



Alumni News

Volume II, Issue 1

Highlands Alumni Association Quarterly

January, 2009

Prez's Farewell Ponderings....



Daryl Sullivan

Well, this is it, the last word from me as president. As I write this farewell message, I am reminded of the journey we started on August 18, 2007.

WOW! A lot has happened since then, mainly due to a wonderful group of Highlands Alumni Association members. From the beginning they moved on the fast track by participating in the North Highlands Jubilee,

planning the 2007 Holiday Party, and Spring Golf Tournament, participating in the N.H. Memorial Day Parade, planning the 50th Anniversary Gala and the social that followed, and ended the year with the 2008 Holiday Party.

At the Gala, I was honored to present the first inaugural scholarship to Brittney Chasten, and was humbled to serve as Master of Ceremonies. Looking up into the bleachers and seeing over a thousand people, made me very proud of our little alumni group. We were able to get those graduates who changed from kids to adults over the years to attend along with the current students, their families and friends. The alumni association not only established a partnership with Highlands and the school district, but we gave them a purpose to team up with their student body to make this event a great success.

The experience of serving as your president gave me faith in people, one more time. There are many things that need to be done to be a strong, growing alumni association. These alumni members who have devoted their time and energy into our group are profoundly talented and dedicated to making the Highlands Alumni Association a very successful organization.

As of October 25th, I laid down my gavel for the last time as president, but I'm confident that the person elected into this position will be a great asset to the association. I will serve on the Board of Directors, where I will continue my efforts to help make this group grow and be strong for generations to follow.

May the New Year bring you peace and prosperity.

That's all Folks..... Daryl

Acting Prez's Ponderings....

By Phil Olson

Wow, what a great year 2008 was for the Association's first full year of existence. We had so much fun with the different sponsored events and get-togethers. We met new members and re-kindled old friendships. It really was wonderful to have been a part of forming the Highlands Alumni Association. I'm looking forward to working with and supporting our newly elected officers and Board of Directors.

We have given our first scholarship to a wonderful young lady named Brittney Chasten, who is now a student at American River College. What a thrill it was to meet her and have the opportunity to give her our first scholarship. We are looking forward to presenting our second scholarship to a deserving Highlands student at the 2009 graduation ceremony in June.

Some of the things that are coming up:

The 2nd annual golf tournament, the N. H. Memorial Day Parade, Alumni yard/bake sales and car wash, Highlands graduation ceremony, Highlands homecoming game, association meetings, picnics, the annual holiday party, and things we don't quit know about yet.

If you are reading this, then you know about the quarterly newsletter, and I hope you continue to read and share it with your friends and family to keep you updated. Hopefully it will inspire you to get involved with this group. Believe me, it's not all work, there's a lot of fun to be had.

I would like to thank all of the existing and former officers and those members who worked hard getting us off the ground and moving forward. My heartfelt thanks to all of you and I ask that you continue in the same spirit with the new officers and Board of Directors.

What's in a NAME?

By Sandra Lansdon Cooper

Did you notice anything different on this page? Could it be the name of the alumni association? Yep, that's it! The Highlands High School Alumni Association is now called Highlands Alumni Association. What's the diff? Well, the new name is more inclusive of youngsters who are graduates or will be from Highlands Academy of Arts and Design.

Scholarship Funding

By Jim Warrick

The Highlands Alumni Association scholarship committee is happy to announce that this year's scholarship award has been increased to \$1,000.

To apply for this scholarship, the student must be a 2009 graduate and have a 2.0 cumulative or higher GPA and a letter of recommendation from a Highlands teacher, counselor, or administrator.

More information and the 2009 Highlands Alumni Association Scholarship application will be available in February at www.highlandshighalumni.com



2008 Holiday Party

By Sherry Antrim Chavez

The 2nd Annual Holiday Party was held on December 20th at the VFW Hall in North Highlands. There were about 65 people in attendance (of which many were from the class of '59). There were beautifully crafted decorations made by the decoration committee, lots of good things to eat, and the alcoholic beverages were very reasonable, too boot. Not that anyone had too many of those.

Between the two raffles, nearly everyone left a winner. The first raffle included many items donated by Willie (class of '65) and Diane Nix. This raffle was a straight up raffle with over 20 prizes to choose from.



The second raffle was a 50/50 raffle, where the raffle money was put in a pot and the winner took half (\$117.00), and the other half went to the Alumni Association. The winners were the Wagners who just flew in from Iowa, friends and cousins of the Nix's.

DJs Phil Olson and Martin Chavez got the crowd going with the Hokey Pokey, the Macarena (not meant for those who graduated prior to 1980), and the Chicken Dance. And Georgia (Kessinger) Bastion from class of '65, showed off her fancy footwork while leading the group to the Electric Slide line dance.

Also Loreene Sheppard from '67 looked very smashing in her "jammies", I must say. We also had voting ballots there for alumni members to vote for the various association vacant offices.

Everyone had a great time, even those who just wanted to hang out and watch Grant win the State Championship!!!

Hope to see those who couldn't make it this year, there next year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Reporting on Treasury Report



Scholarship Fund
\$2,425.00
Operating Fund
\$2,667.00
\$5,092.00

Detailed information will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter.

New Year, New Officers for 2009-10

By Sandra Lansdon Cooper

Recently you should have received notification about HAA's vacant offices which needed filling. These notices were sent out to all alumni who we have contact information for. This notice encouraged alumni to nominate a qualified candidate or themselves. Once all nominations were identified, we then sent out a ballot to all alumni to vote for the candidates of their choice. All ballots needed to be returned to HAA by December 31st to be counted.

A non-bias committee will be counting the votes and informing all alumni who the new officers and Board of Directors are.

The vacant offices were for the President, 1st and 2nd Presidents and several Board of Directors' positions.

Our by-laws states that the association has to have one Board of Director representative for every 25 members. Therefore, we still have openings for this position. If you are interested in serving, please contact Phil Olson at 2ndvicepresident@highlandshighalumni.com.

A Little History about one of Highlands' Historical Food-Sites

By Vicky (Root) Jones '64

Lou was a good family man with a wife and two sons. He got the drive-in restaurant idea when he was delivering bread for Rainbo Baking Co. to restaurants and stores.

The Lou's Burgers in North Highlands was originally called "Lou's Drive-in #2". Lou originally had a Lou's Drive-in on Grand Ave. across from Grant High School. I am not sure when he opened that one, but he sold it to a man named Ernie, hence it was called Ern's when he decided to open the Lou's Drive-in #2 in 1958.

North Highlands was a growing area and he wanted to be a part of it. My mother worked for Lou from 1959 thru 1988. She retired in 1988 due to illness. I worked for Lou from 1963 to 1965 making a whopping 95 cents an hour to start. Of course, burgers were 35 cents, french fries were 20 cents and a medium



Lou went on to venture in a few partnerships and opened three other drive-ins. They were opened at different times.

They were located at Marconi and Eastern, Auburn Blvd and Madison Ave., and the last one was on Auburn Blvd. in Citrus Heights.

Lou eventually sold his part of the partnership of those places and focused on the Lou's Burgers on Watt Ave.

Lou has passed-on but his burger will always be legacy.....It's in the "Secret Sauce".

The owner of Lou's now, has been a long time friend and partner of Lou's since 1964 (give or take a year). His name is Don, a very nice man, who is retired from the military. Not that you all really want to know this but Don taught my mom how to drive back in 1964 or 1965. He had and has a lot of patience to this day.



Double Trouble in Spades

By Ron Reed '62



The first high school sport I participated in was cross country. A senior runner and I became friends over the course of the season. He was also a stalwart reserve on the varsity basketball team. When he found out I was going out for the JV team, after cross country ended, he took me under his wing.

We were reacquainted my first couple of weeks of junior college. He was keeping company with an attractive, demonstrative co-ed that appeared to be madly in love. I'd see her smooching, hugging, and caressing him in the library, cafeteria or anywhere else on campus they happened to be. She was equally enthralled with another young man when my old cross country pal wasn't around.

For me it was an Ann Landers/Dear Abby moment. Should I or shouldn't I? I started a number of imaginary conversations: "I hate to be the one to...; It may not be any of my business...; There's something I feel I should..." Lucky for me, and just in time, an article appeared in the school paper about identical twins.

A previous incident should have forewarned me of the above possibility, but instead my subconscious sloughed it off the same way the authorities did when Steve McQueen and his girlfriend informed them of the "Blob" in the movie of the same.

I changed schools half way through the seventh grade. Being the new boy in class, I received a fair amount of attention from the girls except the one I thought was really pretty. Don Julio held a Valentine's Day Dance a couple of weeks after my arrival. When they played "Twilight Time" on the phonograph, the "really pretty" one asked me to dance.

Cupid must have been Robin Hood in a different life, because I was "in love L-U-V." I waited for another slow dance to ask her. She said "No." In those days most boys did not dance. I was also one cool bopper (the dance of the era) and not use to being turned down. Clearly, my reputation had not preceded me.

With a willing partner and a lively Buddy Holly tune, I demonstrated my stuff in front of the "really pretty" one. It worked. She asked me to dance the next love song and moved imperceptibly closer during our spin around a two foot circle. She refused my request three minutes later. I thought, "this is one weird chick." I put a stop to the charade the next time she asked me and was mystified by the disappointment and pain in her eyes. My unwitting action crushed any hope of a puppy romance.

I'm confident the reader will guess who I observed together the following Monday. These two girls, sharing the same DNA, did not appear to share the same taste in clothes or boys. I found it strange and disturbing that I could not remember what either twin wore at the dance. If the Blob had shown up, I'm not sure I would have seen it.



RON'S LIGHTER-SIDE

I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.

Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.

You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

Ron Aspenson, class of '66, submitted the quotes to brighten our day.

Who's Who/Offices

to contact via email click on

www.highlandshighalumni.com/offices.shtml

Acting President

Phil Olson, HHS 1965

Vice President

Vacant

2nd Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Shirlene Lansdon, HHS 1963

Treasurer

Linda Ballard Eastburn, HHS 1965

Membership Chair

Diane Aspenson Olson, HHS 1967

Newsletter

Sandy Lansdon Cooper, HHS/FHS 1966

Webmaster

Rick Swan, HHS 1965

Historian

Kristine Kouw Mann, HHS 1965

Scholarship Chair

Jim Warrick, HHS 1967

Social Chair

Vacant

Board of Directors

Mary Anderson HHS 1967

Martin Chavez HHS 1970

Peggy Ellsbury Colclasure HHS 1967

Diana DeCaires Lansdon HHS 1959

Daryl Sullivan HHS 1965

Alida Gonzales Steinbrecher HHS 1967

Directors at Large

Phil Olson HHS 1965

Diane Aspenson Olson HHS 1967

Kathy Cahall Cooper HHS 1962

Other inquiries **Sandra Lansdon Cooper**

Note from the Editor

Would you like to submit an article for the newsletter, or do you have an event that would be of interest to Highlands' alumni or possibly you have some old Highlands' photos or information you would like to share via the newsletter? If so, please contact me through the HAA website noted below.



2008 Event Calendar

For more and updated information, click on <http://highlandshighalumni.com/events.shtml>

- General Meeting - *January 24*
- HHS 1st Saturday Lunches at Lou's
- The Twilight Golf Tournament - *TBD*
- Participate in the North Highlands Memorial Day Parade - *May 25*
- HAA Fundraising Yard Sale & Car Wash - *TBD*
- Highlands Picnic in the Park - *TBD*

If you would like to post an event, please contact Sandra Lansdon Cooper, Newsletter Editor by clicking on <http://highlandshighalumni.com/offices.shtml>