





Erick Harper

Director of Athletics, UNLV



As UNLV's Director of Athletics, Erick Harper is charged with overseeing all aspects of the athletics department as well as the Thomas & Mack Center.

Under his leadership, a new strategic plan was announced in September 2022 that is aimed at helping deliver a premier student-athlete experience in college athletics and providing Rebels the opportunity to succeed as students, athletes and into the future as well-rounded community leaders.

The Rebels have excelled in both of those areas with Harper at the helm. In just two seasons, nine UNLV teams have claimed conference championships, with eight league Coach of the Year honorees and multiple teams earning NCAA Tournament bids. In addition, UNLV took back the annual Silver State Series trophy during the 2022-23 season by recording the third-highest score in the history of the competition, which is a formal head-to-head athletic and academic challenge between longtime rivals UNLV and UNR.

Following the Spring 2023 semester, UNLV student-athletes earned a collective grade point average of 3.0 or higher for a record 12th-straight semester. In addition, UNLV's student-athlete graduation rate has risen to a record 88%. UNLV Athletics also set a record for its Multi-Year Academic Progress Rate with a score of 987.

One of the first items Harper implemented after being named permanent AD was adding "empathy" as a core value of the UNLV Athletics Department to the pre-existing values of accountability, excellence, innovation, integrity and service.

Being a productive member of the community and giving back is important to Harper as he has shown in numerous ways, but most notably was through the athletics department's hosting of a Bed Build Day in 2022 in the parking lot of the Thomas & Mack Center. Partnering with nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace, 100 beds were built to help Las Vegas youth that needed a comfortable place to sleep.

Harper currently serves on several boards, including the 2024 Super Bowl Host Committee, the Las Vegas Bowl Committee, MW Recognition Committee and the After-School All-Stars Committee. He was also recently named the Mountain West Directors of Athletics' Chair for 2023-24.

Harper and his wife, Dr. Patrice Hester-Harper, who holds three degrees (bachelor's, master's, PhD) from UNLV and is currently associate vice president for development and principal gifts for the university, have two daughters, Sydney (16) and Avery (7).

January 18, 2024

WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

What We Have Accomplished. DID YOU KNOW?

- December Service: 13 members volunteered at the Opportunity Village Magical Forest, providing a total of 48 hrs of volunteer service.
- December NV Wheelchair "A" Team: 14 volunteers unloaded 180 'pediatric size' wheelchairs from trailer to warehouse, providing 40+ hrs of service; and delivered a wheelchair to a special 86 yr old gentleman for an additional 3 hrs of service.
- December Youth Program (TLC): The Club sponsored eleven 8th grade students at weekend leadership camp.
- Rotary Park: Completed 1959-60, reclassified 2023 as a 'children's park' with improved City oversight. Wonder if 'the Paul Harris Friendship Tree' from 1982-83 or tree honoring PDG Joe Buckley is still there?
- Las Vegas Rotary Greets the World curtain: design created in 1963 & from 1964 graced stage of all meetings until 1998 & not seen again until the Centennial Celebration in 2023.
- Cigar Social: 2009-10 Pres. Karen Whisenhunt asked PP Jim Hunt to create the social, with idea of PP Michael Gordon sending cigars to troops in wartime.
- Established: 1975-76 25 Club; 2002-03 Wetzel Award; 2010-11 100% PHF Club; 2014-15 Club Mission Statement approved.

The Las Vegas Rotary Club's Mission:

Teaching Youth to Succeed through Literacy, Education & Life Skills Development

CLUB OFFICERS 2023-2024



President Toni Kern President Elect Kirk Alexander **Immediate Past President** Caty Crockett Secretary

Stu Lipoff Treasurer Rita Burton **Elected Directors** Dan Adamson Kirk Alexander Niki Bates Tina Bishop Mike Cudiamat Carev Grohs **Stuart Lipoff Greg Maguire** Melanie Jo Muldowney John Palley

Susan Ziobro

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In recent years, there has been a notable surge in student participation and community involvement in school athletic programs across the United States. This heightened engagement can be attributed to several factors that collectively contribute to a thriving sports culture within educational institutions.

One key driver of increased involvement is the growing recognition of the holistic benefits that sports bring to students. Beyond physical fitness, participation in athletic programs promotes teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills. Parents and educators alike acknowledge the role of sports in fostering character development and instilling valuable life lessons. As a result, there is a collective push to encourage students to explore and join various sports offerings within their schools.

Additionally, the rise of sports scholarships and the competitive nature of college admissions have spurred heightened interest in school athletics. Many students see sports as a pathway to higher education, with athletic achievements enhancing their overall college applications. This has led to a greater emphasis on cultivating talent from an early age, prompting schools to invest in robust athletic programs that cater to diverse interests and abilities.

Community support has also played a pivotal role in the increased involvement in school athletic programs. Local businesses, parents, and alumni often rally behind their schools, providing financial support, sponsorships, and enthusiastic attendance at sporting events. This communal backing not only fosters a sense of pride but also contributes to the overall success and sustainability of school sports programs.

Furthermore, the widespread availability of information and media coverage has helped showcase the achievements of student-athletes, inspiring others to get involved. Social media platforms and local news outlets regularly highlight the accomplishments of school teams and individual athletes, contributing to a positive narrative that encourages greater participation.

The accomplishments in our own community of UNLV Athletics and the many forms of sports, from football and basketball (men's and women's teams) to tennis and golf (both men's and women's teams) and volleyball, to name a few, demonstrate the impact of the heightened interest in school athletics.



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PAST PRESIDENTS

PAST	PRE	SIDENTS	
Les Saunders*	1923-24	Robert E. O'Connell*	1974-75
Bill Ferron*	1924-25	Don Ashworth*	1975-76
A.A. Hinman*	1925-26	David F. Welles*	1976-77
Frosty Mildren*	1926-27	James J. Corey*	1977-78
Fred Hesse*	1927-28	Darrell Luce*	1978-79
Dr. F.M. Ferguson*	1928-29	Albert H. Purdue*	1979-80
Dr. William S. Park*	1929-30	Michael Hoover	1980-81
Charlie Dimock*	1930-31	Donald L. Aikin*	1981-82
Leo McNamee*	1931-32	Joseph J. Buckley*	1982-83
A.E. Cahlan*	1932-33	Irwin Kishner*	1983-84
Douglas Dasheil*	1933-34	James Cashman III*	1984-85
Marion Earl*	1934-35	Mike Meyer	1985-86
Dr. Roy Martin*	1935-36	Doug L. Peterson*	1986-87
K.O. Knudson*	1936-37	M.J. Wiens, Jr.	1987-88
Frank Gusewelle*	1937-38	Keith W. Bassett*	1988-89
Tom Connolly*	1938-39	Kenneth E. Miller*	1989-90
Archie Grant*	1939-40	James M. Gamett	1990-91
Otto Underhill*	1940-41	Robert L. Moore	1991-92
Bryan Bunker*	1941-42	Robert L. Forbuss*	1992-93
Cyril Wengert*	1942-43	Gary A. Martin	1993-94
Fred O'Donnell*	1943-44	John A. Smith	1994-95
Frank Case*	1944-45	Caty Crockett	1995-96
Victor Shurtiff*	1945-46	Clifford R. Beadle	1996-97
Max Kelch*	1946-47	Ralph J. Rohay	1997-98
Ed Ciliax*	1947-48	Dr. James M. Jones*	1998-99
Lorin Ronnow*	1948-49	Tom A. Thomas	1999-00
Leonard Fayle*	1949-50	Tom J. Krob	2000-01
Allye Lawson*	1950-51	James E. Hunt	2001-02
Harry Allen*	1951-52	James R. Tucker	2002-03
Les Edwards*	1952-53	Kathy Dalvey*	2002-03
Wayne Kirch*	1953-54	Steve Casev	2003-04
George Boman*	1954-55	Ned Phillips	2005-06
Spence Butterfield*	1955-56	Brock Fraser	2005-06
Walt Hunsaker*	1956-57	Randy Campanale	2007-08
Ted Brandt*	1957-58	Russ Swain	2008-09
Julian Moore*	1958-59	Karen Whisenhunt	2009-10
Ray F. Culley*	1959-60	Tom Axtell	2010-11
C.T. Harris*	1960-61	Sharon McNair	2010-11
Ollie Gardner*		Randy Donald	
Tom Underhill*	1961-62	Ginger Anderson	2012-13
Vern Willis*	1962-63	Ginger Anderson Steve Linder	2013-14
Ward Wengert*	1963-64 1964-65	Mary Ann Avnet	2014-15
Bill Southard*		David Thorson	
Dr. Vince Sanner*	1965-66	David Thorson Dr. Michael Gordon	2016-17
	1966-67		2017-18
Walter Wehner*	1967-68	James Kohl	2018-19
Dr. Robert Robinson*	1968-69	Jacqueline Thornhill	2019-20
Harold Wandesforde*	1969-70	Richard Jost	2020-21
Mark C. Mielke*	1970-71	Mike Ballard	2021-22
Dr. Harold Boyer*	1971-72	Caty Crockett	2022-23
Angelo J. Manzi*	1972-73	* Deceased	
Keith Ashworth*	1973-74		

CALENDAR

01/18 **Speaker:** Eric Harper, UNLV Athletic Director

01/25 **Speaker:** Roger Tabor, Mayor's Cup, International Soccer Tournament

01/27 **Event:** Discovery Museum's Community Resource Fair - 12:00 pm

01/30 **Event:** Junior Achievement, Hard Hat Tour - 3:00 pm

02/01 **Speaker:** 4-WAY Speech Contest

02/01 **Event:** New Member Orientation and 25 Club Meeting,

Niki Bates' Home - 6:00 pm

02/03 **Event:** Rotary Park Clean Up - 10:00 am

02/06 **Event:** Breakfast with Books, Will Beckley Elementary – 7:15 am

02/08 Speaker: Daniel Heenan, Arson Investigator

02/14 **Event:** Mayor's Cup, February 14 - 20 02/15 **Speaker:** Dan Stover Music Competition

02/22 Speaker: Jessica Love, Daring Girls

02/29 **Speaker:** Saul Ramos, Small Business Administration



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I. Is it the TRUTH?

2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



January Rotarian Birthdays

Andrew Thurlow	January 31	Kathleen M. Mahon, MD	January 2
Carolyn Sparks	January 7	Kirk Alexander	January 9
Gwen Hall	January 22	Krista Nicholas	January 16
Jerry Engel	January 20	Nikki Junium	January 12
John Peiser	January 1	Stuart Lipoff	January 29



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THE LAS VEGAS



PP Karen Whisenhunt Did Not Pick the Joker, So the Pot Is Alive for at Least One More Week.



President Toni Kern Welcomes Us to a Very Busy, But Very Fun Meeting.



President Toni Kern and Treasurer Rita Burton.



President Toni Kern with the Speaker Table: Mike Cudiamat, PEE Janice Lencke, Dr. Aurelio Lorico, Dr. Niki Bates, President Toni Kern and Dr. Priest.



the Club's Centennial Book and Salute to Service Award.

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ROTARY CLUB



Representative From the Schools.



Representative From the Schools.



President Toni Kern Presents Green Our Planet with \$10,000 for Hydro CONNECT Hydroponic Garden Targeted for Booker Elementary School.



Representative From the Schools.



Induction of Vera Dolan. Shown: President Toni Kern, Dr. Niki Bates and Melanie Muldowney.



Suzette Wheeler Gave the Invocation, Wishing Everyone Health Above All.



President Toni Watches On as PE Kirk Alexander Presents a Check for \$2.500 for the Zion Youth Orchestra.



Dr. Niki Bates with Our Newest Member Vera Dolan. Welcome Vera!



25 Club Meeting and Fellowship.



JASON BUCKLEY

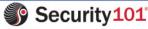
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SCRIBE - January 11, 2024

President Toni Kern called us to order at 12:14. The invocation was given by **Suzette Wheeler. Tonya Wagle** led us in "God Bless America." **Larry Cohn** served as sergeant at arms and promoted the 25 Club meeting at his home and the Super Bowl chance board.

Announcements:

Dr. Kathleen Mahon introduced visiting educators and announced that Bracken Elementary School was recently recognized among the top 100 schools in the nation. Visitors from Hollingsworth school were recognized. Barbara Castro noted the value of a mini grant awarded to Walter Long School. Melanie Muldowney introduced two guests of the club. Karen Whisenhunt noted we still need three families to host 22 boys from Germany for the Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament. Dr. Niki Bates reminded us she will host the Feb. 1 25 Club and new member orientation at her home. President Toni Kern reminded us of the Rotary Park Cleanup, 10 a.m., Feb. 3 at 901 Hinson St. Mike Cudiamat encouraged members to take advantage of Paul Harris Award matching points. He noted we still need families to host our exchange students from Chile and New Zealand. Debi Howard encouraged members to join the Breakfast with Books Family Literacy event, 7:15 a.m., Feb 6 at Beckley Elementary School. **Stu Lipoff** said 3 to 5 Rotarians are needed to staff a table at the Discovery Museum's Community Resource Fair, noon to 3 p.m. Jan. 27. President Toni Kern read a thank you letter from the Chefs 4 Kids healthy eating program who received a \$6,200 grant from the Club and PP Tom Thomas last Rotary Year of 2022-23.

Presentations:

PE Kirk Alexander presented a check for \$2,500 to purchase two musical instruments for the Zion Youth Orchestra. DDF Funds were used for the \$10,000 presentation to Green our Planet and the HydroConnect program at Booker Elementary School.

Membership:

Melanie Muldowney and Dr. Niki Bates inducted new member Vera Dolan. Karen Whisenhunt had the winning raffle ticket but didn't pull the joker. Rita Burton won the Lawry's Bucks.

Dr. Nikki Bates introduced guest speaker Dr. Andrew Priest, campus president and provost of Touro University and Dr. Aurelio Lorico, professor of pathology and interim director of research and chief research officer at Touro University. The meeting ended at 1:29 p.m.

END



ROTARIANS IN ACTION

Wetzel Awards





















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25 CLUB OFFICERS

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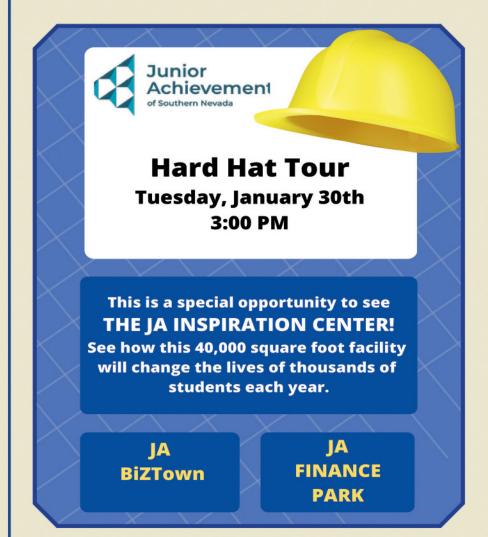
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