



Woodruff High School Alumni Association's Postscripts



Woodruff High School
Alumni Association

Volume 21

Spring 2017

AREN'T KIDS SCARY? *Mark Claver ('72), President WHSAA*

I worry about young people today. I don't understand them. Their music rattles my car windows when they sit in the next lane. I use the term "music" but I don't recognize it as such. They have tattoos everywhere (or so I've been told). Body piercings that make it look like they fell into a tackle box. They buy new blue jeans so ripped up that you'd think they came out of the rag bag. Odd hair styles tipped in bright red, blue, green or purple. Pants slung low and underwear pulled high. I guess I'm just not hip anymore. I'd like to think that I can just ignore them.

When I start thinking this way, I force myself to remember what I was like back in 1972 when I graduated from Woodruff. Older folks didn't like my music and complained it was too loud. My favorite outfit consisted of a purple rawhide hat with a floppy brim, and a matching purple vest with leather fringe, sitting on top of a loose, long sleeved, silk shirt in paisley designs of blue, gray and tan. Plaid bell bottom pants and blue denim cowboy boots complimented my lower half at a time when it was worth complimenting. Aviator sunglasses and a necklace of beads, partially obstructed by my shoulder length black hair, and capped off with the mandatory two inch diameter peace symbol. In the 70's, it was a real cool look. Looking back, I'm sure now that my grandparents thought the circus had come to town.

Many from my class are now retired. These long haired, hippie rockers eventually filled all the roles society needed from us. We found careers and families and bought houses and started complaining when the neighborhood kids ran through our yards. And just like when older folks showed patience with us as we went through phases, it's now our turn. You see, we need these young people like it or not.

For so long, pastors, doctors, police, firefighters, store owners, teachers, politicians, and airline pilots, were all older than I was. Now, they're all younger. Last time I took a commuter flight to Chicago, I thought the pilots might be working towards an aviation merit badge in Scouts. We went out for lunch the other day and our waitress had a tattoo on her neck and a metal post in her nose. But she was a good waitress and even answered my question about the meaning of the tattoo. I doubt if I would like her choice of music, but she was pleasant to speak with. We need these young people and that's only going to become more prevalent.

Six years ago, I put a new roof on my house. If I'm lucky enough to still be on this side of the grass in 15 years when it needs replaced, I won't be doing the job myself. I'll need to hire it done. That means, out there right now are the roofers I will need. Perhaps someone from the WCTC construction class. To add an even more frightening thought, someday I may need Nursing Assistants, Nurses, and Doctors who are graduating from high schools this year. So we can't divest ourselves from today's students just because we dislike their music or fashions. All we can do is figure out how we can help them get to the place where society needs them to be.

The WHSAA is in the business of helping young people with educational and occupational assistance. **Since 2008, because of the generosity of the Woodruff Alumni, we have given out \$149,250 in scholarships to deserving students.** We continue to work with the WCTC administration to expand programs designed to help today's vocational students as the number of our traditional WHS college students tapers down. So the benevolent efforts of the WHSAA helps young people, improves our community, honors our beloved high school, and ultimately brightens our own futures. **Every scholarship paid and every vocational grant awarded, reminds Peoria that we are still here and still proud to be Warriors.**

About the board of directors.

"The Board of Directors of the Woodruff High School Alumni Association (WHSAA) shall consist of the five officers, the Immediate Past President, and the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees" from Article 8 of our bylaws. The Standing Committees are Banquet, Scholarship, Membership Communications, History and Archives, and Nominations.

The Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 year are as follows:

Mark Claver '72 President
Isaac Malson '95 Vice President
Bob Day '63 Corresponding Secretary
Judy McDowell '67 Recording Secretary
Jim Ulrich '64 Treasurer
Roger Monroe '51 Past President
Bob Sulaski '53 Nominations Committee
Beth McClain '95 Scholarship Committee
Maleita King '54 Banquet Committee

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Dave Rogers '67 History and Archives
Rich Clinch '63 Membership Communications Committee

I want to thank the Board on behalf of the Woodruff Alumni for their faithful service to the membership. **Volunteer organizations like ours only survive when members are willing to donate their time and energy to support the group.**

Two members have decided to ease away from posts they have held for many years.

Maleita King has been the Banquet Chair since coleslaw was invented. She always brings treats to the board meetings and works hard to set up the spring banquet. I hope she, and her treats, will continue to attend meetings, even though this will be her last time to chair the committee.

Jim Ulrich is stepping down as Treasurer after many years. Every meeting, Jim showed up with a report adorned with high school photos of selected "victims" sitting at the table. An equal opportunity harasser, everyone got their turn in the barrel. Imagine a group of people getting a financial report with your freshman picture displayed at the top! Anyone familiar with organizations like ours knows that the treasurer always has work to do. Bank deposits, checks to write, statements to create, and reports to give, makes Treasurer one of those positions that most folks avoid. Thanks Jim for all your hard work and for bringing smiles and groans to every meeting.

Beth McClain ('95) has agreed to run for the position of Treasurer at the annual meeting. (Please don't scare her away!)

WHSAA Meetings

The board meetings are typically held the first Monday of the month at 7PM at Woodruff. During the summer when there is no evening access to the building, meetings are moved elsewhere. The same can be said for Mondays that fall on a holiday, so try to contact a board member to check for changes. The Woodruff facility is not open after we leave the door and go back to our meeting area, so if you plan to attend, please let us know. There are always members who are not directors attending the meetings so if you want to visit, don't be shy.

Eighty Years

Woodruff High School opened in 1937 so this is our 80th year in the education business. An open house is planned at the school on September 9th from 1PM to 3:30. Many thanks to Myrna Helmick and Carlotta Schaidle for their leadership in organizing the celebration.

Changes at Woodruff

The WCTC lost students when the Contemporary School was closed at D150, but on the vocational side of the house, classes in Fire Science and Emergency Medical Tech were added. Next year, courses in Law Enforcement and Early Childhood Development will join the curriculum. Scheduled improvements to the Woodruff building include tuck pointing the brickwork and roof repairs.

Distinguished Alumni

While I would argue that all Woodruff grads are distinguished alumni, some are better than others. If you believe a Woodruff graduate you know should be nominated for the award, please send a letter explaining why your candidate should be selected and mail it to our PO box. Moses Praul ('76) is the Chairperson of the Distinguished Alumni Committee.

About the Banquet

The Spring Banquet/Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, May 6 at Woodruff (see form in newsletter). The Banquet has usually broke even or perhaps made a few hundred dollars after we pay for meals for a handful of guests like award winners. We reduced the price last year from \$30 to \$25 to see if more folks would participate but attendance didn't change. **This year, we have been informed that District 150 requires that we pay to cover the cost of the janitors.** We have not paid in the past and the cost is just under \$400. In the hope that we can break even, the ticket cost must return to \$30. I've asked Woodruff grad and school board representative, Dan Walther, to insure that this new policy is being enforced for other alumni groups in town and not just Woodruff. We are too far along in the banquet process to entertain moving the banquet this year. Please let us know your views when you attend.

On a Closing Note

As I complete my 3rd year at the helm of the WHSAA, it's nice to reflect on the amount of help we've been able to provide Woodruff students finding their way. **When I visit the school, it remains a very busy place doing important work.** I see Woodruff frequently on the news for job fairs, archery tournaments, or games. What a great place it is. I recently saw a local school competing in basketball in our gym. While it was heartwarming to see the place being used, the knowledge that neither team consisted of Warriors caused heartburn. Could Woodruff one day become a vocational high school? We can only hope.

In 1938 a speaker at a student assembly advised that boys should develop a firm hand shake and girls avoid extreme rouge, lipstick and nail polish because "it spoiled the natural beauty of a pretty girl."

*Coach Tommy Correll's grandfather
was a cousin of Jefferson Davis,
President of the Confederacy
during the Civil War.*



STILL HERE, STILL HELPING. SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Beth McClain '95, Scholarship Chairperson

We've had another great year of helping our fellow Woodruff alumni achieve their educational goals. Your support of the WHSAA has helped Warriors achieve their post-secondary education while alleviating some of the financial burden that comes with pursuing a higher education degree. We are working closely with the current Woodruff Career and Technical Center (WCTC) administrators to spread the word to WCTC students regarding Vocational Grant and Scholarship opportunities. Both programs provide WCTC graduates with funds needed to move on with their education or to purchase supplies needed to enter the workforce after graduation.

The WCTC Vocational Grant program began in 2015 and provides winners with \$250 of employment related assistance, such as safety shoes, tools or required apparel. These funds can be transferred to a college or trade school at the direction of the student. Six vocational grant winners are selected by the WCTC administration based on student GPA, attendance, and teacher evaluation. The Vocational Grant Program is funded by WHSAA membership dues and unspecified donations.

In 2016, the board of directors approved a scholarship program for WCTC students. **Woodruff vocational students can apply for one time, \$500 scholarships. This past year, we awarded 3 WCTC scholarships to students who continued their education at Illinois Central College.** This program is supported by the WHSAA scholarship account established through the tax exempt donations from members.

In addition to the WCTC programs, we are pleased to continue a long-established and active scholarship program for Woodruff graduates between the years of 1937 and 2009, or for those who attended Woodruff full-time for at least one full year prior to the closing in 2010. **Last year, we were able to award 6 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to students pursuing post-secondary degrees.** *While we typically award these scholarships to students working towards their Associates or Bachelor degrees, scholarship funds are available to alumni pursuing post-baccalaureate degrees as well!*

Since 2008, the WHSAA has paid \$149,000 to colleges on behalf of Woodruff students. With support from all of our proud Woodruff alumni, we hope to maintain our strong financial situation and ability to provide members of our Woodruff alumni group with the opportunity to pursue the educational goals they set for themselves.

Scholarship applications can be found online at:
www.peoriawoodruffalumni.com

WHSAA WEBSITE AND DATABASE

Rich Clinch '63

WHSAA now has its own website along with an email database for each class. Please visit the official WHSAA website, PeoriaWoodruffAlumni.com. WHSAA information is posted on the website.

Before our former website provider, Alumni Research, filed for bankruptcy, WHSAA was able to secure nearly 2,200 email addresses that have now been entered into our database. Unfortunately, many email addresses have changed in the last two years. When alumni send in their dues each year, the email address listed on the form is checked with the address on file. **If WHSAA doesn't have your current email address, 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**

WHO CAN JOIN THE WHSAA?

Multiple choice. Circle the correct answer.

- A) Any person who graduated from Averyville, Kingman, or Woodruff High Schools.
- B) Any person who attended Averyville, Kingman, or Woodruff High Schools.
- C) Past faculty.
- D) Current faculty.
- E) Individuals with interest in the pursuit of WHSAA goals.
- F) All of the above.

ANSWER: (hint...it's the last one)



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.

Please specify if the form is for a WHS graduate or a current WCTC student preparing for graduation this year.

REMEMBER WHEN WE GRADUATED?

We were a lot different from the youngsters that entered Woodruff for the first time. In those four years, we learned to drive and got our first driver licenses, we registered for a social security card, and a draft card and got our first real jobs. The boys began to shave and we all learned to work a combination lock. At school we attended our first Pep Assembly, we were in plays and performed on the big stage for the first time. We had our first date, went to our first dance and for the first time bought or received a corsage. We joined school groups, teams, participated in new activities were in spreads, social groups and made lifelong friendships.

IT WAS A HAPPY TIME.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS

Anyone wishing to nominate someone for our Distinguished Alumni Award, should mail a letter detailing why you think your nominee should win the award. The Distinguished Alumni Committee needs to receive these letters by April 18th. Nominations remain active for review for three years. Please mail recommendations along with any documentation to:

**Woodruff High School Alumni Association
attn Dist Alumni**

PO Box 10625

Peoria, Illinois 61612



CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Bob Sulaski

In order to improve the exchange of information between the WHS Alumni Association and the many alumni around the world we are establishing a network of class representatives. Several of you have agreed to be the primary contact for your class. Being a class representative does not require attendance at any meetings. Your only responsibility will be to send us news about your classmates such as interesting activities, achievements, deaths etc. Your input will be included in the WHS Alumni website: (peoriawoodruffalumni.com)

Periodically the Alumni Association will send to the class representative's important news about the Alumni activities and ask that they forward the information to your classmates using facebook or e-mails. If there any alumni that have facebook and/or e-mail list for your class mates and would like to be your class representative contact Bob Sulaski at 309-691-8580 (bobski@comcast.net)



TWO FROM WOODRUFF INDUCTED INTO GREATER PEORIA SPORTS H.O.F.

Jim Querciagrossa and Scotty Sullivan (1956) were inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame on April 8th, 2017. Coach "Q" was the wrestling coach at W.H.S. from 1968 thru 1992. His teams had a 303-102-6 record in dual meets with five conference, 14 city, and four regional championships. One of his wrestlers, Jeff Sutherland, was a state champion.

Scotty Sullivan was a two-time selection for All-Conference in football and baseball while at Woodruff. He attended Bradley where he was co-captain of the 1959 football team. He batted .315 for his B.U. baseball career and helped them win the Missouri Valley Conference Championship and play in the N.C.A.A. tournament. He officiated college and high school football for 32 years.

They join these previous Woodruff players:

Charlotte Lewis (1973) basketball
Mike Bridges (1976) power weight lifting
Zack Monroe (1949) baseball
James Taylor (1974) football
Don Wyss (1954) baseball
Bill Buster (1943) track

Woodruff Coaches:

Virgil Boucher (football)
Tommy Correll (baseball and basketball)
Roy Gummerson (track and cross country)
Don Mathews (basketball)

Woodruff graduates who coached at other schools:

John Helmick (1960) football at Metamora, Carbon-dale, and Herrin and Harry Whitaker (1945) basketball and baseball at Peoria High

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

IN THE NEWS

Harold Berg left Woodruff in 1942 during his junior year to join the US Marines. As a member of a Marine raider unit, he participated in many well known battles against the Japanese in the Pacific and received three Purple Hearts for wounds he incurred. He returned to central Illinois after the war and worked in the insurance industry for 40 years. For more information, see the article written about Mr. Berg in the December 11, 2016 issue of the Peoria Journal Star.

We thank all Woodruff students who went on to serve our country. Many Warriors paid the ultimate price and are honored in stone on the wall of the old commons. A painful reminder of the sacrifice paid to defend our great nation.



To the men and women who died for our freedom:

We Thank You

ABOUT THEM YEARBOOKS

Mark Claver '72

I got a call from a gal who graduated from Woodruff twenty years ago and she asked to get a yearbook from her glory days. I was pleased to find a spare and mailed it to her. She called a few days later and seemed very happy to have the book to share with her family.

We collect Woodruff yearbooks. If we have several extras of a particular year, we will offer them on request for ten bucks towards WHSAA operating expenses. This happens only a few times each year. Some folks lose theirs in a move, or fire, or perhaps were not in a position financially to purchase one when they were in school. It's rewarding to speak with someone who values getting a yearbook as if it were a lost treasure.

In addition to having the books for WHSAA use, we also try to provide books to the Peoria Historical Society and the Peoria Public Library. As historical artifacts, nothing paints a picture of high school life over the decades like a collection of yearbooks. If you know of someone tempted to pitch theirs, please have them contact us so that we can rescue the books.



READY TO EAT?

Banquet Chairperson, Maleita King ('54)

Our Annual Meeting/Spring Banquet will be held Saturday, May 6 in the Commons of Woodruff.

We'll be touring the school, electing new officers, socializing, and eating! Hy-Vee will once again be providing the meal of chicken, ham, and beef stroganoff. Socializing and tours begin at 5PM and dinner will be served at 6PM. A banquet reservation form can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

Please let us know by April 30 so that we can place our food order.

*L.R. McDonald was Woodruff principal
33 years from 1937-1969.*

*The second longest serving principal was Dave
Barnwell who served 18 years from 1982 to 2000.*

OBSERVER PROJECT

Bob Sulaski

As we reported last year many copies of our school newspaper, The Observer, that were stored in the Woodruff library have begun to disintegrate with time and we were at risk of losing this valuable and interesting Woodruff History. Fortunately **Dick Joyce (Class of 1965) stepped forward and has taken on the enormous task of photographing over 4000 Observer pages.** His work will convert a 2 foot stack of books on to a small thumb-drive and permanently preserve the Observers. Dick may be able to complete the project in 2017. When the work is done we will inform you when you can purchase these for a small cost. In addition to reading the year-by-year Woodruff history, reunion planners will find them useful in planning reunion programs.

Planning A Reunion Or Class Event In 2017?

If your class has a reunion or class event planned in 2017, please send the date, time, location and other information to:

WHSAA
PO BOX 10625
Peoria, Il 61612

or email the information to: Woodruffalums@Comcast.net

This information will be posted on the WHSAA website.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Ulrich ('64) Treasurer

The Woodruff High School Alumni Scholarship Fund is in great shape. We have a \$100,000 bond invested with Baird and Company which yields a little over \$5,000 annually. Due to the generosity of our alumni members, we enter 2017 with an additional \$30, 122.74 in this tax exempt fund. **Since 2008, the WHSAA has awarded scholarships to 72 different students at 29 colleges/universities totaling \$149, 250.**

Our monetary concerns reside with our checking account balance which is used to pay operating expenses such as PO Box rental, costs related to the website, and the printing and postage for the newsletter. We average about \$4,000 per year in operating expenses.

The source of revenue for the operating fund comes from dues payments and donations. Unlike donations designated for scholarships, donations to the operating funds are not tax exempt. Because of 501(c)3 tax rules, scholarship funds are not available for operating expenses. Last year, we received \$1,725 of dues income. Unless you work in the government, \$4,000 of costs with \$1,725 of income is not sustainable.

This decline in dues payments is alarming. Ninety-three percent of the dues we receive comes from graduates of the 1940's, '50's, and '60's. As those members decline in number (let's not say why), dues taper off. Payments are down 20% since 2014 and Lifetime Memberships have declined 30%. Even a C student in Miss Blackburn's math class can see the writing on the chalkboard. **If these downward trends continue, our operating fund reserves will be gone in about four years.** Those of you who are reading and have paid your dues, thank you for your support. If you know some Warriors from the '70's and beyond, please encourage them to pick up the torch and join the WHSAA so that we can continue the work of helping students and honoring the best high school in Peoria (**ever**).

*Woodruff was designed for
1200 students but enrollment
reached an all-time high
of 1670 in 1956.*

WOODRUFF TURNS THE BIG EIGHT 0

Judy McDowell ('39, or something close)

As Woodruff High School celebrates its **80th birthday this year**, we remember a school rich in history.

Woodruff opened its doors to students for the first time on September 16, 1937. WHS was a \$626,000 showcase for the latest in school design and equipment. The school was named for E.N. Woodruff, a former Peoria mayor.

Six principals have led the high school beginning with the longest serving, **L.R. McDonald**, who remained at the helm from the opening day until 1969. Woodruff has undergone many additions and changes and is now the Woodruff Career and Technical Center (WCTC). The structure is still the "Pride of the North Side."

On Saturday, September 9th, there will be a birthday celebration in the Woodruff Commons from 1-3:30 PM. We hope to see many old Warriors stop in for a blast from the past.

Walk Down Memory Lane

Carlotta Bahl Schaidle ('66) and Myrna Thomas Helmick ('61) WHS will be celebrating its 80th birthday September 9, 2017 from 1 to 3:30 PM. Please join us for a walk down memory lane, dressed as you were in high school if you desire. We will have tours of the school and show classes now being offered at the new Woodruff Career and Technical Center. You may finish the tour by stopping in at the commons for fellowship with old classmates, reminisce looking through yearbooks, school memorabilia, watching a CD, and having delicious cookies baked by Woodruff's culinary class. See you at the party.





Woodruff High School

Alumni Association

P.O. Box 10625

Peoria, IL 61612

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**NOW ACCEPTING
2017 ANNUAL DUES
WHS Alumni Association Membership**

Name _____

Maiden (if applies) _____

Class of _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Membership: New _____ or Renewal _____

1 year (\$15) _____ Lifetime (\$100) _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Woodruff High School Alumni Association

Scholarship Donation Fund: _____

(Make Checks Payable to: **Woodruff High School Alumni
Scholarship Fund**)

Mail to: Woodruff High School Alumni Association
P.O. Box 10625 • Peoria, IL 61612

***Banquet Reservation*
Saturday, May 6, 2017
in the WHS Commons**

Social Hour and School Tours Starting at 5 PM

Reservation Deadline April 28, 2017

(No refunds after this date)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Number Attending: _____

@ \$30 each = _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Woodruff High School Alumni Association

Mail to:

Woodruff High School Alumni Association
P.O. Box 10625
Peoria, IL 61612