



# Connections

**Osco Savon Alumni Club  
Summer Newsletter**

Volume 31 Issue 2

[oscosavonalumni.com](http://oscosavonalumni.com)

June 2021

**Dick George's Ulta Reflections...**When I was working for Jewel and then Osco Drug, I thought I would retire from the company. I was wrong. After the buy-out of Jewel Companies, Inc. by American Stores, things changed. I made a commitment to stay on and I did. But as things changed significantly especially connected with how the new owners treated people, I began to wonder if I really would retire from Osco.

I stated thinking about "what`s next" in my life. That started me thinking about starting a retail company. Thought about Office Supplies which already had been started on East Coast by a former Star Market executive, Tom Stemberg. In my normal work for Osco, I had visited Cosmetic Centers in the Chicago area with Terry Hanson. I remember Terry saying that he liked the concept, but it could be done much better. But, since I was still employed by Osco, it went on the "back burner".



**Richard Call Savon Drug Reflections...**This is amazing that Sav-On Drugs has an alumni club, my father was the second President of Sav-On Drugs. His name was Ronald L. Call he passed away in 1968 at the age of 48. Growing up with Sav-On Drugs, I cannot imagine such a thing, my father would be so proud. He loved his employees and checked up on them regularly. My name is Richard Call and I was born in San Bernardino in 1947 where my father was the receiving clerk at that time at the very first Sav-On Drug store which opened on July 25th, 1945! My father always said that receiving clerk was the position where you learned the nuts and bolts of Sav-On Drugs. Then we moved to Long Beach where my father was the Store Manager and lived there for, I think five or six years. Next, we moved to Los Angeles where my father worked in the basement of the Crenshaw store where they had the corporate offices and he became a Supervisor. When my father`s uncle CJ Call, the President of Sav-On Drugs died, the Board of Sav-On Drugs made my Father President at the age of 36. It might seem young but my father was a pilot during WWII flying B-17 bombers and received the Soldiers Medal for bravery for saving four flight crew members by pulling them out of a burning plane crash in Ardmore, Oklahoma on a training mission. See attached article & photo. My father was the Co-Pilot and they hit a large hill with one of its wings and crashed. He flew more than 25 missions while stationed in England. Sav-On Drugs was a way of life and my father always waved to people because they might be customers and then he would laugh. My mother`s brothers became Managers and Supervisors and half of Star Valley Wyoming where my father grew up worked at Sav-On Drugs. I could go on about more memories during our time working at Sav-On Drugs and at that time my family consisted of three girls and two boys plus mom and dad. I worked at the Inglewood, Westchester and Ladera Heights stores and my brothers and sisters worked there as well. One other tidbit about my father which I thought was cool. He had a telephone {a big black one} in his car, I think around 1963. (L.A. Mobile was the company.) He played in the LA Open Golf Tournament for years the Spalding rep Al Conte would get him in each year.

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We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- ⇒ Terry Sullivan - 238 Milford Circle  
Mooresville, NC 28117-7001  
[terrynjen@gmail.com](mailto:terrynjen@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Patty Nelson - 24373 Tombstone  
Ridge Court Middleton, ID 83644-  
5470 [patriciaanelson1@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaanelson1@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Greg LeGore - 4720 Elderberry  
Ave Moorpark, CA 93021-2452  
[coachgreg11@hotmail.com](mailto:coachgreg11@hotmail.com)
- ⇒ Ken Weber - 24582 Southhamp-  
ton Courtt, Laguna Hills, CA  
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- ⇒ Debbie Kabelis - 1326 Greenbriar  
Lane Darien, IL 60561-5026  
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## Board Meeting Highlights

May 22nd, 2021



Eleven Board Members met via ZOOM. First order of business was to officially welcome Ken Bellefeuille to the Board. Ken's strong operational and HR background will serve us well. Club finances were reviewed as well as current memberships. We have been struggling for the last year to keep our Website up and running on the various web browsers. Our platform and Approach data base are at end-of-life and in need of replacement. The Board approved moving forward with a new website and data base to replace our current website. While the new website will have a look and feel similar to the old website it will offer members many new options based on the survey we conducted in 2020. Instead of just being a repository of data it will allow members many interactive functions. Each of the Board members will be keeping certain elements of the Website up to date with current information so there will always be fresh information for members to view. The change over will take several months to become fully operational. Stay tuned for these exciting enhancements to your membership.

**Next Board Meeting:**  
**Saturday, September 18th, 2021**

## Election Results 2021/2022

We enjoyed our largest voter turn out in recent memory with 118 ballots cast via Survey Monkey and 16 by mail. The Board and its Officers were unanimously re-elected. New to the Board is Ken Bellefeuille, formerly of the Eastern Region. We also had 6 "Write-In" candidates that the Board will discuss and contact for future interest level. Thanks to all of you that took time to cast your ballot.

The Board has been without a Secretary since Barbara Salerno retired. We are pleased to announce that Judy Archer recently accepted the position of Secretary and she was unanimously approved by the Board on 6/11/21.

### *Osco Savon*

#### 2021/2022 Board

<b>President</b>	Gary Hunstiger
<b>Vice President</b>	Dan Quinn
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cal Schwandt
<b>Secretary</b>	Judy Archer
<b>Director</b>	Larry Anderson
<b>Director</b>	Ken Bellefeuille
<b>Director</b>	Jerry Gonyo
<b>Director</b>	Diane Heatter
<b>Director</b>	Brent Keil
<b>Director</b>	Tom Nielsen
<b>Director</b>	John Nieman III
<b>Director</b>	Al Pineda
<b>Director</b>	Stan Petersen
<b>Director</b>	Bobbie Riley
<b>Director</b>	Larry Wahlstrom
<b>Director</b>	Glen Yergeau

## Jerry Gonyo....

My wife Darlene and I always enjoyed compiling memories. During our 56 years of marriage, we built up a significant library of scrapbooks and a collection of keepsakes.



These memories became even more precious to us when Darlene was diagnosed with dementia in 2002. We knew that dementia was unpredictable, so I retired to make the most of our time together.

**As my wife`s caregiver, I witnessed the devastation of dementia firsthand.**

Due to the disease`s progression, we returned to Bloomington in 2016 to be closer to our children and grandchildren. My wife eventually needed to move out of our home to a long-term care facility.

I visited her most days. As Darlene`s memory loss worsened, I started to decorate her room with our scrapbooks and keepsakes. The family photos sparked memories.



While caring for Darlene, I learned about the IU Health Alzheimer`s and Dementia Resource Service. I joined several support groups for caregivers and families. Connecting with others gave me a support system for the lonely experience of caring for my wife. And it helped spark my passion for helping others also dealing with these difficult diseases.

**I learned how hard it is to care for a loved one with Alzheimer`s or dementia.**

Dementia recently took my wife`s life. While I am still grieving, I am grateful to the care team and the specialized support services that helped us. For example, the Dementia Friendly Care Partner Development Program provides home health aides and certified nursing assistants with additional training to care for patients and families.

**I want to make sure every family has access to the best care available — this is why I financially support the Alzheimer`s and Dementia Resource Service. To encourage your giving, I am matching donations dollar for dollar to double the impact for local families.**

### How You Can Make a Gift

**Mail a check payable to:** IU Health Foundation

Please include the following information:

Where to direct your gift – for my match, that is the *ADRS Fund (21262)*

Your full name and mailing address

Your email address for digital receipt

Indicate if you would like to make your gift in honor of Darlene

Mail check to:  
IU Health Foundation  
PO Box 775589  
Chicago, IL 60677-5589

**Online:** [iuhealthfoundation.org/supportmemorycare](http://iuhealthfoundation.org/supportmemorycare)

Your gift funds the Dementia Friendly Care Partner Development Program. With more specialized care, patients and families can make the most of their time together — creating beautiful family memories and enjoying the simplicities of everyday life.

Please join me in making a gift to the Alzheimer`s and Dementia Resource Service at IU Health.  
Grateful IU Health advocate

With gratitude,

Gerald (Jerry) Gonyo



**UPCOMING CLUB EVENT:****New England Luncheon****DATE:** SATURDAY: SEPTEMBER 18, 2021**PLACE:** POLCARI'S**LOC:** WOBURN, MA**TIME:** 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**ORGANIZER:** LARRY WAHLSTROM

LWAHLSTROM@GMAIL.COM

**Savon Pizza Party****DATE:** SATURDAY: SEPTEMBER 18, 2021**PLACE:** BJ'S**LOC:** BREA, CA**TIME:** 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**ORGANIZER:** DAN QUINN : DANQUINN70@GMAIL.COM

AL PINEDA: ALPINEADA09@YAHOO.COM

Mario Lopez: mariorandi1@yahoo.com

*Spouses, guests and friends are welcome to join in the fun and nostalgia at our events*

Jerry Gonyo, the UWO economics grad, has long continued his active involvement with the University. He organized, facilitated and participated in various outreach activities with the UWO Arizona Alumni Chapter from 2002 to 2016 and is working to develop the same type of faithful UWO alumni group in Bloomington.

Gonyo also makes several trips back to his hometown of Oshkosh annually and plans his trips around alumni events scheduled, including Waterfest and Homecoming. "Over the years, as I matured in the business world and later on after retirement, I got involved with the Alumni Association efforts with keeping in touch with the campus and saw how it had grown from my days there," said Gonyo. In addition to his passion to unite all Titan alumni, Gonyo has become a great philanthropist in support of the University. His charitable gifts since 2005 have supported a variety of initiatives, and his generosity over the last three years has helped make a significant impact on the institution. Most recently he established a \$50,000 nursing scholarship for students pursuing a degree in nursing with a special interest in long-term care, a \$50,000 endowed scholarship for students pursuing a degree in education and an additional \$50,000 challenge gift for the 150th anniversary Giving Day that is set for Sept. 12. All three gifts were made to honor the institutions sesqui-centennial year.

"Over the past several years in my active donation efforts I have tried to tie strings to my donations which resulted in programs and efforts that supported dedicated efforts," said Gonyo. "My current donation has the strings tied to keeping the 150th anniversary spirit of UWO."

Gonyo has also dedicated his time and support to many Alzheimer's organizations after being a long-term caregiver due to his wife Darlene's journey with the disease.

"I have and will continue to help support local training for caregivers started with CNAs and beyond," said Gonyo. "I want to make sure when my turn comes, there are professional caregivers there for me."

Two of those organizations—IU Health Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Services and the Alzheimer's Association Greater Indiana Chapter—are grateful for his support. Gonyo regularly serves on many of Bloomington's Dementia Friendly Committees, working on various efforts to better the city's public spaces, healthcare systems and overall community awareness and serves a vital role in the Community Dementia Alliance Group.

"His energy and passion for helping others seems limitless," said Danya Thompson and Amanda Mosier, members of the IU Health Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Service, in their recommendation letter. "We are beyond blessed to know him and think he deserves all the recognition that comes his way."

Gonyo will be recognized during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 22-23, 2021.



The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Alumni Association has selected Jerry Gonyo '64, to receive the inaugural Alumni Outstanding Service Award.



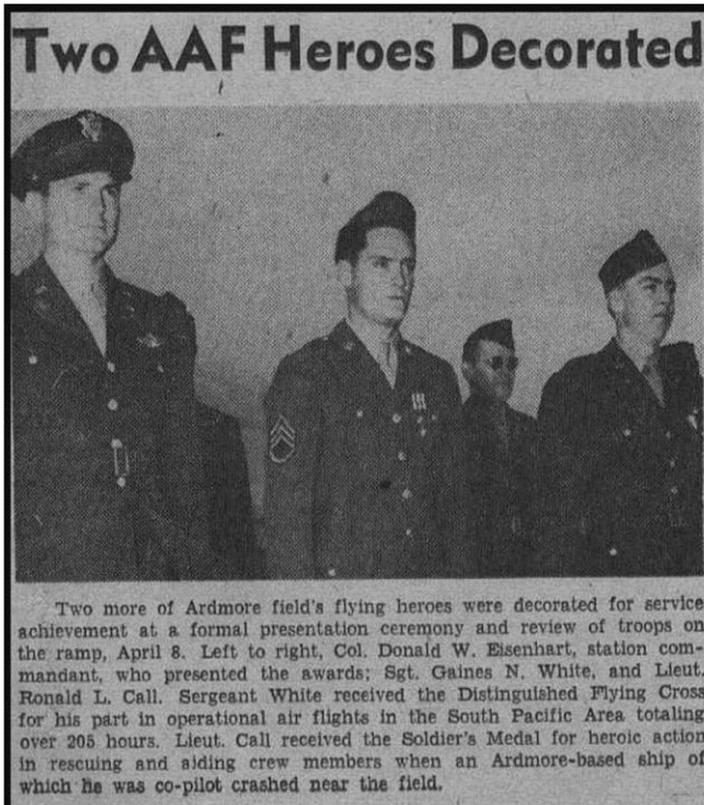
The new award—announced in honor of the University's sesqui-centennial—recognizes a graduate who has made exemplary contributions to UW Osh-

kosh on the Oshkosh, Fond du Lac or Fox Cities campuses, through their support of the University and their volunteer efforts.

Gonyo, of Bloomington, Indiana, has used his energy and leadership to support not only UWO but also many other organizations he's passionate about, including the Indiana University Health Alzheimer's and Dementia Resources. Services and the Alzheimer's Association Greater Indiana Chapter.



Continued from front cover:



**Two AAF Heroes Decorated**

Two more of Ardmore field's flying heroes were decorated for service achievement at a formal presentation ceremony and review of troops on the ramp, April 8. Left to right, Col. Donald W. Eisenhart, station commandant, who presented the awards; Sgt. Gaines N. White, and Lieut. Ronald L. Call. Sergeant White received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in operational air flights in the South Pacific Area totaling over 205 hours. Lieut. Call received the Soldier's Medal for heroic action in rescuing and aiding crew members when an Ardmore-based ship of which he was co-pilot crashed near the field.

Four crewmen were killed instantly and four were injured in the crash of a B-17F (42-3466), Thursday, November 4, 1943. The severely injured pilot, Lt. Derald C. Holland, died two weeks later in the Borden U. S. Army Hospital, Chickasha, Oklahoma. The crash and burn occurred on a hill in the Arbuckle Mountains two miles north of the base during a landing attempt at 8:12 PM. On 170-degree final, the aircraft failed to clear the obstruction by approximately six feet, hitting the trees and descending down the ridge until it piled up against the next one. Fast Forward Note: The injured co-pilot, Lt. Ronald L. Call, who survived the crash, received the Soldier's Medal in December 1943, for his effort in removing crew members from the burning aircraft and providing aid to the surviving injured. After recovering from his injuries, he became aircraft commander of Crew 204, recognized as the best performing "Crew of the Week," January 13-20, 1944. His co-pilot on the crew was a cousin, Lt. Charles L. Call. Both men were from Af-ton, Wyoming and had worked in Charles' father's print shop prior to entering the service. "Bombs-Away," the base weekly, provided a story and picture of the crew in the January 20, 1944, edition.

Two Big 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon July 23, 2022

77<sup>th</sup> Sav-on Anniversary Golf Tournament July 22, 2022

Tickets will go on sale Jan. 1, 2022

Everyone is invited

**Details:**

**When:** Friday & Saturday, July 22 & 23, 2022

**Where:** Old Ranch Country Club

3901 Lampson Avenue

Seal Beach, CA 90740

**Brunch Cost: \$35.00 per person-includes food & nonalcoholic beverages.**

Alcoholic drinks are available but are not included with the price of the brunch.

**Golf on Friday!!!** We are also hosting lunch and a round of golf at a nearby Golf Course on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning with lunch at 11:30 followed by a Scramble format round of golf!!! **COME ONE COME ALL!!!**

**Registration & Payment Deadline: Details coming in the Fall of 2021**

**Questions:** Call Dan Quinn at 714-697-0301 or email to: [danquinn70@gmail.com](mailto:danquinn70@gmail.com)

Call Al Pineda at 626-825-2633 or email to: [alpineda09@yahoo.com](mailto:alpineda09@yahoo.com)

**Hotel information: Details will be coming in the Spring of 2022**

It all began 76 years ago...in San Bernardino, California ... on July 25, 1945 – **The very first Sav-On Drug store opened its doors!**

In the years that followed that momentous day, each of our lives has been touched by so many wonderful people who worked together, helped build the company and provided the best Customer Service and experience to Southern California customers for decades.

Please join us for an afternoon of wonderful companionship, fond nostalgia, and heartfelt storytelling as we safely gather to celebrate what "*Count On People Who Care*" was all about.



Continued from front cover:

But Sam Skaggs changed my time schedule when he asked me to leave Osco. As part of my severance contract, I negotiated the "right" to employ people from Osco (except Osco officers) should I start a business. American Stores was very fair to me in this contract since it included an expenses allowance, an office and, most importantly, an administrative assistant. Diane Johansen, my Osco administration assistant joined me at a rented office in Westchester down the road from Osco's office in Oak Brook.

We started work in that office in October 1988. I remembered Terry being intrigued with Cosmetic Centers so I started work on understanding everything I could about that company.

The more I learned, the more I liked the company and thought Terry was correct, it could be done better. For the next year I built a financial model of a potential company and began writing the business plan. A terribly slow process, but finally by late 1989, I was trying to raise money from venture capital firms as well as established retailers. My calculations suggested we would have to raise \$10 million to get the company started and after numerous starts and stops with no existing retailers opting in, we ended up raising \$11.6 from venture firms. The reason for the sizable investment was because we had to build and stock a distribution center before we opened the first store. The business plan suggested we would need 10,000 SKUs in the DC which would be shipped to each store in each's rather than case packs.

The most important thing in starting a company is having talented people to join the company. I was extremely fortunate to have a group of incredibly talented individuals who chose to join what became Ulta. They were:

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| Rich Bos    | John Kromer    |
| Tom Carroll | Terry O`Malley |
| Tony Dandre | Greg Smolarek  |
| John Field  | Bev Vonderhaar |
| Terry Frome | Bob Vonderhaar |

During the year I was writing the business plan, Bob Vonderhaar would often stop by our Westchester office to discuss ideas and help me plan the venture including working on the store layout. He was extremely helpful.

Since my severance contract prohibited hiring Osco Officers, Terry could not become part of the business, but that changed when he resigned from Osco in the Fall of 1989. A special thanks to all that helped start Ulta.

A quick story about the impact of talented people. As mentioned above, I spent over a year writing the business plan and developing the financial model. I knew every word and number in the document as it was written, reviewed and re-written. However, before we opened the first store, Terry O`Malley had an idea that if we put a salon in the store, we could buy direct (not through diverters) salon hair products.

The whole team supported this idea. We added the salon, and it was a significant positive attraction while we were struggling with some of the other categories included in the original plan. Talented people make a difference.



The venture capital investors over time became concerned that we were not generating a positive cash flow. They wanted to try a different approach and asked me to step aside as CEO after five years and thirty open stores. I fully understood that the owners of the business needed a return on their investment. My ownership and thus, investment was small compared to the venture investors, so I fully understood why they had a fiduciary responsibility to their investors to generate a return on their investment and thus wanted to make a change in the leadership. It was disappointing to be asked to leave, but I am pleased that those that came after me ultimately made the company an outstanding success.

**Dick George...** Judy and I still live in Elmhurst in the same house we lived in during Osco and Ulta years. We are also fortunate enough to have a condo in Bonita Spring, FL where we spend about 5 months each year except for crazy 2020 when we came home in mid-March and stayed hunkered down in Elmhurst until early January this year. We were fortunate to get COVID shots in February 2021 since we qualified as we are 82 this year. With bad backs we both stopped playing golf in 2019. But this has not stopped fun with family and friends. With our three children, Rich, Susan, and Jenny and spouses we have eight grandchildren aged 25 down to 13. It is much fun to watch our children going through the normal issues of raising kids without having the responsibility. Grandparents can spoil grandchildren and their parents let us. Without a doubt our best family vacation was enabled by the great people at Ulta who made the company worth something (well after I left). Because of their excellent management I was able to sell Ultra stock after they went public. This enabled Judy and I to take the whole family of sixteen to England and France. Grandpa even had special fun with the Grandkids. I told them the train to France was going under the English Channel so if they ever felt drips of water to tell me so I could warn the conductor. Grandpa had a squirt gun so halfway through the trip they said that they felt drips of water. It was worth a good laugh when they realized what had happened. Without a doubt, my best memories of Osco are the people. We had, since the founding of Osco, the best people and thus an outstanding culture. People worked hard but worked hard together. People genuinely cared for each other and wanted everyone to succeed. Although I understood the talent of Osco people during the years I worked there, I appreciated it even more after leaving Osco and Ulta. After my Osco and Ulta years I worked for a venture capital firm and was on the Boards of numerous companies. This gave me a prospective on people that I would not have attained working with just one company. It made me understand what a unique and great group of people Osco recruited and developed over many years. I will always feel fortunate that I was able to work with that outstanding group of people.

**Terry Hanson...** Susan and I are doing very well. We celebrated our 51st anniversary and we're enjoying life. We have four children and eleven grandchildren. Our kids live in Naperville, Las Vegas, San Diego and Hong Kong. We were traveling a lot before COVID and like everyone else we look forward to this being over soon and getting back on the road. We live in Fountain Hills, AZ most of the time, a couple of months in Naperville and spend the summer at the lake in Minnesota. We've been fortunate to meet a lot of great all those lo- and always spending family and I enjoy boating, reading, golf and vis- places. I fi- gave up skiing this year.



One of our best trips was to Asia. We had an opportunity to spend six weeks exploring and visiting many countries as we traveled from Thailand to China. Meeting the people, experiencing the culture and seeing the sites was fantastic! I have many wonderful memories of Osco. After the merger of Skaggs, Savon and Osco into one company, we held an all management company meeting in Chicago, where the "Count on People Who Care" campaign was launched. The advertising campaign and slogan lasted for many years. I also remember the meeting's final dinner was held at the Field History Museum in Chicago! Meeting many people at district manager and regional meetings held throughout the country, was truly a wonderful experience. The work agenda was always productive and the social time provided an opportunity to get to know each other. Softball and Volleyball games after work at 1818 were always very competitive and a lot of fun! Most importantly I remember how unique it was to work at Osco! The people were dedicated, hardworking and talented. As I reflect on my time at Osco it was truly a highlight of my life. "Osco people truly Care."

**John Kromer...**Life has been very good to us. To date the Kromer women, wife Gloria aka (Gug), daughters Betsy and Kathleen have, thank God, seen their way through eight brushes with various cancers. We remain thankful for all the prayers so many have said offered over the years. We each continue to thrive as do our two sons-in-law and Rebecca (11). We remain in Naperville, IL where we have resided in the same home for nearly 43 years. For fun spending time with family is the very best. Less cooking and more eating out is back on the list of the life's enjoyments. Sharing a good meal with family and friends does top the list. Tennis has given way to playing and <walking the golf course plus enjoyable regular strolls together. We look forward to getting back into extensive travel with US baby steps in



2021. Photography has been a hobby since cell phones hit the market and piano continues to be a good place to leave the cares of the world behind. Our best vacation was a small river boat cruise down the Danube with good friends which continues to provide fond memories. A close 2nd was a Tauk Tour of the Austrian Alps. Fondest memories of your time spent at Osco in retrospect, watching very good fortune play out, my time with Osco was wonderful. Getting on board as a part timer with Duane Davis in time for the Dubuque grand opening while a senior at Loras College was something very special. Believe it was the Christmas of '66 when I agreed to stay on through 12/24 before returning home to my future bride. Life was pretty lonely at the time while living as one of about 5 guys in an otherwise deserted dorm. The morning of 12/22 Mr. D. presented me with a round trip train ticket to Chicago.

The two extra days meant the world to me. What a wonderful thing and a pretty good recruiting tool, too. There are many more stories of kindness along that 23 year Osco career courtesy of bosses like Ernie Sawyer, Larry Hedges, Bill Jacobs by way of Max Jenkins, Dave Gillis, Ron Grove, Byron Luke, Dave Maher, Terry Hanson and even Dick George for a couple of months when asked to help prepare a document that would aid the process of Osco Drug going public. That was a fun assignment until the market crashed in October 1987. Playing "Patton" followed not too long thereafter as did "Count on People Who Care." It was a very good ride. Thanks go to all who supported us along the way with so many doses of good common sense, all for the common good.

**Rich Bos...**Heather and I are doing great! We are enjoying our retirement! We are fortunate to follow the 70 degree weather. We live in Cape Coral Florida from September through April each year. I enjoy teaching classes on leadership and entrepreneurship to small business owners in our church in Cape Coral. From May through August we live in the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota. We enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, 4-wheeling and just being outdoors. Our 4 children and 7 grandchildren (with 1 more on the way) visit us many times during the year. We also stop by and visit all of them in Chicago and Des Moines on our way back and forth. We are also owners of a small business – HobbyTown (race cars, boats, planes, models, games, science kits)- outside of Des Moines that our son runs. My fondest memories are of the tremendous leaders that we had at Osco. Wes Christopherson, Dick Cline, Dick George, and Terry Hanson all helped prepare me for life in general and to become a better leader for ULTA and Beauty Brands.



**Chuck Barth...** I am recently retired and doing GREAT! Deb has been retired for over 10 years and serving as a "nana" for our 2 granddaughters. Michelle and her husband Andy have 2, our only 2 grandkids, Ruby is 11 and Lola is 9. They are still residing in the Chicago area, Montgomery to be exact. Our son Michael is married to Jennifer and they have no children, but have 2 miniature pincher dogs that they treat better than a child! They live near our daughter in Montgomery, as well. We recently, "in 2020", moved to the Phoenix area and reside in a beautiful golf course community called Tonto Verde in Rio Verde, AZ. just north of Fountain Hills and east of Scottsdale. For fun we Golf, golf and more golf. That's about all we were able to do since here in of the pan-the For we fortu-visit times



we even rented a car in Rome and drove ourselves around Italy. We have also enjoyed several Viking cruises in Europe including one to Croatia and one through Germany for the Christmas Market and one to Portugal to enjoy a wine tour on the Duro River. My fondest memories of time spent with Osco was the people and culture that was created back then and now being able to reconnect with many of those acquaintances here in the Scottsdale area. Also the years that I lived and worked in the Northwest Region and the opportunities presented to me as I was promoted and transferred to many different locations and eventually to 1818 in Oakbrook.

**Dean Kelsey...** Petra and I are healthy and enjoying our 2 children and 5 grandchildren: Daniela 42, Lance 36, Ayden 13, Griffinn 8, Everley 6, Eleanor 4, and our newest edition...Theodore 6 months.

We still live in Fox River Grove, Illinois (43 yrs) and spend 3 months each winter in Florida at Margaretville Resort Orlando (near Disney World). We balance our lives between sailing, skiing, powerboating, and floating in the pool. We hang out with close friends in Park City, Utah skiing for 2 or more weeks each year. Powerboating here on the Chain Of Lakes in Northern Illinois and a 40ft ran we with 2 cou-the Virgin We prox. 6 each ports the



sailing on catama-share other ples in British Islands. sail ap- 8 weeks year in all around world.

Our best vacations have been a combination of land & sea adventures. So far we have sailed in Australia, Croatia, Spain, Tahiti, Turkey and all over the Caribbean Islands with a least one or more weeks ashore touring the countryside on every trip. My Osco Memories are many thou some are fading...Great store and office personnel always willing to go the extra mile. Hard, long but rewarding days and nights dedicated to serving the customer's needs. A couple memories that stand out include Pheasant Run Vendor Shows, Golf Outings at Calloway Gardens, Ga. and Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach. Dick George stopping by my "Snack Buyer's Desk" to grab a handful of Popcorn (sometimes leaving a trail all the way to his office). Besides my 25 years with Osco, I was thrilled to be a part of the ULTA Beauty team for 12 years. Working with over a dozen former Osco management people was the best of times. Count On People Who Care!

**Dominic and Judy Archer...**Judy and I are enjoying our life out of Darien, Illinois. I basically retired in 2016 after spending 19 wonderful years with Ulta Beauty after leaving Osco in 1997. Being part of a company that grew from a 68 store, privately held company to almost a thousand store, extremely profitable, publicly held company when I left was extremely satisfying and rewarding.

Dominick and Judy Archer continued....

I would not have had the chance to work as their Director of Loss Prevention if it were not for some familiar names like Rick Weber, Terry Hanson, John Kromer, and the late Ron Green. I also had a chance to bring on other Osco Drug alumni to work as part of my wonderful staff like John Oliveri, Jeff Foster, Carlos Sainz, Joe Egan, Perry Smolinski, John Leslie, and Ken Velasquez. I also worked along side in other departments additional alumni like Pete LaPrarie, Mike Goldman who continues to work at Ulta, Rich Bos, Bob Vonderhaar, Bev Vonderhaar, Dean Kelsey, and Greg Smolarek. I am sure I have left out other Osco Alumni that I worked with at Ulta. After leaving Ulta I have had several opportunities working interim, temporary, or consulting roles. The most interesting was working as the Interim Director of Fraud for a major international on-line company, joining them as preparation for the crucial holiday season was beginning while attempting to learn the technology and become familiar with a 60 person staff based in three counties was to say the least challenging. Learning to use Zoom, Slack, and other communication technologies before they became popular because of the pandemic was a great experience. I continue to volunteer at my Alma Mater, Northern Illinois University, serving on the Athletics Strategic Planning Committee, the Huskie Fan Advisory Board, the Management Department Advisory Board, as a NIU Advocate with the Springfield Legislator while mentoring students every semester through the Alumni Association and the Management Department. After Judy left her second tour of duty with Osco (she left the first time to join the original Dick George staff at Ulta) she returned to school and completed her bachelor's degree at Northern Illinois University in 2015. We are now both Huskies. She immediately started substitute teaching and then when offered, accepted an opportunity to join the Westmont school district as a full-time Teachers Assistant mainly working with kids who have special needs.

While she enjoys working with these young children, she plans on retiring after this challenging year of on-line, hybrid, and in the classroom teaching. We have been lucky enough to do a great deal of traveling within the US, Canada and Europe with family and friends. The best trip had to be the two weeks we spent in Italy not only because of the sites and food we enjoyed but because of the two couples we met from New York state that have become lasting friends who we have gone on to travel with and visit with again and again. Finally, what completes our lives is our son Ryan, our wonderful daughter-in-law Alex, and the three grandchildren, Lucas 12, Logan 5, and Natalina 2.

**Bev and Bob Vonderhaar...** We're doing fine and living in Fountain Hills, AZ. Small town next to Scottsdale. So far we're house happy crazy waiting for the COVID thing to back off and then we can travel. We love Mexico and New Orleans but can't get excited to go to places with the virus going on. Our fondest memory of Osco was meeting each other! It's been a bit more the 40 years since we met in 1980! Both Bev and I really liked our jobs at Osco. We even spent vacation time around the Holidays visiting our stores. Couldn't keep the business out of minds. We also had a fantastic time working to launch and develop Ulta with a great team of associates





*On Behalf of the Alumni Club,  
We Extend Our Deepest Sympathies  
to the Families Having Lost Loved  
Ones.*



**2021 May 27th: Dave Lewis**



**2021 June 11th: Rocco Iapicca**



**2021 June 12th: Ronald A. Richmond**

Please access the website in the **People >> In Memoriam** section to see additional notices of the passing of

Osco and Sav-on employees.

**Paying It Forward...** is an expression for describing the beneficiary of a good deed repaying the kindness to others instead of to the original benefactor. Jerry Gonyo, one of our alumni and long standing Board member has made Pay it Forward (PIF) a way of life. Jerry has done so with the University of Indiana, the Alzheimer's Association and most recently with his grandchildren. For Jerry's PIF's he doubles the amount donated!! Jerry shared his Christmas note to his grandchildren:

**TO:** TO MY "GRAND" KIDS

**FROM:** YOUR GRAMPS

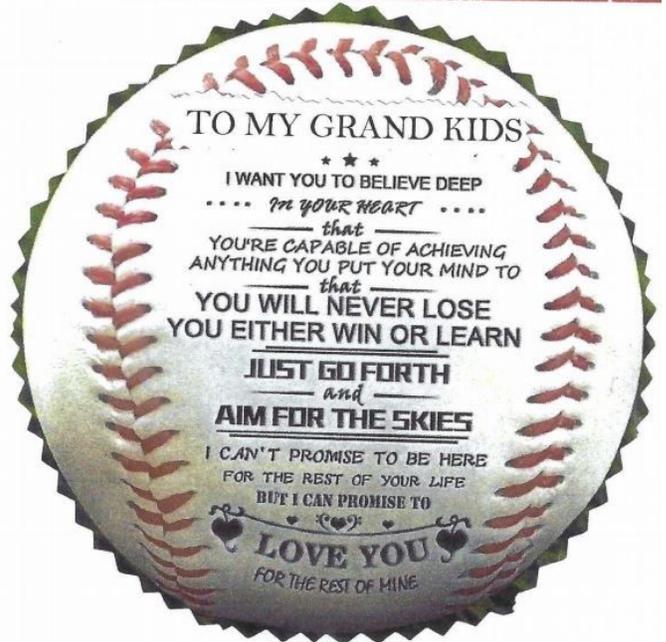
**SUBJECT:** NEW CODE PIF

As you all well know I use many "CODES" in my communications. At this time, I would like to advise you of a newcode. PIF=PAY IT FORWARD

As part of the gift giving season upon us, I would like to review how you could use this new code. Enclosed is my gift for you to do whatever you wish. If you would like to invoke the code, you could take a portion and donate it to a person or cause that is in need of help in these trying times.

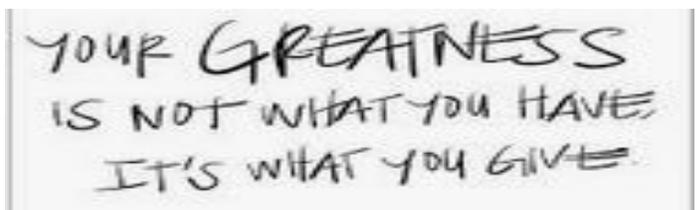
I have used this code in the past years with many charities such as the ALZ, UWO, IUH and others. For example, with the ALZ I have matched donations made to me on their behalf with the strings attached that some of the funds come back to the local community. They have done this by giving to our local Support groups to expand their coverage in the 13 counties they serve. So, if you would like to invoke the code in the coming year via a donation or your personal volunteer service please give me an update by 5/3/21, my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Perhaps your folks would join you using the code. Your grandmother would have been extremely interested in your efforts.

Good luck on whatever path you take.



This was and is part of my PIF Code PAY IT FORWARD. I have used the code this past Christmas with my 5 grandkids with 4 in college. As you can see, the letter I handed out a Christmas resulted in All 5 using the PIF code. They paid it forward to the following charities:

A Well Fed World  
Sycamore Land Trust  
Black Lives Matter  
Butler U Arts Center  
Trevor Project  
ALZ Walk





**Unprecedented Success.....**This year`s record-breaking slate of outstanding women in the industry took on the pandemic and won. During an incredibly challenging yea, as the grocery industry stepped up to meet the needs of concerned shoppers and associates, women working at stores, warehouses, suppliers and marketing research firms, from entry-level positions all the way up to the C-suite, rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to keep product moving, and employees and customers safe. Now that the threat of COVID-19 is receding and people are finally venturing out into the sunlight of what promises to be a celebratory summer, women across the industry are ready to help get the party started and keep it going with all of the necessary items and services. Reflecting the exemplary ways in which the threat of the COVID19 pandemic was vanquished, nominations for Progressive Grocer`s 2021 Top Women in Grocery awards program flooded in at a never-before-seen rate—more than 1,000 were received, smashing all previous records. To Access these candidates, who already represent the best and highest at their respective companies, PG recruited its first ever all female judging panel, made up of 12 women processing a vast collective breadth of retail knowledge. Working, long hours in teams of two, the judges painstakingly sifted through the hundreds of nominations, eventually winnowing them down to 437 honorees—another record. This herculean task was made more difficult by the sheer quantity—not to mention quality—of the nominees. It was truly humbling for the judges to read about the myriad achievements of the nominated women, ranging from creative programs in the

Workplace to activities the wider industry to selfless efforts to uplift their local communities. Although these feats would be impressive in any year, they took on special significance at a time when people relied on the grocery industry more than ever, and found that it was there for them. In that spirit, Progressive Grocer would like to pay tribute to all of the women—**honorees** or not, nominated or not—whose hard work and sacrifices helped grocers, suppliers and others stay afloat and able to serve their customers through a once-in-a-century public-health crisis. There may only be 437 Top Women in Grocery this year, but every last one of you is a winner

*Progressive Grocer Staff*



**Karen Hunstiger**  
**Director Operations**  
**Advantage Solutions/  
SAS Retail Services**

- ▶ **As program director managing in-store merchandising such as full store resets, Hunstiger and her team doubled top-line revenue in 2020, going from in-store execution to a dedicated model.**
- ▶ **Amid the pandemic, she delivered 207% revenue growth over last year, for which she received an award; she was also nominated for and serves on two task forces focusing on recruitment and retention.**
- ▶ **Hunstiger and her team were awarded a banner at one store for their assistance during the time of civil unrest, and she mentors at all levels and offers best practice advice for HR**

***Footnote: At 16 years of age, Karen began her retail career at Jewel/Osco in St. Charles, Illinois, where she started as a cashier for Osco and was quickly promoted to key carrier/assistant manager***