



Lawndale High School

Class of 1974 - 40th Reunion

Newsletter

November 2014



Class of '74 Reunited!



One hundred seven friends, family and alumni came together Saturday, August 16, 2014 in the Naples Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach to celebrate Lawndale High's Class of '74 forty year reunion. Of those, four were teachers and twenty-two were fellow Cardinals from classes '71, '72, '73, '75, '76 and '77. It was an exciting evening of reconnecting, reminiscing, dining, and dancing, and one of the most successful reunions of Lawndale High.

40th Reunion a Great Success!

Cardinals of the Week Our Reunion Committee



Janelle Lewis James Leslie Carlisle Hamburger Rosie Proper Merrilee Willis Greene Mary Rezzuti Sutherland

It took an incredible amount of planning, foresight, creativity and just plain hard work to pull off one of the best reunions Lawndale High has known. Our Fabulous Five made it look effortless as it all came together Saturday night in Long Beach. But, what exactly went on behind the scenes in the months before the big night?

It started back in October of 2013 with a post on the Alumni Facebook page to see if there was any interest in a 40 year reunion. Janelle, Mary, Rosie and Merrilee responded to Leslie's post, and the reunion committee was born. Soon after, the Facebook reunion group page was underway, the website up and running, contact information was gathered and a questionnaire sent out to get feedback about date, venue and location.

But such an undertaking takes money. How do you plan an event of this size when you don't know your budget? Business accounts were established, sponsorships and donations were encouraged and a TeeSpring T-shirt campaign created.

By December of 2013, the committee had researched about 15 hotels and had made 4 top choices. They looked into special lighting and equipment rentals, and interviewed DJs, photographers and videographers. Initially, the team communicated through Facebook, but by February 2014, they were holding regular meetings through Skype. One of the greatest frustrations was the lack of contact information on missing classmates. The team scoured the biography books from prior reunions, the LHS Alumni site, and our elementary schools. They conducted internet searches on locator websites and social media sites, and to encourage participation sent out emails and made personal phone calls.

That was just the beginning. There were meetings with the hotel coordinator, layout and design of the ballroom, decorations, and shopping. There were ticket sales, raffles, promotions, and prizes. The team printed and assembled 100 copies of the BioBook and assembled gift baskets, gift bags, and the contents of over 100 souvenir tote bags. In addition, the website was continually kept up-to-date. After ten months of working together, the long hours and hard work paid off.

Thank you, ladies, for your vision, hard work and for bringing us all together.

Have you remembered to take the post-reunion survey?

Log on to www.LawndaleHigh74.net

Did you know ...?

The Friday Night Mixer in the SIP Lounge was a popular event. Sixty-five people turned out, including quite a few additional people who were not able to make it to the dinner/dance on Saturday

Teachers at the Reunion



Lou Cordero and Diana Winneberger Zadra



Sharon Curto Leslie Carlisle Hamburger Lou Cordero

Sharon Curto, Lou Cordero, Lynn (Smith) Winters, and Roy Benstead were our special guests for the evening. We were excited to have the chance to reconnect with them after all these years and share warm hugs. The reunion committee was also able to contact and invite Veatha Dorn, Aline Fillers, Skip Effler, and John Mitchell who wished they could have been with us.



Sharon Curto with Susan Lane Capozzoli



Roy Benstead with Frank Rivera



Lynn (Smith) Winters and Rebecca Hildebrandt Reinis

Our Winners

Winners of Raffles and Give-aways:

- Grand Prize Wine Gift Basket - William Sanz
- Scrapbooking Gift Basket - Cheryl Voelzke Dohrn
- Spa Gift Basket - Janet Dennis Neitzke
- Candy Gift Jar - Janelle Cedarstrom (Guest of William Sanz)
- Gift Basket #1 donated by Cindy Lopez Hickson - Diana Winneberger Zadra
- Gift Basket #2 donated by Cindy Lopez Hickson - Eileen Connolly James
- Cheesecake Factory Gift Card for Who Traveled the Farthest - Jamie Mowry Navarro
- Auld Dubliner Pub & Restaurant Gift Card for Who Bought the First Ticket - Rick Brown

Prize Winners:

- Ricardo Lemvo "Makina Loca" autographed CD - Carol Beyer Rezzuti
- One of Nadette's watches - Sharon Richardson
- Bottle of Wine - Rick Brown
- Bottle of Wine - Stanley Greene
- Bottle of Wine - Sue Lane Capozzoli
- Bottle of Wine & Bath Salts - Merrilee Greene
- One of Nadette's watches - Linda Kleinpeter Pinkston
- Red 40th Reunion Sweatshirt - William Sanz
- Two 40th Reunion T Shirts - Ed Hofmann
- 40th Reunion T Shirt - Rebecca Hildebrandt Reinis
- "Life is Beautiful, Dream Big" gift box - Gail Wingett Neal

Street Sign Raffle Winners:

- 147th Street - Stanley Greene
- 147th Street - Merrilee Willis Greene
- 154th Street - William Sanz
- 166th Street - Chris McDonnell's husband, Mark Mahurien
- 168th Street - Dianna Ervin Ogden
- 172nd Street - William Sanz and Janelle Cedarstrom
- 172nd Street - Theresa Walker
- Grevillea Avenue - Ted Hofmann
- Grevillea Avenue - Cheryl Voelzke Dohrn
- Prairie Avenue - Errex Marzoecki
- Inglewood Avenue - Errex Marzoecki
- Mansel Avenue - Wayne Dimmick
- Mansel Avenue - Steve Garnreiter (who gave it to Susie Barrios)
- Mansel Avenue - Susan Lane Capozzoli, Susie Barrios, Esther Suzzo Raleigh
- Firmona Avenue - Gail Wingett Neal (Class of '76)



Not enough time to visit with everyone at the reunion?

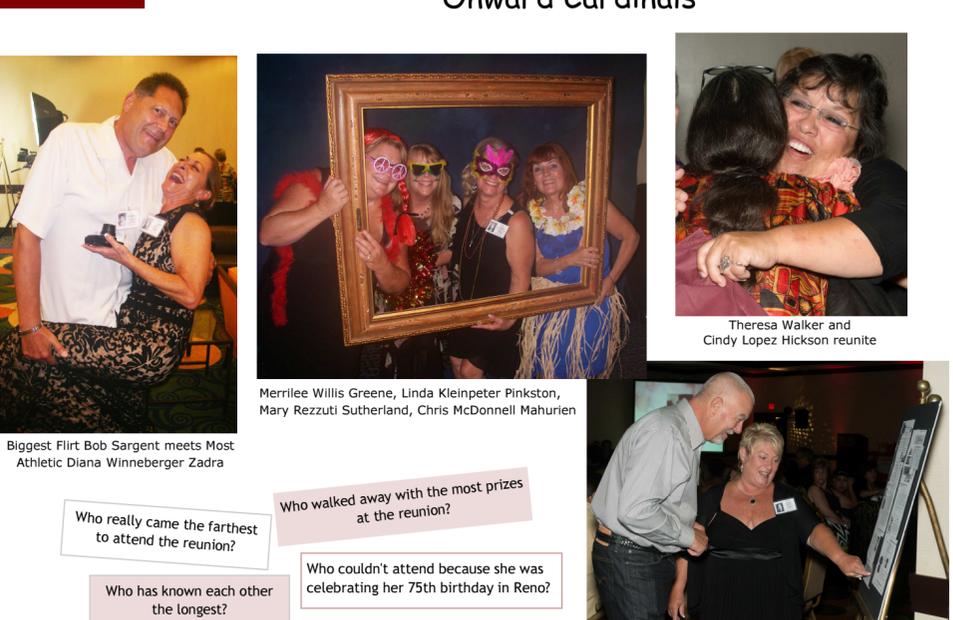
Most people said there just wasn't enough time to see all their classmates and suggested we schedule more opportunities to get together in future.

Let the committee know your ideas for possible mixers, destination get-aways, and locations.

New volunteers are also needed.

Keep up with our website. There may be something in the works for next summer!

Onward Cardinals



Biggest Flirt Bob Sargent meets Most Athletic Diana Winneberger Zadra



Merrilee Willis Greene, Linda Kleinpeter Pinkston, Mary Rezzuti Sutherland, Chris McDonnell Mahurien



Theresa Walker and Cindy Lopez Hickson reunite



Rosie shows Fred Van Wyk his 2nd grade picture

Who really came the farthest to attend the reunion?

Who has known each other the longest?

Who walked away with the most prizes at the reunion?

Who couldn't attend because she was celebrating her 75th birthday in Reno?

What's Next

Our Memory Book

is now ready! We have partnered with Picaboo Yearbooks to produce a beautiful hard bound keepsake of 50 colorful pages filled with high resolution photographs of all three reunion events, the Friday Night Mixer in the SIP Lounge, the Saturday Night Dinner-Dance in the Naples Ballroom, and the Sunday Picnic at Shoreline Aquatic Park. It includes shots of everyone who attended any of the events and displays the names of everyone shown.

For the price of \$25.89 + \$8.99 shipping & handling, you will receive over 250 photos displayed with a personalized and creative touch by Merrilee. The individual purchase price of all these photos would be a small fortune, so \$34.88 is a great deal! Order your memory book directly from Picaboo's order center. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Michael Calderman

graciously offered the necessary funds to maintain our reunion website a while longer! Thank you, Michael! We want to encourage everyone to stay in touch. Stay active on the website by sharing your personal photos from the Mixer, the Dinner/Dance, or the Picnic by posting them on the website under the "40th Reunion Page", "Classmates Chatter", on friends' profiles and on the Facebook group page.



Here's the link

to the web gallery. You will be able to view all 324 of the prints that the photographer took to the night of the reunion. If you would like to order prints of any of the pictures from the web gallery, you can do so through this site. They are available in Small format sizes of 4"x 6" @ \$2.00/ea., Medium format sizes of 8" x 12" @ \$7.00/ea., and Large format sizes of 12" x 18" @ \$18.00/ea. Once you have added the photos you want to the 'cart' they can be cropped and other options can be selected such as paper types (esurface, fuji pearl, and black & white). The gallery website adds California sales tax and shipping charges. It uses USPS priority mail, which usually arrives within 3-5 days. <http://alexsolca.zenfolio.com/lawndale74reunion>

Our Keepsake Video

has been completed now! The 2 hour DVD is unedited and uncensored. Its interactive menu lets you navigate through a variety of reunion highlight buttons including a short Featurette, Men's Interviews, Women's Interviews, Dancing, Prizes and Raffles, our Class Picture, Memories and Memorabilia, Extra Footage (arrivals, funny photos) and includes the "Slide Show" shown at the reunion created by Amy Maeda Burch. It is available on Blue Ray for \$15.00 including tax and for \$10.00 for a standard DVD. Videos can be ordered by mailing your check to: Janelle Lewis James, 25332 Classic Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691, or through PayPal. Locate "Reunion Video" on our website and click the PayPal button. Preview the video in a 5 minute mini-trailer by clicking on the following link and providing the password shown: <https://vimeo.com/108291065> (Password: Go Cardinals!)



Did you know the reunion was a financial success?

Raffle tickets and at-the-door sales totaled \$868.00! There was no debt and even some to spare!

Reunion Committee:

Janelle Lewis James, Mary Rezzuti Sutherland, Merrilee Willis Greene, and Rosie Proper