

WEHS Alumni holds 15th reunion

More than 180 West End High School alumni and guests celebrated the 15th annual school reunion in South Hill at the Days Inn Conference Center.



Officers for the West End High School National Alumni were installed June 23, at the 15th Reunion. Pictured left to right are Percy O. Williams, Co-advisor; Charles E. White, Sergeant-at-arms; John Royster, President, Wanda Hardy Royster, Treasurer; Ruth Goode, Co-chaplain; Carolyn Hardy Moseley, stand-in for Corina Jones Mack, Vice President; Margaret Gregory Moody, Corresponding Secretary; Annie F. Jenkins, Recording Secretary; Everette Burrell, Parliamentarian; and Ann Garnett Miller and A. Lockett Farrar, Co-historians. Not pictured are Willie T. Jones, Co-advisor; Alice Hardy Miller, Financial Secretary; and Rosa Smith, Co-chaplain.



The members of the 1962 graduating class of West End High School were recognized with plaques. Members of the class of 1962 attending the 15th West End High School Reunion and their 50th anniversary of graduation, pictured are as follow: seated in front, Wilbur Venable; seated in the next row are Martha A. Smith, Bettie Cook Terry, Grace Gregory Brown, Gladys Hayes Barrett, Helen Carter Carter, Barbara Pulliam Townes, Mildred Pulliam Walker, and Yvonne Bryant Coleman; standing Ernest Timberlake, Glanzy Spain, Jr., Alice Carrington Stewart, Solomon Alphonza Harris, Frank R. Gooch, George Lancaster, Jr., Leslie G. Williams, Jr., Samuel Pettus and Irene Clark Sally.

The attendees demonstrated much enthusiasm and excitement from beginning to the last event. The participants at the meet and greet enjoyed remembering the "good old school days" and the side activities of bygone days. Members listened to and danced to the oldies but goodies mixed with some of the present day line-dance music played by the DJ Kirby Simmons. Everyone tried to get the energy moving for the rest of the weekend. Glanzy Spain, Jr. updated the group of some of the happenings in Mecklenburg County politically.

On Saturday morning the WEHS alumni started the day with a prayer breakfast. Everette Burwell, Sr. presided. Mildred Pulliam

Walker read the Scripture and Charles Jones offered the prayer and blessed the food. After breakfast Glanzy Spain introduced the speaker, George Lancaster, Jr. George "Searched for His Name" in the 1962 graduate issue of The Echo, the WEHS newspaper. The reminiscing was both entertaining and enlightening.

The members transacted much business during the annual meeting. The scholarship committee with Margaret G. Moody as spokesperson announced that fourteen persons would receive a one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) each. Alice Hardy Miller suggested that you visit the WEHS website, www.wehsnaa.org, to see what we have done, are do-

ing and hope to do. She requested more information from the chapters and members. Ann Gamett Miller announced the displays posted by the historians and mentioned the historical marker. This will be a project in progress. Percy Williams stated that six persons would be inducted into the WEHS Hall of Fame during the last session of the weekend. Other committees gave partial reports and will have more material in September ready for publication. The slate of officers were presented and officers for the term 2012-2014 were installed. See the new elect-officers in a separate article. The group was surprised with a buffet lunch.

The afternoon was a time to shop, sleep, and travel

to visit family and friends in the area.

The ballroom of the Days Inn filled quickly and completely. Dressed in their semi-formal attire and sounding excited and happy, the participants waited impatiently for the program to begin. Easter Hector Coffield, president of the host chapter, introduced vice president of the National Association, John Royster, who was the MC for the evening. John kept the activities moving along for there was much to be done. The head table was introduced by John, and the invocation and blessing of the food was agiven by the National Chaplain, Rosa Hayes Smith. Dinner was served. Bettie Cook Terry, class of 1962, brought some reflections



Jerksha Petty Hobbs speaks at West End High School Reunion — Jerksha was introduced by the Vice President, John Royster and was the recipient of the West End High School Alumni scholarship in 2004. She entered Virginia Union University and remained for one year before transferring to Virginia State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters of Arts in Human Services, Executive Leadership from Liberty University. In her speech, Jerksha related that she had worked in a lot of places from Winn Dixie, before it was Food Lion here in Clarksville, to a Regional and Federal Jail complex trying to fund her education. With the help of the scholarship that she received each year from the WEHS Alumni Association and from some funds from personal members of the organization she recognized that she was able to stand before the group to tell of realizing her dream.

The "little country girl" says that she has "found her calling, being a Mental Health Counselor." Jerksha recounted how she dreamed and then set out to make her dream come true. She acknowledges that she did not know how it would happen, but she continued to dream and persons in this organization and community opened their arms and embraced her and assisted her to get to the point she is today. She could not do it alone; only with the help of God and this organization, she said, "I made it".

She ended her speech by encouraging other young adults to dream big and then give back to WEHS Alumni Association.

She did not forget her mother as she wished her mother an early "Happy Birthday".

from the honorees. Then Fred Valentine, National President, recognized the class of 1962 and presented them plaques. Seventeen members of the class were present. Percy Williams inducted six persons into the WEHS Sports Hall of Fame. They were James Alexander, Troy F. Bowers, Roger Johnson, Irene Lewis Parrish, Samuel Pettus, Jr., Margaret E. Saunders White and Garrett Winn. Jerksha Pettus Hobbs delivered the former-scholarship recipients remarks. She explained her dreams and how the scholarships and alumni assisted her along her educational path. Jerksha is a graduate of Virginia State University and Liberty University and is employed in the social service industry in Virginia. Ann Garnett Miller presented a history of the WEHS.

Alice Hardy Miller announced the 2012 scholarship recipients. They are Ariel Alford who plans to attend Howard University, Iman Baptist, Fairleigh Dickerson University; Leondra Graves, Virginia State University; Delanye', Virginia Commonwealth University; Shaquille Hardy, James Madison University; Jas-

mine Hargrove, Vance-Grandville Community College, Jasmine Jones, St. Mary's College of Maryland; Stephanie Neal, Virginia Commonwealth University; Kimberly Olo-dun, George Mason University; Cedric Pearson, Old Dominion University; Shamika Reed, Old Dominion University; Indya Walker, Virginia State University; and Courtney Watts, Old Dominion University. Samuel Baptist received the Lewis R. Marshall Sports Scholarship to attend Chowan University. Alice also invited the public to view the WEHS website at www.wehsnaa.org.

Rev. Dr. Garland Liggon, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, conducted the memorial service. After which door prizes were distributed. Fred Valentine presented some closing remarks as the out-going National President. After the singing of the Alma Mater, tables were moved and it was time to dance the night away.

More than fifty of the celebrants saved some energy to worship at the Sharon Baptist Church on Highway 58. The service was a fitting end to a spectacular weekend.

[Click here to see pictures from the reunion.](#)