

# THE AGGIE SPIRIT

2019 Fall Newsletter

WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.

October 2019



**The National Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. in the school cafeteria.**

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I remember the Gala Dinner/Dance of 2013. That Friday, at the Business Session, I had been elected to serve as the seventh President of our Alumni Association. In closing the affair, Thomas Harris, the sixth President, gave me the opportunity to make some comments as the newly elected leader. I told everyone how excited I was about the opportunity I had been entrusted with and thanked them for their past, present, and future support. When I asked if there were any questions for me, one gentleman – maybe it was Sam Parham, or Eddie Hinton, or Douglas Hanks, or some other troublemaker; I don't know – raised his hand and said, "What are you going to do about renovating our high school building?"

That question is still being asked today – more than six years later. Over those six years, there have been times when I thought we were close to being able to get something done. Success would appear to be within our reach, but for some reason, somehow, somehow it would elude our grasp.

Two months ago, at the Executive Committee Meeting, I told those gathered that our situation reminded me of the story of Jonah – the Jonah we encounter in Chapter 1 of the Book of Jonah in the Bible.

Here we find a man by the name of Jonah fleeing from God's summon to prophesize against the wickedness of the city of Nineveh. Instead of doing as asked, he boards a ship headed in the opposite direction from Nineveh. A storm of unprecedented severity arises on the sea and threatens to break up the ship Jonah is on. Despite the efforts of the captain and his crew, nothing seems to do any good. Then the sailors start praying to their gods because of their fear that they will perish. The captain then goes below deck, wakes up a sleeping Jonah, and tells him that he should also pray to his God. Finally, the sailors come to the conclusion that someone on board must be responsible for this calamity, so they cast lots to determine who that someone might be. The lot falls upon Jonah. Jonah then confesses that it's his fault that this great storm has come upon them and tells them to cast him overboard into the sea. They do this and the sea becomes calm.

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Jokingly, I told the attendees of that meeting that maybe the reason we cannot close the deal on renovating our high school building is because someone in our organization is not doing what God has asked them to do. If that is the case, I am asking them to identify them self so that we can cast them overboard. (Do you suppose it could be me?) Then maybe we can get on with our plans.

Seriously, we do have some "irons in the fire" with regards to what it is we are trying to do. Some of them look promising. I believe we are closer than ever before to getting something done. There are still obstacles to overcome and challenges to be met. As Martina Goode Williams constantly says to me, "Pray about it." As the National President of the WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc., I am asking you to "Pray about it." - Ben H. Stewart, Jr.

**Cafeteria Gets a MakeOver**

One of the most recognizable names in the history of Reunion Weekend is McCoy Simm Hendricks. Most years, you will find him at the fish fry and gala dinner/dance. At the fish fry, he likes to set up his audio system on the outside of the cafeteria and blast out songs from The Four Tops, The Temptations, Martha and the Vandellas, Aretha Franklin, and others of the soul music genre. Using the vernacular of the 1990s, you might be inclined to say, he "raises the roof".

Well, we just had a new roof put on the cafeteria. The old roof was an old roof. It had been patched and repatched many times. In fact, Reggie Hinton and his buckets of tar have been practically living up on the roof for the last 4-5 years. He finally threatened to sue us for cruel and unusual punishment based upon the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution if we did not do something about the roof.

As a result, we spent some big bucks to have a new roof put on. Not only did we put on a new roof, we had the ceilings of the cafeteria, kitchen, office, and hallway scrapped, replastered, and painted. To get this work done and then get the place presentable was no trivial task.

By now, you must be wondering where I am going with this. (So am I.) To net things out, we no longer can afford to have McCoy "raise the roof" by playing all that soul music. It costs too much money, loss of sleep, gray hairs (or no hairs), gnashing of the teeth, and time and effort. So, at this year's fish fry, come prepared to hear soothing, mellow sounds of the violin. McCoy is going to play a lot of Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. There will be plenty of violin concertos and sonatas. Who knows, you may even see Maestro McCoy dressed in his tux with tails.

**Class of 1969!**

**Aggies Forever!**



**Celebrating 50 Years!**

**Thank You!!!**

**Executive Secretary's Message**

**“You don’t miss your water ‘till your well runs dry”, is a cliché we some time use when we feel that we may be losing something good that we may never recover. (For you old-timers, it was also a soul song written and recorded by William Bell in 1961 and then recorded again by Otis Redding in 1965.) Those who graduated from Warren County Training School (WCTS) – later renamed to North Warren High School (NWHS) have been the backbone of this organization for over 30 years with the support of a few of us die hard, nongraduating alums. My belief is that the folks that actually graduated from WCTS-NWHS most likely maintained stronger ties with each other and the school; galvanize by shared experiences and allegiance to one institution. Those of us that were juniors and younger when the school integrated in 1969 were disbursed to Norlina High, John Graham, and I have heard, a school in Littleton. Some, such as me, moved out of state. Due to this upheaval, many friendships were weakened and some loss. Personally, I didn’t reconnect with many of my classmates from NWHS until well into my adult hood and some just recently.**

**There may be something to the saying, because I always seem to get thirsty or have a taste for water when something happens to my plumbing and I can’t get any. I think the same applies to friendships and acquaintances; we don’t miss them until they are gone. The 2019 Reunion Weekend was, in my opinion, one of the best we have had. There were attendees from the 70 And Beyond era, and I even got many of my relatives to come out. The last graduating class, which was the Class of 1969, came out and showed out! We had many attendees that never attended WCTS-NWHS but were guest of friends and relatives. A few of my relatives just wanted to find out something about this place called Warren County Training School that their parents talked about so much. This thing that the Alumni Association has been doing for more than 30 years is a great time for hanging out with friends and loved ones. I just hope that we find a way to share this experience with even more nongraduating alumni and our other friends as well.**

**Although none of us are getting any younger, we can possibly keep water in our “well” a little longer by encouraging some of our younger friends and relatives to be a part of the Alumni Association. You may go so far as to treat them to the fish fry, gala, or a paid membership. It will be an experience they will always remember. Hopefully some of them will take an interest in what is going on at our school. This is also an opportunity to add to the amount of your yearly donations for programs and activities. You can also share this Newsletter with friends, relatives, and acquaintances and get them on our mailing list.**

**Those of us that are part of the 70 and Beyond Alumni are doing what we can to interest our classmates and others in our great organization; however we all must do what we can to ensure our “well” does not run dry.**

**Reginald Hinton  
Executive Secretary  
70 and Beyond  
Class of 1973**

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**Thank you, Aggie Nation for a very successful 2019. You are the Best!**

**CENTURY CLUB 2019**

The Century Club represents a tangible way for alumni and friends to financially support the programs of the WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. Each year, our goal is to obtain 100 donors. These individuals are recognized in our Newsletter, at the Gala Dinner, on our Website, and with a special Christmas Card. Add your name to the list of donors by contributing \$100.00.

To become a member, please make your check payable to: WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association and mail to: P. O. Box 122, Wise, NC 27594. Below is a list of 2019 members as of 10/01/2019.

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charles Alexander - Class of '52</li> <li>2. Joyce Alexander - Class of '57</li> <li>3. Charles Anderson - Class of '68</li> <li>4. Jesse M. Banks - Class of '53</li> <li>5. Eugene Baskerville, Jr. - Class of '57</li> <li>6. Jerry Bell - Class of '65</li> <li>7. Emma Dunston Beshir - Class of '52</li> <li>8. Freddie Brown - Class of '63</li> <li>9. Evelyn Alexander Bullock - Class of '65</li> <li>10. George Bullock - Class of '64</li> <li>11. Carolyn Mayfield Davis - Class of '66</li> <li>12. Marinda Thrower Davis - Class of '60</li> <li>13. Annie Lucy Dortch - Class of '67</li> <li>14. Robert Dortch - Class of '63</li> <li>15. Henry Durham, Jr. - Class of '67</li> <li>16. Ocerline Boyd Fields - Class of '58</li> <li>17. Mamie Lucas Greene - Class of '55</li> <li>18. Richard Greene - Class of '56</li> <li>19. Douglas Hanks - Class of '54</li> <li>20. Geraldine Hargrove - Class of '56</li> <li>21. John Hargrove - Class of '56</li> <li>22. Thomas Harris - Class of '56</li> <li>23. Daniel E. Hawkins - Class of '59</li> <li>24. Charles Henderson - Class of '56</li> <li>25. Clara Boyd Henderson - Class of '54</li> <li>26. Rev. Richard "Melvin" Henderson - Class of '54</li> <li>27. John Henderson - Class of '67</li> <li>28. Frank Hendrick - Class of '55</li> <li>29. Carrie Hendrick Hill - Class of '64</li> <li>30. Eddle Hinton, Jr. - Class of '67</li> <li>31. Bobby Howard - Class of '57</li> <li>32. Sallie Green Howell - Class of '53</li> <li>33. Jamesanna Shearin Johnson - Class of '46</li> <li>34. H. Kenneth Johnson - Class of '66</li> <li>35. Dock Jones - Class of '53</li> <li>36. Faulkner Jones - Class of '52</li> <li>37. Ann Long Kersey - Class of '67</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38. James Kersey - Class of '67</li> <li>39. Vivian Davis Lynch - Class of '55</li> <li>40. Esther M. Mayfield - Class of '63</li> <li>41. Helen M. Mayfield - Class of '60</li> <li>42. Gloria Walker Mizelle - Class of '65</li> <li>43. Barbara Harrison Palmer - Class of '66</li> <li>44. John C. Palmer - Class of '66</li> <li>45. Lindell Palmer - Class of '67</li> <li>46. Mattie Bell Palmer - Class of '62</li> <li>47. Murrell Palmer - Class of '62</li> <li>48. Vera J. Palmer - Class of '69</li> <li>49. Samuel Parham - Class of '48</li> <li>50. Hattie Plummer Perry - Class of '62</li> <li>51. M. Juanita Person - Class of '59</li> <li>52. Paul Plummer - Norlina HS</li> <li>53. Vergie Clanton Pope - Class of '50</li> <li>54. Rev. Willie T. Ramey, III - Class of '63</li> <li>55. Mildred Hendrick Russell - Class of '54</li> <li>56. Willie G. Russell - Class of '56</li> <li>57. Gracie Dortch Scott - Class of '67</li> <li>58. Eva Shaw - Class of '50</li> <li>59. Jeanette Somerville - Class of '68</li> <li>60. Larry Somerville - Class of '69</li> <li>61. Alice Stewart - Class of '67</li> <li>62. Ben Stewart, Jr. - Class of '65</li> <li>63. Rev. Mary Harrison Stinnett - Norlina HS</li> <li>64. Charles Talley - Class of '69</li> <li>65. Eva Johnson Taylor - Class of '65</li> <li>66. Joseph Taylor - Class of '63</li> <li>67. Esther Alexander Terry - Class of '57</li> <li>68. Emmitt Thomas - Class of '63</li> <li>69. Onia M. Talley Vaughan - Class of '63</li> <li>70. Laura Plummer Webb-Marshall - Class of '57</li> <li>71. Martina Goode Williams - John Graham HS</li> <li>72. Mary Anderson Williams - Class of '65</li> <li>73. Ruby Davis Williams - Class of '69</li> <li>74. Cynthia Hawkins Woods - Class of '66</li> <li>75. Alice Holloway Young - Class of '40</li> </ol> |
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The WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. wishes all of you a Happy Holiday Season!

**Meet the New Superintendent of Schools**

In sports there is this saying regarding the manager or coach of a team, "You are hired to be fired". What they are saying is that eventually all managers and coaches get fired. If the manager or coach does a poor job, he or she is fired for cause. If the manager or coach does a good job, sometimes he or she is fired simply because those in power feel there is the need for a "new" voice in the locker room.

The previous superintendent retired after many years of dedicated service to Warren County Schools. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his accomplishments and wish him well. However, looking on the bright side, it was probably time for a "new" voice in the school system. That "new" voice is Dr. Mary L. Young.

Dr. Young is a native of South Carolina. She brings to Warren County more than 20 years of experience in public education. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Elementary Education and Teaching from the University of South Carolina - Columbia; a Masters of Education Degree in Reading from Howard University; and a Doctorate in Educational Administration and Policy with a minor in Business Administration from Howard University.

For the past five years, she has served as executive director in the Office of Employee Performance and Evaluation and as instructional supervisor with Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland with a student enrollment of more than 130,000. Prior to that, she was employed as education associate/program director with the South Carolina Department of Education and as principal at several Washington, D.C., schools.

Dr. Young and her husband, Timothy Young, Sr., have three sons, Timothy, Jr., Nigel, and Gabriel. She feels at home in Warren County because she grew up in an area similar and hopes to become active in the community.

Since becoming Superintendent, she has spent countless hours visiting classrooms in the various schools of the County and meeting with community, civic, business, and religious leaders and organizations. Welcome, Dr. Mary L. Young!

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**Who You Gonna Read To?**

For many of us, our grandchildren are grown and have children of their own. Whereas we were instrumental in the raising and lives of our grandchildren, it is less so with our great grandchildren. No longer do we hear the pitter patter of little feet about the house. No longer do we feel the tug of little hands on our coattails. No longer are we asked to read bed time stories. Woe is me! What am I to do?

There are elementary schools in practically every community. There are teachers and school administrators that would love for you to come in for an hour or two each week and read to the students. Reading is still fundamental. Why not volunteer to read to a class or to some subset of a class. It will recharge your battery and it could inspire a passion for reading among "our" children.

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**2019 Reunion Yearbooks are available for \$35.00 each. They make GREAT Christmas Gifts!**

### 2019 Scholarship Recipients

**“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” Kofi Annan, seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations and co-recipients of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. This truth has been known throughout the Black communities of northern Warren County since emancipation. This is why it was so important to get a Training School located there in 1922; this is why one of the first things Rev. Willie T. Ramey, III did as the second President of the WCTS-NWHS Alumni Association, Inc. was to establish a scholarship program to assist high school seniors in continuing their education; and this is why you have continued to support that scholarship program with contributions of more than \$77,000.00 since its inception.**

**2019 was a banner year for giving. As a result of some generous donors, \$7,000.00 was awarded to Warren County high school graduates. Here is information on those who earned awards:**

**Faith Heisler received a \$2,000.00 award. This was a Washington/Cheek Scholarship sponsored by the Rodney M. Downey Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund. Faith will be attending NC A&T University and majoring in Psychology. She hopes to be a school guidance counselor.**

**Cornelius Davis was awarded a \$2,000.00 Washington/Cheek Scholarship. Cornelius plans to attend NC Central University and major in Criminal Justice. He has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Alumni Association’s Youth Program for the past two years.**

**Laquashia Harris received a \$1,000.00 General Scholarship. She has been accepted into the Culinary Arts Program at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte. Her goal is to become a culinary health inspector.**

**Angel Andrews was awarded a \$1,000.00 General Scholarship. She plans to attend UNC-Greensboro and major in Performing Arts. She has participated in several summer theatre productions and plays trombone in her high school concert band. Angel is the granddaughter of Alumni Association supporters Catherine Reid Andrews (Class of 1968) and John Andrews (Class of 1970 – Norlina High).**

**Kymekkah Rainey received a \$1,000.00 General Scholarship. Her plan is to attend UNC-Greensboro to study business and marketing. She is very active in local community service projects.**

**In addition to providing scholarships to students attending the traditional four year institutions of higher learning, in 2020, we hope to award a scholarship to a student planning to attend a technical/trade school. This was made possible by a gift from Philip and Marie Downey. They are also sponsors of the Rodney M. Downey Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund.**

### Scholarship Recipients Since 2008

**Since its inception, in the late 1980s, the Scholarship Fund has provided more than \$77,000 in awards to students graduating from Warren County. This was made possible by your contributions. Here is a list of recipients since 2008.**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Scholarship Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2008	Hannah E. Cross	General	\$500.00
2008	Torrey Hunt	General	\$500.00
2008	Jeremy O. Davis	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2009	Brittany Perry	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2009	Jessica Kearney	General	\$400.00
2009	Jacquella Jones	General	\$400.00
2009	O’Briant Jones	General	\$400.00
2009	Abriel Harris	General	\$400.00

2010	Jeronne A. Jones	General	\$400.00
2010	Ebony Terry	General	\$400.00
2010	Janel Brown	General	\$400.00
2010	Whitney A. Brown	General	\$400.00
2010	Patrick Williams	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2011	Reginald Green	General	\$500.00
2011	Chaundrea D. Richardson	General	\$500.00
2011	Lashanda William	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2011	Bryon Mason	General	\$500.00
2012	Cheyenne Greene	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2012	Elzia Arlando Silver, Jr.	General	\$500.00
2012	Ashley Davis	General	\$500.00
2012	Markell Pitchford	General	\$500.00
2013	Patrick Minor	General	\$500.00
2013	Jalen Williams	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2013	Tiona S. Boyd	General	\$500.00
2013	Megan Stinnett	General	\$500.00
2014	Matthew Richardson	General	\$500.00
2014	Kaelan Evans	General	\$500.00
2014	Kevonnie Williams	General	\$500.00
2014	Alexis French	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2015	Destiny Davis	General	\$500.00
2015	Mila Alston	General	\$500.00
2015	Leeza Mason	Washington/Cheek	\$700.00
2015	Lily Richardson	General	\$500.00
2016	Jeyire Gavin	Washington/Cheek	\$1,000.00*
2016	Alexis Jordan	Washington/Cheek	\$1,000.00*
2016	Raekwan Squire	General	\$500.00
2016	Jessica A. Kearney	General	\$500.00
2016	Darius Davis	General	\$500.00
2017	Destiny Davis	General	\$500.00
2017	Darauna Davis	General	\$750.00
2017	Victoria Robinson	Washington/Cheek	\$1,000.00*
2018	DeAndreya Attaway	General	\$500.00
2018	Ron Christopher Davis, II	General	\$500.00
2018	Brianna Brooks	Washington/Cheek	\$1,000.00*
2018	Jordan Goode	Washington/Cheek	\$1,000.00*
2019	Angel Andrews	General	\$1,000.00
2019	Laquashia Harris	General	\$1,000.00
2019	Kymekkah Rainey	General	\$1,000.00
2019	Faith Heisler	Washington/Cheek	\$2,000.00*
2019	Cornelius Davis	Washington/Cheek	\$2,000.00

\* Sponsored by Rodney M. Downey Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund

# THE AGGIE SPIRIT

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**WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.  
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## Office Information

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Website: <http://www.wcts-nwhs.org>

## ADMINISTRATION

We do most of our communications via email. If we do not have your email address or if you have not received email messages from us during the last 30 days, please forward us your Email Address. We can be reached at: [wctsnwhsalumni@embarqmail.com](mailto:wctsnwhsalumni@embarqmail.com).

Don't forget to check-out our website: [www.wcts-nwhs.org](http://www.wcts-nwhs.org) to see what new information our Executive Director has made available.

## National Officers

President	Ben H. Stewart, Jr 919-302-2270
Vice President	Paul Plummer, Jr 252-456-2789
Exec. Secretary	Reginald Hinton 252-432-2684
Secretary	Arvella Scott 252-204-5096
Financial Sec.	Esther Mayfield 252-456-2848
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