

# WOODRUFF HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Volume 23 Spring 2019

## WHSAA OFFICERS

Isaac Malson '95- President

Mark Claver '72- Vice President

Judy McDowell '67 –  
Recording Secretary

Beth McClain '95- Treasurer

Bob Day '63- Corresponding  
Secretary

## -Save the Date –

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 1 -4pm

All School Alumni  
Reunion and Annual  
Board Meeting

*Still Here, Still Proud*



## 21 (REALLY 7) QUESTIONS WITH MR. KUHN, PRINCIPAL OF WOODRUFF HIGH SCHOOL – ISAAC MALSON '95

### 1. What made you become an educator?

I was in a marketing and business program at Elmhurst College and I took a Meyers Briggs Test, it told me that I should go into counseling or a bartender (which means that I am a person that can listen to people's problems). I then started to explore getting my master's in counseling.

### 2. Before you became our Principal, where did you teach and what were your major subjects?

I have never taught, but I have four teaching credentials business, marketing, entrepreneurship, and automotive. I started working as a school counselor, working with students that did not graduate. I then became an administrator at J.S. Morton High School in Cicero Illinois and oversaw the Career and Technical education as well as the Principal of the night school and summer school programs. My passion is with Career and Technical Education and my hope is to instill that same desire to Woodruff.

### 3. What do you think is the role of the principal in a school?

The role of a principal in a career and technology is different than that of a principal in a traditional school setting. For example, I spend more time focusing on how to improve the programs that we have and adding new programs to benefit future students to the school. I will assist teachers as they need me to. I try and set a business-like tone with our staff and our students, preparing them for the work force, having the same expectations for our students that an employer would have for them.

### 4. What is Woodruff's mission under your leadership?

The mission of Woodruff High School is to offer every student, in a safe learning environment of diverse programs, the opportunity to acquire the attitudes, behaviors, knowledge and skills....

To become a responsible citizen in our democracy

To enter the workforce and/or continue formal education and training

To participate in the changing technological global society of the twenty first century

**5. In 2011 WHS was re-opened as Woodruff Career and Technical Center. Can you give us insight into how WCTC is meeting its educational mission? How many students are using the school?**

We have improved the programs that we originally started with. Here are some of those examples:

In the 14-15, 15-16, 16-17 school year we had two students receive their CNA license each year. In the 17-18 school year we increased that number to 14 students. Currently for the 18-19 school year we are on track to have 100 percent of our CNA students become licensed.

Our **Culinary Arts program** now receives college credit while they attend class here, they have also **received the state championship for the past two years in management.**



Tile Warrior at the Entrance to WHS

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*Our Enrollment has grown each of the last three years.*

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Our Construction class has teamed up with the Carpenters Unions, they provide the curriculum and upon completion of the program they have certifications from the Carpenter's Union and can enter an apprenticeship with them.

We have the following programs and they are dual credit with ICC:

**Criminal Justice, Emergency Services (EMT and Fire Science), Health Occupations**

Our enrollment has grown each of the last three years.

**6. What is the future direction of WCTC?**

We will continue to grow and add programs to the school. Next year we are starting an IT Coding class and students are very excited about this course. It's important we grow career and technical programs for our students, college isn't for everyone and we need to offer programs to students that they earn a living wage. We want to give our students the confidence that they are valuable to our society and making better.

**7. What other information do you think important for Alumni to know about WCTC?**

The district has invested a lot of money into improving the building:

- 297 steam valves were changed throughout the school, some had never been changed.
- We were given a new roof this fall on the original portion of the building.
- The parking lot lights are all brand new.
- Many more plans are in the works for building improvements.

**A WORD ABOUT DUES – BETH McCLAIN**

'95

The finances of the WHSAA are split into two categories. The categories are the **Scholarship** account which includes investments providing annual income supplemented with donations by members, and the **Operating Funds** obtained through annual

membership dues. The Scholarship account pays for educational expenses. These funds are restricted by 501 (c) 3 tax rules. Operating Funds are used to keep the WHSAA organization functioning. The annual newsletter represents the largest operating expense, but there are additional associated with maintaining our website and mailing services. Seed money is also needed to prepay for items like the catering for the spring

banquet or branding artifacts. The online dues payment procedures that we once had through Alumni Research in Florida were lost when that company went bankrupt. Since then we have relied on receiving dues via traditional mailings to our post office box. Not surprisingly, dues collections have dropped and the outlook for our Operating Funds continues to diminish. *Treasurer, Beth McClain, has plotted our financial trajectory and projects that with steady expenses but*

*diminishing dues income, our Operating Funds will be gone in about five years. While the situation is not critical, we would like to reverse that trend. We are a small, volunteer organization and do not send out dues notices to those who pay the \$15 annual fee. If it has been over a year since you submitted your dues, please consider mailing \$15 to: Woodruff High School Alumni Association, PO Box 10625, Peoria, IL 61612.*

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Treasurer, Beth McClain, has plotted our financial trajectory. The Annual Newsletter is our largest Operating expense. By changing our newsletter format, we ensure the operating fund is sustainable. This allows the WHSAA board to support its mission of keeping the spirit of WHS alive and continue to support students through our scholarship and grant programs.

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## SCHOLARSHIP FORMS

Available online at [www.peoriawoodruffalumni.com](http://www.peoriawoodruffalumni.com)

Return forms to: WHSAA, PO Box 10625, Peoria, IL 61612 or [Woodruffalums@gmail.com](mailto:Woodruffalums@gmail.com)

## THE WARRIOR WAY CAFÉ – IKE MALSON '95

This past year I've had the pleasure of twice attending lunch at the Warrior Way Café. The café is a program at WCTC, in which participating students design, prepare, and serve a fantastic three course meal. For St. Patrick's Day, WCTC served Corned Beef and Cabbage Eggrolls, Shepard's Pie, and Chocolate Mint Leprechaun Parfaits.

Meals are Thursdays on select dates throughout the year. Carry out is also available. The students come from all the local District 150 High Schools, but you'll notice a sense of Warrior Pride as soon as you walk into the cafeteria.

The best part is that it only cost \$5. To learn more, go to <https://www.peoriapublicschools.org/Page/27773>.

Reservations are required. Move fast as the Café closes for the year on April 25<sup>th</sup>.



## HELP WANTED - MARK CLAVER '72, PAST PRESIDENT

I suppose it's been six years or so since I joined the WHSAA board of directors and the time has been well spent. I served as president for four years and was relieved of that post last year by current president Isaac Malson '95. Sadly, Ike has voiced his reluctance to re-up for the president post as he is seeking an advanced college degree to help with his business interests.

Last week, I was sent a message from one of the class of '69 asking how to contact my brother for making reunion plans. The same week, I got an email about a get together for some of us from the class of '72. So many classes have get togethers, parties, lunches and dinners and that's wonderful to hear. But the WHSAA has trouble attracting board members to direct the future of the Alumni Association. Some currently on the board, have served more than a decade and many have served as presidents. Some of the regular attendees no longer participate in the organization because of age.

Woodruff graduates from classes in the 80's, 90's, and 00's must step into WHSAA leadership roles if the organization is to survive. We will continue to

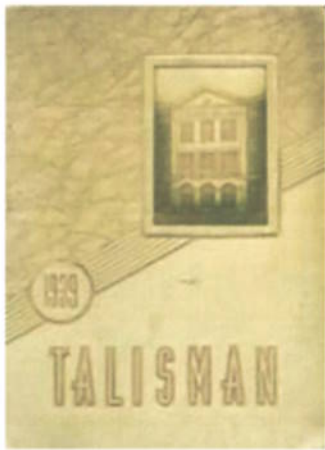
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*"Classes in the 80's, 90's, and 00's must step into WHSAA Leadership roles"*

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manage the scholarship fund and do what we can to help current Woodruff students, but the energy level is dropping. A few board positions may be unfilled by the time next year rolls around. If you have interest in attending a board meeting, please contact a board member for details. We could use the help.





WHS Talisman '39

## WHSAA WEBSITE AND DATABASE - RICH CLINCH '63

Please help WHSAA keep in contact with you. Email addresses change frequently. Many classes have nearly one hundred addresses in the database while other classes have just a few addresses. All class members have received at least one email from WHSAA this past year. If you haven't received an email, WHSAA doesn't have a valid email address for you.

Please send your email address to: [Woodruffalums@gmail.com](mailto:Woodruffalums@gmail.com) or WHSAA, PO BOX 10625, PEORIA, IL 61612

## ALL SCHOOL ALUMNI REUNION AND MEETING – CARLOTTA BAHL

SCHAIDLE '66

THE WHSAA ANNUAL MEETING  
WILL KICK OFF OUR **MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
REUNION AT THE **WHS COMMONS.**  
PLEASE EMAIL  
[SCHAIDLECARLOTTA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SCHAIDLECARLOTTA@YAHOO.COM)  
BY **APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>**

Please join us for a walk down memory lane on **Sunday May 5th from 1 to 4 pm** for an "All School Alumni Reunion and Annual Meeting" in the Woodruff commons. We will start off the event with our Annual WHSAA Meeting and will quickly transition to an afternoon of fellowship with classmates. Come reminisce, look through year books, see old school memorabilia, and tour the school. We will sell Woodruff coffee mugs

(\$10.00 each) and T-shirts (\$20.00 each). We will also distribute old Woodruff sport trophies for any reasonable donation. Refreshments of cookies, tea and water are provided. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. Please e-mail [schaidlecarlotta@yahoo.com](mailto:schaidlecarlotta@yahoo.com) by April 28th to set-up appropriate number of tables and order food.

## WHAT IS IN A NAME? - BOB SULASKI '53,

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN *50PLUS NEWS AND VIEWS*, FEB 2019

The Central Lions, **Woodruff Warriors**, Manual Rams, and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. These are each schools' teams nicknames but not their names in the beginning.

❏ 1856 Peoria Central opened at Fourth and Fisher Street and is now the oldest public school in Illinois. For nearly 90 years. They were called "The Maroons."

❏ 1890 Averyville School opened in the north end, and after several moves, became Woodruff High School. The sports teams were labeled the "Blueboys."



1899 Spalding and the Academy of our Lady opened near downtown on Madison Street and were named "The Purple."

1909 - Manual Training High School players were originally called "The Orangemen" when the south-end teams first took to the field.

Each of these schools changed their names in the 40s, but Woodruff has curious connections to its nickname.

In 1862, Robert H. Avery enlisted in the Civil War and became a Union "Blueboy." He was unfortunately captured in 1864 and was imprisoned at the infamous Andersonville Prison. During his eight months in prison, he traded his cigarette ration with Confederate guards for paper and pencils that he used to sketch his farm machinery ideas. He had his sketches safely tucked away when he was released and returned home.

He eventually settled in Peoria's north end. He led the village's move to incorporation, became the first mayor, and the village was named for him. He opened his successful Avery Planter Co. factory in Averyville where he converted his prison sketches to iron. His factory was the cornerstone of the areas industrial expansion that included several other new companies that attracted many workers with families and created a need for a school.

Averyville School opened in 1890. The colors blue and gray have traditionally been linked to

the opposing ground forces of the Civil War, and the Union forces were called "Blueboys." It is not known if Robert Avery's Civil War experience influenced the naming of the Averyville teams "Blueboys" and the chosen school colors as blue and gray.

The growing village found it difficult to keep up with the increasing need for school capacity. Peoria annexed Averyville in 1927, and a new, larger Kingman School opened at Sloan and Madison in 1929, but again enrollment exceeded available space. District 150 began planning for a state-of-the-art high school at the end of Perry Street and Woodruff. It opened in 1937, and the blue and gray uniforms and "Blueboy" name came with it.

When the other Peoria schools were renaming their school teams in the 40s, Woodruff held an all-school election in February 1942, and the name "Warriors" and Indian logo was chosen. Woodruff was named for long-time Peoria mayor E.N. Woodruff, who coincidentally campaigned as "The Old Warrior."

When Woodruff became Warriors, it began a gradual phase-in of blue and gold as the school colors. Gray was, however, never completely phased out, and for many years, the "W" awards included a bit of gray in the stitching. When Woodruff closed as a four-year high school in 2010, the opening line in the loyalty song still began, "U Rah Rah Ran, Woodruff Blue and Gray."



Robert Avery is buried a couple of miles from Woodruff in historic Springdale Cemetery. It is not likely he envisioned the sketches he made

at Andersonville Prison would become the seeds for Averyville's formation, its schools, and eventually Woodruff High School, where 18,000 blue-bound diplomas would be awarded.

# WHSAA Annual Meeting and All Class Reunion

**Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> 1–4PM, WHS Commons**

## **1:00pm – WHSAA Annual Meeting**

(All Alumni are invited to attend)

### Agenda:

Welcome & Class Roll Call

Scholarships Announcements

Distinguished Alumni

Annual Business Meeting

Vote on Officer for 2019-2020

## **1:35PM- All Class Reunion** (Immediately following Annual Meeting)

Memorabilia

Fellowship with Classmates

Tours of the School

**No Charge to Attend: PLEASE EMAIL**  
**SCHAIDLECARLOTTA@YAHOO.COM BY**  
**APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>**

## Now Accepting 2019 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**

## **PEORIA WOODRUFF ALUMNI ASSOC**

PO Box 10625

Peoria, IL 61612

Woodruffalums@gmail.com

peoriawoodruffalumni.com

**Recipient Name**

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code