



# Sands of Time

April 2008

Volume 3 Issue 1

**SAA BOARD  
MEETING  
SCHEDULE**

August 1, 2008, 12:00 noon  
Three Rivers Casino  
Florence, OR

September 13, 2008 11:30 AM  
Three Rivers Casino  
Florence, OR

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## President's Message

### NEW HORIZONS

Greetings Siuslaw alumni from your officers and board! We wish to thank you for making the 2007 reunion a great success. Your continued support of this annual activity is a good indicator of the overall success of our organization.

Since the inception of the SHS Alumni Association in 2000 there has been continued growth of membership. With growth comes many challenges. It is the goal of your Alumni officers and board to address these challenges as an

energized group facing new horizons.

There are three major challenges we currently face: Reunion location, Bylaws revision and Scholarships.

We have outgrown the Elks Club and need more room. The opening of a new hotel/expanded facilities at the Three Rivers Casino have given us the opportunity we desire. Arrangements for the 2008 reunion to be held at the casino are being finalized.

The present Bylaws met our needs when first written but need updat-

ing to meet present needs of the Association. A committee has been established for this purpose and will present its recommendations for your approval at the upcoming reunion.

The scholarship committee has met to review the guidelines and the possibility of offering two scholarships this year.

I encourage you to join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie in September and also continuing the tradition of giving through our scholarship program.

### STATE CHAMPIONS

The Siuslaw Girls Cross Country team and the Siuslaw Boys Football 4A team were both presented with plaques from the Siuslaw Alumni Association honoring their achievements as State Champions.

The Girls Cross Country team won the State Championship in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Not only did they accomplish this out-

standing feat, but they went on to secure another State Championship in 2007!

The Boys Football team won the 2006 4A State Championship.

Len Tabor made the plaque presentations at the 100th Rhododendron Festival celebration parade in May 2007. Even though the day was rainy, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the recipients. Congratulations to all!

**SIUSLAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
Board Members 2008

Officers:

President - Len Tabor  
Vice President - Wes Strahm  
Secretary - Ramona Meink Slocum  
Treasurer - Phyllis Bennett Wells  
Advisor to Officers/Board - Ivan Olson

Directors:

Ida Holden Hagedorn  
Lou Anne Wood Patterson  
Zilpha Meink Smith  
Rita Boyce Snyder  
Sharon Gwynn Strahm  
Frank Suniga

Directors at Large:

Ray Circle  
Darlene Strahm Rinard

The SANDS OF TIME  
Editor/Publisher -  
Lou Anne Wood Patterson

Process: subject to editing,  
omissions, revisions.

**PLANNING A REUNION???**

Are you planning or want to plan for a class reunion this year?

Siuslaw Alumni Association may be able to help you with contacts of your former classmates.

Another consideration would be to plan your class reunion at the same time as the September All-Class Reunion. This gives you the opportunity to not only gather with your own classmates but to see friends from other classes.

If you are interested, please contact us at:

Siuslaw Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 1924  
Florence, OR 97439

**And What A Reunion It Was**

Just when children were returning for a new school year in Florence, we returned also to reunite at the All-Class Reunion held at the Elks Lodge. There were 120 alumni and guests seated for dinner on Saturday, September 8, and 60 attended breakfast on Sunday, September 9.

The class of 1962, celebrating their 45-year reunion, took this year's honor of having the best class representation! Following close behind them were the classes of 1954 and 1947.

After dinner a short business meeting Outgoing President, Andy Nordahl, introduced Len Tabor as the new President of SAA, along with Wes Strahm as Vice President and Phyllis Wells as Treasurer. Rita Snyder and Sharon Strahm joined the Board as new Directors. Len Tabor presented awards to Andy and Evelyn Nordahl for their service to the Alumni Association: Andy as President and Evelyn as Publisher of the *Sands of Time*. As Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Ivan Olson asked all who had served in the military to stand and they were given a big round of applause.

Lots of fun happenings at this reunion: door prizes, silent auction items and dancing to the Jukebox Kings. Ann Stonelake received a door prize of a meal/drink for two from the Beachcomber Pub & Grill. Sandland Adventures provided a Dune Buggy tour for two won by Dorene Splawn, and 18-hole miniature golf for two won by Terry Nordahl. Northwest Travel, Inc (a Florence-based magazine publisher) provided 1- year sub-

scriptions to their magazines, *Northwest Travel* and *Oregon Coast*. These subscriptions went to Donna Brossoit, Ron Harmon, Betty Olson and Ivan Olson. Mike Bones provided \$5.00 slot tickets for all reunion guests. (courtesy of Three Rivers Casino).

This year the Silent Auction items were all made and donated by alumni of SHS. All proceeds were for the Scholarship Fund. Donated items were:

Wine Basket with special SHS alumni labels by Richard & Carolyn Nordahl (high bid Deanna Jacobson); Tea Basket by Donna Muscutt (high bid Betty Olson); Decorative Pillows by Lou Anne Patterson (high bid Sharon Strahm); Lap Quilts by Brenda Wood & Chris Nixon (high bids Debbie Todd and Pat Sapp); and framed Watercolor by Peggy Pickett (high bid Larry Conley).

Something rather unique occurred this reunion. The Reindl family planned their family reunion along with the All-Class Reunion. Gladys Reindl Freiter received a gift as the oldest alumni (class of '36) and Bob & Willetta "Willie" Reindl received a gift for being the couple married longest that are both SHS alumni (62 years). Way to go Reindl family!! Ron & Marcia Mann Keyes, both from the class of '62, received a gift for having traveled the greatest distance to attend the reunion — all the way from Fairbanks, Alaska.

(Continued on page 5)

## FROM THE EDITOR

### A Spider's Web

Last September I was standing on my deck watching a spider efficiently build its' web from the railing to a potted plant. The spider's purpose was to trap some unsuspecting insect for its' next meal! I can't say I'm a fan of spiders, but it made me stop and think how the spider web construction is a lot like people networking. Each contact is like a strand in a spider web ... and each contact enlarges the web construction. The networking method has been used for a long time and it is "tried and true." What I'm thinking is that if each of you who read this editorial make contact with another SHS alumni and submit his or her name and mailing address to me we can work together to add strands of construction to a network (with a promise not to trap and consume them!). Some may already be on the mailing list; however, there will undoubtedly be many who are not. The mailing list is used for sending out this newsletter and the invitations to the All-Class Reunion held annually in September. The purpose of this networking is to promote awareness and growth of the Siuslaw Alumni Association. This tool can also be very useful for planning class

reunions and personal contact with former classmates. Bring the names to me..."said the spider to the fly"...and help the the network grow! And don't even think about calling me Spiderwoman...the outfit just wouldn't look good on me!!

## Book of Memories

Carl Foss, class of '42, made a suggestion that at the annual All-Class Reunion there be a list of SHS alumni by class year. This could include up-to-date information i.e. where the alumni is located or if the alumni is deceased. He has provided a list of class years 1931 through 1948, His list includes class year, name of alumni/spouse and address or if the alumni is deceased.

Can you help establish a list of your class with as much of the same information as possible? If so, please send it to:

Lou Anne Patterson  
7425 190<sup>th</sup> Place NE  
Arlington, WA 98223.

## Scholarship Award

The 2007 Siuslaw Alumni Association Scholarship Award for \$1000 was presented to Drew Holden at the Annual Awards Ceremony held at Siuslaw High School.

Drew is currently living in Eugene, Oregon and attending Lane County Community College. He is the son of Kim Holden of Florence, Oregon.



## ADDRESS OR NAME CHANGE?

Don't forget to notify the Alumni Association if your address or name has changed so you will continue to receive this newsletter and the invitation for the annual All-Class Reunion.

Send any changes to:

Siuslaw Alumni Assoc.  
P.O. Box 1924  
Florence, OR 97439

## The Sad Passing of an Old Friend

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of a beloved old friend, Mr. Common Sense, who had been with us for many years.

No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He should be remembered as having cultivated such lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, that life isn't always fair and that 'Maybe it was my fault.'

Mr. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn or spend more than your tax receipts) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6 year old boy being charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Mr. Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin, suntan lotion, or apply a sticky plaster; but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Mr. Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims. He also took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue his victim for assault.

Mr. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was actually hot. She spilled some in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Truth and Justice; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers: I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm a Victim.

Only a few attended his funeral because so few realized that he was gone. If you still remember him, then pass this on. If not, turn on the TV, join the majority and do nothing.

—Submitted by Denny Stephens (Class of '54) from an article authored by Fred Starkey —

## Point of View

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asked, "Do you know her?"

"Yes," I sighed, "She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up all those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since."

"My goodness!" said my wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

## The Interview

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married — for the fourth time!

The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation.

"He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Interesting," the newsman thought.

He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a brief time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she'd first married a banker in her early 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, later on a preacher when in her 60's, and now at the age of 80, a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!"

**Reunion 2008**

This year, 2008, the All-Class Reunion in September will be held at the Convention Center in the Three Rivers Casino. Due to the continued growth of our Siuslaw Alumni Association it is necessary to move our reunion gathering to a place that can accommodate our numbers.

Three Rivers Casino has recently finished construction of a hotel and will reserve a block of rooms for alumni reservations (first come-first serve basis). Reservations must be made no later than August 10, 2008. The reservation phone number is 541-997-7529. Please state that you will be part of the Siuslaw Alumni Association Reunion for the \$90. special room rate. The rooms are great!

Your reunion invitation with more information will be mailed in June. In the meantime, please mark your calendar on Saturday September 13th, as the date for the All-Class Reunion. We are planning a fun-filled September gathering and hope you will come and join us.

**What a Reunion...**

(Continued from page 2)

The SHS school song was sung near the end of the evening. It's strange how those words and melody come back to mind after such a long time... "On our city's northern border..." How many of you remember the rest of the song?

**In Memoriam**

The following are SHS alumni (Class Year) who died during 2007-2008. These are the ones we are aware of.

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Frank Jackson ('52)         | John Stone ('53)  |
| Dayton Wood ('50)           | Elmer Waite ('59) |
| Dorothy (Earl) Ingram ('52) | Tom Hostick ('76) |
| Alice (Niespo) Peck ('54)   |                   |

**SIUSLAW RIVER BRIDGE**

We've all traveled over this structure many, many times but did you know the following?

The bridge was designed by Conde McCullough, built by the CCC and opened in 1936. It is 1568 feet in total length and, when open, the 140 foot wide double leaf bascule (drawbridge) provides 110 feet of horizontal clearance for boat traffic. The bascule is flanked by two 154 foot reinforced concrete tiered arches, identical to those in the original Alsea Bay Bridge. The Art Deco-style obelisks house the mechanical equipment as well as living quarters for the bridge operator. The total cost of the bridge was \$527,000.

(Information from *Wikipedia* Internet)

(Photo by Jim McCain, Class of '54)

