

SIUSLAW HIGH ALUMNI ASSN. NEWSLETTER SPRING 2005



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Your officers and board members are working to make the Siuslaw Alumni Association a viable organization. This requires help from the members who are willing to join us in making it work for the benefit of all past students. We encourage those who live in the Florence area to get involved, either as committee members, board member or officer.

One goal that I personally would like is an endowment fund established to assure the future of an annual award from the scholarship fund. Further, that in all our activities as an alumni association we want to have fun. Meetings, including the board are designed to take a minimal amount of time.

If you are not already a member, consider joining then become active in committee work. Working with former students is rewarding and offers an opportunity to renew former friendships.

Zane Ziemer

SHS ALUM FORM ASSOCIATION

By: Mimi Cooper Smith

We're graduating as the century spits! How expectant we were as we grabbed our diplomas and left the gymnasium. "Goodbye Miss Bray, Mrs. Green, Mr. Lewis; hello world here we are, the Siuslaw High Class of 1950". But that was fifty years ago, from January 2000, and what is on my answering machine? It's a call from

SHS(cont'd)

Zelda Sanborn Suniga saying that Ivan Olson is going to set a conference call about having a reunion for our class. It turned out that Wanda Ziemer Hoberg who was holding cash from their class reunion, had called to say that unless we did something Siuslaw reunions were going to fall by the wayside (previous Class of 50 members had been sponsoring an all school reunion). Wanda was willing to help us, but someone from our class needed to get involved.

With that phone call plans were hatched to meet in Eugene in March and plan the school reunion for September. We met at the Valley River Inn where we planned the reunion and decided to form an Alumni Association. It was the beginning of a new millennium—the year 2000! So wasn't it about time the nearly 100 year old school had an official body to promote fellowship among its graduates and setup a scholarship for current students?

Wanda came with husband Gary and all the records of recent reunions. Zelda and Ivan were there as well as Edna Wolf Hiatt and Darlene Strahm Rinard. That was the beginning. The rest of the committee for the reunion were Retta Braley Mead, Ray Circle, Shasta Hoberg McMullin, Ramona Mienk Slocum, Betty Ryder Olson and Zane Ziemer.

LOOKING BACK

By: Andy Nordahl

When we drive around Florence we are often reminded of the "good old days" when passing some of the landmarks in town. One in particular is the old Kyle building on Bay Street. During WWII we used to attend dances on the second floor. A few years later it was turned into a skating rink. In 1952 the Elk's lodge was first organized on the second floor. Today it is the Bridge Water Restaurant opened in late 1980's by Larry "Punky" Keizer.

The old grammar school on 4th and Maple Street is still standing (now called the Callison Bldg). Another landmark is the North Fork bridge on the east side of Florence on Highway 126. The west side of the bridge is the Hatch tract of which 98 acres was purchased by the Three Rivers Indian Tribe for a gaming casino and on which construction was completed in 2004 and now has over 200 full time employees.

SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITY

By: Betty Ryder Olson

Funding has been available to provide a \$500 scholarship for the past three years, recipients were: 2002-Lindsey Scarberry, 2003-Mark Budhrig and 2004-Joey Olson. We are building toward a goal of an endowment fund thanks to the annual contributions received from members and former students.

The scholarship committee meets in Florence during May to read all the applications. The selection is difficult due to the high qualifications of all the applicants. The scholarship is presented during the awards ceremony at the high school.

We welcome anyone who is interested in participating in the selection process.

Scholarship recipients are invited to the annual reunion dinner.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

By: Editorial Staff

Would you like to write an article for the newsletter relating to your class or experiences during school years? The editorial staff will consider any articles relating to past years at Siuslaw High and the Florence area for a future

newsletter. Interested in serving on the newsletter writing and editorial board? Contact any of the members listed below:

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL STAFF

ZaneZiemer.zaneziemer@msn.com

Ivan Olson ivabet912@adelphia.net

CONTRIBUTORS:

Mimi Cooper Smith

Mona Mienk Slocum

Ray Circle

Andy Nordahl

Lou Anne Woods Patterson

Betty Ryder Olson

CLASS OF 54' REUNION

By: Lou Anne Woods Patterson

The Class of 54' held it's reunion at the Windward Inn Restaurant in Florence on September 17, 2004. Chuck Suniga, a graduate of SHS provided background music during and after the dinner.

Never anticipating such a marvelous turnout, everyone was pleased to see classmates that had not been in touch for 50 years. They came from as far away as Germany, Virginia and Mont. Not only were there many hours of talk-ing and laughing but also some tears. There was a strong feeling of friendship and comaraderie that remained long after the evening was gone. A frequent question was asked "when is our next reunion going to be..maybe in two years?"

EDITORS NOTE: *The annual Alumni Assn. Dinner is an excellent opportunity to visit with former classmates, have a mini reunion and make new friends from among the alumni.*

YOU ARE INVITED TO COMMENT on the content of the newsletter and types of articles you would like to see in future issues.

Articles that may be of interest would include the list of Charter members, composition of the Standing Committees and members of the Board of directors. If there is sufficient interest, an issue will be considered for Spring of 2006.

SHS (cont'd)

The reunion was held the second Saturday in September and with the addition of Shasta's class (75') it was a large reunion. The Class of 75' was honored to have their "coach", former principal Richard Whitmore celebrating with them and pleased when he stood up to announce his support for the formation of an alumni organization.

It was at the 2000 reunion that the Articles of Organization and bylaws were approved, a board of directors elected and we were Siuslaw High School Alumni Association, an organization of former students and faculty members.

ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

By: Ramona (Mona) Mienk Slocum

The annual reunion dinner meeting of the SHS Alumni Association is the second Saturday in September. It has been traditionally held at the Elk's hall, one of the few facilities in Florence large enough to hold the group. The reunion committee is responsible for planning the meeting and they receive help both at the door for name tags, and arranging entertainment from those of you that are members.

Any former student and faculty member is eligible for membership. The annual cost is \$5. Dues are used to pay for operating expenses of the association, meeting flyers, postage, etc. All the board members and committee members pay their own expenses for meals, traveling and miscellaneous in attending meetings: However, the rewards are great in renewing and creating new friendships. A data base is being created listing addresses of former students and can be available for classes wanting to contact classmates for a reunion. The Articles of Incorporation forbid any use of the lists for commercial purposes.

Charles (Chuck) Suniga, son of Zelda and Frank, is a professional musician who has provided great music for listening and dancing at the last two reunions. He also played for the Class of 54' reunion. Chuck will be playing for our Sept. 10, 2005 dinner meeting.

REFLECTIONS

By: Ray Circle

It has been said that "the sweetest memories in life are the recollections of those things once forgotten". I've already forgotten some of the things that occurred this morning but do recall some from Siuslaw High School about sixty years ago.

Mrs. Lillian Kyle came out of retirement during World War II to spend four years as teacher and class advisor to the Class of 46'. One of the first things she told us was "The first law of a good society is to mind your own business". Other memories include: The beginning of friendships that would last a lifetime; pretty girls dressed in pleated Pendleton skirts with white blouses and cardigan sweaters; Playing football on our muddy home field and away from home games that were played on cow pastures (with minimal cleanup) or rodeo grounds in Bandon.

Those memories and others too numerous to mention were the motivation for me to support the formation of the SHS Alumni Association. It was my privilege and honor to serve as the first president of the association. But, it is due to the dedicated effort of board members, officers, committee members and general membership that we have an organization enabling former students to meet for wonderful reunions but also contribute to the scholarship for current students. We have an association to be proud of, thank you one all for your participation.

SPECIAL DATE TO REMEMBER

Annual dinner Sept. 10
AT THE FLORENCE ELK'S
COCKTAILS AT 5 P.M.
Dinner at 6 p.m.

Special music by Chuck Suniga for listening and dancing.

A flyer will be mailed this summer as reminder of the meeting and dues notice.