

West End High School 16th Annual Reunion

The 2013 reunion hosted by the Richmond Chapter of the West End High School (WEHS) Alumni Association, was held on June 21 – 23 at the Clarion Hotel Central in Richmond, VA. More than 150 alumni and friends enjoyed a week-end of food and fun as old friendships were renewed. The theme, “Let’s Stay Together” gave new meaning to the Al Green 1971 hit as dedicated alumni recommitted themselves to keeping the name of West End High alive and to providing scholarships to descendants of those who attended WEHS.

The week-end kicked off with a Meet & Greet on Friday night, which was casual and fun, as attendees reminisced and danced to the ‘60’s music provided by DJ Motion, aka Harold Clark, a member of the Richmond Chapter. Alice Hardy Miller served as MC and the duo asked trivia questions and awarded prizes.

Corina Jones Mack served as MC for the Saturday morning Prayer Breakfast and introduced the speaker, Reverend Angelo Virtis Chatmon, Pastor of the Pilgrim Journey Baptist Church in Richmond and University Pastor and Church Relations Director at the Virginia Union University. Reverend Chatmon’s message entitled “West End Reunion” was uplifting and inspiring as he commended the Association for gathering to keep the name of West End High School alive. Reverend Chatmon encouraged, “Keep on gathering for there is still a great work to do. Keep on gathering and extend the hands of West End High School as far as they can reach. To the National Alumni Association of West End High School, keep on gathering because as long as you are, West End is. To the Richmond Chapter, keep on gathering. To the Metropolis Chapter, keep on gathering. To the Mecklenburg Chapter, keep on gathering. Keep on gathering for you are the life force and blood flow of a school that loved you and prepared you for the world. Keep on gathering until the very last man and very last woman of West End stands and leave your mark on the world.” The audience was electrified as Reverend Chatmon concluded, “Continue this great work; the present and future of West End journeys with you. You are the authors of its continuous story.” (Reverend Chatmon also preformed a musical selection, his rendition of “West End Reunion” (from the title track of the O’Jay’s 1975 Platinum Album, *“Family Reunion”*)).

After Reverend Chatmon’s inspirational message, Alice Hardy Miller led the memorial tribute for deceased alumni, reading a poem entitled “Their Journey”, followed by a moment of silence and prayer by the National Alumni Association’s Chaplain, Reverend Rosa Hayes Smith. The Association’s business meeting was held after the breakfast.

The MC for the Awards Banquet and Dance was Fred Valentine, President of the Richmond Chapter. It started with a delicious buffet and ended with dancing and music again provided by DJ Motion. In between, awards (the Class of 1963 and Sports Hall of Fame) and scholarships were presented. (See the details later in this article.) Jasmine Jones, a three-time scholarship recipient delivered a message of gratitude as she told the audience how the WEHS Alumni Association’s scholarship had assisted her in her college endeavors. Jasmine is a 2013 graduate from St. Mary’s College in Maryland with a BS in English. Her message was truly an

encouragement to the Alumni Association to keep doing what it is doing—providing scholarships. Jasmine exemplifies the Association’s mission.

At the end of the banquet and awards, John Royster, President of the National Alumni Association (NAA) gave closing remarks, thanking everyone for their attendance and encouraging everyone to reach out to other alumni to keep the Association growing. He also thanked the Richmond Chapter for hosting the 16th reunion and making it a success. Fred Valentine, President of the host chapter ended this portion of the evening by recognizing the members of the Richmond Chapter for their hard work and diligence in planning a successful reunion. Next, it was time for “Motion” with oldies but goodies, line dancing and a variety of music that kept the spirits high until the evening ended with best wishes and fond farewells.

The week-end concluded with Sunday morning worship service at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Mechanicsville. Approximately 23 alumni joined the members for their Student Recognition Day, sponsored by the Scholarship Ministry. The day is set aside to recognize members of the congregation who are in school for their accomplishments during the school year. Honor Roll students, promotions, and high school and college graduates, which included the presentation of scholarship awards, were part of the recognition program. Reverend Dr. Thomas S. Simmons, Assoc. Minister, Providence Baptist Church, Ashland, VA was the guest preacher. He delivered an inspirational message focused on youth and education--a befitting end to a joyous week-end. The Metropolis Chapter of the WEHS Alumni Association will host the 2014 reunion.

*23 Members of the Class of 1963
Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Class Graduation*



Twenty-three members of the class of 1963 had a wonderful time renewing friendships and recounting happenings at West End High School.

Delores Carter Brooks delivered the “Reflections from the Class of 1963.” She mentioned the English, Math Social Studies, Home Economics, Science, Chorus and other teachers of the honored class. She commended the National Alumni for its continued work of providing persons scholarships to obtain more formal education and urged more alumni and descendants of alumni to continue to participate in this endeavor.

John Royster, President of the SNAA presented those members of the Class of 1963 with plaques commemorating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from WEHS. Those members who were present and who received plaques celebrating the event were as follow: Eva Baskerville, Elnora Brummell, Julia Burwell, Delores Carter, Cephas Clayton, James Fisher, Herbert Gillespie, Mary Gooch, Nancy Goode, Dorothy Hayes, Lloyd Howerton, Samuel Jones, Herman Keene, Mallon Liggon, Almeda Moody, William Oliver, Mildred Poole, Willie Poole, Hattie Scott, Ruby Smith, Melba Spain, Gracie Taylor, and Mary Walker.

Seven Persons Inducted into the WEHS Sports Hall of Fame



Seven persons were inducted into the West End High School (WEHS) Sports Hall of Fame for the 2013 Reunion. Percy Williams, Chairman of the Sports Hall of Fame committed, presented plaques to the following members for their participation in some form of the athletic program of WEHS or other institutions: Victor Williams, Odell Boswell Petty, Curtis Bowers, Vivian Oliver, Margaret (Gracie) Moody, and Garrett Williams.

Alumni Assist Fourteen Students

The major objective of the West End High School (WEHS) Alumni Association is to assist members and descendants in attending an institution of higher learning. The WEHS Alumni Association assisted fourteen descendants of former WEHS students with scholarships to

further their education. Alice H. Miller, chair of the scholarship committee presented awards to nine recipients who had received funds before and five who were first time recipients.

Those persons receiving funds for the first time: Eboni N. Copeland will attend Claflin University, and whose sponsor is Lois Howerton, her grandmother; Kelvin I. Smith will attend Alfred University, and whose sponsor is Mary Pulliam; Courtney N. Tucker will attend Longwood University, and whose sponsor is Virginia Powell; Dayla D. Tucker was accepted at St. Paul's College, but her college will be announced later, her sponsor is Virginia Powell; and Breana S. Vick will be attending Rider University, and whose sponsor is Shirley Vick.

The nine repeat recipients were Imani N. Bigsby who is attending NC A&T State University, and whose sponsor is Annie Pulliam; Delayne' M. Graves, attending Virginia Commonwealth University, and whose sponsor is Percy Williams; Leondra S. Graves who is attending Virginia State University, and whose sponsor is Percy Williams; Shaquille R. Hardy is attending James Madison University, and whose sponsor is Sharon Hardy; Stephanie N. Neal is attending Virginia Commonwealth University, and whose sponsor is Glanzy Spain; Kimberly O. Oladun is attending George Mason University, and whose sponsor is Norvella Moore; Cedric L. Pearson who is attending Old Dominion University, and whose sponsor is Erwin Watkins; Courtney I. Watts who is attending Old Dominion University, and whose sponsor is Annie Jenkins; and, Ebony S. White who is attending William Peach University, and whose sponsor is Willie Jones.

Those persons receiving a scholarship for the first time will receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for books and other needed materials, while the repeaters will receive five hundred (\$500.00) each for books or to use as needed. The total given in scholarships for this year will be \$9,500.00. The fundraiser for scholarship funds realized more than \$10, 479.00 this year.

If you are interested in receiving information about the scholarship please notify any member of the WEHS Alumni Association.

*Metropolis Chapter Takes the King and Queen
Crowns for Third Consecutive Years*



The suspense of the evening seemed to continue to mount as John Royster, President of the National Alumni Association announced the chairperson of the final, most important event of the evening. Corina Jones Mack stepped to the microphone and called for the candidates from the three chapters for the King and Queen for West End High School Alumni Association for 2013 – 2014.

Randolph Cole, class of 1968 and Easter Hector Coffield, class of 1956 represented the Mecklenburg Chapter, Pamela Jerman and Charles E. White, Sr., class of 1953, represented the Metropolis Chapter. A newly-wed couple, Calvin Hayes, class of 1966, and Valerie Fisher Hayes represented the Richmond Chapter.

When the envelopes were opened the Metropolis Chapter representatives, Pamela Jerman and Charles W. White, Sr., were crowned West End High School King and Queen for 2013.

The total amount collected for scholarships for this reunion through friendly chapter competition was \$10,479.12. Congratulations to the Metropolis Chapter for a job well done!
[\(Click here to see more pictures from the reunion.\)](#)