

SANDS of TIME

Celebrating 25 years of the SAA

The annual Siuslaw Alumni Association scholarship fundraiser and all-school banquet has fun in store for all classes on Saturday, September 6, at the Florence Events Center. Reservations are required. Early bird registration of \$50 per person is due July 31. Late registration will be taken from August 1-25 for \$65. No registrations accepted after this date. No pay at door. The RSVP form is inserted in this newsletter and available online.

At 4 p.m. the doors open, and alumni and guests can pick up their name tags, which are sorted alphabetically by last name and include a dinner ticket, from the front tables. A dinner buffet is served at 6:00 p.m.

Two bars will be open, accepting cash and credit cards. Back by popular demand are two colorful signature cocktails: Valiant Viking and Siuslaw Sensation.

Raffle tickets are sold cash only. Choose from a fantastic display of prizes that are donated by generous alumni and community members. Watch the Facebook group page in late summer for descriptions of the offerings. All the money raised goes into the scholarship fund.

Need a fresh new Viking shirt, hooded sweatshirt, or fleece jacket? Stop by the merchandise booth to make your purchase.

The board will have a short meeting and take a vote on any new members or bylaws. All paid members in attendance can vote.

Any SAA scholarship recipients and their families in attendance will be introduced. President Mike Bones will also recognize classes by year with extra cheers for those celebrating milestone reunions.

The dessert dash is back so bring cash and make a plan to get your favorite treat for your table. This is a lively event that will raise even more scholarship funds for our deserving students. We're taking dessert donations (see page 2).

Raffle tickets will be drawn with the winning numbers displayed on the big screen. Winners can claim their prizes with the assistance of our helpful volunteers.

After dinner, you can boogie off your dessert on the relocated dance floor. Does the 60s have the best music? Or is it the 90s? Bring your whole Siuslaw family (ages 18+) and dance it out.

Scholarship Fundraiser and Reunion Banquet

September 6, 2025

Florence Events Center

715 Quince Street

Florence, Oregon

\$\$ bring cash \$\$

Dates to know

Reunion RSVP deadline

July 31 (early-bird)

Banquet/reunion

Sept. 6

Board meetings

Sept. 6

Jan. 2026 (TBD)

Scholarship deadline

March 2026

Siuslaw Alumni Association Board Members 2025-26

Officers:

President

Mike Bones '66

Vice President & Reunion

Chair

Karla Large McFadden '79

Secretary

Kathy Bones

Treasurer

Melissa Goodrich Phillips '78

Bylaws Advisor

Tim Dodson '82

Past President

Lou Anne Wood Fore '54

Directors:

Kara Alford '80

Jennifer Archer '86

John Barnes '69

Gina Castro Brandt '85

Kevin Brandt '85

Cindy Dunaven Engstrom '66

Debbie Shirley Flores '73

Shannon Anderson Sheets '89

Bob Sneddon '75

Debbie Fender Sneddon '79

Rita Boyce Snyder '55

Marcee Mills Teeters '76

Tracy Teeters '82

Phyllis Bennett Wells '52

Allyn Wilson '69

Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Archer

Find us on Facebook:

Join private group Siuslaw Alumni Association.

Visit us online:

www.siuslawalumni.org

Siuslaw Alumni Association is a domestic nonprofit 501(c)(7) corporation in Oregon (registry 780807-86) designated by the IRS as Social and Recreational Clubs. Effective April 2022, we are in the process of changing our designation to 501(c)(3) that, once approved, will allow SAA donations to be tax deductible.

Board committee updates

Reunion Committee: How to Dessert Dash

Two years ago, we added a feature to our scholarship dinner, which has become very popular and successful. The Dessert Dash has raised enough money each of the past two years to fund over 50% of one of our \$3,500 scholarships without negatively impacting the popular “bucket raffle.” There are many great bakers and dessert chefs among our alumni, and we’d like to allow you to show off your talents while helping us to meet our fundraising goals. Our committee, under the leadership of Debbie Fender Sneddon, works diligently to provide enough desserts so that there is at least one for each table, with a couple of extras so nobody misses out. The Florence community is generous but if you would like to contribute to this fun activity, here’s your chance. Desserts should be enough to easily provide 8-10 servings. They should be able to safely tolerate being left at room temperature for several hours. If you can, please bring it in a dish or container that you won’t mind not getting back. You are welcome to make the container part of your contribution and note that in the description of the dessert. If you can’t bear to send your creation in a foil pan or cardboard box, please be sure to note that you need your dish back that night. If you have a famous recipe for cookies, bars, pie, or cake, those are great. But we’ve seen things like fudge, chocolate-covered strawberries, and other unique desserts. If you can do something that is low-sugar, gluten-free, or otherwise accommodates other special dietary needs, feel free! Send an email to Debbie at esperanza97439@gmail.com or give her a call at 541-999-0130 and tell her what you will be bringing, and she’ll get you on the list!

—Bob Sneddon

Membership Committee: New private Facebook group

For several years the Siuslaw Alumni Facebook communications has been facilitated by Beth Meadows, on an individual page. The Siuslaw Alumni Association started migrating to a new Facebook Group in January 2025. Creating this new group allows us to keep the members to just alumni, family and educators of Siuslaw High School. This will help eliminate ads and scammers. Member requests will be reviewed by the administrators of the page. Look for your invite to the new page or go to Facebook and search for Siuslaw Alumni Association. Look for the picture of the bridge.

—Debbie Shirley Flores, siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com or 541-510-7778

Raffle Committee: Thanks to our 2024 donors

We appreciate the 2024 donated raffle prizes that brought in almost \$4,000. Raffle ticket sales are one of the few onsite fundraisers that occur at the annual reunion. All profits go straight into the scholarship bank account, so thank you to all who purchase tickets. *continued on page 6*

Where Are They Now?

Carissa Oliver King '17

Carissa graduates from the OHSU School of Dentistry in June.

Afterward, Dr. King will be practicing at the Florence Dental Clinic.

The feats Carissa has conquered are unparalleled to say the least. She lost one parent before graduating high school and the second parent while in college, and she persevered to follow her dreams.

Do you have news of a past scholarship recipient? We love to hear what they are up to. Please email siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com and use the subject line "Where Are They Now?"

2025 Scholarship Recipients

Siuslaw Alumni Association scholarships are awarded to graduating Siuslaw students who plan to attend or continue at a college and/or trade school. These scholarships are solely supported by donations to the scholarship fund and by all proceeds from the scholarship fundraiser banquet raffle.

For the year of 2025, we are pleased to announce three scholarships in the amount of \$3,500 each.

Maddison Bush '25 has chosen Southwestern Community College for her prerequisites before attending Central Oregon Community College for their very competitive veterinary technician program.

Addison McNeill '25, who is also one of this year's valedictorians, will be attending Oregon State University majoring in kinesiology and minoring in exercise physiology. Then she plans to attend medical school to obtain her doctorate in physical therapy.

Macali Lade '25 will be attending Washington State University to pursue a degree in nursing, while minoring in wildlife biology.

Good luck from us all at the Siuslaw Alumni Association to these three outstanding students. 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 SAA scholarships are taken year-round. Visit our website for a complete list of past recipients.

Memberships and the newsletter

Keep in mind: To keep your newsletter coming be sure to pay your \$10 annual dues if you haven't attended a scholarship dinner. If you have, your dues are included in your dinner cost. Email us if you have any questions: siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com.

Searching for an old newsletter? Visit the Siuslaw Alumni Association newsletter archive webpage at <https://www.siuslawalumni.org/newsletters>.

MEET THE BOARD

Cindy Dunaven Engstrom '66

I was born in Corvallis but moved to Florence the year before I started school. My first grade teacher was the amazing Mrs. Austin. My favorite high school teacher was the legendary Mr. Whitmore, my biology teacher.

I'm honored to be a part of the board for the last three years. I help with the scholarship committee and am in charge of the raffle tickets at our annual all-class alumni reunion.

Rita Boyce Snyder '55

My birth was in Washington but in a couple years I became an Oregonian. My family moved to Florence from Portland in 1950. Three of my four sisters graduated from Siuslaw, Ann in 1952, June in 1953, and Leone in 1957.

My best teacher was Helen Green. I know the importance of scholarships. When I graduated, someone gifted me money I needed to enter the nursing program at Emanuel Hospital School of Nursing in Portland. This changed my life forever.

In 2007, I became a member of the SAA board and then assumed the role of secretary under the guidance of Ramona Meink Slocum '49. This year, Kathy Bones has taken over as secretary and now I'm a member-at-large, or "gopher."

Connect With Your Class

Class of 1955 70th anniversary

Sun. Sept. 7: 12:30 p.m. Shorewood Senior Living,
1451 Spruce St.

Contact: Rita Snyder 541-752-6457 or rm.62sny@outlook.com

Classes of 1963 and 1964 Gathering

Fri. Sept. 5: Group Meeting Hall - Woahink
Contacts: Sharon LaDuke Waite (541-991-2475) or
Beth Meadows Sandberg (541-733-4377)

Class of 65 Sixtieth Class Reunion

Contact: Pat Pirrie

Class of '68 75th Birthday Party Reunion

Aug. 8-10

Contact: Glenna Mead Maskal, 509-899-4518,
glennamas@yahoo.com

Class of 1970 55th Class Reunion

Fri. Sept. 5: meet and greet at Abby's Pizza, 5:30 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 6: at all-school reunion
Watch for event page on Facebook

Class of 1975 50th Class Reunion

Sat. Sept. 6: at all-school reunion
Follow Siuslaw Class of '75 group on Facebook

Class of 1980 45th Reunion

Aug. 8-10

Facebook: Siuslaw High School 1980
Contact: 1980 Reunion, PO Box 1133,
Marcola OR 97454

Class of 1985 40 Year Class Reunion

[May 16-18 in case you missed it]
Join Facebook page "1985 Class Reunion"

Class of 1990 35th Class Reunion

Aug. 2: No-host breakfast at Fresh Harvest Cafe, 9 a.m.
high school tour; happy hour, Darling's Resort, 5 p.m.

Classes celebrating their 50th and 60th reunions are encouraged to have a member of their class join the board the year prior to get help in the planning process.

Events subject to change.

Check www.siuslawalumni.org for updates.



Silver jubilee of the blue and gold

As the SAA celebrates 25 years of membership, let's take a walk down memory lane: In the spring of 2000, Wanda Zierner Hoberg contacted Zelda Sanborn Suniga asking for a meeting of the members of the Class of 1950. Mary Lynn (Mimi) Cooper Smith, Darlene Strahm Rinard, Edna Wolf Jensen, and Ivan Olson joined them at the Valley River Inn, Eugene.

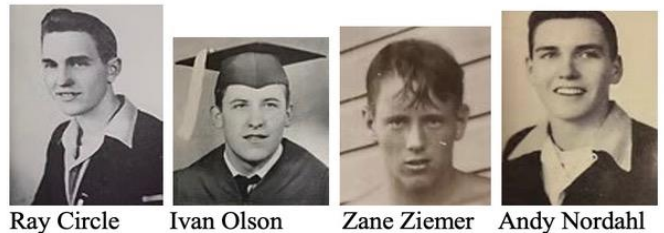
They concluded that it was the duty of the 50-year class to sponsor a reunion open to other class years. The Class of 1950 also determined that there was a need for something more permanent to host an all-school reunion. In addition, the Class of 1949, headed by Frank Suniga and Romona Meink Slocum, had continued an annual event by spearheading their 50-year reunion, in which they had an open invitation for other classes to join them.

The classes met in 2000 at the Elks Lodge where Olson presented a draft constitution and bylaws for a Siuslaw High School Alumni Association. These were adopted in September of 2001 at the first association meeting.

The first officers were president Ray Circle, vice president Zane Zierner, secretary Betty Ryder Olson, and treasurer Wanda Zierner Hoberg. Olson was named advisor to the board of directors. Zierner was instrumental in obtaining a charter from the state of Oregon naming the association a nonprofit organization.

The line of presidents for the association are: Ray Circle, Ivan Olson, Zane Zierner, Andy Nordahl, Len Tabor, Wes Strahm, Lou Anne Wood Fore, and Mike Bones.

The board became aware of a previous incarnation of the same name in a letter dated March 15, 1966. They gave two student loans for a total amount of \$550. Officers were president Don Bowman, vice president Goodren Gallo, secretary Joy Smith, treasurer Dorothy Martin, with the other members being Opal Pitney, Ellen Zimmerman, Letha Carlson, Ole Fosback, and Frank Suniga.

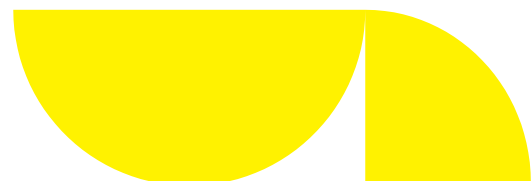


The first few year's meetings were held at the Elks Lodge with an attendance of about 65. The numbers continued to increase, outgrowing the facilities and the meeting was moved to the Three Rivers Casino. The event later moved to the Florence Events Center.

As the primary focus of the association is to provide scholarships to graduates of Siuslaw High School, a scholarship committee was formed. Funds are obtained from individual member contributions, and ticket sales for door prizes and a silent auction, now raffle and dessert dash, held at the annual meeting. Local individuals and merchants provide the products and services. The funds are kept in a Vanguard account that generates interest.

To keep members informed a newsletter called "Sands of Time" was developed. The first editors were Ivan and Betty Olson, followed by Andy and Evelyn Nordahl, Len Tabor, Carolyn Lockwood Nordahl, and currently Jennifer Archer.

Fresh ideas from members will keep the association vibrant for years to come. Any SHS alum is invited to join in on the fun. Any skillset is welcome and we especially appreciate fundraising, event planning, and education. Please inquire with any board member or attend a meeting.





Cheers to 40 Years! The Class of 1985 capped off a weekend of reunion fun on a float at the Grand Floral Parade of the Rhododendron Festival. Below: The Class of 1966 also had a flower-filled float.

Raffle, continued from page 2

Please look for business sponsor flyers and thank the following raffle donors: Abby's; A&W, Ann Jones Jensen-Bradley '76; Oregon Coast Glassworks, Robin & Bill Murphy '82; Badger Mountain Soaps, Merne Wilson '68; Bi-Mart; Bonjour; City Lights Cinema; Darlings Marina & RV Resort; Dunes Café, Keri Kimble '88 & Wayne '84 Stonelake; Firehouse Restaurant; Florence Golf Links; Fresh Harvest; Ixtapa; Jerry's Rogue Jet Boats; Johnston Motor Co; Kitchen Klutter; Law Office of Laurel Ferguson '04; Los Amigos; Mari's Kitchen; Anderson & Forrester, Michele Nordahl '82; Bones Nursery, Mike Bones '66; Novelli's Crab & Seafood; Oregon Coast Military Museum; Periwinkle Cottage; R&R King Logging, Jennifer King Waggoner '90 & Justin King '96; Raining Cats and Dogs; River Roasters, Kathy Johnson Stone '72; Safeway; Seven Feathers Casino Resort; Shervin's Tire & Automotive; Siuslaw News; Socks To A "T"; State Farm/Sue Gilday; Steve Esterby '72; Stitch & Sole; Three Rivers Casino; Tony's Garage, Kevin Phillips '06 & Kyle Phillips '09; True Value, Lemhouse family; Wildlife Safari.

A special thanks for donations by: Bill Elliott '68; Carolyn Lockwood Nordahl '59; Clara & Max '65 Kuhn; Bob '75 & Debbie Fender Sneddon '79; David Brackney '91; Debra Miller Cox '72; Diane Perkins Larson '78; Brett '73 & Jan Petersen McKnight '73; Lori Hylton Wangerin '76; Lynn Lockwood '58; Melody Beecher '94 & Mike Jones '90; Tom '71 & Nikki Nickelson Sneddon '72; Patty Roberts Tonole '66; Pegge (Judy) Tone '64; Sue Sampson '65; Suzi Brog Bennett '65; Suzi & Vance Smith '79; Shannon Anderson Sheets '89; Tim Brackney '89. To donate to the 2025 raffle, please contact raffle chair Shannon Sheets, 541-999-6867 or SAA.Shannon@gmail.com by Aug. 1.

Any omissions or errors are unintentional, contact us for corrections.

In Memoriam

Roger Baxter, Class of 1972
Sharlee Tompkins Bortz, Class of 1956
Becky Hill Clark, Class of 1972
Jared Danielson, Class of 1987
Tyler Fero, Class of 2000
Rick Flores, Class of 1978
Marie Norquist Fosback, Class of 1948
Randall "Randy" Goodrich, Class of 1974
John Gourley, Class of 1956
Bobby Graves, Class of 1959
Lloyd Harris, Class of 1968
Jerry "Henry" Hendrickson, Class of 1971
Gary Hughes, Class of 1959
Judy Bly Jansen, Class of 1973
Dawna Phillips Large, Class of 1953
Donna Herring Lemons, Class of 1973
Don "Ping" Lindberg, Class of 1982
Connie Earl Lucker, Class of 1966
Sharon Saxon Mallory, Class of 1963
Jeannie Cooper Morrow, Class of 1965
Margaret Hostick Pape, Class of 1970
Janet Bevier Plummer, Class of 1964
Sharon Nelson Prindel, Class of 1958
Earl McMullen, Class of 1969
Dick Pickett, Class of 1967
Mary York Price, Class of 1979
James "Jim" Randolph, Class of 1965
Bob Riggs, Class of 1969
Marlene Stonefield Saxon, Class of 1958
Sue Pengra Scarberry, Class of 1967
Tom Sneddon, Class of 1971
Charles "Chuck" Suniga, Class of 1975
Teresa Whitehall, Class of 1974
Christie Burke Wilson, Class of 1970
Donna Hendrickson Winden, Class of 1966
Siuslaw School System Educators and Staff
 Emmett Devereux
 Margaret Hagle
 Dawna Phillips Large
 Sherrie McCorkle



Class Notes

Founded 50 years ago in Florence, Burch's Roofing is now run by the second and third generations of Aaron Van De Hey '06, Cheryl Burch '84 and husband Kevin Van De Hey '81.

Darby Clawson '88 reopened Clawson's Wheelhouse restaurant in Florence with his son Dylan '12.

Rick Laxague '93 took over the 80-year-old Pyrenees French Bakery in Bakersfield, CA, from his grandparents and aunt. Stop by for a loaf!

Jeremy '96 and Aaron '97 Long of Daybreak Racing staged the fourth running of the Siuslaw Dunes trail run at Honeyman State Park March 8.

Stephanie Osburn Norman '84 was named the associate head coach and director of basketball strategy at Arizona State University, her alma mater.

Susan Rae Sampson '65 wrote *A Yard Long, A Natural and Cultural History of One Small Yard* about her small urban lot in Washington.

Benjamin Wiley '03 is the chef at The Green Room restaurant in Old Town Florence.

All past SHS volleyball players are invited to play at the Siuslaw Volleyball Alumni Scrimmage, Aug. 16, at noon in the gym. See the SHS Volleyball Facebook page for info.

2025 Scholarships Challenge

The Siuslaw Alumni Association is celebrating their 25th anniversary as an association in 2025. Thank you to all of the members for your continued support and encouragement.

Since 2015, the SAA has been honored to award two to three \$3,500 scholarships to Siuslaw High School seniors. This has been accomplished by fundraising efforts, investing, and funds raised during the annual SAA Scholarship Dinner and All-Class Reunion held each September. While the cost of dinner isn't part of the fundraising efforts, the activities during the event and contributions from individual alumni go directly into our scholarship fund.

For the 2025-26 school year, the Siuslaw alumni board is offering this challenge to its members. We have set a goal of \$20,000 for fundraising efforts. If this goal is reached, either an additional amount to the existing three scholarships or a fourth scholarship will be added. This will open up opportunities for another Siuslaw graduate and help aid in their educational costs.

continued next column

An Ode to Florence

Beneath the dunes where memories lie,
Where Cleawox waters kissed the sky,
Where mornings chilled with echoes clear,
And Si's Burgers warmed hearts year to year.

The Rhody trees, like giants they stood,
We climbed their branches, misunderstood,
Rhododendron blooms that marked the days,
Of parades and laughter, small-town craze.

The taste of cones from Kari-Cone's hand,
The thrill of racing across the sand,
Dragging the gut on 101,
With friends beside us, the nights begun.

Peterson's counter, the shoes at Campbell's,
McKay's lot where the laughter rambles,
A penny's worth at Food Town's delight,
The quiet calm of the Harbor's night.

Sea Lion Caves, the cold jetty breeze,
The drag of tires beneath tall trees,
We snuck our friends in the drive-in lot,
For buck night thrills we never forgot.

Florence, where skies and oceans meet,
Where childhood echoes on every street,
From Grady's Market to Woahink's shore,
These are the places, forevermore.

A small-town scrapbook, sun-faded yet bright,
Whispers of days turning into night,
Though years have gone and changes stayed,
The spirit of Florence never fades.

By Kathryn Akerley Thrall '66

Contributions can always be made in the name of a family member or loved one. We will be sure to recognize your wishes. In the past, families have also offered a "one-time" scholarship honoring past Siuslaw alumni. This option is always available.

Our members are what makes this association strong and growing each year. Thank you to all of you for putting your hearts into this group.

Go Vikings!

Debbie Shirley Flores
Membership Director

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Florence OR 97439

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