



# HUSKIES TRAILS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RENO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer 2003

## Sports Complex named for Beasley

Dr. Bud Beasley, the 92-year-old educator whose baseball teams won seven league championships during his 40 years of teaching and coaching at Reno High School, now has his name up there for everyone to see as they traverse Foster Drive, alongside the school.

RHS Principal Robert Sullivan presided over a May 1 ceremony during which he read a proclamation by Reno Mayor Bob Cashell that designated the date as Bud Beasley Day in Reno (See photo on page three).

Sullivan then made the announcement prior to a baseball game between Coach Pete Savage's Huskies and the Ron McNutt-coached Carson Senators, that the area encompassing the baseball stadium and the football/track & field facility has

been formally designated as the *Bud Beasley Athletic Complex* (Photo below by Joe Granata).

Savage and McNutt both are long-time friends of Beasley, who urged the players on both teams to enjoy the competition and to take advantage of the opportunities that athletics afford them.

Weakened by recent illness and walking for the occasion with the aid of crutches, "Beas" submarined a ceremonial first pitch, then was surrounded by admiring young athletes from both teams.

"Yes, the pitch was underhanded," Beasley said afterward, "but it was a strike!"

Beasley and his wife of 60-plus years, Nellie, were joined by a number of his former students and players, including Len "L. J." Savage,

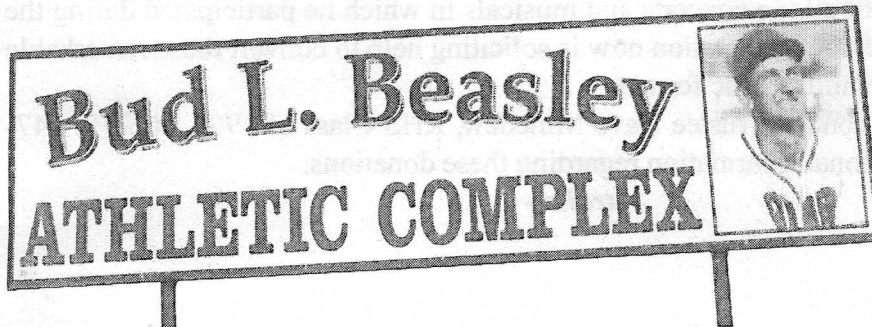
a 1948 RHS graduate who led the move to have the coach's name placed on the athletic complex.

A by-lined story by Red & Blue school newspaper Sports Editor David Calvert lauded Beasley for his career in education that dates back to 1936 and includes teaching history, English, physical education and mathematics, while at various times coaching baseball, softball, football, gymnastics, boxing and fencing.

Beasley was credited with helping design the Reno High School building on Booth Street, which opened to students in the Fall of 1951, and with suggesting the distinctive yellow tiles that line the hallways.

Beasley is acknowledged as the driving force that led to creation of the RHS Alumni Association, "pitching" a 1995 reunion of Joe Granata's Class of 1955 for funding, then delivering some \$4,000 to 1943 graduate Len Crocker with the challenge, "There you go, Croc. Now DO something with it!"

The move led to organization and incorporation of the Association later that year as a Nevada non-profit, with Beasley, Crocker and Granata as its founding trustees.



## '96 grad Ryan Kuo writes from Iraq

1LT Ryan Kuo, a 1996 graduate of Reno High School, sends regards from Iraq, where he is on combat duty with the U. S. Army.

"I was in Kuwait for six months and have been in Iraq for two and one-half," he writes. (His unit fought its way up to and helped capture Baghdad.)

"It's good to see everyone's doing well on the (Alumni website) page, although I didn't know most of you. In case any of you are bored or interested...and since mail's about the only entertainment over here, I'll leave my address:

"1LT Ryan Kuo, A Co, TF 1-64 Armor, 2BCT, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech) Unit #93206, APO, AE 09303-3206."

His e-mail address: [ryan.kuo@us.army.mil](mailto:ryan.kuo@us.army.mil).

## Reunions? Sure!

Members of at least eight classes will gather in Reno again this summer, according to information on the RHSAA's official website: [www.renohighalum.com](http://www.renohighalum.com).

They will span a period of 50 years, from the 60th anniversary for the Class of 1943 to the 10th for the Class of '93.

Also planning get-togethers are classmates from 1953, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1973 and 1983.

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*Put it on disc?*

## Treasury of band recordings donated

Recent donations by a former Reno High School teacher and an administrator have added to the lore held in trust by the Association.

Andrea Rosachi Chatburn, the daughter of long-time School Vice Principal Andrew Rosaschi, donated some of her mementoes, including pictures of Mr. Rosaschi and other men of the Rosaschi family meeting in Italy during World War II. The retirement plaque Mr. Rosaschi received from the School Board is included in the material.

John Tellaisha, a fondly remembered music teacher, was asked if he might have recordings of any musical performances he directed. 'Mr. T' sent a treasure trove of tapes of all the concerts and musicals in which he participated during the 1950 and '60s. The Association now is soliciting help to convert these remarkable recordings to compact disc format.

Please contact Trustee Dave Minedew, RHS Class of 1960, at (775) 747-1101, for additional information regarding these donations.

—trails—

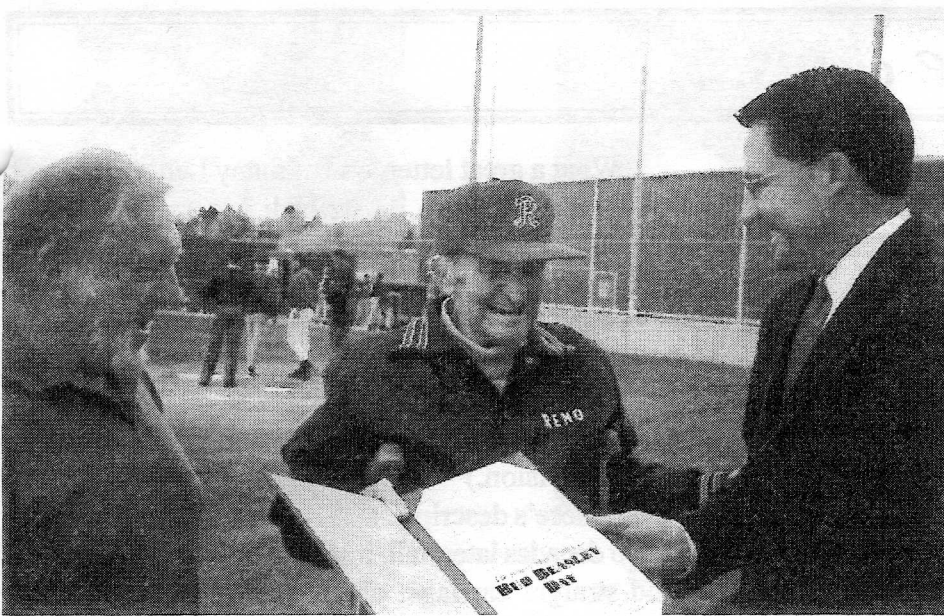
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## Re-Wa-Ne applauded; students expand work

Reno High School's yearbook, the *Re-Wa-Ne*, again has received the Walsworth Award of Excellence, placing the publication in the top two percent (2%) of all yearbooks published by Walsworth. Congratulations are in order to the yearbook staff and to Faculty Advisor Brent Busboom.

And, in an allied activity, journalism/yearbook students David Calvert, Rachel Baez, Rachel Beckwith, Beth Ann Carl and Max Dixon collaborated to write the May 1 cover story for the weekly *Reno News & Review*.

—trails—



*"Bud Beasley Day in Reno" was the subject of that proclamation by Reno Mayor Bob Cashell, held by Reno High School Principal Robert Sullivan (right) during a pre-game ceremony on May 1 in which the Bud Beasley Athletic Complex was designated on the Reno campus. That's Reno High School Alumni Association President Daryl Pelizzari at left, adding his congratulations to the 92-year-old educator. (Photo by Len Crocker.)*

—trails—

## Volunteers, where are you?

Volunteers are needed to help staff the RHSAA's Link Piazza Alumni Center, where visitors are invited during weekend hours of 2-5 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Volunteers are asked to greet visitors, encourage them to sign our guest book, and to answer questions about the Association, the Center, and its displays.

A minimum of one day per month is asked, although those who would be available more often would be encouraged to do so.

Interested persons are asked to leave a message at the Center, 825-2586, or with Trustee/Volunteers Coordinator Betty Jo Baker at 851-0202.

—trails—

Living in the past...

## 'Golden Huskies' program features graduating class of 50 years earlier

"Golden Huskies" is the designation of a new program adopted by the RHS Alumni Association for a revolving display that each year will honor activities and members of the class that was graduated from the school one-half century earlier.

Association President Daryl Pelizzari announced the program, noting that a recently-donated wooden display case installed just inside Heritage Hall in the Association's Link Piazza Alumni Center will feature materials collected and arranged for display by members of the Class of 1953.

The display will tie in with the group's 50th anniversary reunion, which is scheduled for Aug. 15-16, with Gary Roberts and Joanne Petre

as designated contacts.

That memorabilia will remain in the case until the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year, when it will be succeeded by materials representative of the Class of 1954.

It is expected that the Golden Huskies showcase will include such materials photographs or class and student body officers, that year's *Re-Wa-Ne* yearbook, mementoes of class reunions, perhaps a class or student body presidential gavel, and the like.

—trails—

## Those were the days...

In a Gazoo column I wrote one time, the text turned toward the Frandsen Apartments. That saga leads to David Finch, a fixture in the legacy of Reno High School when it was Reno's only public secondary school (through 1961).

Finch was an English teacher, and later the principal of enormous tenure at RHS, and many callers reminded me that he lived -- using the term loosely -- at the Frandsen Apartments, alone, for many decades. Very few residents of Reno in the mid-1900s were not touched by his influence -- either themselves, or their children or parents. I'll let my friend and frequent correspondent Lenore Jordan, who lives in Santa Rosa, Calif., write the next segment of the column (Lenore left Reno in 1947 but has many friends here and reads my column weekly in the Reno Gazette-Journal's "Homes" section).

Lenore speaks of her childhood in a small mining camp called Rochester in the Humboldt Range east of Lovelock. Her father was a millwright for the silver mine and her mother the postmistress, teacher, seamstress and president of the school board. The family journeyed to Reno when Lenore was to be born in 1919 (sorry, Lenore, I needed that year for the story...). She writes:

"When I was about five years old, a new teacher came to Rochester. He was fairly tall, carried himself straight as could be, had beautiful hair with a perfect wave in it, and was, of all things, a Stanford graduate! He was looking for a place to live in and my folks owned a little cabin, which was vacant at the time, with its own outhouse. This new fellow was Mister Finch"

"I wanted to go to school but I was too young, however Mr. Finch would now and then let me sit in the schoolroom and look at books. By the time I was old enough to enroll he was off to someplace else -- maybe Reno -- I don't know.

"Fast forward to about 1934 when I was going to Reno High School and guess who turned out to be my English teacher! He was a truly good teacher and seemed fond of kids, and I learned a great deal from him. He had dinner with us from time to time but never showed me any favoritism at school.

"By the way, Miss Singleton was my home room teacher! Great memories all."

What a great letter, one of many Lenore has sent me. (Two notes beg to be scribed: Mentioning David Finch and outhouse in the same paragraph defies responsible journalism, and Beulah Singleton was still around in the late 1950s as well. In an old column I misidentified her as the co-author of our Nevada history book with Effie Mona Mack. Mack's co-author was Byrd Sawyer, former Nevada Gov. Grant Sawyer's mother. Singleton later did a revision.)

Lenore's description of Finch hits the nail on the head two decades later: tall, impeccable hair with a wave, ramrod-straight carriage, aloof, austere. He ran Reno High with an iron hand, teaching by the mid-1950s only one class a year -- Human Relations -- an honors, by-invitation-only course that was the only safe harbor on the then-new Booth Street campus where one could utter a horrid word like "inter..." well, you know, without being bounced off the baseball or debate team, in the stringent world of David Finch. He was an automaton that would stride home each night to the Frandsen Apartments -- if he owned a car I don't recall it -- to reappear, wraithlike, the next morning.

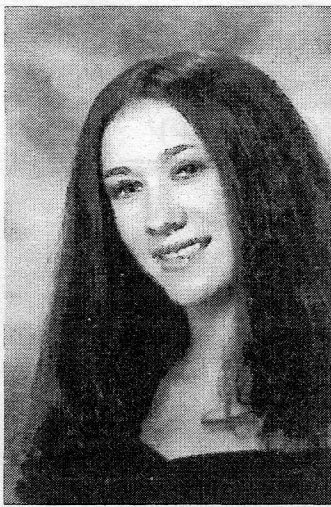
We did South Pacific as a senior class play (1959), and as one might imagine, Oscar Hammerstein's lyrics became by necessity "...There is nothing like a girl!" in the Finch libretto. No dames in our gym, no sirree.

People I knew as teachers, administrators and coaches then, who in the last 40 years have become adult friends, agree that he retired without fanfare. He since passed away on the San Francisco Peninsula, in almost-embarrassing obscurity.

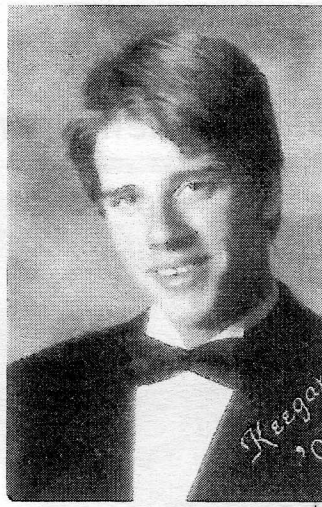
Only in recent years have a few of us begun to realize that maybe he did one hell of a job as a principal, in his own Victorian way -- the proof was in the pudding: Reno High School enjoyed national recognition in many areas. Lenore's letter infused a miniscule spark of affection in me for the man -- the respect was always there -- and who knows, if a new high school ever needs a name (it would have to be a high school), then "David Finch High" doesn't have a bad ring to it after all. We've named schools after a few a lot less deserving. And the team-name mascot's a snap: the Finch Finches.

That suggestion ought to get the ol' phone a-ringing...

-- Karl Breckenridge, Class of 1959, 322-3832.



*Sarah Almo*



*R. Keegan Idler*

## Almo, Idler Scholarship winners

As in the past, the RHSAA has awarded scholarships to two Reno High School students in the amount of \$500 each, one to a deserving girl and one to a deserving boy.

Sarah Almo has very high test scores on the SAT and the ACT. She has a 4.0 cum. GPA and ranked number 1 of 333. She is in the National Honor Society, is a Silver State Scholar, on the National Honor Roll, and in Who's Who of American Students. She has been involved in volleyball, basketball, track, and has been mentioned in Who's Who in Sports.

Her activities include the Marching Band, Concert Band, volunteer for local charities and the hospital, active in Homecoming activities, Lip Sync, the Senior Fashion Show, and Student Leadership. She has been on the honor roll and the All State Academic Team all four years at RHS.

R. Keegan Idler has very high test scores on the SAT I and SAT II, the ACT Composite, and the PSAT Index. His school activities include the Senior Fashion Show, Homecoming, and Lip Sync. School sports include soccer, track, skiing, and tennis. His honors and awards include the National Merit Commended, All State Academic Tennis team, Nevada High School Silver Scholar-2002 semi-finalist, Top 4th Percentile Nevada Math prize Exam, University of Nevada Reno Certificate of Merit Award, Sage Chapter of the National Honor Society, and Reno High School Honor Roll for four years.

His volunteer activities include Republican Party volunteer for John Ensign, Democratic Party volunteer for Sheila Leslie, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, St. John's Presbyterian Church math tutor, St. Vincent's Dining Hall, and Community Service Letter.

*— Joanne Petre, RHSAA Secretary*

## *RHSAA Scholarships now number eight*

Sarah Almo and Keegan Idler are the seventh and eighth recipients of the Reno High School Alumni association Scholarships, which were introduced at the close of the 1999 school year with selection of Sharif Rumjahn as the lone winner.

The following year, Samuel T. (Tim) Summers' name was added to the list.

The Association began 2000 to present two scholarships each year, and the recipients were Christine Conelea and Milad Motarjemi.

They were followed last year by scholars Lindsey J. Adams and Brian J. Hanson.

Miss Almo plans to enter the Honors College at UNR, majoring in business communication and with a minor in psychology, then aims at graduate school and a master's degree.

Study abroad in Australia is in her plans for her junior year of school.

Idler has not yet declared his intended major field of study.

*—trails—*

# Alumni Profiles...

## Reno's Dave Dungan made good in new homes in Utah, Navy

(Note: The following profile on RHS graduate Dave Dungan is excerpted from a 1993 football program at the University of Utah, written by retired Salt Lake Tribune Sports Editor John Mooney. It has been condensed to meet space requirements in *Huskies Trails*.)

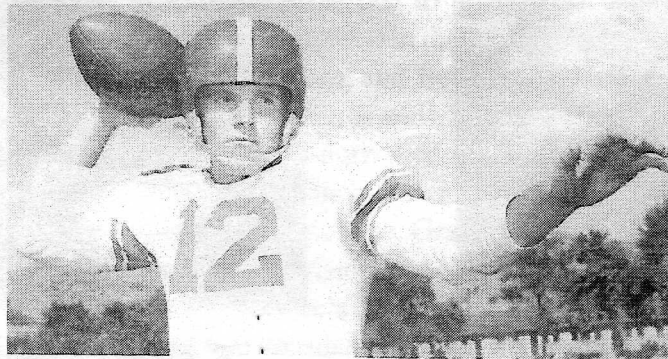
When Dave Dungan arrived on the football practice field in 1952 as a 17-year-old freshman from Reno, Nev., one of the first players he met was Ray Weston, a 27-year-old giant of a lineman who had been captured by the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge.

"My first thought was, 'what am I, a kid barely shaving, doing here with these veterans?'" Dungan recalled.

Yet, some 35-years later, when Dungan returned to the University of Utah campus, he was a captain in the U. S. Navy, with two Distinguished Flying Crosses and 192 combat missions as a jet carrier pilot in Vietnam.

"I was an All-State and All-America prep quarterback at Reno High, but the switch to Utah and Coach Jack Curtice was something else," he laughed.

Coach Curtice was to play a big part in the life of Dave, even af-



Dave Dungan was an all-conference quarterback for the Utes in 1955.

ter his football career.

"At the end of my senior year, I lacked about one-quarter of academic work for graduation, my scholarship had run out, and I was going home. But Curtice came in with some financial aid from somewhere and I was able to join the ranks of graduates," he recalled.

"Curtice and Pete Carlston had convinced several of us on the squad to enlist in the Navy reserve, and that set the plan for my life for the next 30 years."

All of Curtice's plans for Dungan didn't turn out that well, like in the Missouri game of 1955.

"Maryland had burned Missouri with the pass over center, so we figured they would expect us to use the same tactics, which we did. But we had a trick off that series when the safeties came up to smack our receivers. I was to throw deep to Lou Mele.

"In the third quarter, the play was set up, deep backs were coming up fast to stop the expected short pass. I called the play and spotted Mele 40 yards in the clear, but as I drew back to throw, the ball just trickled off my hand.

"I heard this terrible scream from the sideline and saw Curtice

collapse. In those seconds, I knew I had blown a sure touchdown, maybe lost the ball game, and probably killed my coach," Dungan shuddered at the memory.

"Fortunately, we won the game and after congratulating me, Curtice reminded me that I would have made the trip (back) to Salt Lake City by Greyhound Bus, while the rest of the team went by plane."

Dave was the Skyline Conference's leading passer in 1954 and ranked seventh nationally. He was named to the All-Conference team and was the quarterback in the Kiwanis Salad Bowl game in 1955.

In the Navy, Dave was commanding officer of a jet squadron, commanding officer of a Naval Air Station and Professor of Naval Science at the University of Utah, where he retired from the service in 1986.

Following his Navy career, Dungan served as Director of the Executive MBA Program at Utah's School of Business and was a Director of the Crimson Club, the university's athletic fund-raising organization.

He and his wife, the former Janet Holt, have two children, Michael Dungan and Vicky Volcik.



Dungan, then (top) and now  
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# President's Corner

As you can see in the article on page eight, the most recent election brought just a couple of changes in the makeup of the Association's Board of trustees. Outgoing President Joe Granata had succeeded founding President Len Crocker and continued the capable leadership of the Association for three terms, doing an excellent job. Now, I find it is my turn to keep charging. With the cooperation and guidance from the Board, I am looking forward to an exciting and fulfilling year.

Meanwhile, Joe has assumed the position of Vice President for Operations and we continue to draw on his experience to assist in affairs of the Association.

Len still maintains our membership records, which include monthly mailing of dues reminders, entering all pertinent information into our computerized database, and maintaining a hard copy file.

Joanne Petre also continues as the Board Secretary, as well as her involvement in varied other matters that come up.

Our very capable Treasurer, Virginia Zorio, was reappointed for this year.

The Alumni Association Center is up and running and receiving memorabilia of all descriptions, including Re-Wa-Ne yearbooks, the Red and Blue newspaper, class photos, pins, uniforms, 16-millimeter movies, band recordings, a state championship football, 40-year and 50-year reunion photos, and much more. One of our main thrusts now is to display these items for all to view.

I would like to thank all current members of the Association for maintaining their status and encourage everyone to contact relatives and friends who are not members, to please consider joining. We also welcome volunteers, and any ideas that might help improve the facility.

Keep in touch, and have a good year!

-- Daryl Pelizzari, Class of '52

—trails—

RHS AAA-Bricks  
Reno High School - Bricks  
395 Booth St.  
Reno, NV 89509

Purchaser's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

4x8-inches \$100

8x8-inches \$150

3 lines of type

6 lines of type

(15 characters per line, including punctuation and spaces between words.)

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 6 \_\_\_\_\_

## AAA says 'Buy A Brick,' seeks support from Alumni

Reno High School's parental support organization known as AAA (Arts, Academics and Athletics) is selling commemorative bricks designed to be emplaced in the sidewalk in front of the school's main entrance on Booth Street, and Alumni are being given an opportunity to participate.

Bricks are available in two sizes: 4 by 8 inches, which sell for \$100 each, and 8 by 8 inches, available for \$150 each. They are being sold to individuals and organizations who wish to make their identities part of the school's lore, and many are being given as gifts.

The smaller of the two sizes has room for three lines of "copy" at not more than 15 characters per line, including punctuation and the space between words. The larger bricks can accommodate six lines of copy.

Wording for the bricks should be written line by line, in block letters, as it is designed to appear on the finished product. Checks should be made payable to RHS AAA-Bricks, and mailed to: Reno High School Bricks, 395 Booth St., Reno, NV 89509.

—trails—



P. O. Box 5807  
Reno, NV 89513

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## Daryl Pelizzari chosen to lead Alumni

Retired Reno Police Sergeant Daryl F. Pelizzari has assumed the number one position in the RHSAA, succeeding three-term President Joseph R. Granata.

*A member of the current school's first graduating class -- in 1952 -- Pelizzari is in the second year of a three-year term on the Board of Trustees, where he had been the Association's Vice President for Operations.*

The Board adopted a new look in the election conducted last fall among the Association's membership, when 1958 graduate Neal H. Cobb replaced former VP Ann T. Sutton.

The "look" changed again shortly after the first of the 2003 calendar year when Trustee Lisa Frankovich from the Class of '97 resigned under the pressure of personal responsibilities, and the remaining

Board members chose 1954 graduate George W. Smith to fulfill her term until the end of next year.

Trustees whose terms will expire at the close of the current year are Betty Jo Baker from the Class of 1951; retired teacher and co-founder Bud Beasley; 1949's Albert E. Cartlidge; co-founder Len E. Crocker, 1943; and Virginia Zorio, 1955.

In addition to Smith, trustees due to serve until the end of 2004 are co-founder Granata, Class of '55; Larry Pizorno, '56; and Joyce Vannucci, '52.

Remaining Trustees, whose terms will run through 2005, are Ralph A. Casazza, '46; Cobb; Alex D. Kanwetz, '57; David J. Minedew, '60; and Joanne F. Petre, 53.

While the general membership of the Association determines

three year membership on the Board of Trustees, officers are elected by the Board from within its membership, and for one-year terms.

*By terms of the Association's Articles of Incorporation, Trustees may serve for no more than three consecutive three-year terms. Within that framework, officers are not restricted to term limits.*

Founding President Len Crocker was chosen by the group as its head when the Association was organized in late 1995 and served in the chair through the end of 1999, when Joe Granata began what developed into three years of service as President.

Association members are urged to become involved in the group's administration, perhaps beginning as weekend volunteers or on any of a variety of committees.