career in 1974 at the Arenac Eastern School District teaching kindergarten for 27 years, finishing her career teaching special education students for a total of 32 years and retiring in 2006. Deb remained active as a member of Arenac Eastern Retired Teacher Organization.

Deb truly loved her theatre family, the Tawas Bay Players, of which she joined in 1977. Deb's love affair with theatre began in high school, blossomed at CMU, but matured at TBP. She was a constant fixture on the board of trustees and served as an officer in several positions over the years. Deb was an exceptional actress and performed in numerous productions on stage and also as a director.

Deb's greatest contribution to TBP outside of the stage was her role as fund raiser. Deb was the heart and soul of the annual raffle. You could find her rain or shine selling raffle tickets at several events from the county fair to the cart corral at Neiman's. She was also involved in the Community Theatre of Michigan (CTAM), never missing a fall conference in almost 40 years and in 2011, Deb was awarded the Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award from CTAM.

She volunteered her time at Quota International of Iosco County, a civic organization whose goals concentrate on the hearing and speech impaired and disadvantaged women and children within the community. She was named Quota's Volunteer of the Year in 2009.

You could also find her volunteering at the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce since 2006 two days a week. Her work over the years at local events like Perchville, the Labor Day Weekend Art Fair, the Memorial Day Weekend Art Fair and Fourth of July were instrumental to the success of these events. In January 2004, Deb was selected from the community to represent the chamber as Perchville Queen for her outstanding volunteerism and leadership in supporting Tawas.

She is survived by a sister, Karen (Jim) Brubaker of Gladwin; and a brother, Ron (Linda) DeBois of Severna Park, Md. He is also survived by six nieces and nephews, Pamela, Bryan, Dianne, Meri Jo, Patrick and Michael; several great nieces and nephews; and several great-great nieces and nephews who loved her dearly. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Helen DeBois."