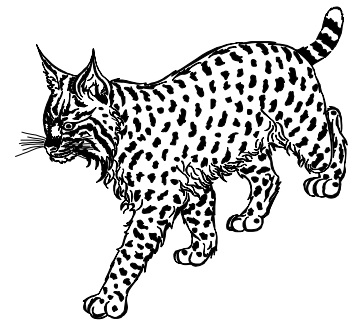


Wildcat Tales



The Official Newsletter of the **LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
Website: www.lvhsaa.com E-Mail: lvowl@aol.com or lvowl@lvhsaa.com

VOLUME 1

MARCH, 2009

Hello to all **LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL** alumni! This is the first newsletter of the newly formed LVHS Alumni Association, so we'd like to give you a little history and background.

Since LVHS is the oldest high school in Las Vegas, we wondered why there was not an alumni association. With the help of Senator Richard Bryan (1955), Patty Haack (1956) decided to take action!

The first meeting was held March 26, 2008 in the cafeteria of "old" LVHS, now the Las Vegas Academy. We were encouraged by the great turnout of interested alumni, all of whom agreed that LVHS should have an alumni association. Alumni willingly volunteered to chair several committees to develop our goals and mission statement, to put together a plan to solicit members, and to establish a website.

At the next meeting, held April 22, 2008 in the cafeteria of the new campus on East Sahara, officers pro tem were elected, we reviewed the goals and mission statement, and we discussed a fee structure for our membership dues. By this time, our Webmaster had set up a Facebook page on the internet for the LVHSAA.

By the third meeting, held May 20, 2008, we had a temporary website, we reviewed and approved our Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Goals, and we approved our membership dues fee structure. At this meeting, we accepted dues from our first nine members! We decided to offer free one-year memberships to all LVHS 2008 graduates.

Our next meeting was held at the historic Morelli House on June 10, 2008. By then, our Articles of Incorporation had been filed with the State of Nevada and our Bylaws were being worked on. Our

official website was now active. We also accepted nominations for officers and directors, all of whom were unanimously elected by attendees. By the end of June, we had 33 paid members.

By our November 13, 2008 meeting, we had 164 members and it looked promising that we would be able to award a scholarship by the end of the 2009 school year. We also had received two "in memoriam" donations. Our Corporate Charter had been filed and our checking account had been opened. In addition to membership dues, funds were raised with a successful raffle at the September 13, 2008 Wildcat Reunion. Our website had grown and now included bios on 33 notable alumni, plus "In Memoriam" lists for all classes and photos from the Wildcat Reunion.

Another meeting was held January 15, 2009. At this meeting we established a Scholarship Committee and are well on our way to being able to award two scholarships in June of this year.

We are proud of our first year accomplishments and want to thank all of you who have helped us in these efforts! We now have 179 paid members, including 20 lifetime members and 13 LVHS 2008 grads! We have a lot of exciting things planned for the future and hope you will all participate!

LVHSAA WEBSITE

If you haven't already done so, be sure to check out our website (www.lvhsaa.com). It is full of interesting information, including bios on notable alumni, historic photos of the school, and photos from various reunions. This website is being updated constantly, so let us know if you have any stories, photos, bios on notable alumni, or anything else you would like to

contribute! Contact our Webmaster Dave Williams: dave@lvhsaa.com

We also have a Facebook group. Check it out! Go to www.facebook.com and sign up or sign in. Then type "Las Vegas High School" in the upper right corner search box and hit enter. It should be one or two links down: Las Vegas High School Alumni Association.

Join us there and contribute to the forums, walls, and discussions which are ongoing. It is there for all of us!

LEGAL UPDATE

We are close to getting our tax exempt status. There were a lot of things that had to be completed first, but we are nearly there! Once we are a tax exempt organization, your membership dues will be tax deductible retroactively.

ANNUAL MEETING OF LVHSAA MEMBERS



Our Bylaws require us to hold an annual meeting of LVHSAA members.

Directors must be elected at this meeting each year. We need and would really appreciate your attendance at this meeting to assure that we have a "quorum" for the elections. Please put this date on your calendars now: **September 19, 2009**. Details on time and location will be sent to you prior to that date.

In addition to elections, the annual meeting will include a financial report and update on our activities

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Many thanks to all of you who have joined the LVHSAA!! Thanks to you, we will be able to give a couple of scholarships this year. In order to give scholarships in future years, we will be depending on your dues and donations!

Annual LVHSAA memberships will be due in September each year. Dues are \$25 a year (or \$40 a year for alumni couples), or \$300 lifetime (or \$500 lifetime for alumni couples).

Please make a note on your calendar and don't forget to send your renewal dues by September 2009. Checks should be made payable to Las Vegas High School Alumni Association and should be sent to Patty Haack, 1854 Taylorville, Las Vegas, NV 89135.

If you received this newsletter and haven't yet joined the LVHSAA, please consider doing so now! A membership application is available on our website, or give Patty a call at 702/876-6660 and she'll send you one.

SENIOR SQUARES

The Senior Squares, in front of the main entrance of the 7th Street campus, are an important part of the history of LVHS. Many classes, when they hold their class reunions, have their group photo taken on the steps with the Senior Squares in the foreground.



As you know, the squares were restored in 2003. Because of the extreme

weather in Las Vegas, ongoing maintenance has been required since then. This has been paid for strictly by donations of LVHS alumni. Our painter is now using a sealer that will not chip off, and many of the restored squares have been redone. However, there are still squares that need to be redone, and of course, we do not have sufficient funds to pay for all of them.

Each class may adopt its own square for a cost of only \$230. The following classes have adopted their squares:

1944, 1947, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1965, 1970, 1972

If you would like to adopt your class square (or any other class square), please send a check for \$230, payable to LVHS Senior Squares Project, to Patty Haack, 1854 Taylorville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89135. If you cannot adopt a square, donations in any amount will be happily accepted!

CLASS OF 1953 SENIOR SQUARES



The class of 1953 has created a Senior Squares Memorial

which is a ten foot black marble monument with ceramic tiles that represents every graduating class since LVHS opened in 1930. The tiles are replicas of the Senior Squares at the 7th Street campus and are displayed in the Centennial Room at the East Sahara campus. They were dedicated in a wonderful ceremony at the school on February 11, 2009. You will see these when you visit the school.

WILDCAT MEMORABILIA

A wonderful display of Wildcat memorabilia has been set up by the school at the



East Sahara campus in their "Centennial Room", which also has a full

wall mural of the 7th Street campus.. In addition, they have 26 display cases

housing trophies and memorabilia in the school cafeteria dating back to the 1920s. It is definitely worth taking time to see! The school is located at 6500 E. Sahara. Check in at the school office and let them know that you'd like to see the memorabilia in the cafeteria and in the Centennial Room.

If any of you have memorabilia that you would like to donate, please contact Patty Haack by e-mail at lvowl@aol.com or by phone at 702/876-6660.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS

We would like to include historical photos and documents of LVHS and Las Vegas in future newsletters and on our website.

It would be greatly appreciated if any of you have any old photos or historical documents that you would like to contribute. We will be happy to copy them and return them to you if you wish. Please contact Patty by e-mail at lvowl@aol.com or by phone at 702/876-6660.

Cruising Fremont - 1956



(Photo courtesy of Allen Sandquist)

YEARBOOKS

We receive requests from time to time from people looking for LVHS yearbooks. If you, or anyone you know, have any yearbooks that you would like to donate to the LVHSAA, please let us know. They will be made available to anyone making a donation to the LVHSAA Scholarship Fund.

CLASS REUNIONS

Please let Patty know if your class is planning a reunion this year so we can post it on our website. Contact Patty by e-mail at lvowl@aol.com or by phone at 702/876-6660.

ALUMNI "TALES"



We know that many of you have stories about LVHS or old Las Vegas that would be interesting to all of us! A couple of those stories are on our website, and we would like to add more! If you have a fun or interesting story, please send it to us. We would like to

include at least one story in each future newsletter, plus we will add those about LVHS to our website. Your contributions will be appreciated!!

To get us started, here's an interesting story from **Carey Burke** (1955). Carey was working for Hughes Airwest and was in the Operations Center at McCarran airport when it took place.

How many of you remember that a Hughes Airwest plane was hijacked at McCarran Airport in Las Vegas? It happened on January 20, 1972. These details were provided in an article written by Donn Blake, Public Relations Director for the City of Las Vegas Department of Recreation at the time.

As the plane was taxiing out to the runway at about 11:00 a.m., the aircraft came to a stop and a stewardess announced there would be a short wait. With a worried look on her face, one of the stewardesses carried a cup of water to the rear of the aircraft. Then the captain walked out of his cabin to the rear of the aircraft and talked earnestly for a few minutes with a slender dark-haired youth (Mr. X). All passengers in the immediate vicinity of Mr. X were moved forward. The captain announced to the passengers that this was a bomb threat and he believed it to be genuine. A nervous murmur went through the plane. Women, children, and three clergymen were allowed to deplane. While the captain had another serious discussion with Mr. X, the passengers could see blue and red flashing lights of the Clark County Sheriff's Department vehicles approaching. The captain announced that the

airport was sending out a pick up to carry the women, children, and clergymen back to the terminal. As a calm and cool stewardess was serving everyone coffee, one nervous passenger asked for a shot of brandy. Mr. X was asking for \$50,000 and parachutes. According to Donn Blake, "If it weren't for the bomb threat hanging over our heads, it would be a very nice way of spending a Las Vegas winter morning with the warm desert sun shining, no wind and soothing music being piped in. The air conditioner was hissing softly and the loading door was open." At noon a gasoline truck pulled under the right wing and topped off the tanks. At 12:15 p.m., as a stewardess brought in a parachute, there was applause. As the captain was back giving Mr. X instructions on how to put on the chutes, the stewardess brought in another chute and a white crash helmet. Soon after, the same stewardess brought two more chutes and another white crash helmet. At 12:23 p.m. she brought in a white money bag. The passengers were then allowed to deplane. They were met by Clark County deputies and ushered into an office for questioning by the FBI.

Carey recalls that the bank at McCarran didn't have enough cash to fulfill the hijacker's request, so note pads were hidden under the cash. The crew and hijacker took off, and the hijacker parachuted near Denver. What he didn't know was that a chase plane had been following them and authorities were waiting for him on the ground. Upon landing, he broke his leg and so mad that he threw all the money into the air!

LVHSAA HELLDORADO FLOAT

We're going to have our own float in this year's Helldorado Parade! Rollie Gibbs (1954) is providing a flatbed trailer, and Bruce Langson (1965) is building a big wildcat! The parade will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The float will be preserved and made available to the school for use at school events.



This is an exciting project! Rollie and Bruce are coordinating the building of the float and need volunteers to help.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Rollie at 702/873-7838 or Bruce by e-mail at blangson@hotmail.com or by phone at 702/ 265-1735.

FUND-RAISING IDEAS

The more funds we can raise, the more scholarships we can give and the more we can help the school! So - if any of you have some ideas on how we can do some fund-raising activities, please contact Nancy Murray Harkess by e-mail at harkess@unlv.nevada.edu or by phone at 702/382-5330.

ANNUAL WILDCAT REUNION

We've been told by many that last year's Wildcat Reunion was the best ever! We know for sure that we had the best attendance and hope that we can outdo ourselves this year. Everyone was pleased with the "seating by class" and list of attendees, as they were able to find many of their schoolmates that they hadn't been able to find at prior reunions. We will continue this seating arrangement again this year. We were pleased to have **Violet Oppedyk Tracht** (class of 1928), our oldest living alumna, and **Justin Hernandez** (class of 1997), the youngest alumnus in attendance. Check out the photos of the Wildcat Reunion on our website.

Put this date on your calendars now: **September 12, 2008**. Invitations will be sent to all of you in July - so please let us know if you have a new address since last July. As in years past, the reunion will be at Sam's Town, and thanks to alumnus **Bill Boyd** (1949), and in spite of the economy, the price will remain the same as it has been for the last eight years (\$40).

Our committee meetings will begin in late March. If you are interested in helping on

this committee, please contact Patty Haack by e-mail at lvowl@aol.com or by phone at 702/876-6660.

Hope to see all of you on September 12th!

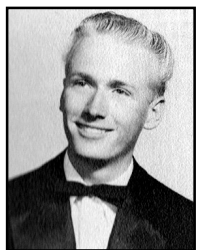
NOTABLE ALUMNI

We all take great pride in being able to say we went to Las Vegas High School! And we are very proud of the many well-known or successful LVHS alumni. So far, we have bios of 35 notable alumni on our website. When you read them, you will be proud too!

We know there are many more notable alumni that should be included, but we need your help! If you know of someone from your class (or any other class) who should be included, please let us know. And if you have a bio on them (it can even be you!), that would be even better! Once we get the names, we will attempt to find bio information if you don't have it.

We think it's appropriate to have our first featured bio on **Senator Richard Bryan**, who has been extremely helpful in organizing the LVHS Alumni Association and has never stopped being a true Wildcat!

RICHARD H. BRYAN (Class of 1955)



Richard H. Bryan is a native Nevadan. After graduating from Las Vegas High, he received a B.A. from the

University of Nevada in 1959. He received his law degree from the University of California, Hastings Law School in 1963.

Richard began his legal career in 1964 as a Deputy District Attorney in Las Vegas. Two years later he was named Clark County's first Public Defender. In 1968 he was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. He was re-elected in 1970. In 1972 he was elected to the Nevada State Senate and was re-elected in 1976. He won his first statewide election as Nevada's Attorney

General where he played a major role in successfully defending Nevada's gaming regulatory structure in the Federal Courts. In 1982 he was elected to the first of two terms as Governor of Nevada. In 1988 he was elected to the first of two terms in the U.S. Senate.

Richard was the only Senate member to simultaneously serve on three U.S. Senate committees: Finance; Commerce, Science and Transportation; and Banks, Housing and Urban Affairs.



Richard is currently a shareholder at Lionel Sawyer & Collins. He is also a member of the firm's

Executive Committee. His practice focuses on government relations at the federal, state and local levels, particularly in the areas of mining and public land-use issues. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Nevada Development Authority and is on the Board of Trustees of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada. He is also on the Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and is Chairman of the Board for Preserve Nevada, a group whose priority is to preserve historical buildings, places and artifacts in the State of Nevada.



Richard was responsible for getting the Las Vegas High School 7th Street campus put on the National Register of Historic Buildings. He was successful in raising funds and purchasing display cases to house all of the original trophies from the LVHS

7th Street campus. The trophies were found in various locations, including the attic over the gymnasium and in classroom closets. They depict the rich history of state championships and achievements all the way back to 1927. These trophies and plaques are housed in 26 5-foot tall mirrored display cases for all to appreciate in the cafeteria of the new LVHS campus on East Sahara.

IN MEMORIAM

The following is a list of LVHS alumni that we learned have passed on since the Wildcat Reunion last September:

- 1931 Jack Parvin (10/08)
- 1942 Mary Alice Turner Simpson (09/08)
- 1943 Jay Sterling (12/08)
- 1949 Neil Romero (02/09)
- 1950 Herbert Goodland (12/08)
- 1950 Wilma Wooley LaVoie (02/09)
- 1955 Lee Shields (12/08)
- 1957 Sharon Frazin Henderson (12/08)
- 1957 Jack E. Griffin (11/08)
- 1958 Larry Schmitt (02/09)
- 1963 Allen Minker (09/08)
- 1977 Ronald Scott (11/08)

May they rest in peace. A complete list of all deceased alumni, by class, is on the "In Memoriam" page of our website. We realize the listings may not be complete, so **it would be appreciated if you would let us know if you are aware of anyone else that should be included on this list.**

Future "Wildcat Tales" will include a list of alumni that have passed since the prior newsletter.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR TRUSTS AND WILLS

Once we receive our tax exempt status, we hope you will remember the LVHSAA in your trusts and wills! Future scholarships can even be given in your name and memory!

E-MAIL & ADDRESS UPDATES

To keep our expenses as low as possible, we will be doing most of our communications with you via e-mail. So please don't forget to let us know if you

get an e-mail address or change your e-mail address. Send an e-mail to Patty at lvowl@aol.com.

2009 LVHSAA SCHOLARSHIPS

We saved the best news for last. We are thrilled that we have enough LVHSAA funds to be able to award two scholarships (one to a female and one to a male) this year. Our scholarship committee, chaired by Alice Van Der

Meer (wife of Jim, class of 1954), has been working with the college counselor at LVHS developing criteria for selection of the students to receive the scholarship. We will give you an update on this in the next newsletter.

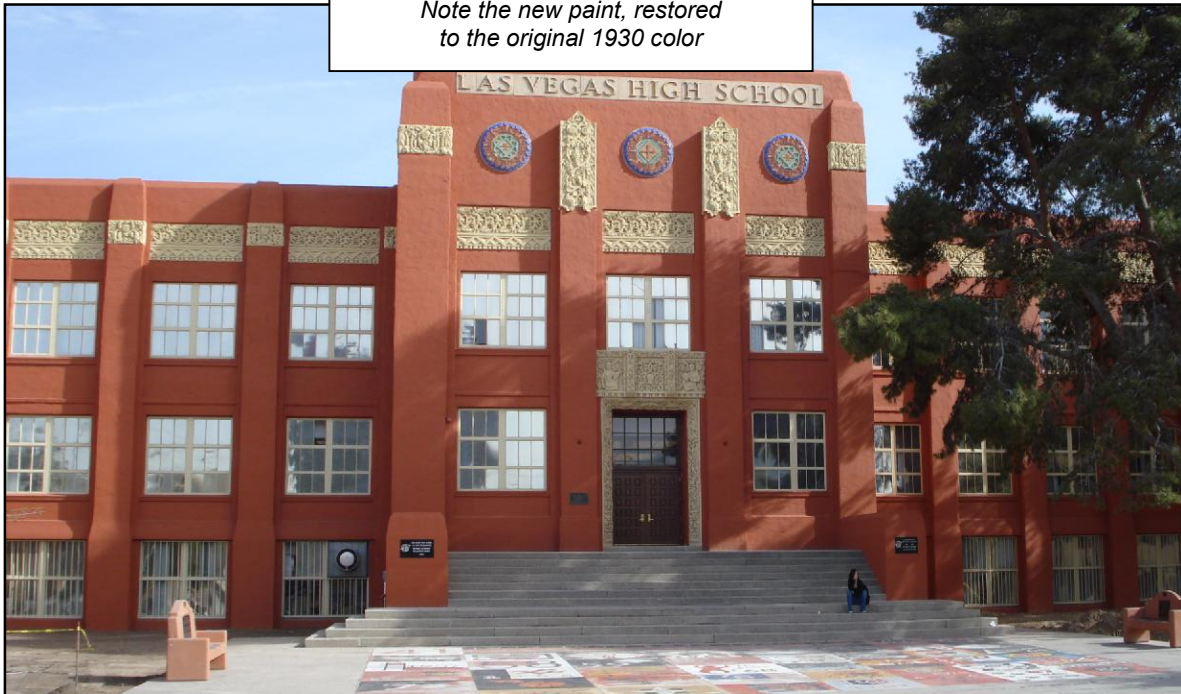


SHARE THE WILDCAT TALES

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your LVHS friends who may not have received a copy. You can forward it via e-mail, print it or make copies, or get a copy on our website, www.lvhsaa.com.

Help us get the word out and get more members!

*7th Street Campus
Note the new paint, restored
to the original 1930 color*



East Sahara Campus



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rollie Gibbs (1954), **President**
Phone: 702/873-7838

Bruce Langson (1965), **Vice President**
E-Mail: blangson@hotmail.com
Phone: 702/265-1735

Patty Haack (1956), **Secretary/
Treasurer**
E-Mail: lvowl@aol.com
Phone: 702/876-6660

David Williams (1972), **Webmaster**
E-Mail: dave@lvhsaa.com
Website: www.lvhsaa.com

Rana Gee Goodman (1959)
Michael Hollingshead (1957)
Carole Inghram Montalto (1956)
Kae Jones Bogdanovich (1956)
Nancy Murray Harkess (1960)
Miriam O'Donnell Pemberton (1955)
Linda Rankin Givens (1958)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Class Reunions	Patty Haack (1956)
Fund Raising	Nancy Murray Harkess (1960)
Membership	Larry Sheeler (1959)
Scholarship	Alice Van Der Meer
Senior Squares	Sarah Butler Walker (1970)
Wildcat Reunion	Rollie Gibbs (1954) and Patty Haack (1956)

Historian Gary Dillingham (1957)

Legal Counsel Richard Bryan (1955)

FOUNDING MEMBERS (LIFETIME)

Richard Bryan (1955)
Maynard Chambers (1960)
Rollie Gibbs (1954)
Patty Haack (1956)
Anne Hodgdon Goldberg (1964)
Michael Hollingshead (1957)
Georgia Houghton Ward (1947)
Yorel Hutchinson Barlow (1954)
Allan Kelly (1949)
Jack Milligan (1951)
Charlotte Muggleston Kelly (1954)
Nancy Murray Harkess (1960)
Miriam O'Donnell Pemberton (1955)
John Petricciani (1954)
George Pinjuv (1943)
Jim Rogers (1956)
Jim Van Der Meer (1954)
Alice Van Der Meer
Gary Vause (1956)

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Kenneth Gragson (1954)

HONORARY MEMBERS (LIFETIME)

Joe Thomson, Historian
Lynn Zook, Historian

FOUNDING MEMBERS (2008-2009)

Glenn Alleman (Teacher)
Lawrence Allin (1950)
Gail Andress (1944)
Charles Aplin (1946)
Donna Arnfelt Bernier (1950)
Don Ashworth (1956)
Barbara Bailey Baker (1968)
Jerry Belt (1952)
Terry Berkemeyer Henry (1977)
Dennis Berry (1976)
Laura Beverlin Chadburn (1970)
Bob Beville (1953)
James Bilbray (1956)
George Bogdanovich (1953)
Myram Borders (1954)
Marilyn Brewer White (1950)
James J. Brown (1959)
Kenneth Brown (1957)
Laura Brown Brown (1963)
Gene Burditt (1950)
Carey Burke (1955)
William Chadburn (1970)
Charisse Ciambrone Stewart (1976)
Melvin Close (1952)
Eleanor Connell Ahern (1957)
Sandye Cripe Benbow (1967)
Alan B. Davis (1932)
George K. Davis (1952)
John Detra (1943)
Kevin Diamond (1986)
Gary Dillingham (1957)
Marthe Dunne Covic (1967)
Ted Eckert (1967)
Ivan Eisenberg (1948)
Nancy Empey Helm (1958)
Royce Feour (1957)
Jordan Fields (1967)
Bailey Fightlin Rubenstein (1955)
Kenneth Flippin (1960)
Rana Gee Goodman (1959)
Patsy George Leavitt (1956)
Jerrie Germain Marson (1954)
Gail Gibson (1953)
Jennilee Gibson Thayer (1949/Teacher)
George Gilbert (1949)
Shirley Gilmore Goldstrom (1954)
Art Goldstrom (1953)
Donald Graham (1955)
Pat Hail (1956)
Bill Hamilton (1953)
Donna Hanley Andress (1943)
Madelyn Hardy Schneider (1955)
Martin Hardy (1945)
Mary Ann Hart (1967)
Jeanne Hartmans Hartmanszerbiec (1967)
LaThair Hawley (1954)
Don Helm (1956)

Arlene Henson Oakes (1955)
Merrilee Hill Becker (1954)
John Holland (1953)
Michael G. Hollingshead (1957)
Kathleen Horden Close (1959)
Rodney "Pete" Imming (1950)
Carole Inghram Montalto (1956)
Brenda Jenkins Sadberu (1972)
Beverly Johnson (1945)
Joylin Johnson Vanderberg (1945)
James M. Jones (1950)
Kae Jones Bogdanovich (1956)
William (Allen) Kaercher (1968)
Paul Kellogg (1959)
Richard King (1952)
Clarel Komer Krpan (1960)
Larry Landingham (1954)
Bruce Langson (1965)
Tiki Lebowtiz Axelrod (1956)
James Robert B. Lim (2008)
Susan Lowe Shlisky (1965)
Sharon Marshall Rather (1954)
Ben Bradley Maze (1975)
Dutcho Middleton Jordan (1956)
Penelope Mitchell Popp (1957)
Pat Muggleston Thompson (1953)
Charles Musser (1955)
Jean Nash Clemens (1946)
Kay Neyman Cromeenes (1958)
Phyllis Nickel Hoggatt (1943)
Jack Oakes (1952)
Warren Okelberry (Teacher/Coach)
Violet Oppedyk Tracht (1928)
Diane Pahor Belt (1956)
Carol Phillips Hail (1956)
John Pinjuv (1941)
Darlene Pinter (1956)
Nancy Pracejus Craft (1955)
James Priest (1943)
Linda Rankin Givens (1958)
Douglas Rather (1953)
Sandra Records Brown (1953)
Bobbie Reed Poole (1959)
Marilyn Riggs Schouten (1950)
Stephen J. Rimel (1958)
Gary Ritner (1954)
Thomas E. Robuck (1952)
Neil Romero (1949)
Donna Sackett Scallin (1944)
Deborah Saiger Palladino (1964)
Adele Salton Baratz (1944)
Donna Sanford Lage (1959)
Marian Schlapp Goldstein (1944)
Albert Schouten (1946)
Richard Scott (1956)
Barbara Sexsmith Taylor (1950)
Larry Sheeler (1959)
Matt Shlisky (1965)
Ron Silverman (1954)
William T. Soard (1972)
Lois Sprague Hannig (1947)
Louise Sprague Patterson (1947)
Arlene Stanley Landingham (1956)
Natalie Stevenson Rittenhouse (1944)

Elizabeth "B.J." Stevenson (1941)
J. Todd Stewart (1972)
Judith Stiborek Gibson (1976)
Paul Stokes (1945)
Elizabeth Stutz Marner-Brooks (1961)
Deette Tilley Szydoski (1961)
John Ullom (1951)
Joan Underhill Huff (1948)
Ronnie Vause (1965)
Lynn Von Tesmar Thomas (1956)
JoAnn Ward Ryan (1954)
Lois Wentz Durkee (1953)
Frank White (1950)
George Wilkinson (1953)

David Williams (1972)
Gene Winn (1956)
Kelly Wittwer (1979)
Wendy Wittwer Webster (1973)
Fred Wright (1967)
Ron Zimmerman (1965)

2008-2009 MEMBERS

Kathryn Keate Mills (1970)
Michelle Swenson (2003)
Linda Young Madsen (1959)
Sarah Butler Walker (1970)

IM MEMORIAM DONATIONS

Georgia Ward, in memory of
Harry Ward (Teacher)
Natalie Stevenson Rittenhouse, in
memory of Gerald Snider (1944)

2008 GRADUATE MEMBERS

Lauren Brown
Alyssia Cordova
Sharon Lacangan
James Robert B. Lim
Rebecha Lewis
Cristina Lopez
Aileen Mae C. Magsino
Derrick D. McDowell
Rocio Maybeth Moncada
Christopher Pullen
Jared Ramirez
Simon Tan
Justin Yee