



Chris Norcross Bender

Born on February 1946 in Bournemouth, England. A true war baby of an American father, a Lt. In the Navy and an English Mother. I traveled to America on the Queen Mary when I was 1 year old to our new home in Reno, Nevada. My father and his father started the first commercial warehouse in Reno in 1947. This simple act of starting a distribution business was the seed that helped Reno grow into one of the major distribution points of all sorts of goods flowing into the west coast. Reno

gained its prominence due to my grandfather and father formulating and sponsoring the Freeport Law that made Nevada a tax free state for the movement of goods through the state.

My involvement in the business began when I was 10, becoming the janitor after school and continued to learn how the business worked over the years. I ran a few accounts myself when in high school. After college I got involved full time running the very basic computer systems department which grew into one of the most advanced support systems used by any public distribution company in the country.

In the mid 1980's I took over the Presidency from my father and continued to grow the business to include a facility in Winchester Virginia, Riverside California and expand the Reno operation. I retired from the company in 2018. It is now being run by the team of executives who I trust to sustain the values and love of a family organization that serves the community with nearly 200 employees and 80 plus national companies.

My family grew when I adopted 4 year old Joshua in 1987. Priscilla and I married in 1992 and I gained my step son Christopher who married Michelle in 2001 and ultimately gave us 2 wonderful grandchildren Jack and Hannah..

My involvement with the Junior Ski Program started in 1953 just a couple of years after its inception by Marci Herz. My dad was one of the station wagon parents that brought kids up to Sky Tavern in our station wagon when there were only about 30 kids in the Program. As the Program grew virtually every kid in Reno learned how to ski at the Program.

In 1997 I was invited back to the Junior Ski Program as the first Race Coach and I have been involved ever since. Eventually elected to the Board of Directors and then its Chairman. I helped with the transition from the City of Reno to Non Profit operation and managed the first long term Lease with the City which was for five years but proved insufficiently long enough to attract major donors for snow making so we started working on a 30 + 30 year term lease. This was successful in 2018. The program is now well underway to achieve the goal of snow making to ensure opening and installing lights, to make full week opening possible.

I am honored to have served the Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program as a Board Member and as the coach of 50 plus kids of all ages from 6 through 18.