



John G. Conomikes, SMA '50

John Conomikes entered Staunton Military Academy (SMA) as a freshman in 1946. He was on the varsity track team as a junior and senior and played varsity basketball team as a senior. John was a member of the Howie Rifles as a junior and senior, and he graduated in 1950 as a Lieutenant on the 1st Battalion Staff.

Conomikes attended Miami University in Oxford, OH, and received a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh.

John is a director of Hearst Corporation, a trustee of the Hearst Family Trust established under the Will of William Randolph Hearst, and a director of the Hearst Foundations. He recently served as co-chairman of A+E Television Networks, LLC (which includes, among other brands, A&E Network, Lifetime, HISTORY, LMN, Crime + Investigation and Military HISTORY) – a joint venture of Disney-ABC Television Group and Hearst Corporation. He previously served as a director of ESPN and of Hearst-Argyle Television, Inc. (now Hearst Television Inc.), and was chairman of the executive committee of Hearst-Argyle's board of directors.

Conomikes began his broadcasting career in 1955 and joined Hearst's WTAE-TV in Pittsburgh in 1959. At WTAE-TV he served in various sales positions before becoming vice president and general manager in 1970. He was named general manager of Television for the Hearst Corporation in 1981, and in 1983 was elected a vice president of the Corporation and general manager of Hearst Broadcasting. He held this title until the 1997 merger of Hearst Broadcasting and Argyle Television – forming, at the time, the nation's fourth largest independent station group, with 15 network affiliates located from Boston to Honolulu. From August 1997 to June 1999, he served as president and co-chief executive officer of Hearst-Argyle Television. (Hearst Television now owns and operates 31 local television stations, serving

32 U.S. cities.) From June 1999 to November 2002, Conomikes was a senior vice president of the Hearst Corporation.

Conomikes is an Emeritus Trustee of the University of Pittsburgh and a member of the board's Athletics Committee, Property and Facilities Committee, and the Institutional Advancement Committee. He previously served as chairman of the Athletics Committee and was a University of Pittsburgh-appointed director of the UPMC Health System. He has served on the boards of the National Association of Broadcasters, the Television Bureau of Advertising, the International Radio & Television Society Foundation, the Association for Maximum Service Television, Inc., and is a past chairman of the ABC Television Affiliates Association Board of Governors. Conomikes also served as an Honorary Trustee of The Foundation of American Women in Radio and Television (now the Alliance for Women in Media). Conomikes has received the Man of the Year Award from the Pittsburgh Jaycees; the Golden Panther of the Year Award from the University of Pittsburgh; the Media Award from the Variety Club of Pittsburgh; the Outstanding Achievement in Broadcasting Award for Television from the Pittsburgh Radio & Television Club; a STAR Award and the 1999 President's Award from American Women in Radio and Television; the "Lifetime Achievement" Golden Mike Award from the Black Broadcasters Alliance; the Chairman's Award from the National Association of Television Program Executives; the Golden Mike Award from the Broadcasters Foundation of America; and a Broadcast Pioneer Award from the Broadcasters' Foundation. In 2004 he was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Management Hall of Fame.

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