

Wion wears a number of hats

class act



Lifetime resident finds success in number of duties, responsibilities

BY JOHN HAUER

For the Daily Call
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Lois Wion, secretary at Wilder Intermediate School, poses with her son, Sgt. Bradley Wion, ONG, during Spirit Day at the school last week.

MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO

PIQUA — It is technically correct to say Lois Wion is the secretary at Wilder Intermediate School, but it does not do justice to all the duties and responsibilities that she handles during a typical day. She is secretary to the principal and the building, attendance officer, fill-in nurse, receptionist, financial recorder, printer, substitute parent, greeter, PA announcer, and the go-to person for just about anything. And, oh yes, she is a very successful junior high, high school, and Junior Olympic volleyball coach.

Wion has spent her whole life in Piqua. She is a graduate of the Piqua High School Class of 1981. "We were the first class to graduate from the new building," she said. "We moved into the new high school in January, and gradu-

ation was the first big event in Garbry Gymnasium." She was a member of the drill team and played volleyball and softball for the Indians. Tim and Vicki Reed came into her life during while she was in high school. "They were a positive influence during my teenage years," she said. "The person I became as an adult is due in a large part to the guidance and support they provided for me."

After PHS, Wion enrolled at Edison Community College to become a social worker to help children through Children's Services. "I thought I knew what I wanted to do, but when I job shadowed that occupation, I realized it wasn't for me," she

said. During this time, Wion married and started coaching junior high volleyball at Bennett School.

"We started a family, and I stayed at home to raise our two boys," she said. "Coaching volleyball got me thinking about an eventual career with a school." She also worked part-time for her husband's business Wion's Printing.

In 1988, with the boys in school, she became a classroom aide for special needs students at Bennett. Wion switched to Wilder School and spent five years as an aide. She left education for awhile and worked as a real

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estate agent for McVety Realty for three years. "I was mom and then new mom when our daughter was born, real estate agent, and volleyball coach," she said.

In 1999, after her daughter entered school, Wion was hired as a purchasing/receiving secretary at the Piqua Board of Education. She spent eight years in that position and transferred to secretary at Wilder. "I wanted to work with the kids, not so much the numbers," she said. "This is a perfect age group to be around. The fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders make every day an interesting one."

Wilder principal Curt Montgomery has many good things to say about Wion. "She is efficient and effective," he said. "Lois works hard to give every child a great school experience." Wion has served on the building and district Leadership Team commit-

tees. She helps with the annual Spirit Week at Wilder.

"Wion shares credit with the staff at Wilder. "We have a wonderful group here," she said. "We all pull together and cooperate for the benefit of the kids. Working with good people makes my job a lot easier." The Wilder staff uses reading as a tool to connect with the students. "We read many of the same books that the students read," Wion said. "Most recently, we all read the Twilight series and Hunger Games. This helped us to better understand our students and their interests."

Over the past two decades, Wion coached junior high volleyball at Bennett, high school volleyball at Franklin-Monroe, and now, Junior Olympic volleyball. She has been a winning coach in all three areas. For the Franklin-Monroe Jets, she was the Cross County

Conference Coach of the Year for two years. Her teams were league champs for three years, going 33-0 in CCC competition. She earned District 9 Coach of the Year. "The two big influences in my coaching career were Ed Purk and David Gray," Wion said. "Ed was the athletic director at Piqua when I started," she said. "He showed me what was important in coaching and what to focus on — the student athletes."

"When I started at Franklin-Monroe, superintendent David Gray helped me adjust to high school level coaching and the increased pressures." Wion advanced one of her F-M teams to the Division 4 Regional Finals, being one of the last eight teams left in the state in Division 4. She currently coaches the Grandlake Volleyball Club Junior Olympic team.

Away from the office and the court, Wion enjoys

reading, scrapbooking, boating, camping, and photography. She lives in Piqua with her husband Todd who is the athletic director and girls' volleyball coach at Russia High School. The couple has been married 30 years. They have two sons and a daughter. Marlee is a sophomore at Ohio University majoring in nutrition. Matthew is a teacher and volleyball coach at Upper Arlington High school outside of Columbus. Bradley, who served in the National Guard, is the Zone Merchandise Supervisor at Walmart in Sidney.