



ANTELOPE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A letter to the alumni

From: Gene Wickham '73

The Antelope Valley High School Alumni Association has finally achieved its goal as a recognized nonprofit organization in the State of California.

I am a 1973 Graduate of Antelope Valley High School where I ran 4 years of cross country and 3 years of track. I was president of the Cinema Club and worked as a freelance writer and artist for the Sandpaper in my senior year. I received my BA Degree in English from the University of Southern California and have worked in the finance department of CBS Television since 1990.

More recently I have been responsible for the development and administration of the alumni website, www.avhsalumni.org and a Facebook site, AVHS Alumni.

Helping us in both the application process and in an advisory capacity is Gail Dean Kolesar, CPA. She is a non-alumnus and has her own certified public accounting firm in Lake Havasu, Arizona. I have known Gail for over 20 years. She has been invaluable in helping us navigate the federal application process.

Between us, we have filed all the necessary paper work and paid all the fees necessary to establish our non-profit, tax exempt alumni association. For the purpose of the applications, I am listed as the Chief Executive Officer and Gail is listed as the Chief Financial Officer.

As far as we know, Antelope Valley High School has never had an official alumni association. Nothing is listed in the California Secretary of State's database so this is something new for everyone. We are seeking a broad range of board members who can represent the various classes and a wide variety of alumni who can support and develop the goals of the organization.

Please view our plans on the following pages and help us move forward by joining the association and participating in the various committees. Questions and suggestions are more than welcome.

We hope you will join us as we begin this important endeavor.

Gene Wickham
Chief Executive Officer
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Antelope Valley High School Alumni Association

ANTELOPE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Current Status:

The Antelope Valley High School Alumni Association is a non-profit corporation approved by the State of California in January, 2011. The non-profit/tax-exempt application has been filed with the IRS in January 2011 with approval retroactive to that date. We are now able to accept funds and donations. Contributors can now claim donations on their tax returns.

ORGANIZING THE ASSOCIATION:

We are currently looking for individuals to help support the association.

Board Members: Board Members are individuals who are motivated to help the association succeed and are willing to accept the responsibilities of the organization and its bylaws.

Officers: Elected Officers are typically elected by the alumni members for a one or two year term. We are hoping to have elections by June 2011. These positions include the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Class Representatives: Class Representatives will act as a conduit to their classmates, sending email about association news and also sending questions and concerns from the members to the association. They will also have a hand at organizing their classmates for events such as the annual alumni mixer and next year's 2012 all class reunion.

Class representatives should have the ability to send and receive email preferably from a dedicated email address just for the purpose of communicating with their classmates. You can get a free email from Gmail, Yahoo or hotmail. They should also help classmates who do not have email or access to the internet with regular mail correspondence. This will be helpful with getting them information as well as distributing the alumni newsletter.

Alumni Members: Alumni members will be the largest component of the association. They will be made up of dues paying individuals who will be voting on elected officials and issues dealing with the association's activities. All paid members will be sent minutes of the meetings conducted by the association.

NOTE: The High School has informed us that any employee of the school or school district cannot vote, write checks or serve in any official capacity due to conflict of interest issues. They are more than welcome to become nonvoting members and voice their concerns and ideas.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:

- At the moment the association is working to raise funds for scholarships and alumni activities.
- An important annual activity will be the alumni mixer, a social gathering event which will probably be held sometime each summer.
- Other annual activities can be suggested and developed.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

This is a committee which actually needs to be formed before our March 19th meeting. We need information from the school about scholarship donations.

What is the deadline for this school year?

What are the procedures for submitting a scholarship and selecting a student to receive a scholarship?

There are some funds but we would like to take the scholarship fundraising on line to try and raise additional funds.

COMMITTEE LEAD: No lead person yet

FUNDING: There is some funding.

TIME FACTOR: Looking to submit scholarships for the 2010/2011 school year. (Waiting to hear back from the school about any deadlines)

If we are unable to meet the deadline for the 2010/2011 school year we will focus on the 2011/2012 school year.

ALUMNI MIXER / ANNUAL SOCIAL

As an Alumni Association, it is important we have at least one annual Alumni Mixer or Social Event to allow alumni and members to meet and interact.

Note: Some schools have a more formal setting for their Alumni mixers while others have a barbecue type setup somewhere on their school's campus.

Committee Lead: None

Time Factor: Possibly held each summer. Event would be held summer of 2011. The 2012 Alumni Mixer will probably be merged into the Centennial all class reunion.

Funding: None. Part of covering the cost for this event might be through paid admissions.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

The election committee will help plan and execute the annual or bi annual election of officers. This will include developing a system of voting involving the paid members of the organization, verifying the voting and finally the reporting of the election results. We hope to have our first officer elections by June 2011.

Committee Lead: None

Time Factor: First elections possibly by June 2011

Funding: No funding proposal

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE:

The fundraising committee will oversee and implement activities and programs intended to help raise funds for the various programs and projects involving the alumni association.

This will include, but will not be limited to the following; online fundraising, annual fund raising events, applying for public and private grants.

The Alumni Newsletter (Sandpaper Review)

The Alumni Newsletter is planned to be a quarterly online publication which will serve the interest of the alumni, students and school. One edition has been published during the fall of 2010 and another will be printed sometime in March 2011. Currently the Alumni newsletter is an online publication provided free to all alumni.

Current Lead: Gene Wickham '73

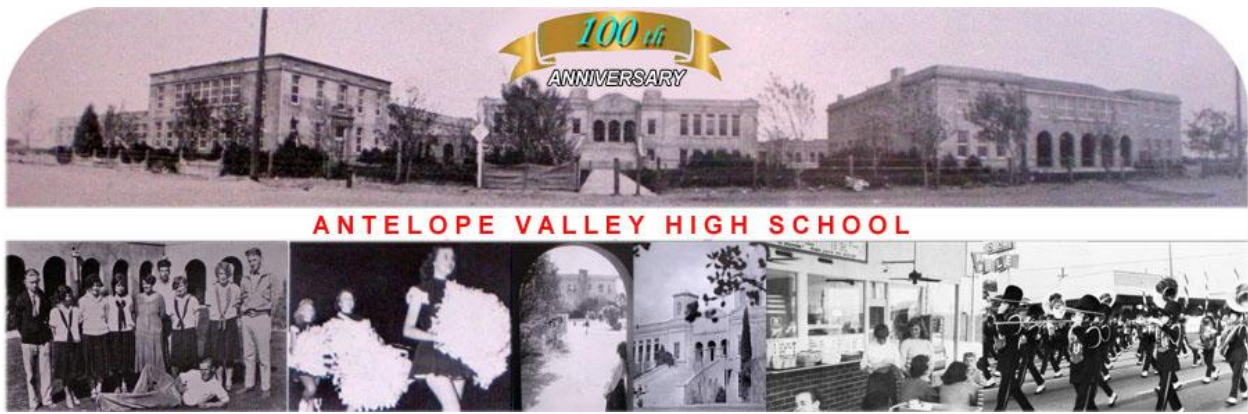
Time Factor: Produced quarterly, next edition March 2011

Funding: Currently an Online publication, minimal costs (but a lot of work)

Organizing: Need writers and other help

ALUMNI WEBSITE and FACEBOOK

The Alumni Website, www.avhsalumni.org , has almost 900 alumni registered and provides news and information to numerous others. Our Facebook site, AVHS Alumni, has 2300 members and, along with our Twitter site, is a source of immediate news and interaction.



PROJECT 2012:

During the 2011/2012 school year, AV High School will be conducting its own 100th Anniversary activities by noting historical moments in each edition of its new school paper, "The Stampede." The year will then culminate with a special graduation ceremony for the seniors in June 2012.

The AVHS Alumni Association has a number of proposed projects of its own to celebrate the coming Centennial.

Projects 2012 are a group of projects planned around the 100th Anniversary of Antelope Valley High School in 2012. They involve, but are not limited to, the following.

The 2012 All Class Reunion Event:

At the moment the reunion party is completely open. Anyone interested in making a proposal can do so and present it at the next meeting in March. If you are unable to attend, you can send your proposal to be read at the meeting.

Note: We are looking at a minimal of 2,000 people attending which comes out to approximately 40 people per class based on class attendees from the 1940s to the present. Your proposal should include plans for parking, admission, food, drinks, security, displays and anything else which would be related.

There are only a few places in the Antelope Valley which can accommodate attendance in the thousands including The AV Fairgrounds and AV High School. You can be creative and include venues like aircraft hangers or golf courses. Early research has found people leaning toward an October 2012 date preferably around Home Coming at AVHS.

Committee Lead Person: None

Budget Proposal: None

Time Factor: ASAP with a proposed target date around October 2012.

The Centennial Yearbook – Yucca Dedication

The Centennial Yearbook is proposed as a hardcover yearbook style publication with about 200 plus pages. The yearbook will be a dedication to the school's longtime Annual, the Yucca.

There is no format yet but two possible scenarios would be a chronological format or a topic generated format which might include areas such as Sports, Alumni Notables and school history.

Current Committee Lead: Gene Wickham '73

Time Factor: 18 months

Startup: ASAP

Funding: There is some startup funding. Other source of funding might include advertisers.

Organizing: Looking for 3 to 4 Editor's who will be setup with Microsoft publisher. These people will be responsible for their section of the book making sure they conform to the agreed upon look of the yearbook. The production might be divided into two parts; the creation of a digital file with all the content and the costs and logistics of the actual publication of the book.

Supporting these editors will be reporters, copy writers, photographers/scanners, artists (we will need graphics and cartoon characters) and numerous other individual support. We will also need everyone's historical input and perspective.

Special Edition Centennial Sandpaper:

This is a single print-style edition of the Sandpaper meant to be published for the all class reunion party in 2012.

Positions: Editors, Reporters, Artists/Graphics, Advertising

Committee Lead: None

Time Factor: Start Early in 2012 or Earlier

Funding: No funding yet. Funding in whole or in part may be through advertising

Budget: No Proposed budget yet.