

# NAREOP

## President’s Message



Sarah Tierce, CEO  
NAREOP President, 2022-2023

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year” is a phrase we hear during the holidays, and it certainly can be wonderful. I love this time of year with all the joy and wonder you see on the faces of friends and family.

There is nothing better than baking cookies, decorating the house, watching children in a school play and spending time with family. All these activities bring delight and happiness to the holidays, but the holidays can also be stressful. Have you ever watched the television coverage or been in a store on Black Friday and witnessed two people fighting over an advertised item? I found myself wondering if the item was really worth the struggle. For me, I would much rather wander through the store singing along to the Christmas music (and I often do!) than have something material break my enthusiasm.

Here are a few helpful tips that may help you this holiday season:

- ◆ Make yourself #1. If you are stressed, you cannot enjoy the holidays. Stress is hard on the body, stealing your health, emotions and joyous outlook.

- ◆ If you are able, go for a long walk, get a massage or take time out to listen to your favorite music or read a new book. All of us need some time to recharge.
- ◆ Remind yourself what’s important. Remember that what makes a great celebration are friends and loved ones, not presents, decorations or food.
- ◆ Help someone in need. There is no greater joy than giving to others. This year, I’m shopping for a 12-14 foster girl to help make her Christmas just a little brighter.
- ◆ What matters most is that we treat each other with kindness and respect. It never goes out of style! Always tell your family, children and friends that you love them.

I’m looking forward to traveling to Nebraska in January to attend the NAREOP Winter Board Meeting. When I return, I’ll update you on the plans for conference in Omaha in July 2023.

Also, I’m changing up the format for our newsletters. I hope you like it!

Wishing you lots of happiness this holiday season and look forward to an even better New Year!

*Submitted by: Sarah Tierce, CEO  
NAREOP President, 2022-2023*



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

*Debbie Wade*

### **DISTRICT ANNOUNCES 2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND CITIZEN AWARDS (Press Release)**

La Porte High School graduates Terri Cook and Debbie Wade, along with longtime track and field coach Joel Fagan were recognized as 2022 La Porte ISD Distinguished Alumni; Local historian Ann Malone and nonprofit founder Rachel Cotton was honored as the district's 2022 Citizens of the Year.

Honorees are nominated at large and chosen by a committee of community and district volunteers, who submit their selections to the Board of Trustees for approval. Distinguished alumni and citizens have typically excelled professionally and served the communities in which they live.

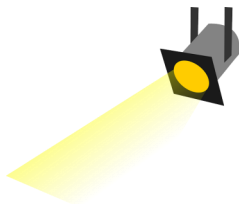
#### **Debbie Phillips Wade**

Debbie Phillips Wade is a 1979 honors graduate of La Porte High School, but her involvement in this district spans more than 50 years—many of them as a volunteer. The list of such efforts is extensive.

Debbie has been a La Porte Education Foundation director since 2009 and is currently the Grants Committee/Dollar Patrol Chair. She also is known for donning various costumes such as Ms. Wadermelon or the Queen of Hearts to be a volunteer reader at our elementary schools several times a year. She will take time from her family to come in the evenings for Literacy Nights. Her love for literacy led Debbie to establish the area's first Little Free Library in her yard to ensure free books for neighborhood kids. Since 2014, Debbie has additionally supplied teachers and staff with a selection of

thousands of free books each year at the district's annual Employee Health Fair.

As an ardent supporter of La Porte ISD, Debbie is often sought out to serve on district committees. Some of those committees include the 100th Anniversary, Long-Range Planning, Facilities Planning, and Performance Objectives. Be it the countless amount of time that she spends helping to make La Porte a better place, or her own resources such as her family's Make a Difference Scholarships and gift baskets for various district events, Debbie Phillips Wade gives and gives to make the world – and La Porte ISD—a better place.



Debbie's Award



Plaque to be mounted at La Porte High School



Acceptance Speech (she was surprised!)



TESA members showing support for Debbie receiving the award



Family members were also there to cheer for Debbie as she received the Distinguished Alumni Award

## Scholarships Fundraiser

A very successful fall fundraiser was held to supplement the scholarship funds for 2023. The Board, at its executive board meeting in Salt Lake City agreed to offer three (3) scholarships to qualifying grandchildren or great-grandchildren of our members as long as funds were available. Two scholarships have been the norm, with only one scholarship being awarded last year. Several applications were received, however most were incomplete or missing required documentation.

The Fall 2022 Fundraising profit is \$1,300! I am so excited that we currently do have the funds available for Linda Rush to award three \$1,000 scholarships this next spring even with the understanding that we have the Spring fundraiser to come. The flyer for this event has been approved and will be posted on the NAREOP website after the holidays.

All who purchased opportunity drawing tickets for this fundraiser were entered into a drawing to win \$300. I am delighted to report that the winning ticket drawn belonged to **Amanda Knapp of Marysville, WA!** Congratulations Amanda!

I'd like to thank Becky Shipley for orchestrating another successful fundraising event. I'm very proud of her efforts and can't wait to see what she does in the Spring!

Thank you to all who participated and made this event so profitable. Your support means so much to these students who, with your help, are furthering their education.

## Celebrating

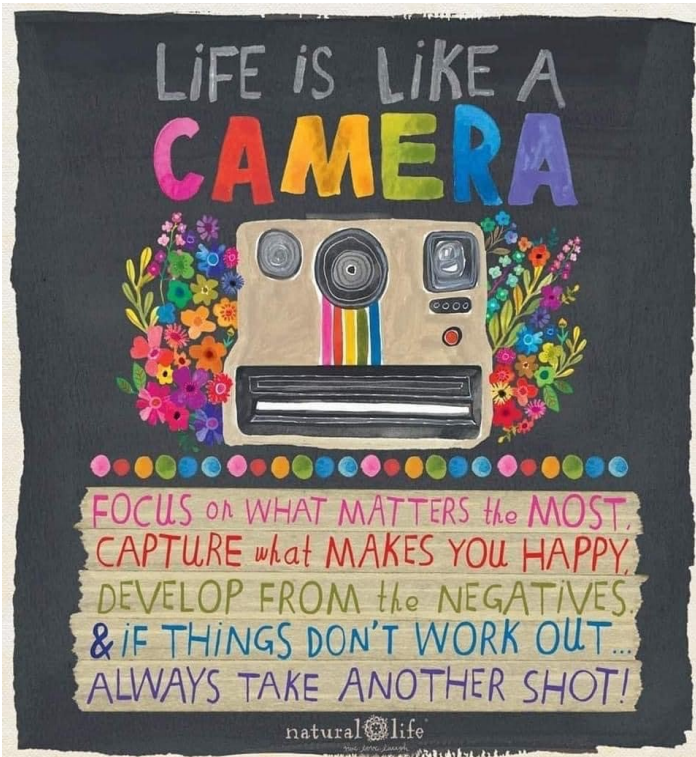
I'd like you to meet my beautiful grandson, Draven Sage Wood, born November 25, 2022, 6:29 a.m., 7 lbs. 15 oz., 20.5 inches long. Momma Emily had to have a cesarean, but she and baby are doing well. I'm so in love!

*Submitted by Grandma Sarah*





## Inspiration



## Correspondence - Christmas Wishes

