



# Huskie Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

## President's Corner

Happy New Year Everyone,

Well, this has been a very busy year with many accomplishments and issues. I've listed the major ones in the President's Overview of the Year 2017 on the following page.

I must tell you that I will be leaving the Reno High School Alumni Association after 9 years effective January 1, 2018. It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the board and 5 years as president. While I did not attend Reno High as a student, I taught JROTC for 18 years (1990-2008) which qualified me to be on the board as a faculty member. As a retired teacher, I felt very close to the faculty and staff of Reno High and was fascinated with the school's history. Over the years, I've seen many board members come and go and some have sadly passed away. All board members had great experiences while attending Reno High and are dedicated to the Association. While I appreciate the efforts of all board members, I especially want to recognize Daryl Pelizzari and Betty Jo Baker for their amazing work at keeping the museum and Association running smoothly over the years. For the past 8 years, I've put together the quarterly RHSAA newsletter, *Huskie Trails*, which could be quite challenging at times. I've wanted to share information on Alumni, teachers, staff, and the current accomplishments of students. If I can't be anything, I can be entertaining. Serving on the board has been a rewarding experience and I want to thank you all for encouraging me over the years.

**John Watson**, class of 1965, who has served as the board treasurer for the past year has been elected president. He has a vast knowledge of the Reno community and has spent many extra hours solving financial issues. John will do a great job. **Kathy Wilcox**, class of 1982, will assume the duties of treasurer and has already proven to be a great asset to the Board. I want to introduce two new board members – Howard Moy, class of 1969 and Barbara Kinnison, class of 1961. I know they will make great contributions to the Association in the years to come. I wish you all the very best in all your endeavors.

J.D. Schnabel  
President, RHSAA

## PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017

I want to thank the RHS Alumni Association Board of Trustees and the museum workers for their hard work in keeping everything running smoothly this year. John Watson did a wonderful job as the board treasurer. We had four new board members join us this year – Bill Newman, 1976; Kathy Wilcox 1982; Howard Moy, 1969; and Barbara Kinnison, 1961. We still mourn the passing of board member, Marilyn Bell, 1959.

Thirteen classes celebrated their reunions this year and most were planned in conjunction with the all-class reunion in August.

The main effort this year was planning and coordinating of the 8th Triennial All Alumni Reunion which was a great success. Nearly 450 alumni signed up and enjoyed Pinocchio's buffet, tours through Reno High and museum, classic cars and background music. The best part was reminiscing with old classmates about their days at Reno High. Special thanks to the class of 1957 for raffling off a child's rocking motorcycle which earned over \$1,300 for the Alumni Association. Through their donations, classes of 1957 and 1967 earned places on the bronze level plaque in the entrance to the museum. Our biggest challenge was putting the word out about the reunion because most alumni don't belong to the Association and didn't hear about it.

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 were presented to an outstanding JROTC cadet.

The Alumni Center was used by the Principal for 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation in May. The center was also used for 3 days by RHS teachers for Freshman Seminar, and the Washoe County School District used our facility many times. The roof of the museum developed water leaks but the problem was solved by sealing the affected areas. 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. We are always looking for interesting articles to include.

The RHSAA website, [renohighalum.com](http://renohighalum.com), was periodically updated by Brien Karlin and assisted by Howard Moy. We thank Cal Pettengill for inputting the class of 2017. We converted our phones and internet from AT&T to Charter and added Wi-Fi.

Nine life members were added this year.

There are 490 active members who support the association and museum. This is very low compared to the many thousand graduates who aren't members.

There are 27 RHS teachers and staff members who are Reno High alumni.

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

The Association is financially sound. As a nonprofit organization, we depend on alumni membership dues and donations for the on-going operation of the Association.

We thank you for your continued support of the Alumni Association and museum and look forward to a great 2018.

J.D. Schnabel  
President

## AROUND THE RHS CAMPUS

1. The former Reno High AAA Club is now the RHS Booster Club.
2. Seniors **Tommy Challis** and **Mikayla Shults** were selected to the 2017-18 American Family Insurance All-USA Northern Nevada Basketball preseason boys and girls' teams. The All-Northern Nevada teams represent the best players in the Northern 4A.
3. RHS girls golf coach Laura Beglin was named Coach of the Year. **Abbi Fleiner** made first team.
4. Reno High had a great football season with a 12-1 record. However, the Huskies lost in the playoff for the Northern Nevada championship against Reed 24 to 21.
5. Senior **Brandon Kaho**, Northern Nevada football player of the year, has agreed to play for University Washington next year. He was invited to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Linebacker **Siaosi Finau** was chosen as the defensive player of the year and made first team all-region. Others making first team all-region besides Kaho and Finau include **Logan Hutcherson** and **Keegan Feroah**.
6. Reno High achieved a 93% graduation rate in 2017 which was one of the highest rates in Nevada.
7. While the RHS volleyball team achieved first place (11-0) in league play, it lost to Bishop Manogue for the Northern Nevada championship. **Karson Nakagawa** was selected as the volleyball player of the year in the High Desert League.
8. Over \$40,000 was raised through the Huskie Harvest Fundraiser in November. The money will be used to enhance the student experience on campus with technology and flexible study areas. The recent RHS library renovation was the result of monies from last years' fundraiser. Thanks to those alumni who participated.
9. Freshman **Penelope Smerdon** won the 4A girls Cross Country Regional Championship and came out in second place in state. Reno girls won the High Desert League team title.
10. Reno High's tennis doubles partners **Jill Rovetti** and **Jazlyn Parker** won the regional girls' doubles championship. They also teach tennis to children with Down syndrome. Both boys' and girls' tennis teams were 4A regional champions. **William Boyden** and **Nicholas Rinehart** won the boys' regional doubles championship.
11. **Cheryl Williams Arobio** who served as Attendance Secretary in the front office for many years recently died following heart surgery. Cheryl retired last spring and was always friendly and willing to help everyone.

## SMILE

**Wife:** I have a bag full of used clothing I'd like to donate.

**Husband:** Why not just throw it into the trash. That's easier.

**Wife:** But there are poor starving people who can really use these clothes.

**Husband:** Honey, anyone who fits into your clothing is not starving.

*The husband is recovering from a head injury now!*

\*Losing weight doesn't seem to be working. So I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.

\*The brain is the most amazing organ. It works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from birth until you fall in love.

\*Did you know that line dancing was started by women waiting to use the bathroom.

## **RENO HIGH GRADUATE DIES IN LAS VEGAS SHOOTING**

It is of great sadness that we report that **Jennifer Irvine**, class of 1994, was killed while attending the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017. The mass shooting resulted in 58 deaths and 527 injuries.

After graduating from Reno High, Jennifer attended the University of San Diego and later received her law degree from California Western School of Law. She launched her own family law and criminal defense firm in 2011 after working for other law offices in San Diego and running a property management company in Reno for seven years. Jennifer served as a professional commentator on criminal trials. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.

## **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI DIES**

**Donald Carano**, class of 1949, one of the most influential figures in Reno's history who revolutionized the local gaming and resort industry; was a partner at one of the state's most powerful law firms; and built one of California's top selling wineries, died on October 3, 2017 at the age of 85 years. After high school, Don graduated from the University of San Francisco, and served two years as an officer in the U.S. Army. He returned to USF, graduated with honors from law school, and was a founding member of the prestigious McDonald Carano law firm. In 1967, he became a partner in the Boomtown Casino, and in 1972 he became a co-owner of the Pioneer Inn on Virginia Street. His true legacy began in 1973 when he opened the Eldorado Hotel Casino and in 1993, Don announced the opening of the Silver Legacy, the first mega-themed resort in Reno. The Caranos purchased land in Sonoma County, California and founded the Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery in 1981. Don is the recipient of numerous awards for his community contributions and achievements including the more recent award of UNR's Distinguished Nevadan recognition. His ventures were anchored by his strong belief in teamwork and family values.

## **DAVID PADGETT TAKES OVER AS HEAD BASKETBALL COACH**

**David Padgett**, class of 2003, and RHS basketball standout, has been named interim head basketball coach for the University of Louisville Cardinals. After RHS, David played basketball for Kansas then transferred to Louisville. He played basketball for several years in Spain then became assistant coach at Louisville. David obtained the head coach position after coach Rick Pitino was fired on October 16 after 16 seasons for federal bribery charges. Padgett received a one-year contract for \$400,000 plus incentives and another \$400,000 for TV and radio shows. Louisville is enjoying a 10 win 3 loss record so far. David is 32 years old, 6 foot 11 inches tall, married to wife Megan and has two children, Nolan and Gavin.

David's father, Pete Padgett, who played basketball at UNR, taught at RHS from 1996 to 2008 as basketball coach, P.E. and driver's education teacher, Dean of Students, and Athletic Director. David sister, Melissa Padgett, class of 2000, played basketball for the University of San Diego and is a member of RHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

## OTHER ALUMNI NEWS

1. Reno High graduate **Joey Lavallee**, class of 2013, is a senior at the University of Missouri. He has a 10-0 record and wrestles at 157 pounds. Joey finished runner-up at the NCAA Championships last spring. As a Huskie, he won the Nevada state tournament four times.
2. **David A. Dungan**, class of 1952, was honored by being selected as this year's honoree during the University of Utah's Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony. This is one of the biggest events at the school. While attending the University of Utah, David played football and was an All-Conference quarterback in 1955. He was a career Naval officer, serving from 1956 to 1968, as a Naval aviator. During the Viet Nam war, he flew 192 combat missions and was awarded two distinguished flying crosses and three air medals. David retired as a captain and was awarded the legion of merit. In 2013, David was inducted into the Reno High School Athletic Hall of Fame.
3. **Dr. Remy Lamberts**, class of 2001, recently joined the staff of Urology of Nevada.

## WORKERS NEEDED

We are again asking for your help. There is a great need for museum volunteer workers, formally known as docents. Their job is to meet twice a month for a few hours and sort, arrange and properly display donated memorabilia in a professional manner. This is a great retirement position, and if you are interested in helping, contact Betty Jo Baker at 851-3203.

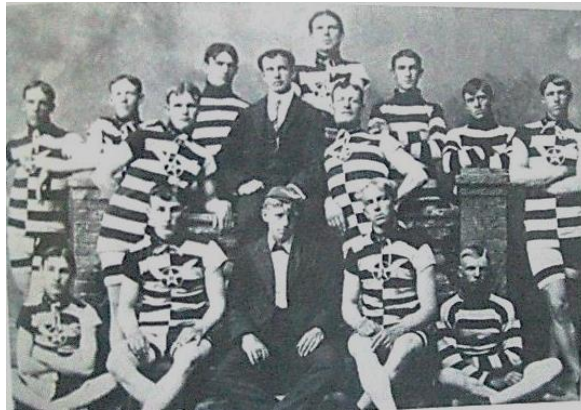
## CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class Reps are points of contacts for their classes in planning and coordinating their class reunions. The RHSAA maintains a list of class representatives and assists them in advertising their reunions through our website and newsletters. We also direct alumni who call the office looking for information about their reunion to these class reps. There is a need of class representatives for the classes of 1948, 1968 (50<sup>th</sup> year reunion), 1991, and 2008 to the present. If you know someone who would like to represent these classes, please again call Betty Jo Baker.

## WHAT IS LOVE?

A group of 4-8 year olds were ask this questions: "What does love mean?" This is their replay:

1. Karl, age 5 – Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.
2. Noelle, age 7 – Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.
3. Elaine, age 5 – Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.
4. Chris, age 8 – Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.
5. Mary Ann, age 4 – Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
6. Lauren, age 4 – I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
7. Jessica, age 8 – You really shouldn't say "I love you" unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.
8. Rebecca, age 8 – When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.



## Reno Wheelmen's Club

*An article appeared in the July 24, 2011 addition of the RGJ by Patty Cafferata entitled, "Automobiles, Fire Destroyed Cycling Craze in Reno." It highlighted a bicycle club started by some Reno High graduates at the turn of the last century:*

"In 1896, local young men joined the national cycling fad and organized the Reno Wheelmen's Club. Initially, about 14 to 20 riders met in Charlie Becker's tobacco store and elected Edward Lachman (RHS Class of 1892) as temporary chair and Charlie Becker as the secretary.

The club adopted wide maroon and white striped uniforms to wear during races. The riders agreed to pay a membership fee of \$1 and dues of fifty cents a month.

The members were described as Reno High School graduates, good, strong and honest boys. The club's bylaws prohibited drinking and gambling on the club's premises.

The next year, the club leased a suite of rooms on the northwest corner of Second and Virginia streets. They installed billiard tables and equipped an athletic room with weights and tumbling mats. The club rooms attracted downtown businessmen so when they joined, the association became the major social organization in town.

After the cyclist hired a professional trainer, King Ryan, the club began consistently winning races. In 1900, Reno won the Pacific Coast Bicycle Championship. During the next five years, the club defended its title 11 times and lost only twice.

In August 1899, the Reno Wheelmen's Club incorporated and issued 5,000 shares of stock at par \$10 to build a clubhouse and bicycle track. In 1902, the organization paid W.H. Hamilton \$1,200 for his land on Chestnut Street (currently Arlington Avenue) north of the first Twentieth Century Clubhouse (now the parking lot of St. Thomas Aquinas Church).

By 1904, the men's gigantic two-story wooden building extended from Chestnut Street west to the alley. The structure contained a gym, and dance hall, banquet room, billiards room and swimming pool.

With the advent of motorcycles and automobiles, the bicycling rage declined in Reno and elsewhere. In 1904, after the first Reno automobile club organized, bicycling was never the same in town. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake broke up the California clubs, and teams were not available for races.

On December 21, 1909, a fire broke out in the Wheelmen's gym/theater. The blaze destroyed not only their clubhouse but also the red brick St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church built next door in 1908. Once the fire reached the roof of the church, the ceiling caved in destroying the rest of the building, except the front wall and towers on Second Street. The Twentieth Century Clubhouse sustained minor damage.

Volunteers raced into the church and rescued some of the altar pieces and pews, but could not save the new \$4,000 pipe organ. The church building and furnishings were partially covered by insurance. Money was quickly raised to rebuild St. Thomas, but the Wheelmen's clubhouse was not rebuilt.

*(From his diary, William Clarke Webster, Class of 1910, wrote: "On the evening of Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, we had one of the biggest fires of the year. The Wheelmen Theatre burned and took off the roof of the new Catholic Church.")*

In 1986, spurred by new interest in cycling, local riders organized the Reno Wheelmen Club. The group has produced world famous cyclists, such as Tour de France champion Greg LeMond, Olympian Inga Thompson, class of 1982, and others.

## RHS – FALLOUT SHELTER



Reno High School was designated as a civil defense fallout shelter, one of 41 in Reno in the 1960's. During the Cold War with the threat of a nuclear attack, many people needed a place to go for protection. Reno High had the capability of caring for 2,000 local residents in emergency situations. They could live in the tunnels and rooms under the school for 4 weeks. Rations, water containers, first aid kits, portable bathrooms and supplies were stored there. There was even a phone system installed, and an air filtration system. Three teachers were trained in shelter management – first aid and group psychology. Each family was assigned to a specific shelter in Reno. The main library in Reno was also designated as a fallout shelter. Picture is of J.D. Schnabel checking out the RHS shelter.

## BASEBALL AT RENO HIGH SCHOOL

The first time an RHS baseball team was mentioned was in the 1919 yearbook. Mr. L.S. Neeb was the baseball coach and also the football coach. The team had a practice game with UNR and games with Susanville and Stewart. There was no baseball season in 1920 due to all sports being cancelled that year because of the flu epidemic. In the 1921-1922 yearbooks, baseball was called a minor sport or “other sport” or baseball club. The only official varsity sports at that time were football, basketball, and track and girls’ basketball.

Nothing was mentioned about baseball until 1938 when Bud Beasley established baseball again as a minor sport or baseball club. Other minor sports include skiing, tennis and swimming. Yearbooks don’t always cover baseball because it is a spring sport and that’s when yearbooks are at the publishers. Bud continued to coach for the next few years trying to establish baseball as a major sport and played against places like the state prison, UNR fraternities, and a few schools. In 1948, under the direction of Coach Beasley, the Reno High team won the American Legion Junior State Baseball Conference. In 1949-1950, baseball became a major sport in high school and its players were welcomed into the Block R club. Bud continued to coach the baseball team until 1971 and is considered the father of RHS baseball. He was also well known as a semi pro baseball player.

Since that time, Reno High baseball coaches included Gene Scattini, Tom Owens, Bill Penuluna, Jim Pace, and Pete Savage.

## THE BELL

Central School was opened in Reno in 1879 and contained a bell tower and a 1,200 pound bell that rang students in and out of school. The high school, referred to in early newspaper articles as Reno High School, occupied the upper floors and the elementary grades were on the lower floors. In 1911 the school was



demolished to make room for a larger high school that was named Reno High School. The night before the demolition, there was a last ringing of the bell, which lasted from midnight to 1:00 a.m.

It was unknown where the bell went after that but it was later said to be in a room on the roof of the new school. A shop teacher said he rang the bell with a hammer since there wasn’t a clapper in the bell. The building, which was later called Central Junior High School, was torn down in 1967, and it was again unknown where the bell was stored. However, the



bell was discovered in the Washoe County School District warehouse on 9<sup>th</sup> Street in 1999.

The bell was to be donated to the new Reno High School Alumni Museum but first had to be refurbished. It was sent to the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City where it was cleaned and painted in the original color of green with red on the inside. The refurbishment by the railroad museum was paid for by a donation of \$4,500 from Earl Avansino. The bell now sits on a stand in the entrance of the museum and still can be rung by turning the wheel.

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