



Jana Wilson
Class of 2016

Jana graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1963 and was a member of the Girls Athletic Association, the French Club and the Pep Club. She was president of the youth group at the First Baptist Church and a member of Jobs Daughters, Bethel 55 Oroville.

Following graduation, Jana attended San Francisco State College for one year and then decided to enter the work world and get married. In 1964, she completed Executive Secretary Courses at Moore's Business College in Sacramento. In 1977, she completed 20 plus units at Butte Community College to qualify to take the California State Real Estate Brokers test. She passed the exam on her first try and became a licensed California Real Estate Broker. She completed many more real state courses throughout her career.

Jana's professional career started in 1965 at the State of California Departments of Agriculture, Employment and Personnel in Sacramento. She then worked as a Real Estate agent for Ramsey Realty in Oroville, and in 1978 opened Jana Wilson Real Estate, where she operated her own business until 1996. Her career for the next 14 years, was serving Butte County youth as Program Manager, Community Organizer and Coalition Coordinator for the Community Health Alliance of Oroville (CHAO), Butte County Office of Education (BCOE).

Jana's career in community service began in 1979 when she was the third woman ever elected to the Oroville City Council. After two years, she was appointed Vice-Mayor and chaired several committees including the Public Transportation Committee that brought public bus service to town. In 1981, she became the first woman chairperson of the Sewage Commission of Oroville (SCOR).

In 1983, Jana was elected the first female Mayor of the City of Oroville, making her the first elected woman mayor in Butte County. She served until 1986 when she was re-elected to a second term, but after two years, had to step down due to health problems. During her five years as Mayor, she served as Chair to the Oroville City Redevelopment Agency (RDA) that acquired funding for major additions to Oroville Hospital.

Using the RDA, the city acquired a six million dollar bond that helped fund the construction of a new Police and Fire Facility, buy and renovate the State Theatre, acquire full ownership of the Oroville Airport, and renovate the old fire station into the current City Council Chambers, to name a few.

Giving back to her community has been a major part of Jana's life in Oroville. Among her contributions are initiating and coordinating Student Government Day whereby OHS students took over all of city government including elected and employee positions. The day culminated with students hosting a live city council meeting. In her capacity at BCOE and as a member of the Sunrise Rotary Club that sponsors the OHS Interact Club, she attended Interact Club meetings and encouraged student members of the importance of having a mission statement. As a result, the club participated in strategic planning and developed a mission statement. This has been a valuable tool and helped Interact maintain its top rating at OHS and in Rotary District 5180, Sacramento.

During her many years of public service, Jana has been honored numerous times including being named a Paul Harris Fellow, receiving the Omaha Woodmen Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, the Oroville Business and Professional Women's, "Woman of Achievement Award", and several Certificates of Appreciation for managing grants that funded Alcohol, Tobacco, other Drugs, and Violence Prevention activities.

Over the years Jana has been a member of the Oroville Soroptimist Club, the OUHSD Discipline Committee, and the Oroville Business and Professional Women's Club. Currently, she is a member of the YMCA Ehman Trust Fund Investment Committee, the YMCA Board, the Butte County Historical Society, and is president-elect of the Oroville Sunrise Rotary Club.

Jana and her husband of 49 years, Harrel, OHS class of 1961, have two daughters who graduated from OHS, two granddaughters who graduated from LPHS, and a grandson who lives in Sacramento. Jana and Harrel make their home in Oroville.