



SPARTAGRAM

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From the President's Desk

Dear Alumni Friends,

Our mission and goal as your Alumni Association is to keep the alumni connection going! It's not as easy as it may seem. We need your feedback, suggestions and any monetary donations to support our efforts, and to help cover the financial expenses to keep the web site, Constant Contact email communication, and the occasional mailing to our alumni contact list. The Life Time Memberships and tee shirts sales continue to be our main source of income.

On a personal note, I can share that my Class of 1976 celebrated our forty year reunion last year. We had a nice evening and now we are thinking of planning our 59th & 60th Birthday Happy Hour gathering!

Reunions are still happening, a bit fewer in number and smaller in size, and we hear that two or more classes have joined together to reunite. Check out upcoming reunions at our website: hphsalumni.org.

I hope you will forward this newsletter to your alumni friends or family who may not be registered.

Please know I wish you and your family my heartfelt good wishes, good health and blessings! I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events this year.

Sincerely, Go Spartans!

Irene Berrones Settele

HPHSAA President, '76

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Spirit of Sparta Scholarships

Scholarships were awarded on May 24, 2017. Thanks to kind and generous alumni donors, many graduating seniors did receive scholarships to assist them on their college journey. Thank you, Sponsors, for helping to build a great future. Donations can be made all year long.

Always a Spartan

A big THANK YOU to alumnus E.J Rozek, S'60, for donating a banner which will hang on the Miles Ave. fence. We hope it will help to promote and encourage alumni to Reunite, Give Back, Support and Join! The banner was presented to several students from the leadership class while attending our last board meeting.



Finance Report –Alumni Association What HPHSAA Does...

Each year your Alumni Association has a budget of approximately \$1,450 to cover the costs of the Annual Picnic, annual luncheons, special events at the High School such as a Homecoming Game presence, banners to hang at the school, website maintenance and domain renewals, email subscription, postage and paper for printed mailings, PO Box rental, and minimal supply expenses. Much of the expense for posters, flyers, raffle prizes, and printing costs is donated by our Board Members. Without your help, current operating funds of \$2,548 will cover only two more years of our group activities.



(continued on page 2)

How HPHSAA Helps HPHS...

We also collect and distribute designated funds directly to the High School towards the annual May Scholarship Awards, and special school projects, such as a new Victory Flag to raise after sports events, and Marching band uniforms and travel expenses.

How You Can Help...

Please encourage your Alumni friends to help us to continue by joining the Association with a \$25.00 lifetime membership fee, or perhaps a straight donation to our HPHS Alumni Operating Fund Account.

Checks made payable to HPHSAA may be mailed to PO Box 3356, Redondo Beach CA 90277.

Funds designated for Scholarships may be made payable to Huntington Park High School and mailed to our PO Box. Those payments will be forwarded to the school with a letter describing your designation.

Your Board Members look forward to many more years of planning activities for Alumni to meet and greet each other and friends and family of our Alma Mater, Huntington Park High School.

Lynn Hamilton,

HPHSAA Treasurer 2016 – 2017 Term

Reunited at Valentine Luncheon

Rio Hondo Event Center, Downey, California
by Irene (Berrones) Settele, '76

This year's Valentine's Luncheon was a departure from our December Holiday tradition. It turned out to be a nice gathering of teachers, alumni, family and friends. We were honored to have four proud long-time alumni and Veterans (pictured below). Harry was looking so forward to attending he came by my home to pay for his ticket. They had a nice time enjoying the Spartan Spirit. ~ Irene



Valentine Luncheon: (L-R) John Grago 1940, Tom Burger 1940, Harry Nelson 1940, Richard Moore 1938

HPHS Veterans

Hello again. Hope all is well with you, your family, and your friends.



I wanted to address the question, “What is a veteran? Who is a veteran?” To me, the answer is simple – service to our nation. For example, as a Vietnam vet, when I’m talking with other vets about our combat experience, someone will invariably say, “I was in Vietnam, but I wasn’t in combat.” Well, if anyone was in Vietnam in *any* capacity, I feel – as I’m sure others do – that yes, you were in combat. You were exposed to an element of danger at all times. It doesn’t make any difference if you were slugging through the jungles or filing papers at headquarters. Danger was lurking. You were in Vietnam because that’s where the military sent you.

Now, that was just an example based on my experience. I realize that you may have had the same conversations with others about your service in WWII, Korea, Iraq, or Afghanistan. Or, you may have served in the military during peacetime. No matter what, you have served our country. We thank you for your service, and I proudly call you a brother/sister veteran.

Note: The annual HPHSAA picnic will be coming soon – Saturday, July 29 at El Dorado Park West. A Veterans board will be set up to display photos of those alumni who served in the military. If you would like your information added to the “Spartan Band of Veterans Poster,” send a photo (preferably in uniform) with your name, HPHS graduation year, your branch and years of service to Don Perez at dper19@msn.com. Thanks very much.

Don Perez, W’65

Upcoming Events

- All Class Annual Picnic July 29, 2017
- Homecoming Game and Tailgate gathering in October. Team and dates to be determined.

Annual Alumni Picnic July 29

Join us at the annual Alumni Friends & Family

picnic July 29 at El Dorado Park West (Long Beach). See details at: hphsalumni.org/picnic_2017_flyer.html

The picnic has been held annually the last Saturday in July since 2001. Date for 2018 is July 28.



Alumni Reflections

Don Ruh, Senior Class President S'50

(submitted July 25, 2016)



Interesting, 66 years after graduating, how wonderful the memories of our years at HPHS still are. Our friends, our years running track and playing football, the school dances, dating, and even the many teachers have remained very special in our memories. I felt my education was outstanding as I went on to the University of Redlands, became a teacher and coach myself, and after 35 years of teaching and coaching at Mt. San Antonio College retired in 1994. Not to give up on teaching and coaching, I continue to work with the former LA Olympic Committee's LA84 Youth Development Program for elementary and middle school youth. For the past 31 years, just our LA84-Mt.SAC Track and Field outreach efforts have reached over 367,000 youth; but of more importance, many of the lessons taught to all those young boys and girls were first taught me at HPHS.

As a side note, our senior class gift was naming the gymnasium after one of those special teachers and coaches at HPHSCoach Pop Squire, who retired with our 1950 class.

Just thought I'd let you know, even us old grads do appreciate your work and efforts to keep HPHS the special school it was and remains today.

~ Sincerely, Don Ruh S'50

[Don Received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. Read the article at:
<http://mtsacathletics.com/sportsinformation/releases/2015-2016Releases/161501PoleVaultSummitRuh>]

2017 Annual Meeting

(Date and venue to be determined)

Officers for the coming year are elected during the Annual Meeting, which we hope to hold in September.

Current officers:

- President – Irene Settele ('76)
- Vice President – Blanca Gonzalez ('77)
- Secretary – Leticia Martinez ('90)
- Treasurer – Lynn Hamilton ('66)

See alumni website:

hphsalumni.org

(click **Officers** on the home page)

Rose Nell (Buckman) Heard (1949)

(submitted July 25, 2016)

Hello! Thanks for forwarding the e-Spartagram. I am of the class of Winter '49. I will be 86 in August and am limited in my travel. [87 now!—ed.]



My parents wouldn't sign for me to attend college (I had the grades – I was a Sealbearer). Although I always felt cheated, I went on to realize the American dream. I had the pleasure of breaking quite a few glass ceilings. I was a very successful business person, traveled to much of the world and had a family of two great kids.

I was able to attend the HPHS Centennial - It was also my class's 60th class anniversary. Although we didn't have a special 60th party, we did hang out at the 100th. I'm glad I'm on the distribution e-mail. I'm always delighted to hear of HPHS.

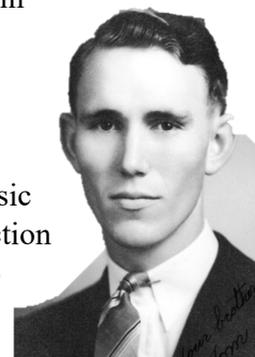
~ Rose Nell (Buckman) Heard,
Winter Class of 1949

Mr. Tom Burger, S'40

by John Olivas, S'64

I met Tom in the year 2000, at the beginning of our Alumni Association. Tom graduated in 1940, and as one of our founding members of the Alumni Association, his support has been very valuable.

There is a side of Mr. B very few people know. He is a collector of music and movies! He has acquired a collection of records, 78s, 45s, and 33s. He also has a collection of cassettes and CDs. His music includes music from the 40s to the present. And along with his music is a collection of movies that would put the studios to shame. A vast collection of video tapes, laser discs and DVDs – his garage looks like a library!



Mr. B is also my dear friend and mentor. He encouraged me to run for president of the alumni association, in which I served from 2012 to 2014. I encourage my fellow alumni to stop and say hello to Mr. B at our Annual Picnic.

~ John Olivas S'64

President's note:

HPHSAA recognizes and appreciates Tom Burger as a dedicated and active longtime Alumni Assn. helper and supporter. Tom, you are a proud Spartan!!