

RHSAA TIME LINE

or how the Reno High School Alumni Association got started

1994

Nov. 22 – The concept of an on-campus repository for school memorabilia was approved by the Washoe County School District Board, following introduction of the idea by long-time teacher Bud L. Beasley. Architect Tom Casazza and 1943 graduates Len Crocker and Joe Elcano were in attendance.

1995

Jan. 9 – A meeting was held with RHS Principal Pat Rogan, who led Sanderson, Beasley, Crocker, Elcano, and Architects Ralph and Tom Casazza on a campus tour to prospect potential sites for an alumni building. Beasley attended the summer reunion of Granata's 1995 class, outlined his idea for an alumni association, and collected \$3,185 from attendees. Two days later, he visited Crocker at the latter's home and turned over the money with the words, "Okay, Croc, do something with it!"

Oct. 3 – Agreement on organization of the association was reached during a meeting in the Reno law offices of 1938 RHS graduate Frank R. Petersen. On hand were Petersen, Beasley, Crocker, Elcano, 1955 graduate Joe Granata, 1943 graduate Rose N. Meredith, 1948 graduate Len J. Savage and 1939 graduate Albert Solari. Beasley, Crocker and Granata were chosen as trustees to file for incorporation as a Nevada non-profit.

Oct. 26 – An organizational meeting of interested graduates was held in the library at Reno High School, with new RHS Principal Janet Ross in attendance. Crocker was elected association president, with Elcano as secretary and 1950 graduate James Binns as treasurer. Beasley, Granata, Rose Meredith and 1960 graduate David Minedew also were elected as trustees, with Frank Petersen as counsel.

Nov. 30 – A second general meeting was held in the RHS Library, featuring an exchange of ideas for alumni center needs and uses. A suggestion by Binns that an all-class reunion be held to publicize the association was adopted and Aug. 18, 1996, was chosen for such an event in Rancho San Rafael Park.

1996

March 14 – An association Mission Statement was adopted and a paid membership of 34 men and women was announced.

April 12 – Application for federal tax-exempt status was filed with the Internal Revenue Service by Reno CPA Albert Cartlidge.

May 1 – Architect Ralph Casazza presented an initial plan for an alumni center.

May 21 – An amended plan for an alumni center was approved and the association's first formal by-laws were adopted.

June 28 – Crocker met with RHS Principal Jan Ross and WSCD's Sanderson, and both approved preliminary plans for the alumni center.

Aug. 18 – More than 1,800 persons attended the all -class picnic at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Sept. 11 – Attorney Steven Walther accepted the position of association co-counsel, with Petersen, and began work to amend association Articles of Incorporation as part of negotiations with IRSA for federal tax-exempt status.

Oct. 17 – The association board of trustees was extended to 13 members by election of Henry Garell, Joanne Petre, Richard B. Rowley, John P. Sande III and Jack Sutton. One-year terms were drawn by lot by Beasley, Binns, Crocker, Elcano and Sutton; two-year terms by Granata, Meredith, Sande and Solari; and three-year terms by Garell, Minedew, Petre and Rowley. Officers elected for the 1997 calendar year were: President, Crocker; Vice President, Granata; Treasurer, Binns; Secretary, Petre.

Nov. 14 – State of the Association reported during the second annual general membership meeting held in Library at Reno High School.

1997

Feb. 24 - Advance ruling of federal tax-exempt status received from IRS.

March 10 - Color rendering ordered by association board through Architects Casazza, Peetz and Mickey.

March 27 - The association occupied a rent-free office provided by Trustee Al Solari "for as long as it is needed."

April 24 - During a special meeting of the Board, Trustees voted, 9-1 with three absences, to accept an offer of \$400,000 from RHS graduate Link Piazzao for construction of a Reno High School Alumni Center, with the proviso that his name be placed on the exterior of the building.

Oct. 23 - Telephone installed in RHSAA office, 825-2586 (825-ALUM)

Oct. 28 - Computer equipment ordered through Reno High School.

Dec. 30 - With "understood" Dec. 31 deadline for agreement with school district misled because of peculiarities in state law, Piazzao agreed to continue his offer of \$400,000 for the Alumni Center.

1998

Jan. 8 - Computer delivered and installed in RHSAA office. Work station, color printer, office chair purchased and installed.

Jan. 13 - Attorney John Frankovich agreed to serve as Associate Counsel, with principal duty to complete agreement with Washoe County School District.

Feb. 19 - Professional Advisory Board confirmed, with tentative membership of Virgil Aramini, Betty Jo Baker, Bill Berrum, Neal Cobb, Jim Corica, Jim Davis, Norman Dianda, Ken Fujii, Dick Kirkland, Don Manoukian, Luther Mack, Grant Markham, Marilyn Melton, Betty Munley, Andrea Pelter, Dr. Bill Pelter, Allan Ramsey, Len Savage and Bill Thornton. (Organizational meeting misfired.)

Aug. 20 - Board authorized the chair to sign a contract with Harris Publications of White Plains, NY to produce the first RHS Alumni Directory. Delivery expected within 14 months, with a 1999 date on the book.

Aug. 25 - Final approval given by the Washoe County School Board for RHSAA to lease at \$920 annually the property necessary for the Reno High School Link Piazzao Alumni Center on the grounds at Reno High School.

Aug. 31 - Signed contract for 1999 RHS Alumni Directory mailed to Harris publications.

Sept. 4 - Signed 2 5-year lease (includes 25-year extension option) with WCSD for Alumni Center site on RHS campus.

Sept. 14 - Accepted check in amount of \$100,000 from Link Piazzao to formalize architect's agreement for Alumni Center. Remaining \$300,000 of pledge due at groundbreaking for building.