



# Woodruff High School Alumni Association's *Postscripts*

Volume 22

Spring 2018

## HELP WANTED *Mark Claver ('72), President WHSAA*

The WHSAA held an 80th birthday celebration for Woodruff on September 9th, 2017 and about 400 Woodruff grads enjoyed wandering the halls of good old WHS, mingling with old and new classmates, and eating some cookies. The event was put together by Myrna Thomas Helmick ('61) and Carlotta Bahl Schaidle ('66) and was a rousing success. Master of Ceremonies, Roger Monroe ('51) kept the crowd entertained while tours of the building allowed graduates to revisit favorite places in the school. As President of the WHSAA, I spoke with many graduates, some of whom were surprised to learn that there even was a Woodruff High School Alumni Association. Yes, we are still here. Many offered to help the Alumni out and so, I'll use this time to highlight how former WHS grads can help the Alumni Association continue its mission.

**Nominate someone to be considered for the Distinguished Alumni Award.** Isaac Malson ('95) is the Chairman of the Distinguished Alumni Committee and he would like to see some applications sent in for his committee to evaluate. Applications remain valid and for three years. So be an advocate and write up a nomination letter for an alumni you believe deserves consideration.

**Spread the word about WHSAA Scholarship opportunities.** Our traditional scholarship program provides funds to Woodruff graduates from *any year* and those who attended Woodruff the last three years it was a high school. We believe there are many WHS grads currently attending college who don't know that they can apply for scholarship help. It may be someone pursuing an advanced degree or someone who is headed back to college for work required education like nursing school, but they need to know that there is scholarship funding that can be applied for. Help us get the word out.

Last year, we started funding scholarships for graduating WCTC students. Unlike our traditional scholarships, these awards are reduced amounts and a "one time only" opportunity. We had 33 applications which the scholarship committee finalized to 10 winners. Of the ten selected, five followed through and returned their college schedule copying and were awarded the funds. **If you know someone attending the Woodruff Career and Technical Center, be sure to**

The WHSAA also funds a Vocational Grant program designed for students leaving Woodruff and going into the workforce. Six graduating students are selected by the WCTC administration and given instruction packages that include a sheet the winner uses to describe how the funding will be used to provide needed tools, clothing, or supplies. Once the paperwork has been returned to the WHSAA, we work with an industrial supply house to provide what is needed. Last year, six packages were awarded by the school, but only two students followed through and received the \$250 credit.

We want more traditional scholarship applicants, and we want today's Woodruff students to take full advantage of the programs available to them. **So help us get the word out that the WHSAA is still here and still in the business of providing scholarships.**

**NEWSLETTER CHANGE** For the last couple of years, the cost of sending out our newsletter by traditional snail mail has exceeded the amount of annual dues money returned to the WHSAA. Like most other shrinking volunteer organizations, we find ourselves in a position where we can no longer deal with the escalating costs of postage and printing for 6400 newsletters. Starting next year, the newsletter will be posted on our website where everyone will have access to it. The use of electronic media will be much less expensive and allow the material to be presented in a more timely manner. A supply of copies of the newsletter will be available for distribution at the Spring Banquet/Annual Meeting.

Printing and posting the newsletter adds two or three weeks to the process. Last year, I wrote that the school district was going to charge the WHSAA for the use of the building for the spring banquet. I appealed this decision to Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat and the charges were dropped, probably before WHSAA members received the newsletter in the mailbox.

Back in May, WHSAA leaders were invited to attend a PPS 150 school board meeting where we were presented with a **Community Contribution Award** by the district. The crystal plaque will be placed in an awards case in the commons area at Woodruff. We were given the opportunity to speak to the board which we did but they didn't



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**FINANCES** As of this writing Treasurer Beth McClain ('95) reports that the WHSAA has \$7,419 in our operating expenses checking account and \$12,733 in the Lifetime Membership account. The scholarship fund is at \$21,834 with \$100,000 invested to provide annual income for future scholarships. The operating expenses funds and the scholarship money are all due to the extraordinary financial support of WHSAA members over the decades. Thank you for your support.

**BOARD MEETINGS** are usually held the first Monday of each month at 7PM at Woodruff. (During the summer, the meeting location changes since the school is closed.) Please contact us if you plan to attend since the front door remains locked after the meeting starts. The Board of Directors for 2017-2018 are:

Mark Claver ('72) President  
 Isaac Malson ('95) Vice President  
 Bob Day ('63) Corresponding Secretary  
 Judy McDowell ('67) Recording Secretary  
 Beth McClain ('95) Treasurer  
 Roger Monroe ('51) Past President  
 Jim Ulrich ('64) Scholarship Committee  
 Bob Sulaski ('53) Nominations Committee  
 Carlotta Schaidle ('66) Banquet Committee  
 Dave Rogers ('67) History and Archives Committee  
 Rich Clinch ('63) Membership Communications Committee

The Woodruff High School Alumni Association continues because we have Woodruff graduates who are willing to fill positions on the Board of Directors. Members who are, "Still Here, Still Proud".

**CLOSING** As you go through your days, keep the WHSAA in mind when you chat with other Woodruff "kids". If you know of a Woodruff alumni who has returned to school to become a nurse or get additional job certification, tell them about our scholarship opportunities. Nominate someone to be considered for the Distinguished Alumni Award. Nomination letters remain on file for 3 years. Thanks again for your support of the Alumni Association.

## WHSAA WEBSITE AND DATABASE

Rich Clinch '63

With frequent email address changes, it is easy to lose email contact with you. Your email address is kept in a list with your fellow classmates. Many classes have over 100 names in the database, while other classes have as few as 10 names. All alums with valid email addresses have received one or in some cases two emails about WHSAA activities in the past six months. **If you haven't received an email from WHSAA, we don't have a valid email address for you. Please send the information by one of three methods:**

1. Include your email on the 2017 dues form.
2. Send the information to the email address: Woodruffalums@Comcast.net.
3. Send the information to:

**WHSAA  
 P.O. BOX 10625  
 PEORIA, IL 61612**

## Woodruff High School Alumni Association



*On May 22, the WHSAA was presented with a Community Contribution Award by Peoria School District 150. Members pictured from left to right are, Bob Sulaski, Judy McDowell, Isaac Malson, Rich Clinch, and Mark Claver.*

## SCHOLARSHIP FORMS

To request a scholarship form, send us a note at:

WHSAA PO Box 10625 Peoria, Illinois 61612 and we will mail you an application



## WOODRUFF SCHOLARSHIP MONEY STILL AVAILABLE!

Last year we awarded \$16,500 to scholarship winners. \$14,000 went to past Woodruff students, and \$2,500 went to five seniors from the Woodruff Career Technical Center. Since 2008, the Woodruff Alumni Scholarship fund has given out over \$165,000 to 75 different students at 29 different institutions of secondary learning.

For the past three years we have been working with three different principals at W.C.T.C. offering \$500 scholarships to seniors in that program. We have been disappointed in the number of students that have actually taken advantage of this opportunity to continue their education. We are hoping this year we will be able to award more money to more students.

We still offer scholarship money to those students who attended Woodruff from 1937 to 2009, and those students who attended one full year in 2010.

If you are going back to school to pursue educational goals, you can apply for these scholarships. We are looking for new winners!

You can find the scholarship application on line at [wow.pericardiopleural.com](http://wow.pericardiopleural.com).

## 2017 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Your 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award winners were Col. Edwards A. Koechle ('54) and Walter Young II ('91). Col. Koechle was noted for his career of military service. Edward flew combat missions during the Vietnam War and served 30 years in the United States Air Force before retiring. Walter Young also served time in the Air Force before graduating from North Dakota State University. Walter joined Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation and has taken on increasing positions of leadership. In 2012 Walter was honored as a Black Engineer of the Year – Modern Day Technology Leaders.

### Nominations

Did you know someone deserving of a nomination for WHS Distinguished Alumni Award? If so, get your nomination in by April 15th. Nominations remain active for three years. Distinguished Alumni forms are available at <http://peoriawoodruffalumni.com>. At a minimum include information about how your candidate excels in his/her profession, how they serve as a positive role model, and how they express their loyalty to WHS.

Mail your nominations to:

**Woodruff High School Alumni Association**

**Attn: Dist Alumni**

**PO Box 10625**

**Peoria, IL 61612**

Or you can email: [woodruffalums@comcast.net](mailto:woodruffalums@comcast.net)

### A TRIP DOWN OUR WOODRUFF MEMORY LANE

Dick Joyce, (class of 1965) led the work for The Woodruff Alumni Association to produce a computer flash drive that includes 3500 pages of our school newspaper, *The Observer*. The drive spans the Observers editions published from 1934 through 1970. Copies have been presented to the Peoria Library, Peoria Historical Society, and Peoria Public School archives.

Alumni can purchase the drives for just \$10. To get your copy of this interesting Woodruff history, send a \$10 check made to WHS Alumni Association and