

# Alumni News

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Quarterly Newsletter  
Highlands Alumni Association (HAA)  
The only certified non-profit HAA organization

January 2017

## **PREZ'S PONDERINGS**

By Kristine Kouw Mann

Happy New Year! Many of us have spent the last few weeks thinking about 2016 and its successes and its disappointments, be it getting a better job or being laid off from a job. And we greet 2017 hoping for the best and being realistic: having better health on the one hand and not being able to stick to a diet beyond January 2 on the other.

As president of the Alumni Association, I too have been reflecting about 2016. Our successes include participating in the Memorial Day Parade, celebrating a successful Homecoming, and honoring a man who meant so much to so many alumni, the late Officer O'Bannon. Our disappointments include not having a Holiday gathering in December because no one wanted to organize it, and our challenges are to get more alumni to join us.

On Saturday, we Board members will gather to discuss several issues, including supporting Highlands' activities. Question: What activities do you think we should support? Some feel that supporting the music program is top priority. If you were a member of a music group, what kind of support did you get – or not get? How about sports? How can the Alumni Association support both the boys' and the girls' sports teams? Share your experiences with us at a Board meeting, and maybe the Alumni Association can help fill the gap.

One major concern: since the Alumni Association began, almost all of the Board members have been graduates from Highlands' first decade. But at least four (4) members from the last Board are no longer serving. One Board member resigned for various reasons, while two (2) others have left the Sacramento area. I hope some of you can be available to serve (especially grads from decades other than the '60s). The Association needs your input on various projects (e.g., the Memorial Day Parade) and on new ideas on serving Highlands and its staff and students. Think about it if a vacancy should occur.

Again, Happy New Year.

### **LEGACY ROOM NEWS**

The Legacy Room (Alumni Museum) is open on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. It is also open on special occasions, including Homecoming and class reunions.

Some new additions to the Museum include bagpipes and a Scottish beanie. Thank you, Twin Rivers District.

Again, volunteers are needed at the Museum. Right now, only two alumni are serving as volunteers. More are needed. Even serving for a few hours a month would be greatly appreciated. If you have questions about serving, please telephone Ruth Beavers Welsh at 916.912.6175 or Diana DeCaires Lansdon at 916.435.8903. P.S. You need no special talents.

### **DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR**

Please note that all meetings of the Alumni Board are held at the SAFE Credit Union on Watt Avenue, south of Roseville Road. They start at 11 a.m.

Saturday, January 14	Alumni Board Meeting
Saturday, March 11	Alumni Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 17	Golf Tournament Turkey Creek Golf Course, Lincoln
Saturday, May 20	Alumni Board Meeting
Monday, May 29	Memorial Day Parade, Starts at 10 a.m.
Thursday, June 1	Last Day of School
Saturday, July 8	Alumni Board Meeting
Saturday, September 9	Alumni Board Meeting
Saturday, November 11	Alumni Board Meeting

**If there are any changes to the above events, alumni will be notified by e-mail and via Facebook.**

### ***ALUMNI GATHERINGS***

Do you want to meet with your fellow classmates throughout the year? Here are the times when you can do so:

First Saturday – The classes of '59 to '69 meet at Lou's Drive-In, on Watt Avenue, north of Don Julio Boulevard, from 11 a.m. until about 2 p.m.

Third Friday – The classes of '59 to '69 meet for lunch at Mimi's on Alta-Arden, between Howe and Ethan, at 11:30 a.m.

Last Saturday – '70s folks meet at Lou's, from 11 a.m. until about 2 p.m.

Are there any other groups meeting regularly? If so, then notify Mary Anderson at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com).

### ***NOTES FROM RECENT ALUMNI BOARD MEETINGS***

January 14, 2017.

1. Planning has begun on the Holiday Party. How about you stepping up? We need some good ideas. (We know you have some, and get your classmates to help.)
2. The Association needs to get into the Digital Age as far as reaching out and keeping records are concerned. Can you help us? E-mail me at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com) if you can.

### ***2016 HIGHLANDS HOMECOMING***

By Michael Thayer ('78)

At the Homecoming Game, I could not have felt any prouder to be a Scot. It truly felt like "Coming Home."

Surrounded by Alumni was really a great feeling!! It was like going back in time attending a game at our Bowl. Being there at the game and walking around on top, talking with everybody. Every time I would turn around, there were more

alumni to greet. Everybody was reminiscing, laughing, smiling, and giving out hugs. Unfortunately, we lost both games.

It was a great moment when the '76 Championship Team players and coaches walked out on the field to be introduced. It was a proud moment for sure. Even Players from the 1986 team were honored as well for their Championship Season.

The Class of '80 came out strong, winning our challenge with their leader Rodney Carson, followed by the Class of '78 coming in a CLOSE second. So many classes were represented, Richard Andrade (the announcer) made everyone feel welcomed. Thank you, Richard.

That's what this game was all about, feeling proud to be an Alumnus of Highlands High School. Even though some didn't make the game, their presence was still felt through our many Facebook Alumni pages and through all of you keeping us close and staying connected with each other.

IT WAS GREAT TO BE A PART OF THIS 0063EVENT! ~ SO ALUMNI TOGETHER "WE ARE ONE" SCOTS 4 LIFE!



Guests of Honor at Homecoming: Members of the football teams from 1986 and 1976. Recognize anybody?

## ***Reunion News***

1967 - Their 50-year reunion is being planned to be held Saturday, September 16, at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Sacramento. This will be a joint reunion with Foothill.

The class of 1982 will hold its 35-year reunion on Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27, 2017. The Saturday night festivities will be held in the Rocklin Community Center at the Johnson-Springview Park in Downtown Rocklin. A buffet dinner will be served, and a D-J will be available to provide music for dancing. The Sunday afternoon gathering will be a picnic in the Johnson-Springview Park itself. For more information, contact Sheila Lemire Ashburn at [sheila.ashburn@comcast.net](mailto:sheila.ashburn@comcast.net).

### Future Reunions

Hey, members, of the class 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007 – then 2017 is your reunion year. You can have your reunion news posted on the Alumni website at [www.highlandshighalumni.com](http://www.highlandshighalumni.com) or you can send the information to me at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com). The Alumni Association wants for you to know a successful reunion, and we can help you with the publicity. You can send me the dates of planning meetings for classmates who want to take part.

Plan a visit to the Legacy Room as part of your reunion plans. Notify me at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com) if interested. We can probably arrange for a tour the Friday afternoon of your reunion weekend. Let us know if you have questions.

### ***NEWS FROM THE TWIN RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT***

1. The Twin Rivers Board, at its meeting on December 13, 2016, voted to spend close to \$348,000 for work on the roof at Highlands, to be done in 2017.
2. Current projects include a restroom building on the north end of Highlands Bowl and a retaining wall.

## ***Let Us Remember***

These are the Scots who passed away between October 1 to December 31, 2016, or whose passings we have recently learned:

Teacher	Fred Bitnoff – Music teacher at Highlands in early '80s. Aged 88 years. Married for 62 years. Taught music for many years. Led The Velvet Tones, a popular local dance band.
1961	Francis Coulter
1963	Mike Russell
1970	Leon David Grunewald
1974	Gary Stephen Cavazos
1977	Helene Hill
1978	Daniel (Danny) Heisler
1986	Cliff Bynum
1993	Jerome Anderson
2007	Chris Watts

If you hear of the passing of any Highlands alumni, any Highlands teacher or administrator, or any Highlands support staff (e.g., custodians, cooks, clerical support), then notify me (Mary Anderson) at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com). We ask that you identify the source of your information, such as a newspaper death notice, a family notice, or a notice posted by the funeral home.

You are welcome to honor someone who meant something to you with a paragraph or two. That will mean a lot to the person's family, friends, and classmates.

### ***Tribute to Mr. Bitnoff***

By Lewis Alexander

Mr. Bitnoff was a hard ass in class, no denying that, but he WAS a teacher. He taught discipline, he taught grace, he taught to feel music and be part of it, not just a cog in a machine playing it. He taught that the difference between a quarter note and a half note was the feeling of the piece. I still do not know what instrument that man could not play. Geez Louise, he taught me so much. He taught us to tune by ear, by listening to the notes (it's harder than it sounds, no pun intended). He also taught us to gather

our thoughts into what we wanted out of life because that would teach us in ourselves what music wanted from us and us from it. He was my teacher. He was a great teacher, and I will remember him forever, and I have taught others what he taught me. I will hold you in my heart, Mr. Bitnoff. May flights of Angels sing you to Heaven!

### ***A Once-Proud Tradition***

By Michael Thayer ('78)

It was in 1958/59, Highlands High's first school year, when the student body found themselves starting new traditions. With the name of the mascot "The Scot" in place, some Scottish traditions were followed; including The Highland Fling (dance), Bagpipes, and traditional Scottish dress.

Then there was the Highlands High 188th Grenadiers Exhibition Drill Team from the Highlands Military Club. Through the years, the Highlands High Grenadiers displayed excellent ability and accuracy in rifle maneuvers and drilling techniques, with shiny twirling rifles and wearing traditional Scottish dress. They honored Highlands by presenting the United States flag at football games, parades, and social activities. Through hard work, skill, and agility, they were recognized as one of the area's best, winning numerous awards through the 1960s.

In the late 60s and through the 70s, the drill team faded away, as one can see in the yearbooks. The Scottish dress went to a military uniform, and less emphasis was placed on competition. Through the years following their heyday, Highlands still had its Honor Guard displaying the flags.

One can see in the first photo where they were highlighted in *The Sacramento Bee* in 1961 for being the best drill team that day in the Veterans Day Parade that was held Downtown Sacramento. Featured in the middle of the photo is Stephen R. Tubre (Class of 1962) marching so proudly. Stephen is one of our fallen soldiers from Highlands. He died in Vietnam in on August 31, 1968. RIP, fellow Scot!!

## Grenadiers 188th Battalion



LEFT COLUMN, FRONT TO BACK: Ken Cime (Maj.); Don Mackey (Capt.); Mike Becze (1st Lt.); Bill Hoadley (1st Lt.). CENTER: Stephen R. Tubre (Cadet Colonel). RIGHT COLUMN, FRONT TO BACK: Jack Dredge (1st Lt.); Beryl Whitehead (1st Lt.); Bill Morris (1st Lt.); Sterling Mock (1st Lt.).

Travis A. F. B. Open House  
Air National Guard Open House-McClellan Field  
St. Patrick's Day Parade (San Francisco)  
Veteran's Day Parade (Sacramento)  
Youth Day Parade  
North Highlands Memorial Day Parade  
California State Fair

Every Scot has reason to be truly proud of the 188th Highland Grenadiers. In two years, they have won various trophies and honors competing in the above events.

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## **2017 GOLF TOURNAMENT**

If you're not doing anything on **Wednesday, May 17, starting at 10:30 a.m.**, then why not consider playing golf. The annual golf tournament is taking place at the Turkey Creek Golf Course in Lincoln. As usual, all proceeds go to the scholarship funds for both Foothill and Highlands' graduates. More information is being sent under a separate e-mail. See you then.



***ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER***

If you want to submit an item for *Alumni News*, you are welcome to do so. Share with your fellow alumni what is going on in your world. Whatever it is, notify your fellow alumni so that we may partake in your joy, or even your sorrow, with the loss of a job or a home or with the loss of a fellow Scot. News articles needed by **Sunday, March 5**. You are welcome to submit photos with your articles.