

ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President—Sherm Carlson



Following RAA³D's most successful fund-raising event in its 28 year history, this non-profit foundation is now poised to offer increased assistance to student, teacher, and community grantees in Proctor and its encompassing area townships. RAA³D has committed a \$50,000 community enhancement grant to the City of Proctor for development of pickleball courts, which is now

entering the design and engineering phase of the project.

As this November newsletter arrives, another exciting RAA³D supported project will come to life, the purchase of a new Daktronics gymnasium scoreboard (pictured below). The new scoreboard will be delivered and installed this fall. It will provide advertising opportunities, up-to-the minute statistics, and help engage fans during games. A \$10,000 RAA³D grant helped purchase this \$34,000 state of the art scoreboard.

Face Lift for the Library

A component of the District's Strategic Plan was to revitalize the library space at the middle/high school complex. For several years, the library had not functioned as a traditional media center. During the past school year, administrators, teachers, students, and board members met throughout the school year to determine how the space could best serve students. Their plan included a fresh approach, beginning with painting walls and shelving, to create a more contemporary book store feel. *(Story continued on page three.)*



DAKTRONICS ST-3130 LED SCORER'S TABLE

This hand-crafted train was donated by Carl Markus and is just one of the additions to the newly imagined library



SAVE THE DATE!

***RAA³D by Candlelight 'Fun'draising' Event 2025
returns to Proctor Black Woods Event Center***



Friday, FEB. 21, 2025

Doors open 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS \$50.00

Available from any RAA³D Board Member, or for more information call Sherm Carlson at 218-391-0016.

The RAA³D Board wishes to thank Black Woods for its accommodation in moving our 2024 Candlelight dinner to the Greysolon Plaza Ballroom due to the extraordinary number of guests interested in the event.

However, we have now returned to our traditional setting at the Proctor Black Woods event center, and tickets will be limited to 160 guests.

REA³D by Candlelight 2025

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Chais Eliason, PHS '2009 and NASCAR Race Engineer

We are so proud and excited to announce that Chais Eliason, PHS '2009 will be our featured speaker for REA³D's 2025 Candlelight Event! Chais grew up in Proctor, where the Eliason family earned recognition in dirt track racing throughout the Twin Ports, including the Proctor Speedway, in the 1960s. The Eliason race cars were easily distinguished by a number 4. Chais says, "I faintly remember watching my uncle's car race by as I clasped my hands onto the catch fence on the front stretch of the Proctor Speedway when I was four years old. The sound of the cars sent an immense vibration through the fence and became forever a part of me and my future." Those early experiences, along with several others, led to a dream career for Chais, as a primary race engineer for Trackhouse Racing in Charlotte, NC.



Starting at a young age, Chais spent most summers at the family-owned auto repair shop, Lakehead Clutch and Brake. His dad, grandpa and uncle instilled in him the values of hard work and immense passion for cars. He started out sweeping floors, wiping down walls, and helping his grandpa maintain the shop's aging building in Duluth's Lincoln Park. Chais showed promise for mechanics early on, so this work quickly evolved into rebuilding clutches and re-lining brake shoes.

While still in high school, Chais signed on to help a local dirt track hero of his, Darrell Nelson, with his racing career. By the time he was 16, Chais got to drive his own race car, but after a short two year driving stint, he realized driving wasn't where he belonged. He focused more on helping Darrell as a mechanic until his graduation from PHS in 2009. He spent time working for Archer Racing in Duluth and also traveled full time with a professional dirt late model team during high school. Those experiences cemented his decision to make a career out of stock car racing.

Chais says, "I was incredibly fortunate to attend Proctor schools for my entire elementary, middle school and high school experience." He says Jeff Gunderson, Glen Gilderman, and Lynn Peterson were particularly instrumental in building his confidence and shaping his outlook on life.

Following graduation from Proctor, Chais attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton Michigan to study Mechanical Engineering. Determined to secure his dream internship at Hendrick Motors, Chais built his skill set through several other internship experiences and landed his dream internship with Hendrick Motorsports in 2012, which further fueled his passion to work full time in stock car racing.

After graduating in December of 2014 with a B.S in Mechanical Engineering, Chais was hired by Hendrick Motorsports as a traveling race engineer. He spent the next six years traveling across the country, as race engineer for such great names as Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Larson and Alex Bowman, where he was part of the winning teams at an incredible number of race events. After serving as primary race engineer for Alex Bowman for nine seasons with Hendrick Motorsports, Chais made the difficult decision to transition over to Trackhouse racing for the 2024 season

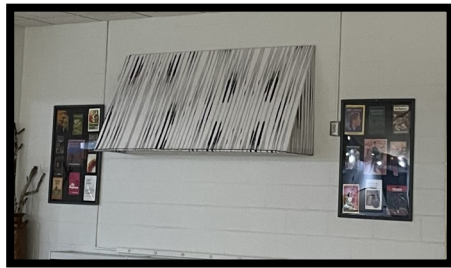
where he's currently the primary race engineer for Cup Series rookie, Zane Smith.



Chais says, "My path to this point in my career started over 25 years ago as a young, shy kid from Proctor, MN who had a dream. A dream that was fueled by so many extraordinary people throughout my life. It started with a family that believed in me from day one and continues to be my biggest supporters today. I'm incredibly thankful for my time spent at the family business, the many hours at the local dirt track and my high school and college careers. As I continue to make laps in this race called life, I can't help but look back and have immense appreciation for everyone that powered me along the way."

PHS Library Space Transformed with REA³D's Commitment to Academics

During the summer months, staff and volunteers put in countless hours sorting books, refurbishing used furniture, cleaning carpets, and updating the Destiny library system files at PHS. In addition to getting the library ready for students, the team decided to incorporate an academic and cultural center that will focus on community and student events and celebrate diversity. Part of that vision included a mural, shown in the photo to the right. This mural will be the showcase of the center and is being created by Barb Steen, retired PHS art teacher and current REA³D Vice President. *(Photo depicts work in progress).* With the \$10,000 support from a REA³D grant to purchase current fiction and nonfiction, this space will become the hub of the school. *(Shown below are the awnings in the reimagined library space. The birch tree theme comes alive in this REA³D Academic and Cultural Center.)*



Rooted in the Past, Transcending the Future REA³D Grant Supports Proctor Historical Society Educational Display



ABOVE: REA³D Grant Assists Little Learners in School Forest Exploration

Preschool teacher Meghan Fladda says, "Thanks to our REA³D grant, we saw our little ones really enjoy the beauty of the Pike Lake School Forest without any worry about their hands and feet being too cold or wet." Their \$1,000 REA³D grant purchased warm boots and mittens for the children to help make more learning projects possible in the school forest. When the temperature drops, these preschool children will keep their spirits high as they explore the great outdoors.

2023-24 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 2023 and June 2024. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions and ask that if you have a correction, please contact us at: rea3d@proctor.k12.mn. Proctor Public Schools Faculty and Staff Contributors are noted with an asterisk (*). Former employees are noted with a double asterisk (**).

Advantage Emblem	Carey & Marsha Johnson	Dubh Linn Pub	Jeff Erickson
A+ Garden Center	Carey Johnson, PHS '78	Duluth Grill	Jeffrey & Anna Weis
Aces on 29th	Carli Mitchell*	Duluth Screen Printing	Jesse Smith*
Adolphson Realty	Carlie Anderson*	Dwight Swanstrom Insurance	Jill Anderson
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Alyssa Swanson*	Catherine M. Bianchet	Erica Amborn*	Jim & Betty Merling**
Amanda Solem*	Char Talbot	Erick Perala*	Jim & Char Ward
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Ana Urban Augustyn*	Clifford Auge'	Fond du Lac Development	Joanna Just*
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Barkers Island	Connie Olson Male	George & Mary Saarela**	John Lozon
Bell Bank	Connie Stanley	Gerald & Mindy Gruber	John Martin
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Black Woods Restaurant	Deb Strohm	Heidi Voss*	JwMillz Salon
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Brianne Johnson*	Diane Rauschenfels**	James Bridges*	Kennedy & Graven
Britta Kauppila	Diane Wippler**	Jamie Sathers Day	Kerry Juntunen*
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Brittany Schubitzke*	Dorothy Knudsen	Jayne Thorson*	Kevin & Janet Born
Bruce & Judith Gianunzio**	Dougherty Funeral Home	Jeff & Terry Caywood**	

Keyport Liquor	Morins Siding	Rich Petersson**	Stokke's Meats
Kolar Toyota	Nancy Eilefson	Richard & Dorothy Knudsen	Stu & Denise Stenberg**
Kristen Jahr	Nancy Talarico	Robin Anderson**	Sue & Lee Hieb**
Lake Superior Zoo	Nathaniel Simpson*	Rochelle Cleary*	Super One Liquor
Lamar Advertising	Natural Exposures,	Roger Johnson	Superior Funland
Laura Juntunen*	Nemadji Golf	Rogue Eagle Golf	Tanner Hall*
Laurakate's Healing Touch	Nicole Appelwick*	Ron & Sheron Johnson**	Ted & Lynn Peterson**
Lincoln Park Crafters	Nicole Kedrowski*	Ron Gajewski	Ted Kiefat*
Leah Berg*	Noah Dennis*	Rory Johnson	Teresa Cox Kolar
Leah Gagne*	Northern Industrial Insulation	Roxanne Bijold	Teresa Nyberg*
Leah Kane*	NorthStar Ford	Russ Berntson**	Teresa Olson*
Lindsay Moen*	Northwest Outlet	Russ Kendall Smokehouse	Terry J. Radzak
Lisa Erickson*	Nuss Truck Employees	Sam's Club	Terry Olson
Lizzards	Other Place Bar & Grill	Samantha Heffelfinger*	Terry Westlund
Lowell & Jennifer Harnell*	Outback Steak House	Sammy's Pizza West Duluth	Thereasa Hansmeier*
Luke & Alli Ratike*	Patricia Lehr	Sandra Collins	Tia Weatherz*
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Margaret Walker	Phil & Teri Johnson**	Sarah Bosch	Tim Nyberg
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Marty Running Fishing	Phillip & Louise Lind**	Sathers JS Realty	Tortoise & Hare Footwear
Mary Catherine Murphy	PHS Athletics	Sawtooth Arbor Supply & Tree Care	Travis Nelson, PHS Class of '55
Mary Hains**	PHS Industrial Tech	Scott & Cindy Kellett	Troy's Service Center
Mary Hall*	Phyllis M & Sarah B Mackay	Scottish Heritage Concert	Twin Ports Cremation
Mary Johnson	Phyllis MacKay	Scott Witte Family	United Truck Body Company
Mary Lou LaDean	Pike Lake Golf	Seth Oliver	Valentini's
Mary Margaret Johnson	Proctor Federal Credit Union	Shack Restaurant	Virg & Lila Boehland**
Mary Wright	Proctor Historical Society	Sheila Held**	Wanda Lundeen
Matt Lind*	Proctor Journal	Sherm & Louise Carlson**	Wayne Misgen*
Melissa Ross*	Proctor Pizza & Sub Shop	Sherry Frerichs Vail-Harnell*	WDIO
Michael Anderson	Proctor Public Schools	Simply Craftin' by Shari	Weis Eye Center
Michael Maeckelbergh	R. Marilyn Grass	Skip & Sandy Fontaine	Wendy Carlberg
Michelle Larson*	Rachel Johnson*	Social House	Wendy Johnson
Midway Sewer Service	Raylene Ahlgren	Sounds Unlimited	Western National Bank
Midwest Communications	Rebecca LaPlante*	Aspirus St. Luke's	William & Kisty Haller**
Miller Mall Car Wash	Reliable Agency	Stephen & Lori Anderson*	William Watson & Anne Lystbaek
Miller Trunk Family Dental	Renee Pederson*	Steven & Charlene Reno	Zandra Bail-Lalonde*
Minnesota Power	Rich Cuisine Catering	Steven J. Patronas	Zen House
Minnesota Wilderness	Rich Heine	Stewart's Bike & Trophy	Zenith Bookstore
Monica Lambert-Lind*			

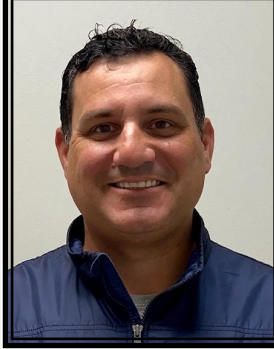
Memorials and Honorariums to REA³D in the name of those loved and respected are encouraged and appreciated. Those listed below dedicated gifts between July 2023 and June 2024. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions and ask that if you have a correction, please contact us at: rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.

Anita Fraundorf	In Honor of Sherm Carlson
Beryl Peyton	In Memory of Thomas B. Ward
Beth Hall	In Memory of Ruth Morrison
Bill Bonkowske	In Memory of Florence Bonkowske and Brian Gilderman, PHS Class of '76.
Charlene Reno	In Memory of Steven J. Reno
Clifford Auge'	In Memory of Patricia Auge' Nee Renaud
Connie Olson Male	In Memory of classmates and our homecoming queen Cindy Ruhnke, PHS Class of '67
Connie Olson Male	In Memory of Cindy Ruhnke
Denise and Stu Stenberg	In Memory of Jo Sjodin and Dean Kolojeski
Diane Wippler	In Memory of Nancy Otos
Evelyn Anderson	In Memory of Carol Jean (Jeannie) Soderberg
Fleta Carol	In Memory of Leif Chilman, Laura Condon, Pat Toor Lowe, Bonita Maeckelbergh, and Patty Muckala
George and Mary Saarela	In Honor of Proctor School District Bus Drivers
Gerald & Mindy Gruber	In Memory of Joe Lane, Jerry Wilmot and Jerry Wedlund
Gerald Gruber	In Memory of Joe Lane, PHS Class of '62
Gerald Gruber	In Memory of Joe Lane, Jerry Wilmot, Jerry Wedlund
Jack and Nancy Eilefson	In Memory of Bonnie Maeckelbergh, PHS Class of '63 and Andrew Maeckelbergh, PHS Class of '97
Joann Larson	In Memory of Al Larson
Julie Kolojeski	In Memory of Dean, Joe and Gen Kolojeski, Jo Sjodin, Jan Bort, and Carl Sjodin
Kaylee Steen	In Honor of Barb Steen
Kristen Jahr	In Memory of Patty Muckala
Marcella Hall	In Memory of Mildred Tuomala Hall, PHS Class of '37
Margaret Walker	In Honor of Connie Olson Stanley, Sarah (Sederski) Walker, Anna Sederski
Marilyn Grass	In Memory of the PHS Class of '48
Michael Maeckelbergh	In Memory of Andrew Maeckelbergh
Michael Maeckelbergh	In Memory of Bonita Maeckelbergh
Nancy Eilefson	In Memory of Bonnie Maeckelbergh, PHS Class of '63
Nancy Eilefson	In Honor of the PHS Class of '70
Phillip and Louise Lind	In Honor of Steve Anderson
Phyllis M & Sarah B Mackay & Brown	In Memory of Betty Harnell

Phyllis MacKay	In Memory of Betty Harnell
R. Marilyn Grass	Dedicated to the PHS Class of '48
Ronald Johnson	Jean Voltzke, LaVone Peterson, Ruth Gustafson, Evie Peterson, Marge Thoreson, Addie Dardis
Russ Berntson	In Memory of Beverly M. Berntson
Sandra and Skip Fontaine	In Memory of Janet Bohlin Jacobson, PHS Class of '61
Sandra Collins	In Memory of Byron Ruhnke, PHS Class of '43, Lois Ruhnke, PHS Class of '46, Cindy Ruhnke Stauber, PHS Class of '67, Ken Ruhnke, PHS Class of '72
Sarah Walker	In Honor of Anna Sederski, Proctor Educator
Scott and Cindy Kellett	In Memory of Aaron Marvin Kellett
Sheila Held	In Memory of Nancy Otos
Skip and Sandy Fontaine	In Memory of Carol Jean (Jeannie) Soderberg, and dedicated to the PHS Class of '56
Skip and Sandy Fontaine	In Memory of Ralph Soderburg, PHS Class of '59
Terry Westlund	In Memory of Bruce H. Nelson, PHS Class of '65
Theresa and Jeffrey Caywood	For Scorer's Table
Travis Nelson, PHS Class of '55	In Memory of Brent Lee
Wanda Lundeen	In Memory of Addie Dardis
Wendy Carlberg	In Memory of Jan Resberg
William and Kisty Haller	In Memory of Joanne Blatt

REA³D Welcomes Two New Board Members

Ryan joined the REA³D Board of Directors in August of 2024. Ryan is a proud 1998 Proctor grad, holds a BA from the University of Wisconsin-Superior, and an MBA from the College of St. Scholastica. He is a commercial agent for Reliable Insurance Agency. His prior non-profit experience includes serving on the boards of the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association, Northeast Hockey Officials Association, the Proctor Amateur Hockey Association, and he continues to serve on the Minnesota Wild Blind and Minnesota Wild Deaf and Hard of Hearing hockey boards. Ryan brings experience gained from his roles as an insurance agent, advertising manager, and non-profit manager, which are all valuable assets in a REA³D Board member. Ryan says, "I was given opportunities growing up in the Proctor Community that just aren't found everywhere. Organizations like REA³D bring folks together in ways that make sure those opportunities continue. I hope to help REA³D leverage creativity, alumni and the business community to sustain and grow our impact."



Russell was welcomed back to the REA³D Board of Directors in August of 2024, having previously served as a director from 2015-18. A proud alumnus of Proctor High School (Class of 2011) and the University of Minnesota Duluth, Russell has worked with numerous non-profit organizations during the past decade. He is also the author of *The Great Golden Spike Treasure Hunt*, a novel relating to Proctor's own Hoghead celebration. Russell is currently employed in the local health care sector as a Community Health Program Manager at Essentia Health and is passionate about promoting lifelong learning, especially in the Proctor School District. Russell is responsible for bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Proctor preschoolers, which has put 2,200 free, high quality children's books into the hands of nearly 200 local children since 2022. Russell says, "REA³D is the leading community non-profit in the Proctor area, and it has a fantastic platform to make a meaningful impact in our schools and in the community."





Independent School District #704
131 9th Ave.
Proctor MN 55810

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*You could be a sponsor of our
28th REA³D by Candlelight
“Fun’draising” Event with your
tax-deductible donation or auction
item! Call Sherm at 218-391-0016 or
email rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us.*

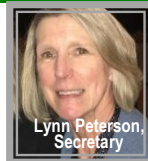
DESIRABLE ITEMS:

- ◆ Vintage musical instruments
- ◆ Remote car starters
- ◆ Charter fishing packages
- ◆ Airplane rides
- ◆ Golf outings
- ◆ Custom built items
- ◆ Gift certificates for entertainment
- ◆ Distilled spirits
- ◆ Experiences

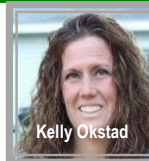
**REA³D by Candlelight
“Fun”draising’Event**

**February 21, 2025
Proctor Black Woods
Event Center**

SAVE THE DATE!



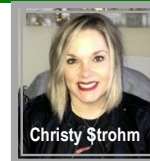
Lynn Peterson,
Secretary



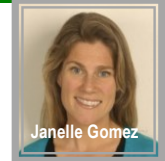
Kelly Okstad



Sherm Carlson,
President



Christy Stroh



Janelle Gomez



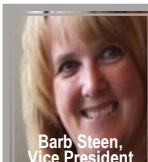
Shelly Vanneste

Have a question about REA³D?

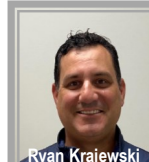
Chances are you know one or more of our REA³D Board of Director Members, pictured here. Feel free to reach out to any of them if you have questions about events, have ideas for REA³D grants or want to become more involved!



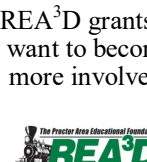
Connie Olson Stanley



Barb Steen,
Vice President



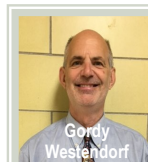
Ryan Krajewski



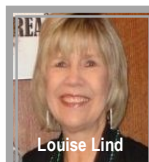
Rory Johnson



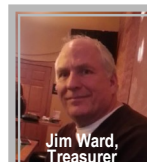
Russell
Habermann



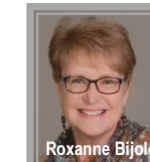
Gordy
Westendorf



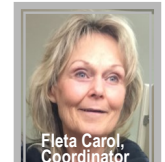
Louise Lind



Jim Ward,
Treasurer



Roxanne Bijold



Fleta Carol,
Coordinator