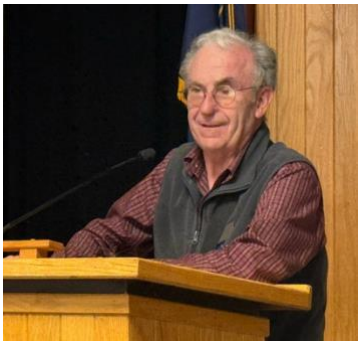
MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, Monday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.
at the ***National Headquarters, 3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, Utah***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Randy Baker, Mills Chapter President



Our February Mills chapter meeting was fun. Val Hale, former BYU athletic director, really engaged those that attended. He spoke of behind-the-scenes dynamics and relationships he had with LaVell Edwards. It was fun to hear Val tell stories about the character traits he saw in LaVell, that made him great. One marketing picture that really caught my attention was the 1990-91 BYU basketball team with Shawn Bradley (7'6") as the only one standing on the basketball court and all others standing on platforms, so they were all as tall as Shawn.

With the start of the new year, we remind chapter members that annual dues of $25 are and can be paid at chapter meetings, online, or mailing a check to Lyman, Riley or myself. You recall that beginning last year that SUP National stopped billing chapter dues with national dues, and chapters are now responsible for collecting their own chapter dues. We appreciated last year's response, and we hope that the reminders will be minimal.

Also, when national was billing chapter dues, the timing was the same as the month you signed up with SUP. Now that chapters are collecting their own dues, we hope that we can do it all in the first couple of months of the calendar year.

Thank you for making the Mills Chapter so wonderful.

THE MISSION OF THE SONS OF THE UTAH PIONEERS

- Come to know our fathers and mothers and turn our hearts to them
- Preserve the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of the Utah Territory and Western US
- Honor present-day pioneers worldwide who exemplify these same qualities of character
- Teach these same qualities to the youth who will be tomorrow's pioneers

Meeting Recap

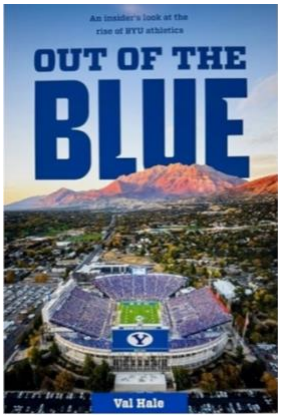
February 9, 2026

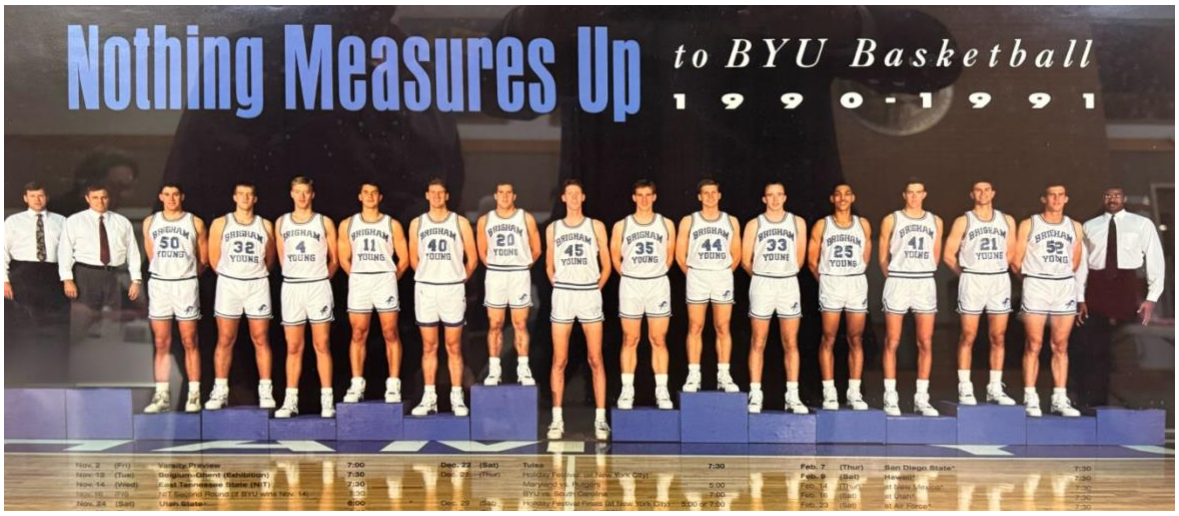
Val Hale

We were very happy to have Val Hale, former men's athletic director at BYU speak to us at our February Meeting. He talked about his experiences during his time there and about writing a book about his stories and thoughts about college sports has changed since then.

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in a major college athletic program? Val told us about his 24-year journey from being an intern in BYU's Sports Information Office to sitting in the athletic director's chair. His career spanned the "glory years," of Ainge, McMahon, Young, Bosco, and Detmer, when Cougar sports were rising to national prominence.

Through stories based on personal experiences and interactions, he shared with us his insights about working with LaVell Edwards, changing BYU's colors from royal blue to navy, hiring new coaches, planning and building facilities and many more.





Lifetime Members Recognition and Board of Trustees Swearing-in Ceremony by Laird Dummer from National Board

New lifetime members Richard Smith and Nathan Morgan

2026 Board of Trustees:

Richard Smith, Rees Peterson, Jeff Edwards, Greg Robison, Greg Coon, Steve Cook, Clark Smith, Lyman King, Riley Cutler, Tony Tidwell, Randy Baker

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Upcoming Event

March 9, 2026

Richard Smith

Richard Smith is a new member of the Mills Chapter and he will introduce himself to us and tell us about his very interesting family history.

Born and raised in Salt Lake City of great pioneer stock, his grandparents on the Smith side were the son of Joseph F. Smith and the daughter of Heber J. Grant. His grandparents on his mother's side were the son of the Silver family that cast the gold oxen for the Salt Lake Temple, and the daughter of George F. Richards, apostle and father of LeGrand Richards.

He feels that both his parents and grandparents set outstanding examples for me. At age 19, he was called on a mission to Finland which changed his life more than anything else. "My greatest blessing was finding a wonderful Finnish girl in Salt Lake, 6 months after returning from my mission. We were married in the Salt Lake Temple on April 1st and after 60 years of marriage, we still have not said 'April Fools'. "

He graduated from the University of Utah with an MBA degree and formed Smith Administrators, which designed self-funded group health insurance plans for corporations. He sold the business when he and his wife were called to serve as the first missionaries to the Helsinki Finland Temple. They have since served 3 more missions all in Finland. They have been blessed with 8 children, 25 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

How to pay your Mills Chapter and National SUP Annual Dues

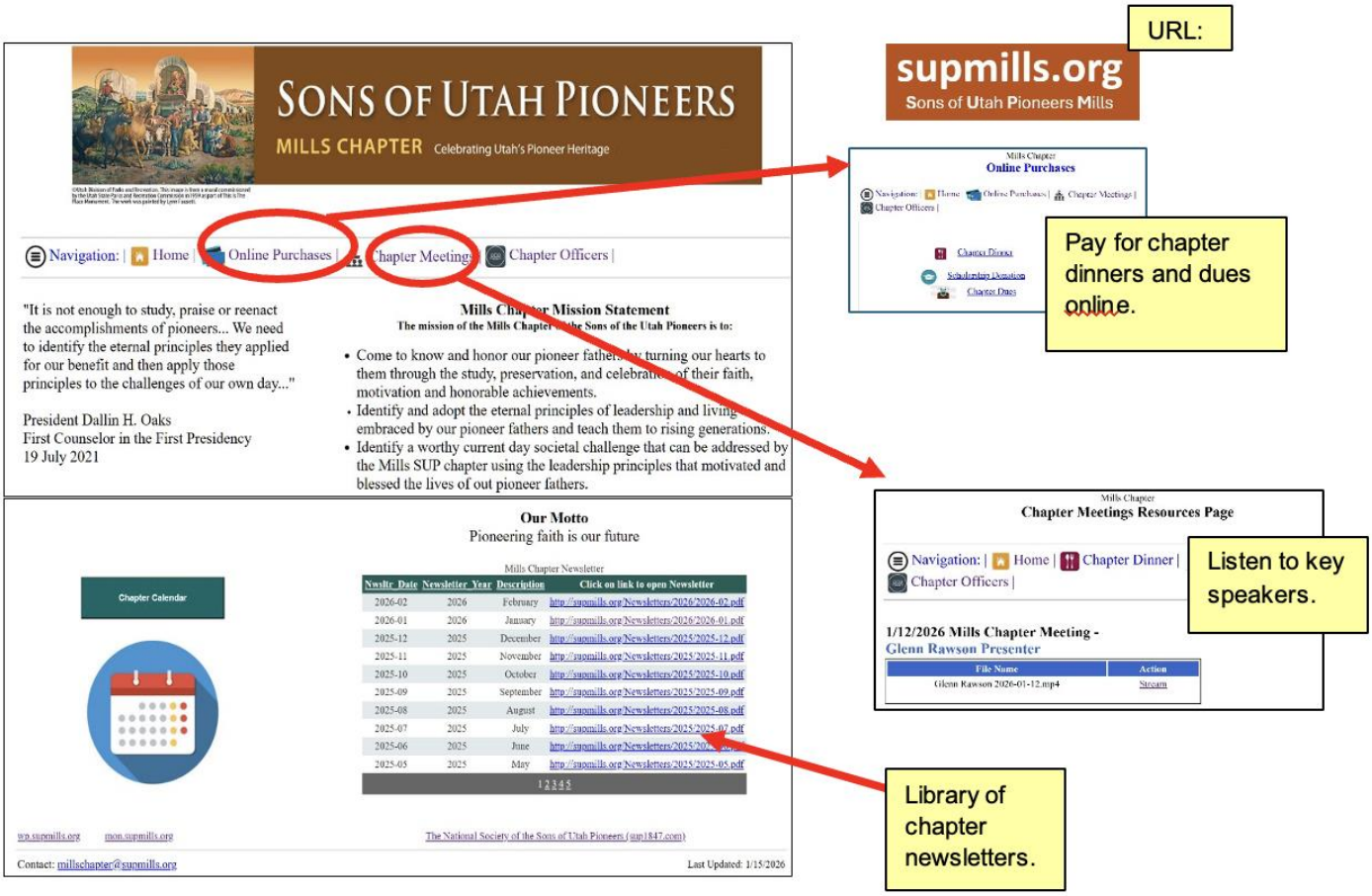
Chapter Dues

Chapter dues are $25.00 per year payable at the first of each year. You can pay this **four** ways:

1. Pay by check at the check-in table by the door at the next meeting
2. Pay by bank card at the check in table
3. Mail a check to Randy Baker, 1109 Harvard Ave, Salt Lake City, UT, 84108
4. Pay on the chapter website with a bank card - https://supmills.org . See instructions below.

National Dues

National Dues are $65.00 per year and are due at the first of the year. They can be paid in person at HQ office during business hours or by check mailed to 3301 East 2920 South Street, Salt Lake City, UT, 84109

Chapter Web Site Information

Overview of the Mills Chapter Website as presented by Chapter President Randy Baker at February Meeting. Shows how to pay dues, view recorded speakers and get copy each month newsletter on your computer or phone.