

ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President—Sherm Carlson



On the 11th day of September, 1996, RAA³D Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Minnesota, establishing RAA³D as a non-profit entity. The small founding group for this effort included Coleen Maier, Scott Moe, Jim Schwarzbauer, Kathy Bush, (who suggested the creative acronym) Ted Peterson, and Jake Benson.

RAA³D's mission to support lifelong learning was clarified in the Articles at the time, but strategies to move forward and make that vision a reality remained vague for the first few years. The foundation solicited the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (now known as the Boreal Waters Community Foundation) to become the umbrella organization for RAA³D's compliance with non-profit legal obligations.

And so the quest began to search for creative means to build the endowment to \$100,000 which was required by the DSACF to begin awarding grants from the interest on the fund. The suggested approaches were wide and varied: Bay View penny drive, dinner hosted by the PHS

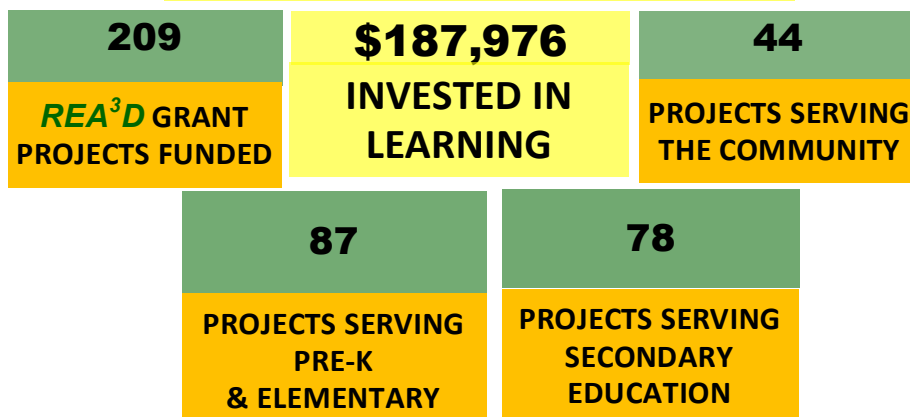
catering club, "RAA³D power water" sales, a RAA³D cookbook, staff payroll deductions, direct mail campaigns, community support, pop machine revenue, Ann Reed concert, and the list went on.

When the magic number was reached in 2007, RAA³D made nine initial grant awards which totaled \$3,297 and averaged \$300-\$400 each. More requests quickly started to appear; the money available to award often falling short of what was being requested. RAA³D supporters stepped up to help build RAA³D's capacity with increasingly generous donations over the next two decades.

Fast forward 30 years to the printing of this fall/winter newsletter. The RAA³D Board, at its annual meeting this summer, amended its bylaws to raise the maximum amount for fall and spring grant awards (average of 12 per year) from \$1,000 to \$2,500 each, along with allowing larger discretionary grants. Furthermore, up to an identified amount of 5 percent of the endowment will be set aside for distribution each year. This year that amount available to award is \$46,000. Who could've known that almost 30 years later, that early vision of our founders has become a resounding reality!

The Impact of RAA³D

SUPPORTING ACADEMIC, ART AND ATHLETIC
PROJECTS SINCE 2007



The new RAILS ROWDY mascot debuts at PHS in September 2025. A RAA³D grant of \$2,000 helped the PHS Student Council raise a total of \$6,000 to bring this wonderful new representative to Proctor school events.

REA³D by Candlelight 2026

FEATURED SPEAKER:

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Whitney Olson, a 2006 Proctor graduate and the 148th Fighter Wing Senior NCO of the Year, will be the featured guest speaker for REA³D by Candlelight 2026.

Sgt. Olson is a Services Craftsman and Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Fatality Search and Recovery Team (FSRT) at the 148th Fighter Wing. Her unit is deployed to assist with search and recovery efforts across the United States. The 148th Fighter Wing provides mission ready airmen and equipment to meet state and federal needs while also promoting critical partnerships.

In her civilian career, Whitney is employed as an Orthopedic Sales Representative and Technology Consultant for Arthrex Minnesota, representing Arthrex-a leading orthopedic manufacturer that sets the standard for quality and innovation in the orthopedic industry. She manages seven facilities and hospitals in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and continually services and communicates with surgeons and medical professionals.

Whitney stays active as a member of the community by volunteering annually for events sponsored by Arthrex and helps with the 148th Fighter Wing Thanksgiving Day meal prep. She is a member of the Highland National Women's Golf Club in Highland Park, St Paul. Whitney adds, "I am getting married on November 8th to my fiancée Lindsay Craft! We are so excited!! We have a Brittany spaniel named Sawyer. He's the best!"



SAVE THE DATE!

**REA³D by Candlelight 'Fun'draising' Event
Moves to Pike Lake Beach Club for 2026**

Friday, FEB. 20, 2026

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

TICKETS \$50.00

Available from any REA³D Board Member, or for more information call Sherm Carlson at 218-391-0016.



Pike Lake
GOLF & BEACH CLUB



Memorialized Teacher Influences a Life Choice

By Peggy Lundeen

When I was going to be a junior (11th grade) in 1966-1967 at PHS, I decided to take an elective home economics class instead of a study hall. The classroom teacher was Mrs. Mildred Bell, and she had a student teacher from UMD named Mrs. Phyllis Donley. (Memorialized in the picture below.) So, I had Mrs. Donley as a student teacher that year. I took home economics the next year as a senior (12th grade 1967-68) and what do you know!? Mrs. Donley had been hired as a full-time classroom teacher. I really liked Mrs. Donley—the way she taught and her personality. She was knowledgeable and friendly. As it turned out, Mrs. Donley encouraged me to go into education at UMD—maybe even home economics education! And, that's what I did. When I finished my B.S. degree in home economics and art education at UMD, Proctor Public



Phyllis Donley and Peggy Lundeen in green and white Home Ec Dept PHS shirts

Schools happened to need a home economics teacher and Mrs. Phyllis Donley recommended me—her former student—to the hiring team. The rest is a wonderful history of teaching at Jedlicka Junior High and Proctor High School.

Peggy recently expressed her appreciation for Mrs. Donley by making a REA³D contribution in memory of Phyllis Donley which appears on page 6 of this report.



Pictured at left are Cindy Jindra, Peggy, and Luanne Paquette visiting the Phyllis Donley Memorial display at the Proctor Museum, which was made possible by a REA³D grant.

Big Bat League Scores Great Sign-Up Response



Left: Adam Kauppila stands proudly with his team of 3-6 year old players on Proctor's first Big Bat League, which takes the place of traditional Tee Ball. Big Bat focuses on the fundamentals of hitting, fielding, and throwing mechanics in a smaller envelope for a field. This format gives the youngest ball players a practice and game program that aligns more closely to that of the older players. The target participation for this effort was 30-35 kids, but the community response resulted in nearly 50 registrations. REA³D supported startup of this effort with a \$3,300 grant.

2024-25 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 2024 and June 2025. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions and ask that if you have a correction, please contact us at: rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us. Proctor Public Schools Faculty and Staff Contributors are noted with an asterisk (*). Former employees are noted with a double asterisk (**).

11A House District DFL	Christy Stroh	Erica Amborn*	Jim Bernard**
A+ Garden Center	Clifford Auge	Erick Perala*	Jim** & Betty Merling
Advantage Emblem	Clint Moen	Erik Edmunds*	Joann Ahlgren**
Alethea Montgomery*	Colette Gustavson**	Fleta Carol**	Joanna Just*
Alyssa Swanson*	Connie Olson Male	Focus on Living	Joe & Marcella Hall
Ameriprise	Connie Olson Stanley	Forbes UMC	John Awsumb*
Ana Urban Augustyn*	Connie Stanley & John Lozon	Fortune Bay Resort Casino	John Evans & Scott Witty Families
Andrea Ruth*	Craig Grau	Frandsen Bank	John Ongaro
Anita Fraundorf	Craig Honkala**	Fryberger Law	John** & Sally Ward
Anna Kidd*	Cristine Almeida	George & Mary Saarela**	Johnson Wilson
Anna Sederski*	Cupcake Lady	Gerald & Mindy Gruber	Johnson's Bakery
Anonymous	Dale Johnson	Gerald and Karen Ruona	Jon Panzer
Arrowhead Auto Body	Daniel & Nancy Talarico**	Gina Mogen*	Jonathan Kresha*
Ashley Brooks*	Daryl **& Linda Harper	Glen **& Terri Gilderman	Joseph Krasselt*
Aspirus St. Luke's	Dave McNamee*	Glen Tridgell**	Josh & Jen Gookins*
Barb Rands*	David & Mary Baker	Glensheen Mansion	Judy & Hart Ziegler
Barb & Todd Steen	David Schreck	Gordy Westendorf*	Julie Hilden
Barker's Island	Deeanne Hoffman**	Grandma's Marathon	Julie Lysher*
Becky Lourey	Desiree Daniel*	H&R Block	JwMillz Salon
Beth Hall	Diane Martinek	Hanft Fride	Kammie Meyerson
Beverly Kaufmann	Diane Morin*	Scott Witty/John Evans	Kathryn Sandor*
Bill Gates*	Diane Rauschenfels**	Heidi Voss*	Kathy & James** Doyle
Bill McGann**	Diane Wentz	Howard Simula	Kathy Salo
Black Woods of Proctor	Diane Wippler**	Imperial Dade	Kelly Okstad*
Bob & Luanne** Paquette	Dick Kieren*	Irving Community Club	Kennedy & Graven
Brandon Delacey*	Donavon Frye	Jack & Nancy Eilefson	Kerry Juntunen**
Brian Wickenheiser*	Doug Stevens	James Bridges*	Kerry Welsh
Brianne Johnson*	Dougherty Funeral Home	Janice Cleary	Keyport Liquor
Britta Lynn Kauppila	DSSO	Jay & Kim Belcastro**	Kolar Toyota
Brittany Johnson*	Duluth Linn	Jayne Thorson*	Kwik Trip
Brittany Schubitzke*	Duluth Grill	Jeffery and Anna Weis	Larry Shelton
Bruce & Judy Gianunzio**	Duluth MN Bourbon Fun Club	Jennifer Harnell*	Laura Juntunen*
Carli Mitchell*	Dwight Swanstrom Insurance	Jesse Smith*	Leah Berg*
Carlie Anderson*	Emily Steward*	Jill Lackner*	Leah Kane*
Carole Cotruvo**		Jim & Cher Ward	Lila & Virg** Boehland
Charlene Reno		Jim & Emily Vos*	Lincoln Park Crafting Community
Charlene Talbot			

Lindsay Moen*	National Bank of Commerce	Proctor Journal	Something Sweet by Maddie Lu
Lisa Erickson*	Nemadji Golf	Proctor Pizza & Sub Shop	Stephen** & Lori Anderson
Lizzards	Nicole Appelwick*	Proctor Public Schools	Stewart's Bike and Trophy
Loren & Joan Solberg	Nicole Kedrowski*	Rachel Burlet*	Stokke Meat & Liquor
Lowell Harnell*	Noah Dennis*	Rachel Johnson*	Stu & Denise Stenberg**
Lucky Seven Convenience Stores	North Shore Bank	Rebecca LaPlante*	Tanner Hall*
Luke* & Alli Ratike	North Shore Inline Marathon	Reliable Agency	Target
Lynn Dart-Nelson	North Star Ford	Rich Heine	Ted & Lynn Peterson**
Marcie Keppers*	Northern Industrial Insulation	Rich Petersson**	Ted Kiefert*
Marjorie Youngren	Northwest Outlet	Richard & Dorothy Knudsen	Teresa Olson*
Mark & Rene **Munger	Nuss Truck Employees	Ridgeview Country Club	Terry Radzak
Mark Hughes*	Operation Parendo*	Rita O'Connell	Thereasa Hansmeier*
Marlys Lee**	Outback Steakhouse	Rochelle Cleary*	Tim* & Kara Rohweder
Marty Running Fishing	Pam Miller	Roger Johnson	Travis Nelson
Mary Hall*	Pat Holmstrom	Rogue Eagle Mini Golf	Troy's Service Center
Mary Lou Ladean	Patrice Mackereth	Ron** & Sheron Johnson	Twin Ports Bid
Mary Margaret Johnson	Patricia Lehr	Russ Berntson**	United Truck Body Company
Matt & Angie Koski	Patricia Mester	Russell & Cynthia & Daughters Lundeen	Urshan Retirement Group
Matt Lind*	Patricia Wallner	Russell and Stephanie Chapin	Valentini's
Melissa Ross*	Paul Fish	Ryan & Leianne Krajewski	WDIO
Michael and Marnie Gould & the Black Hills Area Community Foundation	Paula & Ron Yff*	Sally Munger	Wendy Carlberg
Michelle Larson*	Pebble Spa	Sammy's Pizza West Duluth	Wendy Johnson
Midway Sewer Service	Peggy Lundeen**	Sandra Ruhnke Collins	Western National Bank
Midwest Communications	Peggy Price Johnson	Seth Oliver	William & Kisty Haller**
Miller Mall Car Wash	Peter & Kathy** Sylvester	Shack Restaurant	William & Lynette Bonkowske
Miller Trunk Family Dentistry	Phil** & Terri Johnson	Sherm & Louise Carlson**	Wussow's Concert Cafe
Miner's Inc. (Super One)	Philip Mogen*	Sherry Frerichs Vail Harnell*	Zandra Bail-Lalonde*
Minnesota Power	Phillip & Louise** Lind	Skalko Honey Bee Farms*	Zen House
Minnesota Wilderness	Pike Lake Golf & Beach Club	Skip & Sandra Fontaine	
Monica Lambert-Lind*	Proctor CTE Classes		
Morin Siding & Window	Proctor Federal Credit Union		
Nancy & Tom Aldridge			



(Left) PHS Band members express appreciation for a \$7,225 REA³D grant that supported purchase of a new **marimba** for use by grade 6-12 Proctor band classes. The old marimba had been in service for many years and was difficult to move. Band director Katie Sandor says, "This new instrument sounds so much better and is really inspiring percussionists to play mallets!" (Right—Old marimba had seen its better days...)



Memorials and Honorariums to REA³D in the name of those loved and respected are encouraged and appreciated. Those listed below dedicated gifts between July 2024 and June 2025. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions and ask that if you have a correction, please contact us at: rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us.

Anonymous	In memory of Mary Murphy
11A House District DFL	In memory of Mary Murphy
Anita Fraundorf	In honor of Roxanne Bijold
Becky Lourey	In memory of Mary Murphy
Beth Hall	In honor of educator Jennifer Olson
Clifford Auge	In memory of Patricia Auge
Connie Olson Male	In honor of the Class of "67"
Connie Olson Stanley	In memory of Jim Parmeter
Craig Grau	In memory of Mary Murphy
Cristine Almeida	In memory of Mary Murphy
Daniel & Nancy Talarico	In memory of Peggy Bryant Ruhnke Johnson
David Schreck	In memory of Carol Schreck
David & Mary Baker	In memory of Mary Murphy
Dick Kieren	In memory of Jim Parmeter
Doug Stevens	In memory of Mary Murphy
George & Mary Saarela	In honor of Proctor Bus Drivers that Safely Drive Our Children
Gerald & Mindy Gruber	In memory of Joe Lane, Jerry Wilmot and Jerry Wedlund
Howard Simula	In honor of educator Sherm Carlson
Jack & Nancy Eilefson	In memory of Jim Parmeter, Bonnie Maeckelbergh, Andrew Maeckelbergh, Mary Murphy and Sandra Hall
Janice Cleary	In memory of Jim Cleary; In memory of Jim Parmeter
Joe & Marcella Hall	In memory of Mildred Tuomala Hall - Class of 37
John Ongaro	In memory of Mary Murphy
John & Sally Ward	In memory of Terry Egerdahl and Laura Condon; in honor of all Proctor educators, staff and students
Julie Hilden	In memory of Mary Murphy
Kammie Meyerson	In memory of Mary Murphy
Kathy & James Doyle	In honor of PHS Classes: 1968-1972
Kerry Juntunen & Steve Anderson	A tribute to ISD 704 EMPLOYEES
Loren & Joan Solberg	In memory of Mary Murphy
Lynn Dart Nelson	In honor of Army Colonel Kristen Auge
Marjorie Youngren	In memory of Mary Murphy
Mark & Rene Munger	In memory of Mary Murphy
Marlys Lee	In memory of Mary Murphy
Michael & Marnie Gould & the Black Hills Area Community Foundation	In memory of Patty Muckala and in honor of David Muckala
Nancy & Thomas Aldridge	In memory of Bonnie Mackelbergh & Andrew Mackelbergh
Nancy & Thomas Aldridge	In memory of Mary Murphy
Pam Miller	In memory of Virginia Miller - PHS librarian
Patricia Lehr	In memory of Mary Murphy
Patricia Wallner	In memory of Mary Murphy

Patricia Mester	In memory of Mary Murphy
Paul Fish	In memory of Mary Murphy
Peggy Lundeen	In memory and honor of Phyllis Donley - home economics teacher
Peggy Price Johnson	In memory of Jim Parmeter
Phillip & Louise Lind	In memory of Carol Schreck - 3rd grade teacher
Ron & Sheron Johnson	In memory of Jeane Voltzke, Addie Dardis, Lavonne Peterson, Marge Thoreson & Ruth Gustavson
Russ Berntson	In memory of Beverly Berntson; in memory of Jim Parmeter
Russell & Cynthia & Daughters Lundeen	In memory of Patty Muckala
Sally Munger	In memory of Mary Murphy
Sandra Ruhnke Collins	In memory of Byron Ruhnke, Lois Ruhnke, Cindy Ruhnke Stauber & Ken Ruhnke
Skip & Sandra Fontaine	In memory of Janet Bohlin Jacobson, PHS Class of '61; in memory of Jim Parmeter; in memory of Carol Jean Soderberg, PHS Class of '56
Ted & Lynn Peterson	In memory of Jim Parmeter
Travis Nelson	In memory of Brent Lee
Virg & Lila Boehland	In memory of Jim Parmeter
Wendy Johnson	In honor of Barb Steen
Wendy Carlberg	In memory of Jan Marc Resberg
William & Kisty Haller	In memory of Jim Parmeter
William & Lynette Bonkowske	In memory of Florence Bonkowske

REA³D Welcomes New Board Members Robyn Schroeder and Steve Meyer

Robyn (Ahlgren) Schroeder is a proud PHS grad of the class of '78 and has enjoyed the REA³D annual fundraiser for years. She has come to value the education and community support the REA³D organization offers and is looking forward to supporting the REA³D mission as an active member of the board. Robyn holds a BS in Computer Science from St. Cloud State University and a master's degree in leadership and resource management from the College of St. Scholastica. She is now retired from a 40-year career in Information Technology working across a variety of industries including manufacturing, greeting cards, health care, and city government. She held leadership positions with the City of Duluth, Essentia Health, and most recently Cirrus Aircraft. Robyn has volunteered for leadership roles with the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon and within her church community. She enjoys traveling, birding, hiking, sporting clays and pursues indoor crafts such as quilting and scrapbooking. She has supported REA³D events for many years and is sister to Roxanne Bijold who formerly served on the REA³D board.



Steve Meyer is REA³D's newest board member. Steve brings a wealth of relevant experience to REA³D efforts. He has been a successful small business owner in the Duluth area for the last 25 years, and graduated from UMD with a major in accounting. He is a 1985 Proctor graduate. He has volunteered on various youth hockey boards over the past 30 years and most recently served as treasurer for the Duluth Girls Hockey Association. Steve says, "Relationships, community, and giving back are very important to me. I hope to offer another perspective and continue to help the community that helped shape me." Steve spends his time with family, boating, and hiking. He is looking forward to serving the community as a REA³D board member.





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

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*You could be a sponsor of our
29th 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:

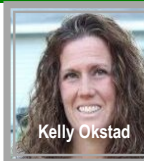
- ◆ Remote car starters
- ◆ Charter fishing packages
- ◆ Airplane rides
- ◆ Golf outings
- ◆ Custom built items
- ◆ Gift certificates for entertainment
- ◆ Distilled spirits
- ◆ Experiences

**REA³D by Candlelight
"Fun'draising' Event**

**February 20, 2026
Pike Lake Beach Club
Call 218-391-0016 for tickets**



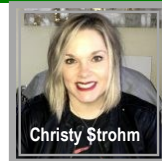
Lynn Peterson,
Secretary



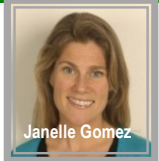
Kelly Okstad



Sherm Carlson,
President



Christy Strohm

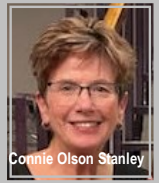


Janelle Gomez

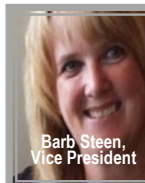


Steve Meyer

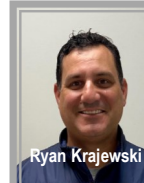
Have a question about REA³D?
Chances are you know one or more of our
REA³D Board of Director Members,
pictured here. Feel free to reach out to any
of them if you have questions about events,
have ideas for
REA³D grants or
want to become
more involved!



Connie Olson Stanley



Barb Steen,
Vice President



Ryan Krajewski



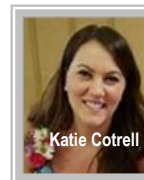
Rory Johnson



Russell
Habermann



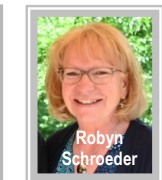
Gordy
Westendorf



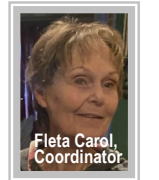
Katie Cotrell



Jim Ward,
Treasurer



Robyn
Schroeder



Fieta Carol,
Coordinator