

**KAREN ANN PIONKE**  
**702 Merrill Lane**  
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## **HOBBIES**

**Writing, Travel, Films/Television, Museums, Historic Sites, Restaurants, Theatre, Music/Concerts, Photography, Reading, Cooking, Gardening, Fishing, Volunteerism, Sports Fanatic (Blackhawks, Cubs, Red Stars, Sky & Fever, F1, Univ. WI sports, Marquette Basketball, Manchester United & GB Packers), Board Games, Crafts and Costuming.**

## **RESUME**

### **EDUCATION**

**2007 & 2012 Northern Colorado University – Theatre**  
**2007 VanderCook College of Music-Musical Theatre Graduate Classes**

**2000 – 2008 Northeastern IL University – Chicago, IL**  
**Bachelor of Arts Degree – Secondary Education/World & US History (Double Major)**  
**Minor in theatre, speech, and film**  
**Graduated Magna Cum Laude**

**Pursued Master’s in mass communication, film, and theatre/17 credits in but the summer program was canceled**

**2004 University Nevada (Las Vegas) - Theatre Graduate Class**

**2002 - 2004 The College of Lake County Middle School Endorsement Classes Graduated w/honors**

**1998 - 2000 The College of Lake County Associate of Arts Degree – Education**

**1981 - 1983 Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI**  
**Bachelor of Science Degree - Dental Hygiene**

**1977 - 1980 Milwaukee Area Technical College**  
**Diploma of Graduation - Dental Assisting & Associate of Science Degree - Dental Hygiene**

**1974 - 1977 Alexander Hamilton High School – Milwaukee**

### **EMPLOYMENT**

**2022 - Present Occasional Writer, Consultant, Lecturer and Representative for CPA Theatricals, Inc. , Chicago**

**2006 – 2022 Viking Middle School District 56**  
**(Retired) 4460 Grand Avenue**  
**Gurnee, IL 60031**  
**847-336-2108**

**2002-2006 Drama/Speech Teacher Viking Drama, Drama Club, and Thespian Honor Society Sponsor**  
**Peter J. Palombi Middle School – District 41**

133 McKinley Ave  
 Lake Villa, Illinois 60046  
 847- 356-2118

**Drama/Film History and Social Studies/Lang. Arts Teacher**  
**Founder of Palombi Players/Thespian Honor Society Sponsor**

2000 - 2003 Grayslake Community High School – District 127  
 Color Guard Director/Marching Band

## **EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**2019 - 2021 Illinois Thespian Board of Directors**  
**2011 - 2014 National Board of Directors Education Theatre Association**  
**2002 - Present Member of the Educational Theatre Association**  
 (Individual Professional Member plus 20 yr. troupe sponsor)  
**2002 – 2005 & 2009 - 2022 Member of Illinois Theatre Association**  
**2002 - Present Member of Illinois Education Association**  
**2002 - Present Member of National Education Association**  
**2000 – Present American Historical Honor Society**  
**2007 – 2020 Member of the American Film Institute**

## **EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**2023 - Present The National Youth Theater Experience (NYTE) – Brown Theatre Louisville, KY**  
 adjudicator, workshop presenter & CPA, Theatrical representative

**Present Certification: U. S. and World History (grades 6-12)**  
 6 hrs. required for Civics and Political Science Certification

**Present Endorsements: Social Studies, Language Arts, Theatre/Speech, Theatre/Drama (Middle School)**

**2002 - 2022 Directed/produced 48 major productions and 79 minor productions**

2020 – 2022 Teacher Mentor to Julie Lettner/Digital Tech Teacher

**2018 - 2020 IL Board of Education-ILTS Theater Content Review and Test Development Committee**

**2002 - 2018 International Thespian Festival, Lincoln, Neb. (volunteer, workshop presenter and board member)**

**2010 Participate in University of WI –Madison study on caring educators**

2010 Team Lead Mentor

**2007 & 2018 Dist. 56 School Board - special recognition for outstanding contribution to school district**

**2007 Editor and contributor to *Peter Pan and Wendy* w/ Doug Rand (Playscripts, Inc.)**

2006 - 2022 Viking Middle School Social Committee (Chairperson 2015-2022)

**2005 - 2006 Shakespeare in the Park ~ Lake Villa Days (*A Midsummer's Night Dream*)**

**2002 - 2006 Set, Sound, Fly, and Props College of Lake County productions**

**2002 - 2006 Palombi Encore Committee member**

**2002 – 2006 Palombi Fine Arts Committee member**

2002 - 2006 Grayslake High School Articulation

**2005 Nominee for the Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award**

**2004 Volunteer and Attendee at the National Communication Conference – Chicago**

2003 - 2004 School Improvement Committee

2002 Judge for Chicago Metro History Fair

2002 Student Teaching at Wauconda District 118, Wauconda Middle School (7<sup>th</sup> grade U. S. History)

2001 High School Clinical Practice and Observation at Taft High School/Chicago (U. S. History)  
 and Waukegan High School (AP World History)

2000 High School Clinical Observation at Grayslake Community High School (History Variety)  
 and Middle School-Marshall Middle School/Chicago (Social Studies)

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & HONORS

- 2024 – Present Founder and Organizer of DOGG (Distinguished Openhearted Grandparents for Good) Community volunteer group**
- 2017 & 2018 Viking Middle School -IL Thespians T.A.L.E.N.T. winners (first in state)**
- 2015 & 2016 Mainstage performance (13 the musical & Addams Family) International Jr. Thespian Festival**
- 2010 & 2013 Outstanding Middle School Drama Program of the Year Educational Theatre Association**
- 2002 - Present Member of ALPHA CHI (Four Year Academic Honor Society)**
- 2002 Graduate – Northeastern IL University/Double Major-Sec. Ed. & History/Magna Cum Laude (3.82)**
- 2001 - Present Member of PHI ALPHA THETA (History Honor Society)**
- 2001 - 2002 Dean’s List for the College of Arts and Science/Northeastern University**
- 2000 Runner-up Perseverance Award – nominated by the CLC Teachers Association**
- 1999 - Present Member of PHI THETA KAPPA (Two Year Academic Honor Society)**
- 2000 Graduate - The College of Lake County/Highest Honors (3.93)
- 1999 - 2006 Grayslake Community High School Drama Booster
- 1999 - 2006 Grayslake Community High School Choir Booster
- 1999 Published story in *Prairie Companion* – A book of short stories created by U.S. Community Colleges
- 1999 Paul Simon Essay - Represented The College of Lake County (runner-up state of IL)
- 1999 Lake County PADS award for outstanding volunteer efforts
- 1999 Dist. 127 School Board - special recognition for outstanding contribution to school district
- 1998 - 2006 Grayslake Community High School (Dist. 127) Band Booster
- 1998 - 2000 Parent Advisory Board Grayslake Community High School
- 1997 - 2005 PADS Volunteer – site shift leader (homeless shelter)
- 1997 - 2000 Four academic scholarships awarded at The College of Lake County
- 1997 - 1999 Lakeview School Discovery Day – chairperson (helped establish program)
- 1996 - 2001 Established and Organized “Friday Nights Out” -Grayslake Middle School/Drug Awareness Grant**
- 1993 - 1996 Wrote and received Illinois Fine Arts Council Grants for Grayslake Dist. 46**
- 1991 - 1997 Board for Children’s Programming College of Lake County**
- 1991 - 1997 Woodview School Exploration Day – chairperson (established program)**
- 1991 Grayslake Mayor’s Committee on Drug Awareness
- 1990 – 2020 Member of several school and community committees
- 1990 - 1999 Dist. 46 Performing Arts – chairperson (established the program)**
- 1990 - 1992 Dist. 46 Market Day - chairperson
- 1990 - 1992 Grayslake Dist. 46 PTO Board**
- 1986 Finalists in the Pillsbury Bake-Off**
- 1976 Milwaukee’s Jr. Miss**
- 1974 - 1991 Awards, honor rolls, scholarships, & extracurricular activities too numerous to list
- 1974 - Present Work within the performing arts in many different capacities (radio, print ads, commercials, community theatre, fine arts committees and boards for most of my lifetime**