

# Connections

Quarterly Newsletter  
**Oscosavon Alumni Club**

Volume 25 Issue 2

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

July 2017

## Oscos at 80 Reunion Update: Countdown to August

Arrangements have been finalized to assure the August event will be the best it can be. At latest count, over 150 members, spouses and guests have indicated their intention to attend the reception and dinner at the *Pheasant Run Resort* in St. Charles, IL with an expected attendance of 250+



We've posted the final sign-up/payment form on-line and included the response form in this issue of *Connections*. The event planning sub-committee is completing remaining tasks for this project. In early June, invitations for the reception and dinner were mailed out to our members as well as our guest list from the 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

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### Election Results for 2017 Club Board of Directors:

President: Gary Hunstiger

Secretary: Barbara Salerno

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: Dan Quinn

Director: Larry Wahlstrom

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'.



## Editor's Note

Hello, Everyone!

Once again we are so excited to be getting together at Pheasant Run for another Reunion – this time our 80<sup>th</sup> Celebration. I encourage everyone to pass the word to your friends, retired or still working, to come out and join us for an evening of socializing, catching up with old friends and making new ones; the more the merrier! And as we've mentioned so many times, you do not need to be a member to attend these social events.

*Don't forget to access our website as there are many photos and other news which we could not fit in this newsletter that have been posted in articles at the website.*

If there have been any changes in address, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. please send me an email or update your information on the website. And as always we welcome your comments as well as any info you'd like to share with the members: *your one-liners, current news, e.g. where you're working, where you've traveled and/or other updates. Email me whatever you would like to share OR if you prefer, send via USPS to the club's P.O. Box.*

*Enjoy a great summer and we'll look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming social events.*

**Barbara Salerno**

Editor, Connections

Osco/Sav-on Alumni Club

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## Board Meeting Highlights

June 17, 2017



Our most recent meeting was the first for your newly elected Board of Directors. The meeting was focused on.....you guessed it; Osco at 80! Dean has been working his magic for months to set the wheels in motion for the gala event on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a Chicagoland committee set to handle all of the details when the big day arrives. This year's event will be similar in format to the 75<sup>th</sup> reunion with the exception of the planned program following dinner which has been curtailed to allocate additional time for visiting.

The website is being updated as we become aware of those planning to attend. So don't procrastinate sign up as soon as you are able. If you don't see someone on the attendee list them give them a call. We are also posting the event on our Facebook page and we'll periodically update the attended list there as well

Club finances are in good order and we continue to also focus on reaching out to delinquent members.

Just a reminder there will not be a Chicagoland dinner event this fall.

## New Member!

Ray Dodge

To access biography and additional information for each new member, click on the person's name below or access the club's website and search for the person in the membership directory.

## Osco/Sav-on Kids

In our next edition we'd like to feature an article on Alumni members whose children went on to work at Osco and Sav-on. Please submit your articles for publication to:

[oscosavonalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:oscosavonalumni@yahoo.com)

## An example from Jerry Gonyo:

*My son Jeff worked at the EGW in the summers while attending Indiana U. He also received a scholarship award then. After graduation he worked in the Chicago financial area as a CPA then on to Kellogg at Northwestern. Today he is managing director of his venture capital firm Geneva Glen in Chicago. He lives in Glenview with his wife Peggy and son Nathan and daughter Elena.*

*His sister Jill Piedmont also attended IU in the 80's and worked at the Osco Store in Bloomington. That is where she met Tilman her husband who also worked there. Jill after graduation spent some time in the Chicago Accounting area until she moved back to Bloomington and worked at Sunrise Greeting until they were bought out by Hallmark's then joined the IU accounting group in several areas and currently after 13 years at IU she is the Finance Director for the IU Jacobs School of Music. She has three children of which 2 will be shopping the market for colleges in the next year.*

## Gerry Pearsall

Gerry joined Osco in 1979 as a part-time camera clerk at #972 Lowell, Massachusetts while a sophomore in high school. During college, he continued employment with the company as a part-time clerk and joined Osco fulltime in 1985, after graduating from University of Massachusetts with a B.A. in Computer Science. His first assignment was Sales Representative at Alves Photo Service in Braintree, Massachusetts. Alves was the east coast division of Crest Photo Labs and serviced the Osco's New England stores, Star Market, independent retailers and pharmacies. Gerry later served as Sales and Marketing Coordinator at Alves before relocating to Illinois in 1989 becoming Training Manager at Crest Photo in Elgin, Illinois. In 1990 he became shift/production manager at the Elgin photo lab.



In 1992 Gerry joined American Drug Stores Human Resources department as Manager of Internal Communications at the 1818 Oak Brook, Illinois office. He spearheaded the development and operation of the company's internal satellite broadcast network. He later became Manager of Human Resources Information Systems in 1995 where he developed applications which provided corporate manpower forecasting, turnover analysis, staffing, compensation, benefits budget models, salary administration, learning management and career development tracking processes.

In 1997, Gerry was named Manager of Marketing Administration, managing groups responsible for seasonal ordering, shelf label administration, general merchandise sourcing and internal communication support for American Store's general merchandise and marketing/procurement functions. He later relocated to Salt Lake City, Utah and transitioned those departments from 1818 Oak Brook to the Salt Lake City office.

After the Albertsons and American Stores Company merger was announced in 1998, Gerry declined to relocate to Scottsdale, Arizona where the drugstore and general merchandise division were being moved. Prior to the FTC approval and finalization of the merger, he became Manager of Special Projects, responsible for overseeing projects in Human Resources and Merchandising departments related to the integration of American Stores and Albertsons' HR/Payroll systems with financial systems, PeopleSoft conversion and Y2K projects. In 2000, he left Albertsons, relocated to New Hampshire joining Fidelity Investments where he is still employed.

Gerry has had a major impact in making the Alumni Club what it is today. Back in 2010 with Ken Walker's guidance, he engineered the Alumni Club's website. He has provided technical support to the Club, assisting Barbara Salerno with administrative tasks and helped to automate processes. Gerry has spent countless hours over the years ensuring we all had a quality product and an informative Connections Newsletter. And in typical Gerry fashion he continues to support the Club in a consultant role. We all wish Gerry the very best!



**Dean Kelsey**

Dean has decided not to seek re-election to the club board this year in order to focus fulltime on family matters and he and Petra's love of travel.

Dean spent 25 years with OSCO (69 - 94). This time was evenly divided between Store Operations and Office Support. While in Oak Brook, Dean worked in the Advertising and Merchandising Departments as Sales Promotion Manager and Buyer. During the 80's and early 90's, Dean was the Buyer for several categories to include: Camera/Photo, Electronics/Video Games, Household Paper & Chemicals, Grocery & Snacks, and Soda & Water.

Dean joined Ulta 3 Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrances in '94. For the next 12 years he worked with the entire group of former OSCO



management members that founded this company four years earlier. Initially, Dean was the Buyer of Professional Salon Hair care and Nail care products. For the last five years, he was the Director of Merchandising for Ulta.com.

Since retiring, Dean has divided his time between power boating on the Chain of Lakes in Chicagoland & barefoot sailing throughout the Caribbean, skiing and extensive travel. Additionally, watching his grandchildren - whenever he is in town.

Dean and his wife Petra just celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary last year with a trip to the British Virgin Islands, Belize, Mexico and Europe.

Dean & Petra have two adult children - Daniela (38) married with 2 sons and working as International Marketing Director for a German firm; Lance (32) Corporate Pilot and owner of Everley Air Management in Kalamazoo, MI



Dean has taken an active role in the Alumni Association and has rekindled many fond memories and old acquaintances at the many gatherings he has organized in Chicago and none bigger than the 75<sup>th</sup> Osco Drug Reunion at Pheasant Run. While Dean is no longer serving on the Board this year he is engineering the "Osco at 80" reunion planned for August 23 at Pheasant Run. His contributions are many and his leadership in Chicagoland will be missed.



## THE ANNIVERSARY REUNION

**8/23 – 8/24/17**

Join us on the evening of Wednesday, August 23, 2017 for the reception and dinner. If you are traveling from out of town (or are local to Chicago but want to maximize fun), stay overnight at *Pheasant Run Resort* at special Osco Drug rates. On Thursday morning, August 24, show-off your golf skills with “old friends”.

### RECEPTION & DINNER

#### Cost:

- **\$50.00 Each for Paid Members & their Guest**
- **\$100.00 per couple for Alumni Club Members**
- **\$65.00 Each for Non-Members (Includes your annual Alumni Club Membership fee of \$15.00)**
- **\$115 per couple for Non-Members**

Activities begin Wednesday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at **5:30pm** at the *Pheasant Run*. Upon arrival for the reception, please check in at the Club's greeting table to pick up your name tag, meal preference indicator and evening program brochure. The reception and cash bar will be held on **Bourbon Street**. A plated dinner will be served in the **New Orleans Ballroom** immediately following the light hors d' oeuvres reception.

#### Dinner Menu:

Seating for the dinner starts just before **7:30pm**. You can choose from one of three sumptuous chef's selections:

- *Prime Rib of Beef (10oz Thick Cut)*
- *Hunter Style Chicken (Pan Seared Double Breast)*
- *Salmon Americana (Pan Seared & topped w/Shrimp and Scallops)*

### STAY THE NIGHT

If planning to stay overnight, please make reservations directly with the *Pheasant Run* right away. The Alumni Club has obtained special rates for our group on hotel accommodations in their recently renovated Tower and Courtyard rooms. These rates apply to any weekday stay (Monday thru Thursday):

Room Rates:

- **Tower Room \$129 + taxes (Single or Double)**
- **Tower Room \$139 + taxes (Triple)**
- **Tower Room \$149 + taxes (Quad)**

Contact Pheasant Run directly at (630) 584-6300) to secure your Tower Room with a credit card. Be sure to indicate that you are attending the Osco 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion in order to receive the discounted rate. Room cancellations may be made to your reservation up to 48 hours prior to the event without penalty.

#### Pheasant Run Resort

4051 E. Main Street,  
St. Charles, Illinois

Phone: (800) 474-3272

or (630) 584-6300

[www.pheasantrun.com](http://www.pheasantrun.com)



### Evening Program:

After dinner, the evening program plans include:

- 9:00 PM – 9:30 PM Short Program
- 9:30 PM – Midnight Socializing & Cash Bar

**Submit your sign-up form  
for the Dinner by August 1,  
2017  
(see page 8)**

All **Anniversary Reunion** events (reception, dinner and golf game, lunch) are open to ANYONE who wishes to attend. We have reached out to all active alumni club members via *Connections*, phone and email.

Our challenge is getting the word out to people who would want to attend the event but have no means of learning about it. Your help is needed! Please consider sending a letter, making a call, or sending a text or email. The more attendees at the dinner the more fun it will be!

## PLAY GOLF AT PHEASANT RUN



**Cost: \$35.00 per person**

On Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, you can join fellow Osco players in a round of golf on the beautiful course just outside your door. The cost of golf is \$35 per person – golf cart included. The fee is payable to the *Pheasant Run* on the morning of the event.

Please indicate your interest in golfing on Thursday August 24, 2017 (Note: Tee Off will be prior to 9:00 AM).

Please complete the sign-up form. If you have any questions, needs or foursome requests, please contact **Dean Kelsey** via cell at (847) 639-7808 or at [dean.kelsey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dean.kelsey@sbcglobal.net).



## Anniversary Reunion Planned Attendees

As of July 11th, the following alumni have indicated they plan to attend the dinner. Spouses and/or guests are not listed below. Please check the club's website for the latest updates to this growing list.

Allen, Darnell Allen, Rochelle Anderson, Larry Archer, Judy Archer, Dominic Ba, Gerry Bogusch, Reg Bourne, Doug Braden, Bob Cardello, Liz Carlson, Stan Carmondy, Brenda Carpenter, Roger Choate, Steve Cihlar, Mike Cline, Dick D'Agostino, Rose Delcourt, Ray Dvorak, John Eakes, Ken Esp, Jim Fuglestad, Tork	Gillis, Dave Gonyo, Jerry Gorecki, Nancy Gorzka, Val Grove, Ron Heatter, Diane Hoscheit, Don Hoscheit, Sandy Hunstiger, Gary Jacobs, Bill Johnson, Bob Kasper, Audrey Kelsey, Dean Klus, Arlene Koestler, Mike Kromer, John Larson, Curt Larson, JP Lutz, George	Maher, David Maloy, Terry Mannschreck, Steve Mann, Darlene Metz, Larry Mazzulla, Barb Nielsen, Tom Nieman, John O'Connor, Katie Oddo, Karel Olson, Ed Panzer, Mark Pappas, Chris Pearsall, Gerry Peterson, Deone Peterson, Stan Potter, Bob Dan, Quinn Ready, Haven Ready, Paula Reichs, Jean Resvick, Mike Roehm, John Ruther, Joyce Sacek, Cheryl Salemi, Dan Salerno, Barbara Sauer, Tim Schwandt, Cal Scherrer, Don Stailey, Dave Stonchus, Deanne	Strand, Connie Terry, John Tripp, Kevin Wahlstrom, Larry Weber, Russ White, Arlyn White, Wanda Winnike, Janeen Zajicek, Chuck
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Please complete and return this form by **August 1, 2017** to:

**Osco/Sav-on Alumni Club**  
**P. O. Box 1024**  
**Lombard, IL 60148-8024**



## Reception and Dinner

Wednesday, August 23, 2017



**Pheasant Run Resort**  
 4051 E. Main Street,  
 St. Charles, Illinois  
 Phone: (800) 474-3272 or (630) 584-6300

[www.pheasantrun.com](http://www.pheasantrun.com)

**Reception: 5:30 - 7:30pm / Dinner: 7:30 – 9:00pm / Program: 900 - 9:30pm**  
**Socializing & Cash Bar – 9:30 - Midnight**

*Please complete and check meal preference:*

	<i>Dinner Attendee Name</i>	<i>Pan Seared Chicken</i>	<i>Salmon Americana</i>	<i>Prime Rib of Beef</i>
<i>Name:</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Spouse/Guest:</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other Guest:</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other Guest:</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name Tag Member \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Tag Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Tag Other Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Tag Other Guest \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my check for \$50.00 per person for dinner (Members and Guest)
- Enclosed is my check for \$65.00 per person for dinner (Non Members and Guest)

## GOLF



Thursday, August 24, 2017

Tee time: 8:30am CDT

**Golfer Name**

**Golfer Name**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of golf is \$35 per person. Please make payment directly to the *Pheasant Run* on the morning of the golf event. If you have any questions, needs or foursome requests, please contact Dean Kelsey at [dean.kelsey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dean.kelsey@sbcglobal.net) or at (847) 639-7808.



## Overnight

Wednesday, August 22, 2012 (and/or additional nights)

If overnight lodging is needed, **please contact and make reservations and payment directly** to the *Pheasant Run*. Phone: **(800) 474-3272**. To obtain the Osco rate of \$129 (Single or Double), \$139.00 (Triple), \$149.00 (Quad) + \$11.95 Resort Fee, be sure to specify you are staying overnight for the Osco event.

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MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THESE PAST 5 YEARS. WE TOO HAVE CHANGED...IT IS TIME TO GET UP TO DATE ON ALL YOUR FELLOW CO-WORKERS & ASSOCIATES!

- CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO ATTEND THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION?
- CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO BE AMONG THOSE "PEOPLE WHO CARE"?

## NAPERVILLE WOMAN JOINS FELLOWSHIP OF THE WORLD SERIES RINGS



Naperville resident Joanne Harrer, right, and her granddaughter Amanda Harrer attended the Cubs rally and parade together. Amanda Harrer nominated her grandmother to serve as a ring bearer April 12 when the Cubs players and coaches are presented with their World Series rings at Wrigley Field. (Amanda Harrer)

Through a video former Osco associate Joanne Harrer was nominated by her granddaughter Amanda Harrer (18) to present the Cubs their World Series championship rings at Wrigley Field on April 12. The winners were selected from 1,500 video entries from fans nominating friends and family. Amanda sent in the video about how Joanne is a huge Cubs fan. “My grandma takes me everywhere and this was the only way I knew I could repay her. It’s just a priceless, once-in-a-lifetime experience.” Amanda recalled watching countless games on TV and trips to Milwaukee and Washington, D.C. with her grandma. Joanne also showed off an impressive collection of Cubs shirts. While Joanne admits that she owns at least 20 Cubs shirts and two Cubs jackets, she’s still on the hunt for a particular Cubs World Series hat in her size, she said. The two were flying to Arizona for spring training when they got an email saying they were among the winners “This is one of the best moments of my life,” said Joanne who presented pitcher Mike Montgomery with his ring. Mike is the pitcher that got the last out at game 7 of the 2016 World Series. “It’s been wonderful. I still can’t believe all this is happening.”



## Nielsen Family Journey



One never knows what challenges will be dealt on life’s journey. Marc, Joan and Tom were dealt a tragedy that they transformed into an amazing, beautiful journey: <http://scottsdalebible.com/news/mystorymarcnielsen/>

## Jewel-Osco Retirees Volunteer

Our Jewel-Osco Retirees Club Community Partner Volunteers returned to the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva Illinois for another fun morning. This time our team in just 3 hours sorted and bagged 6000 pounds of bulk white potatoes into 5 pound sacks for immediate distribution to designated food pantries in the 13 Northern Illinois counties served by the NIFB.



After our morning at the NIFB we dropped off a donation of 6 pounds of pull tabs at the Ronald McDonald House at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield Illinois. The Jewel-Osco Retiree Club Fall Reunion Luncheon scheduled for Tuesday 9-12-2017 at the Empress Banquets on Lake Street in Addison Illinois at which we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Jewel-Osco Retirees Club!

**ROMEO Club Brunch - Weekly****ROMEO (Retired Osco Merchandisers Eating Out)****DATE: FRIDAYS: BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF 2017****PLACE: THE GENERAL STORE****LOC: SCOTTSDALE, AZ****TIME: 11:30 AM****ORGANIZER: Gerry Bay**[geralddebay@me.com](mailto:geralddebay@me.com)**Juliettes' Luncheon****DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY EA/MO****PLACE: GENERAL STORE****LOC: SCOTTSDALE, AZ****TIME: 11:30 AM****ORGANIZERS:****JULIE ANN WALKER****CAROL KEIL**[ckeil@cox.net](mailto:ckeil@cox.net)[jaaz47@cox.net](mailto:jaaz47@cox.net)**Fargo Summer Outing****DATE: TBD****PLACE: TBD****ORGANIZER: CURT LARSON****CURLARSON48@GMAIL.COM****AZ Osco Retiree's  
Get Together****DATE: DAY: OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>****PLACE: TBD****TIME: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM****ORGANIZER: TOM NIELSEN**[TMNIELSEN25@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TMNIELSEN25@GMAIL.COM)**Event Name Jewel/Osco  
Retiree's Fall Luncheon****DATE: SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>****PLACE: EMPRESS BANQUETS****ADDISON, IL****ORGANIZER: DAVE STAILEY**[DAVE STAILEY@AOL.COM](mailto:DAVE STAILEY@AOL.COM)**SPOUSES, GUESTS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN THE FUN AND NOSTALGIA AT OUR EVENTS****Gone Fishin'**

Brent Keil and eleven friends and relatives from Minnesota recently went to Lake of the Woods in Baudette, Minnesota for our annual fishing trip. This lake is recognized as the Walleye Capital of the World! We had one day of ideal fishing before the weather changed and the severe weather hit the lake. 50 MPH winds shortened our fishing, but we still got our limit. We caught 94 fish with 22 used for the shore lunch. We took 4 walleye and 2 saugar each as our limit.

My brother Bruce caught the most fish, but I caught a 25.5 inch Walleye, the largest fish caught by our group. Border View Lodge is a great place to go if you want to catch the best tasting fish and bring home your limit every year.



Not to be outdone, Gary Hunstiger, Jim Martin and 2 friends spent a week at Goose Bay Lodge on Lac Seul in Ontario in June. Walleyes were plentiful, The largest walleye was 27" and Jim Martin caught the largest northern at 35.5".



## “Counting on People who Care” at Sav-on

By Dan Quinn



Two years ago when planning the 70<sup>th</sup> Sav-on Drug reunion, the committee wanted to do something special and use the opportunity to give back to the community. Committee Member Debbie Veal suggested that we consider making a special donation to the Veteran’s community on behalf of Sav-on Drug. Debbie came up with this idea because of her friendship with Jaishri Grant, a pharmacist at Sav-on. Jaishri has been battling acute myeloid leukemia (AML) since 2004, and found a great deal of comfort in a quilt that she had made by hand that her Husband brought from home during her hospitalization.

Her story is reprinted below. As you read it, you’ll get a good idea of just how amazing she is...

*Hello, my name is Jaishri Grant. Until about 10 years ago, I had worked as a pharmacist for over 25 years.*

*On April 21st, 2004, I was diagnosed with advanced Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) and was hospitalized that day. After months of chemo, radiation, and a bone-marrow transplant, I achieved a stable remission and was able to return to work. But 6 years later, the disease returned with a vengeance and it took over 2 years of additional treatments and long hospital stays along with another bone-marrow transplant (this time from my Father) to achieve another stable remission. I am now cancer free but suffer from the graft-versus-host-disease (GVHD) created by the bone marrow transplant and heart damage caused by the many additional rounds of chemo treatments.*

*Continued on page 13*

Continued from page 12

*Unfortunately, due to the bone marrow transplant, I now have a weakened immune system which makes me much more susceptible to catching more common but potentially deadly diseases and consequently am no longer able to work at the job/career that I loved so much. One of the things I loved so much about being a Pharmacist was being able to help people, in ways that would either reduce their pain and/or eventually help make them well again. Cancer ended my career but made me more aware of the importance and joy of many things in life including new and old hobbies alike, one of which is quilting. I now try to express myself and help others where possible thru these hobbies, which is why I decided to make this quilt of valor.*

*The devastating life change that happened to me came as a result of something I could not control. I remember all too well the uncertainty and fear I had during the treatment process, especially after the AML came back. The cold and sterile environment of the hospital rooms made me miss home so much. During my many hospital stays, my Husband brought my favorite soft comfy-blanket from home that I had made before I got sick so that I would be reminded of the warm comforts of home. My wish is that this quilt may serve as your comfy-blanket and that it will bring you warm and comforting feelings during the scary and uncertain times that may lie before you.*

*I admire the strength, dedication and love of our country that has enabled you to make the Heroic sacrifice that ultimately lead to the situation that you now find affecting your daily life. While creating this quilt, my hope was that each stitch would carry strength, courage and the prayers necessary for you to make your recovery as quickly and completely as possible. It is my greatest hope that I have succeeded in this endeavor.*

*Thank you for your service,*

*Jaishri Grant*

During the course of the evening all of those in attendance had a chance to autograph the quilt so that in effect...it was a final gift from Sav-on Drug. Altogether that night we raised \$1300.

Jaishri intended to offer her quilt to the Wounded Warrior Project soon after the dinner in the hope that it would provide the same type of comfort for one of our returning soldiers, but that organization ran into a great deal of controversy and so the quilt and the funds raised waited until we could find the right organization to donate them to.

I am very happy and proud to announce that on April 24<sup>th</sup> I was able to donate the quilt and the funds raised to Fisher House, an organization that helps families of returning veterans to live close to the base hospital where their loved ones are being cared for. I presented the quilt and the checks to Lori Erickson General Manager of Fisher House San Diego who promised me that they will give it to a very special person since they are aware of just how special this quilt is.

This was a fitting end to a gathering of people who were known by the motto, "Count on People Who Care."



## Indiana Outing

Osco relationships are awesome and it seems we always pick up from the last time you have seen each other and quickly fall back into that crazy retail world and share the same old stories that you have been sharing for years!

For the last 7 or 8 years, we have been having an "Informal" OSCO DRUG reunion for Indiana associates that want to come to the Indianapolis area on the Thursday night before Memorial Day Weekend. I've been hosting it at my Indianapolis Duplex on the East Side of Indy and each year I am amazed at the wonderful people that show up and the stories we hear from the good old days.

2017 was another success with an eclectic group of Osco Drug alumni just hanging out, sharing stories and catching up. The mix of attendees usually includes hourly associates, management associates, office associates and pharmacists. The food is abundant and sometimes the drinks are too. This year was made even more special with the attendance of recently relocated Osco Drug Alumni Board

Member Jerry Gonyo! Spread the word and make plans for 2018....we'd love to see you at the next informal Indiana Osco Drug Reunion (the Thursday evening before Memorial Day Weekend). For more details, contact John Nieman at [jjnieman3@yahoo.com](mailto:jjnieman3@yahoo.com).



Mike Field/Alice Smith-Hardy



David Stephens/Jerry Hirsch/Lisa Cox/Nieman



Archele Humes/Sandra Dugan/Maria Hood and Annaya



Jane Hege/Sue Spencer/Aggie Dodd



Jane Hege/Aggie Dodd/Lisa Cox/Sue Spencer



John Nieman/Joe Haigerty and Tina Lindy



Nieman/Tim and Carol Spillman/Mirriam Rolles



Nieman/Gary and Carolyn Schwark



Donna (DJ) Wilhoit/Mike Barry



Nieman/Gary Murrell



Dave Deffendal and Jerry Gonyo

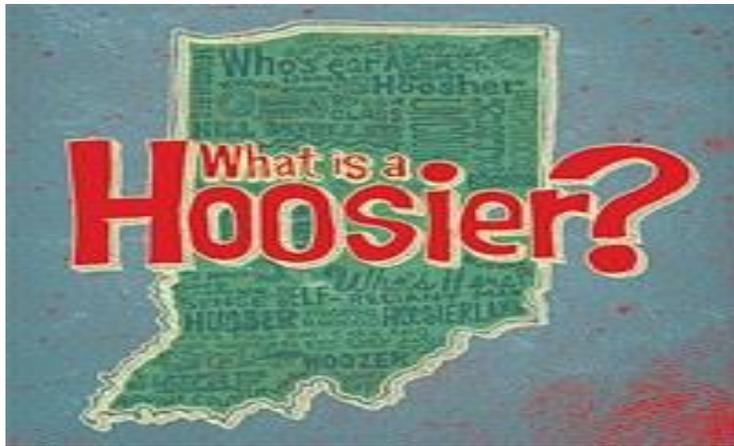


Jerry Gonyo/John Nieman



Kelli Kirch and Lonnie Cornwell

## Connections – Back Page



The bright crimson trident that represents IU is symbolic of the Indiana Hoosiers, but for many, it is hard to pinpoint what a Hoosier is. There is no consensus on the word's origin and its meaning still provokes debate today. According to the Universities website, a Hoosier is not a mascot, animal, bird or a mythical creature of any description. "A Hoosier is a proud member of the IU family" the website said.

On campus, the Hoosier identity encompasses anyone and everyone, from athletes to professors to musicians. While IU's is composed of many people from around the country and the world, the Hoosier identity is the common factor among students and faculty alike. Indiana natives have referred to themselves and their neighbors as Hoosiers for decades. However, just like this January, the U.S. Government Publishing Office officially declared Indiana residents to be Hoosiers. The name Hoosiers was selected instead of the previously used terms such as Indianans. "I'm glad that the federal government has agreed to our change and will now call us what we call ourselves. Hoosiers" Sen. Joe Donnelly, D Indiana said in a video about the name change. "It's been a long time coming."

On January 12, Donnelly and Sen. Todd Young, R-Indiana, announced the new official name to the public. Young said the Hoosier identity is who we are, not just the title of a classic movie or a name for IU athletic teams. However, the idea of a Hoosier and where the word came from is unclear. Hoosier first became a part of the vernacular around the 1830's, according to the Indiana Historical Society, and in 1848 Hoosier was defined by the Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms as someone residing in Indiana. Jeffrey Graf of the Reference Services Department of Herman B Wells Library compiled a report titled "The Word Hoosier" detailing the history of the term Hoosier. Hoosier used to mean "hick" or "unskilled fellow", according to Graf's report which was last updated in July.

Graf points to Jacob Piatt Dunn as an early expert on the Hoosier namesake. Dunn served as the secretary of the Indiana Historical Society and published three articles in the early 1900's. In Dunn's



studies of the etymology of "Hoosier," he found three common characteristics of it, Graf said in "The Word Hoosier." Hoosier was used to describe unsophisticated people, had a Southern origin and was intended to be applied to the people of Indiana, though there is some conflict over the third point. "The third characteristic, he finds, is true for many of the explanations, but untrue of the word itself, for it had long been used in the south as a derogatory term for a rough country-man," Graf wrote in the report. "His correspondents assured him, to, that the term continued in its use and meaning at the time of his research, without reference to Indiana".

While there may not be a definitive conclusion anytime soon on where "Hoosier" is from and what it truly means, students will continue to cheer "Hoo Hoo, Hoo, Hooseiers" at basketball games, football games and many other sporting events. Hoosier pride, too, will likely remain unchanged.

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