



# Huskie Trails

## The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

### PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2014

**Happy New Year, everyone!** I want to thank the RHS Alumni Association Board of Trustees and the docents for their dedication, hard work and for keeping everything running smoothly this year. Kim Boldi, Class of 1980, and Bruce Pendleton, Class of 1958, joined the board this year. Two outstanding board members will be rotating off the board next year – Treasurer, Gloria Garaventa, Class of 1951; and Membership Chairman, Nettie Wong, Class of 1956. We sincerely thank them and wish them the best. We are in need of additional alumni to serve as Board members.

The big event this year was the highly successful 7<sup>th</sup> Triennial All-Class Reunion held on August 17, 2014 on the RHS campus. About 675 attended and were treated to classic cars around the circle in front of the school, a visit to the museum, an opportunity to buy RHS gear, a wonderful lunch catered by Pinocchio's, a tour through Reno High, and best of all, a chance to meet up with old classmates and swap "war stories." Special thanks to the Reunion Committee, JROTC cadets, and Student Leadership students for their help.

We awarded four scholarships to deserving seniors and coordinated the awarding of the Westover Family Scholarship in May. The RHS Alumni Leadership Medal and certificate was given to an outstanding JROTC cadet.

The Alumni Center was used by the Principal for 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation in May. We provided the incoming students with a brief history of Reno High School and Alumni Association. The center was open for Parent Night in September and also used for 3 days by RHS teachers for Freshman Seminar. The AAA (Athletics, Academics, and Activities) Club held a meeting at the museum and was provided a brief history of RHS, Alumni Association and museum. Washoe County School District also used our facilities as well as JROTC Classes and We the People participants. The museum continued to be open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays but closed on holiday weekends.

Four quarterly *Huskie Trails* alumni newsletters were published and received positive comments from members.

Seven life members were added this year. The Class of 1949 became a Bronze Level Sponsor

There are 523 members who pay dues and support the Association. This is very low compared to the many thousand graduates who aren't members. We are always in need of more members.

Daryl Pelizzari and I are members of the RHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

The Association is financially sound.

Former Trustee Betty Munley passed away in November. Our condolences go out to Betty's family. We are thankful to Betty for all that she did for our Association.

In November, Link Piazza passed away. He was a community business leader, philanthropist, military veteran, and a generous supporter of our Association. Link's financial support was instrumental in establishing our Association and in securing a space for all Reno High alumni to call their own. I would like to offer our condolences to the Piazza family.

Best wishes to all RHS teachers, staff, students, and alumni for a successful 2015.

Scott Jordan

RHSAA President

## AROUND THE RHS CAMPUS

1. RHS has a new Partner in Education – **ADIDAS**. This company will become the official apparel provider for the school. The deal is the first of its kind in Northern Nevada and will give RHS a percentage of the proceeds from each purchase.
2. Senior **Ellie Small** was named the girls soccer offensive player of the year – for the fourth straight year.
3. Sophomore **Kyra Hunsberger** won the Division 1 North Region girl’s championship cross country race.
4. **McKenna LeVitt** won the Regional girls tennis singles championship.
5. Refurbishing projects this year include the reconstruction of several bathrooms, replacement of three drinking fountains, and upgrading the College and Career Center (See March Madness Fundraiser flyer on the back page).
6. The RHS boy’s tennis team was unbeaten during the season, won regionals, but lost at state.
7. There are four National Merit Scholar semifinalists this year – **Sierra Jickling, Tyler Hart, Clay Harrison, and Matt Biondi**.
8. Lt Col Nicole Gardner, RHS JROTC cadets, and color guard were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to this year’s Journal Jog.
9. RHS football coach, **Dan Avansino** was elected to the Carroll College (Montana) Hall of Fame. Over a three-week period in the fall of 1996, Dan tied the school record for rushing touchdowns in a game, recorded the program’s third best rushing game, and shattered the single game rushing record by more than 75 yards. He was selected a 1996 first team NAIA All-American. Dan has been the RHS varsity football coach since 2000.
10. The Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows is an official partner of RHS.

## REUNIONS AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

2015 is upon us and plans are already in progress for class reunions. Contact your class representative found on our web site for further information. We are in need of class representatives for the following classes:

1945,  
1976,  
1986,  
1991,  
2004,  
2006 to 2014.

Class representatives help coordinate their class reunions and are a point of contact for the RHS Alumni Association.

If you would like to serve as a class representative in one of the above classes, please notify us by calling **Betty Jo Baker, (775)851-3203**.

## ALUMNI NEWS

1. **Joyce Nielsen Laxalt**, Class of 1944, passed away in September. She was a teacher at Wooster High, widow of author Robert Laxalt and sister-in-law to former Nevada governor and U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt.
2. **Don Manoukian**, Class of 1955, was a two time All-American football player at Reno High and played football, lifted weights, and wrestled at Stanford University. Don also played professional football for the Oakland Raiders after Stanford.. He became a professional wrestler and later a successful Real Estate Commercial developer. Don died in September.
3. **Carolyn Jean Carlon**, Class of 1943, was one of the first sworn Reno female police officers and was named officer of the year in 1984. She retired after 23 years and passed away in October.
4. **Elizabeth (Betty) Munley**, Class of 1951, recently died. She was a Navy veteran, an advocate for seniors, and served on the RHS Alumni Association Board for many years. In 1993 Betty was honored with the Nevada Attorney General's "Silver State Citizen's Award."
5. At the age of 95, **Harry Ackerman**, Class of 1936, is the oldest active member of the RHSAA.
6. Army veteran, **Major John Riggs**, Class of 1964, was the grand marshal for this year's Veteran's Day Parade in Reno on November 11<sup>th</sup>.
7. **Michael Wiess**, Class of 2009, is swimming the 400-meter medley and the 800 meter freestyle relay in world competition.
8. Entertainer, **Cami Thompson**, Class of 1976, performed her annual Christmas concert at Nightingale Concert Hall at UNR.
9. **Jeff Tomac**, Class of 1985 and RHS counselor, planned and organized the annual Sierra Nevada Classic wrestling tournament in Reno. The event brought in 86 schools and 1,000 wrestlers.

### AUTHOR, AUTHOR WHERE ART THOU

The Reno High School Alumni Association Museum has a small collection of books authored by Reno High Alumni. We are hoping to expand the collection which is now on display in the Museum lobby. If you are a published author and would like to donate an autographed copy of your book to the Museum, then we are looking for you.

Your donation can be mailed to Reno High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 5807, Reno, NV 89513. Better yet, stop by for a visit; we would love to meet you. The Museum is open on Fridays 2pm - 5pm and Saturdays 10am - 2pm.

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

*From the Superior California News dated November 24, 1967:*

#### RENO SCHOOL IS DESTROYED BY BLAZE

Three firemen suffered minor injuries when a fire gutted an abandoned school near the downtown area, half of which had been sold only 10 days ago for \$500,000. The fire was discovered about 1 p.m. yesterday in Central Junior High School – formerly Reno High School..... Before the flames were controlled two hours later, most of the section facing West Street had been gutted.

The Washoe County School District sold half of the property Nov. 14 to a group represented by real estate broker Otto Ahner for \$486,000. School trustees had been trying to sell the property without success.

At that time, board members awarded a \$22,500 contract to L.A. Danson Co. to raze the building.



## **FAREWELL TO LINK PIAZZO**

One of Reno High School's distinguished alumni, Link Piazza, class of 1937, passed away on November 14, 2014. He was 95 years old. Reno High, the RHS Alumni Association, and Reno community are indebted to this generous philanthropist.

In 1938, with his brother Chet, Link founded The Sportsman sporting goods store. In December of 1941, Link enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He became a B25 pilot and completed 67 combat missions during World War II. He was awarded 14 medals for his service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Link and Chet resumed management of the Sportsman after the war, a career that would cover 60 years. Link served as president of the Western Sporting Goods Association and National Sporting Goods Association.

He began a lifelong commitment to community service as a result of the war. He said in an RGJ interview in 2013 that it was his war experiences – including many narrow escapes that he detailed in his autobiography, "It Can Always Be Worse. Never Give Up" – that prompted him to give back. "I was on my way home on the boat and said to myself, 'God saved me for a reason. If I ever have any amount of money, I want to help people in my community.' That's why I did it."

Link was an active member in a number of community organizations including the 20-30 Club, the Reno Rotary and the Sierra Sportswriters and Broadcast Association. He was the voice of UNR football and basketball games from 1947 through 1952. Link was the co-host of the Sportsman's Corner television show, later known as Sportsman's Trails. He was also a co-organizer of the first Reno Little League and the city's junior ski program.

He was awarded a number of honors for his civic activities. These honors included Junior Achievement Laureate, Reno Chamber of Commerce Civic Leader of the Year, Reno YMCA Red Triangle, Humane Society Community Protection Award, and the Board of Regents Nevada System of Higher Education and Distinguished Nevadan.

He donated money to Reno High School, Nevada Humane Society, University of Nevada Reno Athletics Department, Reno YMCA, Reno Rotary, Rotary International, Saint Mary's Hospital, City of Reno Community Center, and Pet Network Animal Friends of Incline Village. Through a special donation, the Reno High School Link Piazza Alumni Center, our unique high school museum, was built in 1999 and opened in January 2001 on the Reno High campus. A display case honoring Link is found in the museum.

Governor Brian Sandoval said in a statement, "Link Piazza is one of Northern Nevada's great icons. He served our country with dignity and honor and his generosity, goodwill and kindness have made an indelible impact on generations of Nevadans."

Link will be missed, but not forgotten. He left behind a lasting legacy, and our condolences go out to his family and friends.



## DAWN WELLS BOOK SIGNING



Dawn Wells, RHS Class of 1956, was in Reno for a book signing at Barnes & Noble on October 8, 2014. She played Mary Ann on *Gilligan's Island* and wrote a book entitled, "What would Mary Ann Do?"

With Dawn Wells are Velda Warren, Jerry Smith, Nancy Kwapil, Dick Belaustegui, Pat Klos, Carol Greene, Barbara Courtney, Olivia Swaner, Judy Dollinger, Elsa Roussel, Noel Manoukian, and Judy Brown.

## MARCH MADNESS

One major reason Reno High continues to be the crown jewel of public education in Nevada is due to the continued support of the community and its strong alumni network. On Saturday, March 21, 2015, Reno High School will be hosting its second annual March Madness fundraiser at the Eldorado Hotel-Casino. This fundraiser is geared toward refurbishing the existing College and Career Center and turning it into a hospitable place for students and parents to get help with the daunting process of applying for scholarships, filling out job applications, completing resumes, and applying for college. The event will include dinner, silent auctions, basketball, and a live auction. Please consider attending the event or donating an item to be auctioned off. For more information, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets, contact Assistant Principal Linda Feroah at 327-0777 or at [lferoah@washoeschools.net](mailto:lferoah@washoeschools.net).

## FIRST ANNUAL RHS BAND ALUMNI NIGHT

As stated in the last newsletter, the RHS Band Boosters are inviting former band members to a special event on January 23, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the band room IA6 (former industrial Arts building). For more information, contact Judy Harrison at email [judykharrison@gmail.com](mailto:judykharrison@gmail.com). Please pass this information to any RHS Band alumni.

## **FOOTBALL FACTS (BELIEVE IT OR NOT)**

1. The huddle was used in football was created by deaf quarterback Paul D. Hubbard....so the other team couldn't read his hand signals.
2. The total play time in a football game.... averages 11 minutes.
3. Football evolved in medieval Europe from "mob football." There were an unlimited number of players and you had to get the ball to the center of town any way you could... as long as it did not lead to manslaughter.
4. Since the American Professional Football Association became the National Football League in 1922.....The Chicago Bears are the only team not to change its name or city.
5. Every single NFL football is made in a Wilson factory in the village of Ada, Ohio.
6. The highest score in football ever occurred in 1916... when Georgia Tech beat Cumberland 222 to 0.
7. The Baltimore Ravens are named after Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem "the Raven" and not the bird.
8. It takes 600 cows to make enough footballs...for one NFL season.
9. The Dallas Cowboys haven't played in Dallas since 1971.....The Cowboys Stadium is located in Arlington, Texas.
- 10.The St. Louis Rams were the first NFL team .... to use their logo on their helmets.
- 11.The Green Bay Packers are the only NFL team that is a publicly owned corporation.
- 12.President Theodore Roosevelt radically changed American football rules... he introduced the forward pass in 1906.
- 13.Dr. James Naismith introduced helmets to football...but he is better known as the inventor of basketball.
- 14.Former Minnesota Vikings kicker Fred Cox invented the NERF football in 1972... he still receives royalties for every unit sold.
- 15.The NFL is considered a non-profit... and is thus tax-exempt.
- 16.The NFL requires that all stadiums be built facing north/south... so the sun never interferes with a play.
- 17.The average life expectancy of an NFL player... is 55 years.



We are again ramping up for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual March Madness Gala fundraising event which will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Eldorado Hotel-Casino. We hope you will make plans to join us for an evening of NCAA basketball and fun! This event will feature both a live auction and silent auction and tickets will go on sale December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ticket Cost: \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of 10 and can be purchased from Tina Rooker in the Asst. Principal's office at the school.

Last year we were very fortunate to have outstanding donations of items and services provided for both the live and silent auctions and we hoping that the Reno High School community will again generously participate in this worthwhile fundraising event. Below are listed some examples of the types of donations we received last year:

- Golf foursomes or golf packages
- Weekend getaway packages
- Photography packages
- Concert tickets
- Group dinners
- Wine tasting tours
- Sports tickets

Our students will once again be creating their one-of-a-kind baskets which will be available during our silent auction event. If you have empty baskets around the house and would like to donate them, please feel free to drop them off in the Asst. Principals' area and we will put them to good use.

If you have anything you would like to donate for our event, if you have questions or suggestions, or if you or your business would like to be a sponsor, please contact Linda Feroah (327-0777) at the school or by email at [lferoah@washoeschools.net](mailto:lferoah@washoeschools.net)

**ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE RENOVATION  
OF OUR COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER!!**

Washoe County School District  
RHS Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 30425  
Reno, NV 89520



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VICE PRESIDENT....	J D Schnabel	Retired Staff
CHAIR MEMBERSHIP..	Craig Lemons	1979
SECRETARY.....	Brien Karlin	2001
TREASURER.....	Kim Boldi	1980
TRUSTEES: Betty Jo Baker.....	1951	
Marilyn Bell.....	1959	
Neal Cobb.....	1958	
Daryl Pelizzari....	1952	
Bruce Pendleton....	1958	
Larry Pizorno.....	1956	