

# Connections

## Quarterly Newsletter Osco Sav-on Alumni Club

Volume 26 Issue 2

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

Summer 2018

### What we had was very unique

I've worked in several companies since my career ended with Sav-On/Osco about 9 years ago. I'm sure that many of my fellow Alumni Club members have as well. I have found that the warmth and comradery we shared in what I call the 'Golden Age' of the drug stores was quite different and unique from what I've found elsewhere.

I was with the company for 42 years. For me it started at Sav-On Drugs in Whittier, California at store #33. This was back in the day when they only used odd numbers for the stores, so I guess that tells you that it was a long time ago!

It was 1968 my senior year in high school, little did I realize that it was that the start of what I would be doing for the rest of my life.

Like many if not most of us in the west, I started dipping ice cream cones. 8 hours a day 40 hours a week for almost a year. I worked 1:00PM to 10:00PM.

My favorite thing was sneaking down to the Photo department where I would listen and work with Mary O who knew everything about everything! I learned about selling, about hustling, about Customer Service. I learned it from every employee at the store.

I remember my first day, two cosmetics clerks pulled me aside and basically threatened me..."Listen kid, you better take care of the customers or we'll let you have it!"

What a start... continued on page 6.



### Election Results for 2018/2019 Club Board of Directors:

President: Gary Hunstiger  
Vice President:  
Secretary:  
Treasurer: John Fields  
Director: Larry Anderson  
Director: Ray Delcourt  
Director: Jerry Gonyo  
Director: Diane Heatter  
Director: Curt Larson  
Director: John Nieman III  
Director: Tom Nielsen  
Director: Al Pineda  
Director: Dan Quinn  
Director: Bobbie Riley  
Director: Larry Wahlstrom  
Director: Glen Yergeau

Board member biographies are posted at the club's website. To access, click on the board member name above or log into the club's website and search the membership directory by name or simply input membership status = 'Board Member'.

This year approximately 10% of our membership voted for the slate of candidates and 99% voted electronically. Congratulations to the new Board of Directors as they begin working on the usual tasks of growing membership and setting up reunions across the country. The newest reunion is being planned for Las Vegas for the fall of 2018!

#### *Inside this Issue*

<b>2</b>	<b>Club News</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Barbara Salerno Retires from Board</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>A Blast from the Past</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Upcoming Events Industry News</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Reflections</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Indy 500 Gathering</b>



## Panzer points to NACDS' ability to drive partnership, engagement

BY [DSN STAFF](#) April 24, 2018

PALM BEACH, Fla. — As retail undergoes a revolution, the key to delivering what consumers want is agility from retailers and suppliers, as well as maintaining a personal connection with shoppers, Albertsons' Mark Panzer said in his first remarks as chairman of NACDS. He also highlighted NACDS' ability to help retailers engage with each other to reach success through such events as NACDS Annual and Total Store Expo.

Panzer's remarks were informed by his current role as senior vice president of pharmacy, health and wellness of Boise, Idaho-based Albertsons, which is leveraging digital tools to reach customers and is in the midst of an acquisition of Rite Aid, as well as by his more than 40-year career in retail that began at Osco Drug in the early 1970s. Throughout his career, Panzer said, he has seen the value of customer relationships shine through, even as the ways retailers build them have shifted. "We have better tools, better data, better analytical skill," Panzer said in his remarks that followed him receiving the chairman's gavel from outgoing chairman and Walgreens Boots Alliance co-COO Alex Gourlay. We need to utilize all of these things in this rapidly changing retail environment.

"But native intelligence, gained through frontline experience and face-to-face customer interaction, is invaluable and must still play a critical role at the decision-making table." He highlighted NACDS as a crucial facilitator of the conversations where retailers and suppliers decide their strategies in a changing environment — both through events and the organization's Retail Advisory Board. "NACDS is doing a lot to bring retailers and suppliers together, to really tackle the issues of today and tomorrow," Panzer said.

He also noted the way that NACDS maintains a focus on public policy measures that can help further members' role in the lives of patients and customer through its Access Agenda's focus on such issues as pharmacy provider status, direct and indirect remuneration fees and fighting the opioid epidemic. "When you look at all of the business challenges we are facing, I cannot emphasize enough, just how important it is to have NACDS representing all of us, and taking on these public policy issues," he said. Panzer's speech Tuesday was preceded by remarks from Johnson & Johnson U.S. chief customer officer David Pothast and Panzer presenting Gourlay with a plaque commemorating his time as chairman. His remarks were followed by educator Jim Collins, who spoke to attendees about what distinguishes great companies. As part of his talk, Collins discussed how companies that achieve greatness do so through large, ambitious goals that attract the best and brightest. His framework could also easily apply to such organizations as NACDS, whose membership Panzer noted comprises the best of the industry from companies of all sizes.

"If you're not doing the hardest things, you're not going to get the best people," Collins said.

## Board Meeting Highlights

June 2nd, 2018



6/2/2018

The newly elected Board Members were introduced and we look forward to their contributions. The Clubs balance is \$12282.36. Larry Wahlstrom will establish a sub-committee consisting of Glen, Al, Bobbie and Dan to discuss how the Club might utilize some of its checking account balance to drive membership. The Board decided to only US Mail out the Directory to non-email members and send it electronically to e-mail members which will provide significant savings. The Directory is also available for viewing on the Clubs Website. Early in July, a short 8 question survey will be emailed to our Alumni. Your feedback is important because we are very interested in getting feedback from you and the thousands of other former associates about what would interest you and them most about keeping in touch with their former friends and co-workers by attending a fun and exciting reunion in your area!. As always we appreciate your feedback. **Our next Board meeting will be 9/29/2018.**



# Barbara Salerno Retires from the Board



Barbara Salerno joined Osco as an in-house temporary employee in August, 1977. Not much later her excellent skills were recognized and she became a part-time employee in the Recruiting/Human Resources Department. Barbara went to work to "find herself" then found herself working a full-time job in order to be eligible for the company's health insurance plan for her family as her husband, Joe, was self-employed.

For over 17 years Barbara`s career encompassed positions in three of the four Oak Brook, Illinois office buildings (1818, 2100, OBDC). In addition to Recruiting/Human Resources, she also worked in Merchandising and Loss Prevention. After **Ron Green**, vice president of Loss Prevention retired in 1994, Barbara was asked to go to the Elk Grove warehouse to be the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Operations for Distribution. Barbara remained in that position until the Lunt and Pratt warehouses were downsized during Supervalu's consolidation of distribution centers in February 2007.

In her nearly 30 years of service with the company, Barbara has reported to these Osco/Sav-on Alumni Club members: **Jim Willyard, Sue Herrick, Denny Zimmerman, John Dvorak, John Oliveri, Dennis Graninger!**

It didn`t take long after her "forced retirement" that Barbara was offered a Board Director position for the Osco/Sav-on Alumni Club. After Sharon Cartwright "retired" as the Club`s Administrative Coordinator in August 2007, Barbara assumed that position and has held it ever since. Her biggest challenge has been soliciting club members for stories, editing and publishing the Club`s quarterly news letter, *Connections*.

Barbara and Joe had three children, Joe Jr., Tony and Michelle. Joe lives in Bethesda, Maryland and works as a Senior Web Consultant. . Tony is in the mortgage business and lives with his wife Brenda and children in Oswego, Illinois. Daughter Michelle lost her 10+ year battle with Hodgkin`s Lymphoma in February 2013. Barbara`s two sons have given her eight G` children. She has one new Great Grandbaby, and one on the way! She also has 4 others that adopted her as their Nana Barb; her brother`s G` Children. Obviously, Christmas and birthdays are big events for her. Sadly Barbara`s high school sweetheart and husband of many years, Joe, passed away November 3, 2009 after a 14 month battle with ALS, Lou Gehrig`s disease. Barbara keeps busy with her family, bike riding, working out at the gym, traveling to her home in Florida, and on occasion a bridge game. She takes a minimum of one huge trip a year, sometimes more – most recently China and Hong Kong; Cruised to the Hawaiian Islands; Amsterdam and Belgium; Mediterranean Cruise to Spain and Italy, and has a plan this fall to take a Transatlantic cruise from Rome to Miami. Barbara plans to continue to travel and gets out as often as possible to dance to her favorite bands both in Florida and Illinois!



# Tell us your stories...you know the one's *nobody will believe....*



Paul Phillips got his first store as manager, it was no jewel, it was Jerry Butlin's old Savon store in downtown Burbank.

Paul worked hard and long to make it go. No volume, no help. He would get home late, eat and go to bed. Almost without fail, very early in the morning, the phone would ring. It was the alarm company telling him the alarm had gone off.

He would drive from Canoga Park to Burbank to find no problem. By then he just stayed and worked.

One morning, the phone again rang. It was again an alarm call. Paul was so tired he did not hear it. When his wife Kathy answered, she was asked if Mr. Phillips was there. She replied "NO"! and if you find the S- -. you let me know, I am looking for him too!

There was a click on the other end. Kathy did not wake or tell him of the call until it was time to get up.

No problem. It was later determined what was setting off the alarm was aircraft traffic

Alas, the end of this story is to me very sad, early one morning, my phone awoke me; it was Paul's daughter Lynn. It was obvious from her voice, something was not good. She said, "daddy's gone. Without thinking, I asked, where did he go?

She told me that during the night she awoke to find a man in her room trying to assault her. She screamed and Paul rushed in. The assailant jumped from the window. Paul followed and chased him down Canoga Ave.

The chase was too much for Paul's heart. He had a heart attack and died.

It was too much for me as well, I fell apart.

I can think of no loss that hurt me more, before or since.

Earl Cline  
Big Bear Lake  
April 5, 2018

As told by Earl Cline a sales rep for, Mernick-McDowell, "Magnum Products".



***If you have a "Blast From the Past" story to share please send an e-mail to the Alumni Clubs email address: [oscosavon alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:oscosavon alumni@yahoo.com) along with a picture and we'll print the article in the next edition of Connections.***



## CLUB EVENTS

### ROMEO Club Brunch - Weekly

#### *ROMEO (Retired Osco Merchandisers Eating Out)*

DATE: FRIDAYS: RESUMING SEPTEMBER 2018  
 \*\*\*Beginning Sept. 21 thru Dec. 21, gathering on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month.  
 \*\*\*Beginning Jan. 4 thru April 12, gathering every Friday  
 \*\*\*Beginning May 3, meet the 1st and 3rd Friday with the last gathering being Friday May 17th

PLACE: THE GENERAL STORE

LOC: SCOTTSDALE, AZ

TIME: 11:30 AM

ORGANIZER: Gerry Bay  
[geralddbay@me.com](mailto:geralddbay@me.com)

### Juliettes Luncheon

DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY RESUMING SEPT 2018

PLACE: GENERAL STORE

LOC: SCOTTSDALE, AZ

TIME: 11:30 AM

#### ORGANIZERS:

JULIE ANN WALKER

[jaaz47@cox.net](mailto:jaaz47@cox.net)

CAROL KEIL

[ckeil@cox.net](mailto:ckeil@cox.net)

### Chicagoland Event

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

PLACE: GATTO'S

LOC: DOWNERS GROVE, IL

TIME: 3:30 TO 6:30 PM

ORGANIZER: DIANE HEATTER

[kenheatter@msn.com](mailto:kenheatter@msn.com)

### Las Vegas Event

DATE: SAT, OCT. 20, 2018, FROM 5- 10 P.M.

PLACE: JOE'S BAR

LOC: LAS VEGAS, NE

TIME: 5 TO 10 PM

#### ORGANIZER:

LARRY ANDERSON

[LARRYANDK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LARRYANDK@GMAIL.COM)

## NACDS Alumni Attendee's



Mark Panzer



Chris Dimos



Dan Salemi



## **What we had was very unique continued from page 1**

After 10 years I had become a Store Manager and had worked in 4 different stores as I worked my way up from clerk to supervisor to assistant manager and finally to store manager.

For the next 11 years I managed store #135 in Bell and was there long enough to finish growing up, at least partially, and really came to understand that without your crew you can't be a success.

For the next 6 years I was fortunate to be a member of the Customer Service team and was privileged to meet and get to work with almost every DM and Manager in the entire country. It was a dream job and when it ended and I went back as a store manager in Southern California I took with me some very powerful beliefs that I learned during that 'tour of duty'.

You see, I got to work with folks in Boston, Chicago, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Green Bay, South Bend, Phoenix, Tucson, Las Vegas, Reno and many others as well.

That is why today I always say it was never about the sign on the building, whether it said Osco or Sav-On or Albertsons or finally CVS, it was always about the people inside.

In the several companies I've worked with since then, I've never found as strong a sense of 'family' as we had. I remember picking up the phone and speaking with a store manager across the country and it was like we were in the same store, all the basics were the same. Integrity, pride, work ethic, fun, yes I said it, fun! It was a magical time and that is why I believe so many of us have stayed in touch and enjoy seeing each other at the various reunions we've held across the country.

It was always about the stores, not the offices, and that was very special indeed.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming reunion!

Thanks for the memories,

Dan Quinn

## Osco Reunion—Indy Race Weekend Party

For 8 years now, the Thursday before the Indy 500, John Nieman III has hosted an Osco Reunion Party at his home in Indianapolis. It is a chance for previous Hourly Clerks, Salaried Management, Pharmacy Team members and even some Osco Office Associates to come together, tell the same OLD STORIES and relive the glory days of working together at the GREATEST company that ever existed.

It's hard to believe that it's been almost 20 years since many of us have even worked together (although many folks did go on to work at CVS and some still continue their retail lives there), but the comradery and friendships that developed so many years ago, pick right up where they left off so many years ago.

Most of the attendees worked in the OSCO Drug stores in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Bloomington, Columbus, Muncie and other surrounding towns in Indiana. Some of the attendees relocated multiple times across many states and different locations.





We always forget to take a group photo, but this was about 10pm with the remaining 20 attendees hanging outside still. What good times and great memories. If everyone were as lucky to have worked with an amazing group of people and still enjoy their company, I would say that they had a life well lived. I certainly know that is the case with me!

I would guess that our final attendance number was around 75 people .....but even if it was just that special person you hoped to connect with again, these events have become a true highlight in my year every year.

To anyone that might be in the Indianapolis Area next year on Thursday before the race, please come over.....just e-mail me for directions and time. John Nieman III ([jjnieman3@yahoo.com](mailto:jjnieman3@yahoo.com))

