

ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President—Sherm Carlson *REA³D Rallies in Support of Community-wide Partnerships*

In conversations with mom over the years prior to her passing, when it focused on topics as to what should be done, ultimately her response would be, “Well, how long are you going to keep talking about it *before you start doing something about it?*” My message will be short, so as to make room in this newsletter to underscore that the latter part of the question has informally become the mantra of REA³D. Mom would be proud!

Over the past year REA³D has signed on to host the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as the required 501C3 organization to bring monthly books to our youngest readers (see page 7).

Standing by, we have offered further financial assistance to Proctor’s newest recreational effort, the Playground for Everybody, should a shortfall occur due to construction cost increases from the original 2019 budgeted amounts.

Furthermore, REA³D took the lead in securing a grant entitled Rails Challenge (see page 8) which was awarded to the Proctor District to support challenging after-school programs for students whose potential may have been underserved during the pandemic. Finally, with this newsletter REA³D announces its quest to draw together the City of Proctor, Proctor School District, supportive non-profits, and REA³D itself to construct pickleball courts in the city’s athletic complex. It will be pricey, but this intergenerational sport has exploded in popularity throughout the country, and we are currently standing on the sidelines (see page 8). Yup! **“We are doing something about it.”**



REA³D Board president Sherm Carlson, and members Dean Dahlvang, Rory Johnson, and Christy Strohm are Ready to Rally!

REA³D Needs Your Help in Gathering Live and Silent Auction Items for Upcoming LIVE REA³D by Candlelight Event!

We are happy to announce that the REA³D by Candlelight LIVE Dinner and Auction event will return to Proctor this winter, on February 24, 2023 at Proctor’s Black Wood’s Event Center. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at rea3d.org/events, or by contacting Sherm at 218-391-0016. Every effort is being made to make the return of this event (after pandemic restrictions) a big success. YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED! We are seeking live or silent auction item contributions of all types. *If you would like to donate an item for this event, please call Sherm or email rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us. Items that have generated a lot of competitive bidding in the past include:*

- ◆ Vintage musical instruments
- ◆ Remote car starters
- ◆ Oil change certificates
- ◆ Charter fishing packages
- ◆ Airplane rides
- ◆ Golf outings
- ◆ Storage sheds
- ◆ Gift certificates for nights out
- ◆ Distilled spirits
- ◆ Destination holidays

SAVE THE DATE!

**REA³D by Candlelight
“Fun”drising’ Event**

**February 24, 2023
Proctor Black Woods**

Thank You ISD 704 Faculty and Staff!

The REA³D Board of Directors would like to recognize the **ISD 704 Faculty and Staff** for their generous contributions of \$7,806 during the **2021-22 school year**. Since REA³D's inception, ISD 704 faculty and staff have contributed over **\$124,839** to our endowment!

Erica Amborn
 Carlie Anderson
 Robin Anderson
 Stephen Anderson
 Nicole Appelwick
 Katherine Bjonskaas
 Ashley Brooks
 Leah Carlson
 Veronica Ciurleo
 Todd Clark
 Rochelle Cleary
 Gina Cole
 Brandon Delacey
 Noah Dennis
 Erik Edmunds
 Melissa Ellis
 Sherry Vail-Harnell
 Leah Gagne

Bill Gates
 Glen Gilderman
 Josh Gookins
 Tanner Hall
 Jennifer Harnell
 Lowell Harnell
 Suzy Hartwick
 Sheila Held
 DeeAnne Hoffman
 Mark T. Hughes
 Brianne Johnson
 Rachel Johnson
 Laura Juntunen
 Joanna Just
 Marcie Keppers
 Anna Kidd
 Ted Kiefat
 Jess Kramer

Joseph Krasselt
 Jonathan Kresha
 Jill Lackner
 Becky LaPlante
 Matthew Lind
 Julie Lysher
 David McNamee
 Carli Mitchell
 Lindsay Moen
 Gina Mogen
 Philip Mogen
 Diane Morin
 Patti Myre
 Teresa Nyberg
 Kelly Okstad
 Jennifer Olson
 Teresa Olson
 Renee Pederson

Erick Peral
 Amanda Rabbers
 Luke Ratike
 Stephanie Reinsch Peterson
 Tim Rohweder
 Andrea Ruth
 Katie Sandor
 James Savre
 Anna Sederski
 Dehlia Seim
 Nathaniel Simpson
 Jesse Smith
 Dan Stauber
 Ana Urban
 Emily Vos
 Jim Vos
 Heidi Voss
 Gordy Westendorf

Over the past 26 years, REA³D has awarded 170 grants totaling \$107,615 to academic, art and athletic projects that align with REA³D's mission, and serve learners of all ages across the Proctor school district communities. Thanks to sustained donor contributions, REA³D has been able to increase grant awards from an average of \$200 to over \$1,000, and was able to fund a major early learner initiative during the pandemic.



Left: Speech instructor Tanner Hall gives a thumbs up to REA³D in acknowledgement of a recent \$400 grant awarded to the PHS Speech program, which funded the video recorder pictured. The recorder enables students to tape, review and revise their speech presentations as they prepare for public speaking class. Over 100 PHS students will benefit from this technology.

Tanner says, "It was interesting to see the student reactions to being recorded. It instantly made them take the presentations more seriously than before. The idea that someone outside the classroom might see their speeches made the stakes a bit higher."

Since REA³D's inception, many learning projects proposed by educators and community members have been strengthened and expanded with REA³D grant funding.



During the annual REA³D ISD 704 Staff Fund Drive, Jen Harnell welcomes a surprise visit from a Frisbee wielding "Elvis," who tossed the REA³D embossed discs into the enthusiastic arms of the audience.

A Tribute to Longtime Proctor Educator and REA³D Board Member Laura Condon

For her entire life, Laura Condon was a fierce advocate for students, teachers, and community members. She had a unique perspective that was valued by everyone who knew her. She continually challenged others to think beyond what was obvious and embrace possibilities. Although she was often not the first person to speak, when she did offer her opinion, others had to stop and ponder what she had to say. Laura never had children of her own, but students considered themselves as part of her extended family.

Laura would step out of her comfort zone to embrace changes that helped kids who were struggling academically. She was one of the first Proctor teachers to join the district's alliance with the University of Minnesota's Center for School Change in the early 1990's, with the Practice Makes Perfect project, which ended up being the precursor to the current Proctor Area Community Center. She advocated for non-traditional applications for classroom learning. In her thirty-second year of teaching, her vision led to the school district's addition of a student operated printshop, which engaged students in meaningful real-life learning through production of printed items for the school and community.

Laura was born November 4, 1949 to Karl and Margaret Condon and passed away August 14, 2022 with her family by her side. She grew up in Proctor, and attended Proctor High School. She graduated from UMD with a teaching degree and earned a Masters at UWS. Laura taught English at Proctor for 35 years. For many years she was an active member, president, and chief negotiator for the Proctor Teachers' Union. She had a passion for all things Proctor, including REA³D.

Laura served as a REA³D Board member from 2012-2022. Hers was a much respected voice when complicated decisions had to be made by the board. She would listen as others discussed grants and funding opportunities. It was common for her to say, "Have you ever thought about doing it this way? Or, "This may sound crazy, but what about this?" She planted idea seeds, and the board will dearly miss her insightful contributions. She is missed by many as a loving aunt, sister, teacher, leader, and friend.

Following Laura's celebration of life service at Forbes United Methodist Church, an outpouring of support for this lifelong educator was demonstrated by a spontaneous contribution of funds to REA³D in her honor, to ensure Laura's legacy lives on in our endowment.



In her role as a REA³D Board member, Laura brought sage wisdom to the endowment's work. She also regularly entertained those present with her keen observations. In her role as fortune teller at REA³D's 2013 Night Under the Big top event, she surprised many patrons with her predictions.



REA³D directors excited the crowd at the 2022 Hoghead parade by launching hundreds of REA³D Frisbees into the air and awarding newly minted REA³D T-shirts to a lucky few!

2021-22 REPORT OF CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions made by those listed are much appreciated and increase our capacity to award funding to academic, art and athletic projects which align with the REA³D mission. Those listed contributed to REA³D between July 2021 and June 2022. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions and ask that if you have a correction, please contact us at: rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us

A+ Garden Center	Noah Dennis	Lowell & Jennifer Harnell
Joann Ahlgren	Charles Downs	Daryl & Linda Harper
Raylene Ahlgren	Kathy & James Doyle	Suzanne Hartwick
Erica Amborn	Bob Drazich	James & Voula Heffernan
Ameriprise Financial Services	DSSO	James & Sheila Held
Carlie Anderson	Dwight Swanstrom Company	Deeanne Hoffman
Evelyn Anderson	Erik Edmunds	Mark Hughes
Michael Anderson	Jack & Nancy Eilefson	Steve Isakson
Robin Anderson	Chais Eliason	Betty Johnson
Stephen & Lori Anderson	Melissa Ellis	Brianne Johnson
Nicole Appelwick	Pam Elstad	Mary Margaret Johnson
Barker's Island	Jeff Erickson	Phil & Terri Johnson
William Barquist	Teresa Erickson	Rachel Johnson
Bell Bank	John Evans Family	Roger Johnson
Jim Bernard	Focus on Living	Ron & Sheron Johnson
Russell Berntson	Skip & Sandra Fontaine	Rory & Sherri Johnson
Cathy Bianchet	Lois Frederick	Tarah Johnson
Roxanne Ahlgren Bijold	Fryberger Law Firm	Wendy Johnson
Black Woods Event Center	Ron Gajewski & Family	Johnson-Wilson Constructors
William & Lynette Bonkowske	Leah Gagne	Laura Juntunen
Ashley Brooks	Bill Gates	Joanna Just
Leah Carlson	Bruce & Judy Gianunzio	Beverly & Darol Kaufman
Sherman & Louise Carlson	Glen & Terrie Gilderman	Marcie Keppers
Fleta Carol	Janelle Gomez	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered
Jeff & Terry Caywood	Josh & Jen Gookins	Keyport Liquor
Todd Clark	Green Mill	Anna Kidd
Rochelle Cleary	Gerald & Mindi Gruber	Ted Kiefat
Brandon & Gina Cole	Colette Gustavson	Richard & Dorothy Knudsen
Sandra Ruhnke Collins	Mary Hains	Johnson's Bakery
Laura Condon	Joe & Marcella Hall	Joseph Krasselt
Sam & Phyllis Cook	Tanner Hall	Jonathan Kresha
Carole Cotruvo	Bill & Kisty Haller	Krenzen Auto
DALCO	Hanft Fride Law Office	Kwik Trip
Lynn Dart-Nelson, PHS '66	James & Kathy Hannan	LTC Prescription Providers
Brandon Delacey	Quenton Hanson	Jill Lackner

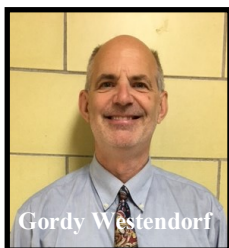
Mary Lou Ladean	Outback Steakhouse	Nathaniel Simpson
Rebecca LaPlante	George Pappas	Laurence E. Skog
Lupine Meadows	Bob & Luanne Paquette	Jesse Smith
Marlys Lee	Pebble Spa	Connie Olson Stanley
Matt Lind	Renee Pederson	Larry Stauber
Phillip & Louise Lind	Erick Perala	Todd & Barb Steen
Angela Jean Lindberg-Livingston	Ted & Lynn Peterson	Stuart & Denise Stenberg
Carol Lonke	Rich Petersson	Stewart's Bike, Sports & Trophies
Lizzards Art Gallery & Framing	PHS Chem Free Grad Party	Stokke's Meats
Love Creamery	PHS Class of 1968	Christy Strohm
Peggy Lundeen	Pike Lake Golf & Beach Club	Super One Liquor
Bruce Dardis & Wanda Sue Lundeen	Powerhouse Bar	Kathy Sylvester
Julie Lysher	Proctor Federal Credit Union	Charlene Talbot
Mike & Bonnie Maeckelbergh	Proctor Journal	Gordon Thoreson
Roger & Katherine Magnuson	Proctor Pizza	Glenn Tridgell
Connie Olson Male	Proctor Public Schools	Tortoise and Hare Footwear
Charles & Jeanette Martin	Liz Proepper	Trophy Café
Kathleen McDonald	Amanda Rabbers	Troy's Service Center
Lynn McDonald	Terry Radzak	Twin Ports Bid
Tom McLeod	Zak Radzak	Twin Port's Trailer Trash
Dave McNamee	Walter Rapp	Gerald & Sara (Carlson) Udem
Jim & Betty Merling	Luke Ratike	Ana Urban
Midway Sewer & Pumping Service	Diane Rauschenfels	Sherry Vail-Harnell
Miller Trunk Family Dental	Reliable Agency	Valentini's Restaurant
Pam Miller	Steve & Charlene Reno	Michael & Geraldine Vandenburg
Minnesota Wilderness	Rocky Mountain Chocolates	Craig & Shelly Vanneste
Misgen Graphics	Tim & Kara Rohweder	Lauren Verhel
Carli Mitchell	Betty Sjodin Rowe	Vintage Italian Pizza
Clint Moen	Marty Running	Jim & Emily Vos
Lindsay Moen	Andrea Ruth	Heidi Voss
Philip & Gina Mogen	George & Mary Saarela	J. R. & Sarah Walker
Morin's Siding & Windows	Sammy's West Duluth	Michael & Gayle Walkowiak
Richard Moran	Kathryn Sandor	John & Sally Ward
Diane Morin	James Savre	Bill Watson
Patti Myre	G.B. Schneider	Wednesday's Bakery
Northwest Outlet	Robyn Ahlgren Schroeder	Jeffery & Anna Weis
Teresa Nyberg	Carol & David Schreck	Kerry Welsh
Seth Oliver	Anna Sederski	Gordy Westendorf
Kelly Okstad	Dehlia Seim	Dale & Mary Jo White
Jennifer Olson	The Shack	Scott Witty Family
Teresa Olson	ShopVivianJane.com	Wussow's Café
Terry Olson	St. Luke's Hospital	Vintage Italian Pizza
Ron & Diane Osborne	St. Luke's Sports & Event Center	Yellow Bike Coffee

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS 2021-22

William Barquist	To Honor the PHS Class of 1951
Russell Berntsen	In Memory of Beverly Berntsen
William and Lynette Bonkowske	In Memory of Florence Bonkowske
	In Memory of Brian Gilderman, PHS Class of '76
Fleta Carol	In Memory of Leif Sawyer Chilman, PHS Class of 2005
Sandra Ruhnke Collins	In Memory of Byron Ruhnke, PHS Class of 1943;
	In Memory of Cindy Ruhnke Stauber, PHS Class of 1967;
	In Memory of Lois Ruhnke, PHS Class of 1946;
	In Memory of Ken Ruhnke, PHS Class of 1972
Lynn Dart-Nelson	To Honor LTC Kristen Auge' (Army)
Kathy and James Doyle	In Memory of Wallace Nosek
Jack and Nancy Eilefson	In Memory of Andrew Maeckelbergh, PHS Class of 1997
Skip and Sandra Fontaine	In Memory of Pat Toor Lowe, PHS Class of 1951;
	In Memory of Carol Jean Soderberg
Lois Frederick	In Memory of Quenton Hanson, PHS Class of 1964
Gerald and Mindy Gruber	In Memory of Joe Lane, Great Athlete, PHS Class of 1962; RIP
Colette Gustavson	In Memory of Dave Udd
Betty Johnson	In Memory of Brian Johnson, Proctor Teacher
Ron and Sheron Johnson	In Memory of Jean Voltzke, Evie Peterson, LaVonn Peterson,
	Ruth Gustafson, and Marge Thoreson
Tarah Johnson	To Honor Rory Johnson
Marlys Lee	In Memory of Marjorie (Carlson) Hall, PHS Class of 1953;
	In Memory of Vivian ("Margie") Thoreson
Phillip and Louise Lind	In Memory of Vivian ("Margie") Thoreson
Mike and Bonnie Maeckelbergh	In Memory of Andrew Maeckelbergh
Rodger and Katherine Magnuson	In Memory of G. E. "Bud" Towner, PHS Class of 1955
Connie Olson Male	In Memory of Brother Frank Olson, PHS Class of 1965
Charles and Jeanette Martin	To Honor Joan Ahlgren, Roberta Mudek, Patricia Nelson, and Joan Rands
Pam Miller	In Memory of Virginia Miller, PHS Librarian
Richard Moran	To Honor the PHS Class of 1966
PHS Class of 1968	To Honor the PHS Class of 1968
Rich Petersson	In Memory of David Hylla
Diane Rauschenfels	In Memory of Phillip and Jean Nelson
Steven and Charlene Reno	To Honor the PHS Class of 1970
George and Mary Saarela	To Honor the Bus Drivers That Safely Drive Our Children
Richard and Robin Schroeder	To Honor Educator Bob McDonald
Connie Olson Stanley	To Honor Educator Anna R. Sederski, Proctor Middle School
Larry Stauber	In Memory of Cindy (Ruhnke) Stauber
Todd and Barb Steen	In Memory of Joyce I. Johnson
Gordon Thoreson	To Honor the PHS Class of 1962
Michael and Geraldine Vandenburg	In Memory of Douglas, Joel, and Gerrit Vandenburg
Michael and Gayle Walkowiak	In Memory of Doug Merritt, PHS Class of 1969
John and Sally Ward	To Honor the PHS Class of 1968

REA³D Welcomes Three New Board Members at August 23, 2022 Annual Meeting

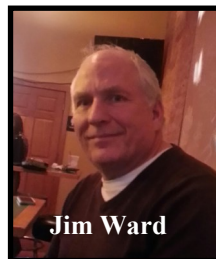
Gordy Westendorf brings thirty-five years of experience in education to the REA³D board, as well as expertise in non-profit tax law and preparation. He currently serves as National Honor Society advisor at Proctor High School, where he also teaches instrumental music.



Gordy Westendorf

Gordy has a passion for kids and is keenly aware of the impact that community engagement and support can make in their lives. Over the past two decades, Gordy orchestrated a number of REA³D supported projects designed to bring student performances to the community, and to increase youth access to instruction. Gordy says, “As I come closer to the end of my classroom tenure, I am looking to give back to an organization that has supported me in the past. I’m friends with many current members, and it looks like it will be fun to carry out REA³D’s mission with this group of caring community people.”

Jim Ward recently moved back to the area after being gone for forty years. He says that he’d like to give back to the community and school he’s always loved.



Jim Ward

Jim holds degrees in engineering and business administration, and has devoted hundreds of hours to developing curriculum and teaching adult technical education classes. He served as advisor to a LaCrosse, WI high school robotics team, as a Boy Scout and Venture Crew leader, and as a member and frequent presenter of the Rochester Civil War Roundtable.

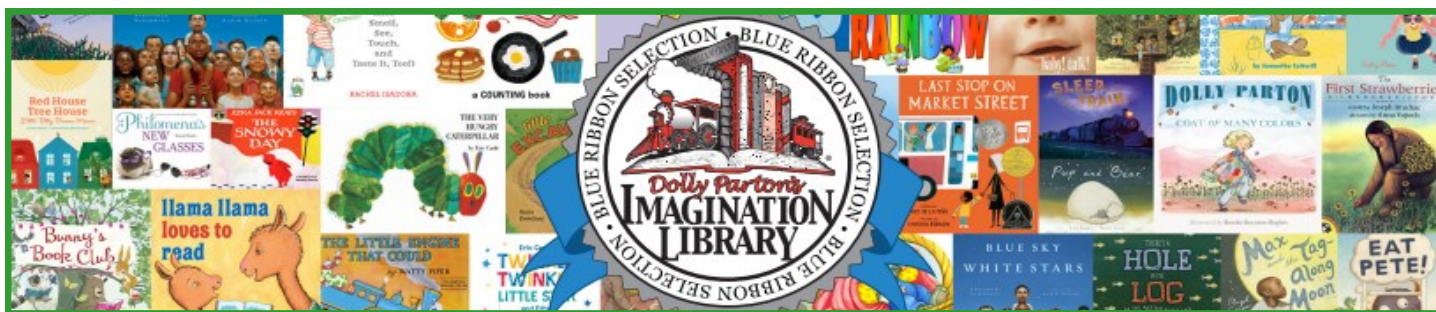
Jim truly enjoys working with youth, and engaging in projects which require analytical thinking. He is also adept at creating and managing spreadsheets, which is a great skill to bring to a growing educational foundation such as REA³D.

Dean Dahlvang has spent thirty years in the fast moving realm of educational technology, in both K-12 and post-secondary schools.



Dean Dahlvang

Though the majority of his career has been spent with Proctor Public Schools, he has also worked with the University of Wisconsin, the Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium, and Nova Scotia’s provincial education department. He is highly skilled in software applications, database management, and website development. Dean has coached Proctor track and field teams for sixteen years. He says, “I think my technical background could be an asset to REA³D, but more importantly, becoming a board member gives me the chance to help provide opportunities for Proctor School District students, staff and community members.”



REA³D Partnership with Dolly Parton Imagination Library Brings FREE Books to Proctor School District's Littlest Learners

Who is it for? Children under the age of 5 who reside in the Proctor School District

What is it? Each month a new, carefully selected book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home. The first book is always the children's classic "The Little Engine that Could." There is no cost or obligation to your family.

When will the books arrive? Eight to ten weeks after your registration form has been received, books will begin arriving at your home, and will continue to arrive until your child turns five or you move out of the covered area.

How do I sign up? Register online at www.imaginationlibrary.com (requires authorization of adult)

What if I move? If your address changes, but you are still in the ISD 704 area, please notify us at:
rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us



Independent School District #704
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Proctor MN 55810

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Northland Grant Awarded for Rails Challenge Project



During the summer of 2022, REA³D collaborated with Proctor Public Schools to seek funding for The Rails Challenge Program, which involves literacy outreach to pre-school children, and provides high potential 3rd-5th grade students with challenging after-school programming. This fall, Northland Foundation awarded a \$29,365 grant to support this project, which will be launched during the 2022-23 school year.

Pictured above is Proctor school district's "Reading Van" which, thanks to this funding and other contributors, will be equipped with learning resources targeted for pre-school children and families who experienced learning losses due to the pandemic.

REA³D Pickleball Partnership with City, School in the Works

In the process of launching the pickleball initiative, these four individuals stopped their competitive game at Wheeler Field and consented to their picture being taken. It speaks to what the game is all about...clearly participants in a broad range of physical condition and likely a forty year difference in age, all thoroughly enjoy this game.

Had school not been in session, an 8th grader could well have stepped in after having learned the game the previous year in their physical education classes.

Parties across our community are coming together to make pickleball courts in Proctor happen, in large part due to your support of REA³D.

