

Sands of Time

Siuslaw Alumni Association Newsletter

June 2020

Volume 15 • Issue 1

Siuslaw Alumni Association Board Meeting and All-School Reunion Banquet

Rescheduled for 2021

Florence Events Center
715 Quince Street
Florence, Oregon

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Address Changed?

Please let the SAA know of any changes as we mail our newsletter out as second class and it may not be forwarded to you. You can also choose to get the emailed PDF only. Please send your new mailing and email addresses to **Beth Meadows Sandberg** siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com or call **541-733-4377**.

All-school reunion postponed until September 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every part of life around the world. As of press time, the state of Oregon had released a three-phase opening plan for the state. "All large gatherings should be cancelled or significantly modified through at least September."

President's Message

Fellow Siuslaw Alumni,

The world that we knew is changing due to the COVID-19, so for safety reasons we had to cancel the 2020 Siuslaw Alumni Association Board Meeting and All-School Reunion Banquet for this year. We were looking forward to another Siuslaw event, great fellowship, good food, scholarship fundraising, and the fabulous Intruders.

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Allyn Wilson, had to make some hard choices as this year's graduating class was outstanding. Three scholarships will be awarded. One of those scholarships went for a vocational/trade school. Congratulations to all three seniors.

Your board is still working, conducting business via the internet, trying to come up with ideas for our scholarship money for 2021. Some alumni have already sent in their dues, scholarship money, and the dinner money, and have told us to keep the money to go toward the scholarships. Some of the classes are pooling their resources and sending in "class money" along with individual memberships. We thank you.

Our condolences to those who lost a family member and classmate this past year, Ace Johnson was one of those. Ace was our scholarship go-getter along with many other things that he did for the board. He not only collected items for the raffle, but he went out into the community and collected funds. He will be greatly missed. We will be honoring him in 2021 with one of our scholarships being in his name.

The 113th Rhododendron Festival was also canceled along with our 4th of July celebration. Yes, Florence is being hard hit by the virus. We want you to be safe in your jobs and in your life. We will see you next year.

Mike Bones, Class of '66

Please see the insert in the newsletter on ways you can donate.

2020 Scholarship Recipients

Siuslaw Alumni Association scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who plan to attend a college and/or trade school. These scholarships are solely supported by donations to the scholarship fund and by all proceeds from the all-school reunion banquet raffle. For the year of 2020, we are pleased to announce three scholarships in the amount of **\$3,500** each.



Caleb Hennessee plans to attend Umpqua Community College to eventually become a journeyman electrician.

He grew up in Florence and attended school with his friends and fellow athletes since kindergarten. He excelled in academics as well as athletics. Caleb was a varsity player in both basketball and baseball.

Chloe Madden will attend Oregon State University Honors College with a major of mechanical engineering, then go to graduate school for robotic engineering.

She is a four-year varsity athlete in cross country and track. Chloe is president of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Philosophy Club, and played flute in the symphonic band.



Lilly Wells plans to become a registered nurse by attending Lane Community College and transferring to either University of Oregon or Oregon Health and Science University to become a nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Lilly got a head start by earning her CNA certificate while in high school. Since middle school, she has become acutely aware of the need for suicide prevention awareness and plans to continue working for this cause.

We thank everyone for their continued support that makes the scholarships possible. We can all be very proud that our alumni scholarships are one of the largest to be awarded at Siuslaw High School. Donations for the SAA scholarships are taken year round.

Visit our website for a complete list of past recipients. www.siuslawalumni.org/scholarships

Where Are They Now?

Civil designer creates infrastructure that makes your life easier

I received the Siuslaw Alumni Association scholarship back in 2010. After graduating I attended Oregon State University to study civil engineering. I chose a very challenging field, but after five years I completed my bachelor's degree.

Shortly after college, I was hired at Emerio Design where I have been for the past three years as a civil designer.

I mainly work on the design of

public entities, such as parking lots, ADA ramp designs, and sewer rehabilitation. I love my job and I am so happy I pushed myself to complete my degree.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of my hometown, Florence. The Siuslaw alumni scholarship allowed me to go to college and graduate with minor debt.

I thoroughly enjoyed growing

up in Florence.

I believe there is a cumulation of multiple events which led to my degree in civil engineering,

but my drafting classes in high school were the initial activity that sparked my interest in the field.

~ *Jennifer Parry '10*



Association says goodbye to three board members

Past SAA President **Wes Strahm '53**, died June 18, 2019, at the age of 83. His wife, **Sharon Gwynn Strahm '54**, was also 83 when she died on January 24, 2020. Wes served the board in many capacities including vice president, chairman, advisor, and scholarship committee member, starting in 2007. Sharon joined the scholarship committee in 2008 and soon became the committee chair. She was adamant about interviewing scholarship applicants in person to get the best information about the students, a practice still in place today. They both retired from the board in 2015.

Arland "Ace" Johnson '54, died February 28, 2020. He was part of a set of triplets with his two sisters, born in 1935. Ace was voted onto the SAA board in 2009 to help the scholarship committee with fundraising. He made annual donations to the raffle and spent time contacting local merchants to give them a chance to donate items. In 2011 he became raffle committee chair, which resulted in an increase in the raffle income during his tenure. Ace retired from the board in 2019.

The Siuslaw family warmly remembers our late board members and appreciates their enthusiasm, contributions, and dedication to the SAA mission of providing scholarships to SHS graduates.

Celebrating milestone birthdays

Siuslaw PE instructor and track coach (1957-86) Liz McCain turned 90 on April 6. Due to COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines, she celebrated in her driveway surrounded by friends, six feet away.

Many members of the Class of 1958 turned 80, which includes **Sandra Meink Friese** in December, **Frank Turner** in March, **Lynn Lockwood** in April, and **Ted McClellan** coming up in September.

Blast from the past

In April 1960, dial telephones were installed in Florence. Who remembers their phone number?

Future history

The 113th annual Rhododendron Festival was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the first time since WWII that Rhody Fest has been canceled. Save the date for third full weekend in May 2021.

In Memoriam

Wilma Seits Austin, Class of 1946
Barbara Phillips Brose, Class of 1948
Jean Wilson Discant, Class of 1951
Margaret Clevenger Earle, Class of 1955
Don Estep, Class of 1957
Andy Frasier, Class of 1937
Ray Geer, Class of 1948
Raymond Gillespie, Class of 1975
Larry Grover, Class of 1962
Patty Folger Hammerberg, Class of 1959
Jaime Nicole Huston-Crafton, Class of 2004
Larry Bruce Jones, Class of 1967
Arland "Ace" Johnson, Class of 1954
Vyrladean Johnson Jones, Class of 1968
Wilbur "Corky" Maddox, Class of 1969
Georgia Fithian McMullen, Class of 1960
Kelly Ellis Miller, Class of 1976
Marilyn Miller, Class of 1960
Ivy Nelson, Class of 1965
Sandra Johnson Omlid, Class of 1968
Georgia Elliott Philbrook, Class of 1961
Kaylee Price, Class of 2012
Glena "Sue" Lindsey Dearman Robinow,
 Class of 1953
George Rodet, Class of 1991
Tera Ross, Class of 2004
Eddie Samuel, Class of 1974
Mandy Stroud Shouppe, Class of 1988
John Skoog, Class of 1937
Sharon Gwynn Strahm, Class of 1954
Wes Strahm, Class of 1953
Justin Antone Tomac, Class of 1989
Keith Willis, Class of 1979
Lucille Carter Wilson, Class of 1950
Steve Winona "Little Steve"
 (Steven Edwards Haxby), Class of 1977
Ken Woosley, Class of 1959

Siuslaw School System Educators & Staff

Keith Nelson
 Scott Anderson
 Lucille Wilson (see above)

please send any grad date changes or obituaries to editor

Jensen: from the West Coast to the White House

This will be an election year like no other. Joel Jensen '79, has a perspective like no other on the "regular people" in Washington D.C. and how he came to work with them. Here is his story.

I was born and raised just south of Florence and went to Siuslaw School District 97-J.

I was privileged to have a great small-town background that gave me a wonderful foundation for what God had already planned for me. Those small-town values have served me well throughout my varied and challenging career as a government worker, first with the National Park Service (NPS), and the Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President at the Executive Residence.

Before we get there, I need to let you know how being from SHS helped me to get to that point. A good Christian background was essential in that it led to me having a very boring background for the FBI to investigate every five years but made my clearances a cinch! (Over the years I heard that from every agent...I am boring!) Just as important was having friends from my childhood who I am still very good friends with today...keeping me grounded. I have always felt that since our school was not big, you knew everyone and so there were not all those cliques that my kids had going to a high school with 2,250 of their closest friends.

Going to Oregon State University was vital to me getting my NPS job. I received a degree in Resource Recreation Management but in order to graduate I needed at least one summer of work in my field of study, which led me to applying for

the NPS job. Which led to my mandatory graduation internship the next summer with the NPS. Besides getting my degree at OSU, I needed a lot of growing up to do in a controlled environment; that for me in-



Joel and Suzanne Jensen, President Obama, Karla (Large) and Larry McFadden, Christmas at the White House.

cluded working my entire time at college.

When you apply for the summer NPS job you can choose *only* two locations and so I naturally chose Crater Lake and President's Park (since I *love* studying presidents). Of course, you know what job I got...

Off to the east coast I went in May of 1982, again in the summer of '83, and permanently in April of '84 (after graduating in '83). While at the NPS I helped get the tours into: The White House, Spring and Fall Garden Tour, Easter Egg Roll, 4th of July, Topping of the National Christmas Tree with Barbara Bush in '84 and '85, National Christmas Tree Pageant Lighting, White House Christmas Candle Light Tours, LaFayette Park, and working occasionally at the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and the Old Post Office Bell Tower.

As with all jobs there comes a time to move on and so on August

31, 1986, I started working in the Executive Residence doing purchasing of all products coming into The White House and did that job during the administrations of Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama, and finally, Trump.

Inauguration Day means all hands on deck! In the short amount of time between the outgoing president leaving The White House in the morning and the incoming walking in, everything is changed. Literally everything gets changed to make the new family feel at home. They box up all the outgoing family's personal belongings and ship them out. Then switch out the furniture (in the private quarters only), pictures, food, flowers, even the drapes, and unpack the new family's belongings, all in a matter of a few hours!

After almost 35 year of government service, I retired on September 30, 2018.

Everybody always wants to know about the job "inside" The White House. My interactions with all the first families were *non-political*. When they came home to the Residence, they were home and just regular people as you and me. I have many fond memories of all the joys and sorrows that come to any family during everyday living... even first families.

One funny story that comes to my mind was when I worked for the NPS and we got a mid-summer evaluation. I was marked down because I was too friendly! When I asked why I was told that, "Nobody is naturally as friendly as you are." My reply was, "Everyone from Oregon sure is!"

Class Notes

Anthony Armendariz '84, was watching the National Geographic Channel and recognized **Stuart Andrews '85**, on *Life Below Zero: Port Protection*, set in the small Alaska town. Stuart is a fisherman and captain of the *Donna Mae*.

Emily Girard '87, shares "My position as a Disaster Program Manager with the American Red Cross has given me the chance to assist many people on their darkest moments. The most recent has been the tornados within Tennessee. On March 3, an EF4 tornado touched down in Nashville and Cookeville. Within hours we had mobilized volunteers to open up shelters to house people, feed citizens, and provide them with other basic necessities. When not responding to disasters my day-to-day work consists of training volunteers, teaching preparedness classes to schoolchildren and adults, and collaborating with local fire departments to install fire alarms. This is a free program. My job is truly my passion because I have been designed to help people. We help alleviate human suffering.

Kristi Koopman '85, says she "finally got my bachelor's degree from Montana State University - Billings on December 15, 2016."

David Lockwood '88, went to Lane Community College in Eugene for welding. He took a job a year out of high school and he is still working that shipyard job. David said, "My high school vocational teacher gave me the skills needed to further my education. I thank my teacher and uncle, Mr. Lockwood!"



The Class of 1969 celebrated their 50th class reunion.



The Class of 1979 celebrated their 40th class reunion.

Connect With Your Class

This year's milestone reunions

Class of 1970 50th class reunion

Contacts: Debbie Gray Peterson, deb52_3@yahoo.com
Brenda Daugherty Allen, gmaballen@gmail.com

Class of 1955 65th class reunion has been canceled

Contact: Rita Boyce Snyder, 541-752-6457,
rsnyder14@msn.com

Events subjects to change. Contact your reunion organizer for complete details.
Check www.SiuslawAlumni.org for updates.

The Intruders had the Florence Events Center rocking



*The Class of 1969 brought The Intruders back to Florence for reunion weekend and brought the alumni to the dance floor. Current members include **Michael Phillips '65, Tom Trammel '66, and Denny Weaver '65.***

Running through the Siuslaw Dunes

Trail running has exploded in popularity over the past decade. It bears little resemblance to most people's high school cross country experience.

Jeremy Long '96, created Day-break Racing in 2016 and it has steadily grown to offer five events throughout the year and he now calls race director his full-time job. His goal is about getting people outdoors to experience trail running in the Pacific Northwest in a fun, safe, and meaningful way. They strive to produce events that aren't 'just another race' and to offer relevant and unique courses that feel natural and unforced, staged at cool venues where everyone's finish is rewarded with hugs and high fives from your race director (when social distancing allows!), handcrafted awards, and cheers from friends and family. Day-break emphasizes stewardship opportunities throughout the year too, by working to protect outdoor spaces for recreational use and maintaining and restoring trails in need. Jeremy's younger brothers

Aaron Long '97, and **Will Krett '09**, support the races behind the scenes as volunteers.

Jeremy has always appreciated the beauty and rugged wildness of the Oregon Coast. Born in Florence, he grew up running cross country and track and spent lots of time outdoors in the forests, lakes, beaches, and dunes. Because it is such a unique and beautiful area with lots of interconnecting trails, the idea of hosting a race there has always been on his short list of possibilities. Staging it at the lodge at Clewax in Honeyman State Park was a no-brainer and just a perfect venue. It took him several years to stitch together the courses on the map, scouting out every inch in person. He talked to local friends and stakeholders, especially longtime friend Chris Johnson, the SHS athletic director and cross country and track & field head coach. Despite Chris' reservations of how difficult the race courses would be, he was excited and supportive of the concept from the beginning. Plus having the SHS



running teams as the non-profit beneficiary of the event made it a perfect fit. After proposing the Siuslaw Dunes event concept to the US Forest Service and Honeyman and getting their support, it was all set. He also decided it would be fun to have the event be dog friendly, lending a nod to the old Oregon Dune Musher's Mail Run (sled dog race) that used to take place across the dunes. This definitely added another layer of fun to the event. The Siuslaw Dunes trail run was to be the last run of the season as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe.

Siuslaw Alumni Association Board Members 2019-20

Officers:

President

Mike Bones '66

Vice President & Reunion Chair

Kathy Phillips Grimes '71

Secretary

Rita Boyce Snyder '55

Treasurer

Phyllis Bennett Wells '52

Bylaws Advisor

Tim Dodson '82

Past President

Lou Anne Wood Fore '54

Directors:

Jennifer Archer '86

Jim Himmel '69

Christy Holland Howell '65

Judy WorthyLake McClellan '61

Karla Large McFadden '79

Melissa Goodrich Phillips '78

Beth Meadows Sandberg '64

Shannon Anderson Sheets '89

Mickie Boyer Stephens '62

Merne Entgelmeier Wilson '68

Allyn Wilson '69

Editor/Publisher

Jennifer Archer

siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com

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on Facebook or visit us online

www.siuslawalumni.org

SHS Hall of Fame

The Siuslaw High School Hall of Fame inductees for 2020 have been chosen.

In the individual category:

Ben Voogd '05, all-time leading basketball scorer with 1,853 points.

Jesse Schutte '06, state golf title winner in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

Rob Dimick '75, member of Siuslaw's 1974 state runner-up football team.

In the teams category are 2004, 2005, and 2006 girls cross country, the 2004 boys cross country, the 2005 boys golf, and the 2006 football.

Due to COVID-19 and state of Oregon executive orders, this event has been postponed until 2021.

Join the Siuslaw Hall of Fame Facebook group to get updates.

Siuslaw sports extra

Sam Johnson '13, was named the SHS football coach. He played under Coach **Tim Dodson '82**.

Lexi Smith '19, an all-league softball catcher, was chosen for America's Team, which uses sports to learn about a foreign country, its people, and culture.

Pitcher **Jake Thompson '13**, is on the roster for the minor league baseball team Salem Red Sox (MLB - Boston Red Sox).

Top reasons to be an SAA member

Viking Pride

Membership in the SAA is the best way to show your Viking pride.

Your Viking Network

Engage with SHS alumni on Facebook and at the All-School Reunion. It can lead to friendships, new business ventures, and general good feelings.

In the Know

Whether you live in Florence, across the country, or around the world, the SAA will keep you informed about interesting alumni, events, opportunities, and more.

Giving Back

Whether you want to get involved with the board or support student scholarships, we welcome your participation. The board is all-volunteer and the membership dues pay for publishing/ mailing the newsletter, website expenses, postal box rent, annual corporation fee, stationary and postage, and other administrative and banquet expenses.

Annual dues are \$10 for individuals or an alumni household, payable every October. The board has three meetings per year that are open to the SAA membership.

Please fill out the enclosed form and mail to the SAA.

You are invited to join the Siuslaw Alumni Association board

Looking for a way to give back to your alma mater and community? Do you have enthusiasm, interests, and skills in fundraising, finances, event planning, local outreach, or education? The SAA board members are unpaid volunteers who meet three times per year. Many 50-year class reunion organizers participate during the year leading up to their milestone reunion.

Siuslaw Alumni Association
PO Box 1924
Florence, OR 97439

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