

THE AGGIE SPIRIT

2025 Fall Newsletter

WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.

October 2025



The National Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. and are virtual.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: PAGE

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Pres. Message continued</i>	2
<i>Keep the Faith!</i>	2
<i>Congratulations on New Role</i>	3
<i>New Role continued</i>	4
<i>My Musings from the May Celebration</i>	4
<i>The Importance of a "Thank-You"</i>	5
<i>"Thank-You" continued</i>	6
<i>Prepare to Vote!</i>	6
<i>Century Club</i>	7

A Message from the President

Sustaining the Legacy

As the Warren County Training School - North Warren High School Alumni & Friends Association, Inc. welcomes the fall season, there's a renewed aura the Association exudes as the season influences a fresh start for strategies to renew motivation to make and pursue goals. Thank you to the founders of this very fine organization and to all the participants and supporters. I believe you were and are godsend to start and keep this legacy alive for an indefinite period of time. I commend you all for your essential and vital roles in its awakening. Thank you for having trust in our ability to put your generosity to use so that it will keep alive a sacred and unforgettable Rosenwald Historic site that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Association is represented with participating chapters from Philadelphia, New York, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.

Please open the following link to view more on Rosenwald: https://cdn.savingplaces.org/2023/03/27/14/41/16/14/PB_Rosenwald_final_revised2012.pdf

(You may also speak with our Rosenwald historian, Ben Stewart, for interesting highlights. Ben is a 1965 graduate of North Warren High School).

We were set up to grow personally, educationally, professionally, and socially while developing a strong interconnection to the community. Other than you, who can best help pass on to our posterity the profound impact our dear school bestowed upon us? Without you, there would be minimal memory of the existence and experiences our beloved alma mater offered. In my current position, as president of this educational dynasty, better known as Warren County Training School - North Warren High School Alumni & Friends Association, Inc., though unborn, I vicariously think back to the beginning and duration of this powerful oasis. I can imagine the excitement, happiness, promise and solidarity that permeated the minds and lives of Warren County

See PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, page 2

President's Message—continued from page 1

and neighboring communities. The building of a Rosenwald school in 1922 in the Warren County Paschall community became the cornerstone of pride, hope and joy. It left us with a legacy that proved to be a longstanding fulfillment, embodying tangible and intangible spirit-filled expressions that continue to resonate across later generations. A plethora of talents sought and found, made WCTS-NWHS an institution, marked by excellence and high achievements, even amidst challenges and changes.

Beholden to our heritage within an era of assurance, determination, and painstaking perseverance, we, the WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc., have a moral and unstoppable duty and indebtedness to uphold and preserve the history of our school that played a major role in creating a foundation for healthy self-esteem and self-worth.

For your convenience, we have enclosed the Registration Form you can use to indicate your financial commitment(s). You will see the opportunity to donate to our 2026 Memorial Weekend Gala and Fish Fry. These events occur annually and give you continuous opportunities to include them on your donation repertoire list.

Aggie Nation, let's continue our close knit bond and build upon a great legacy by allowing this Association to shine bright and wide indefinitely. Listed in this bulletin are names and telephone numbers of national officers. Please feel free to call either of us should you need assistance. My heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your endurance, purposefulness and help.

Odessa Burnette Gatewood

Message From the Executive Secretary

Keep the Faith!

Greetings Aggie Nation. In the pass I have pushed for individuals from the non-graduating classes of NWHS to encourage their classmates from Norlina and John Graham High Schools to allow us to help them celebrate their milestone reunions during our Reunion Weekend, with limited success. My hope was that some of those individuals would reembrace their first love, the school they started their social and educational journey. I still have the hope and faith that a younger generation of individuals will realize the historic significance of the WCTS-NWHS legacy.

I have a cousin that travels from Ohio to attend our Reunion Weekend activities when ever she can, never attended the school, but participates in honor of her mother. She is also a member. We have another member that only attended the school during her elementary school years, travels from Bermuda as often as she can to attend our Reunion Weekends. Unfortunately, we have alumni within this community that will not participate.

I hope that we continue to tell the story of WCTS-NWHS to our children, relatives, friends, and acquaintances. We never can tell when someone may have the answer to some our challenges we face as our membership ages and we look for our next generation of leaders of this great organization.

Keep the Faith!

Reginald Hinton

Congratulations On New Role



I would like to extend a hearty thank you to Carolyn Mayfield Davis and Charles Talley for recently accepting membership to the Executive Committee of WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc. Welcome aboard, Carolyn and Charles.



“GIVING BACK”

Carolyn Mayfield Davis (Class of 1966) and Charles Talley (Class of 1969) have graciously agreed to enhance their giving by taking on new roles. Both of them are lifetime members of WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.

Carolyn currently serves in her new role as the Alumni Association’s Financial Secretary and Charles as the Community Service Chairman, a newly created position.

Carolyn Mayfield Davis

Carolyn graduated from North Warren High School in 1966. She served as Recording Secretary from 1983 until the early 1990s for the Alumni Association and served as Financial Secretary from the mid 1990s until 2002.

Carolyn graduated from Kittrell College in 1968 with a degree in Business Education. She was a cum laude graduate from Shaw University in 1981 with a degree in Business Management, and was also on the Dean's List. Carolyn began work in the business field in 1969. She has worked as a Secretary, an Administrative Secretary, a Coordinator of Faculty Secretaries, an Office Manager and an Administrative Assistant. Carolyn currently serves as Financial Secretary of Locust Grove Baptist Church in Wise, NC.

Charles Talley

Charles graduated from North Warren High School in 1969 and Winston-Salem State University in 1973.

Charles retired from the United States Postal Service in 2009 after 36 years of service. Charles’s areas of work consisted of communication, training, marketing and sales management. He spends most of his time these days volunteering as follows:

AARP Driver Safety

TreesCharlotte Events - Coordinator

Master Catawba - Ambassador

Catawba Riverkeeper - Site Captain

Revolution Park Windsor Oaks Homeowners Association - Secretary

See New Role page 4

New Role—continued from page 3

Carolyn and Charles are appreciated for volunteering their time, talents, expertise and financial resources to support and strengthen WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc. and the community. Their commitments speak volumes.

Again, thank you to Carolyn Davis Mayfield and Charles Talley.

Odessa Burnette Gatewood

My Musings from the May Celebration

I am honored to share my thoughts on the **WCTS/NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. 2025 Spring Gala**. The former school was an absolute necessity for our African American ancestors who not only needed an education but absolutely wanted an education. The continued celebration and memory of this great school is paramount and truly continues to show the love for and the value of it.

Another reason for my honor is that the Alumni Association invites “friends” to become members. Sincerely, I am a “friend” who has chosen to become a life member. My affection for this school stems from the fact that many family members and friends have attended and received their education.

As our speaker, Mrs. Chelsa Jennings so eloquently cited in her speech, “The Glow-Up: Rise, Inspire, Give Back”, “the strength and resilience of the Alumni Community.” She emphasized the journeys taken, the challenges overcome and the legacies that are continually being built.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention that giving back is ongoing for this great organization. I would like to cite some examples in which this “pillar of education” is still involved. High school graduating youth, who meet the criteria, are awarded scholarships. There are enrichment and tutorial programs available for youth of all ages. Our senior citizens receive food baskets and other needed items.

I would like to further emphasize from her speech that the spirit of the evening was and still is to be “bold, proud and full of purpose thus reminding everyone that the three glow-ups are rising, inspiring and giving back”.

Let us one and all continue to carry the banner through action, faith and above all love for this former African-American school of greatness – **WCTS/NWHS**.

By Roberta Smithwick Scott

The Importance of a “Thank-You”

Izeyah Andrews is a 2025 graduate of Warren County High School. Since he was “knee high to a grasshopper”, he has been hanging out with his dad and granddad as they tuned or repaired automobiles. This expose resulted in Izeyah making the following statement, “My life goal is to study engineering and become an automotive engineer.” As a student currently enrolled at Vance-Granville Community College, he is well on his way to achieving his dream.

As Chairperson of the WCTS-NWHS Service Committee, I had the privilege of speaking with Izeyah and Bryan, his father, on Sunday, October 12, 2025. This came about because of a thank you card Izeyah sent to the WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. regarding the scholarship the organization had awarded him.

For more than forty years, the WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. has been awarding scholarships to deserving graduating high school seniors residing in Warren County. In May of this year, Izeyah was awarded a \$1,000.00 General Scholarship sponsored in partnership with the Rodney M. Downey Memorial Youth Trade/Technical Scholarship Fund.

In Luke 17:11-19, there is the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers. Of the ten lepers who were healed, only one returns to express gratitude. Over the last forty plus years, the WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc., has awarded hundreds of scholarships, very few recipients have returned to say, “thank you”.

It was heartwarming in many ways to read the card from Izeyah. It was heartwarming because of the expression of sentiment. It was heartwarming because of the immediacy the card conveyed. It was heartwarming because of its sincerity. It was heartwarming because it demonstrated that in spite of the toxic climate of today’s world, all is not lost. There are still good people. Thank you, Izeyah!

After beginning his studies on August 18, 2025, Izeyah reports that he is making great progress. Bryan is very proud of his son and is living vicariously through his achievements. He sees a lot of himself in the man his son is becoming. Bryan sees his role as being one of love and support for Izeyah as he cheers him on from the sideline. They make a formidable team.

PS – In addition to his father, Izeyah’s paternal grandparents, John and Catherine Reid Andrews (Class of 1968), are also proud members of his support team.

see “Thank-You” page 6

“Thank-You” —continued from page 5

Izeyah’s card - “It’s sometimes easy to forget that there are nice people out there doing nice things for others. Thanks for being such a special reminder”.

Izeyah’s own words - “ I appreciate the funds given to me in the scholarship I’ve received, with your help I’m now enrolled in Vance Granville Community College.”

By Charles Talley

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**Prepare to Vote!**

At this time we stand at a cross road of whether we will have a viable constitution, whether we will have rule of law for anyone other than the wealthy, whether we will have reasonable healthcare at a reasonable cost, whether us common people will have a say in our futures, and if we will even have the right to elect the people we desire to represent us. We have an all out attack on our election system, our rights to voice our opinions, or cast a vote without being challenged. Please check with your election boards to insure you, your family, friends and especially young voting age friends and family members voter information is current. Also, make sure these folks have acceptable photo identification. We need to be ready for any potential contingencies in 2026. There are people that are actively trying to take these rights from us! Prepare To Vote!

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CALLING ALL NORTH CAROLINIANS!

Were you assigned the North Carolina Project in elementary school? If you still have your project, we’d love to hear about it! Please send a few details—including the year you created it—along with any special stories or recollections to [**editorial@ourstate.com**](mailto:editorial@ourstate.com)

WE LOVE LETTERS

Address letter to our State, Post Office Box 4552, Greensboro, NC 27404-4552; email [**editorial@ourstate.com**](mailto:editorial@ourstate.com); or send us a note through our website at [**ourstate.com/letter-to-editor**](http://ourstate.com/letter-to-editor). Only signed letters will be considered for publication and will be edited for length.

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**The Century Club is Calling**

**As you know, we are losing members regularly. Our organization has stood throughout the years because of the faithful support of alumni and friends. Please be generous and support the Century Club with a donation of \$100 and/or support the Aggie Challenge. The Principal’s Level is from \$1.00 to \$99.00, the President’s Level is from \$100.00 to \$199.00, and the Chairman’s Level is from \$200 and up. Please feel free to use the “up” part. This is what keeps the lights on and our organization strong.**

**WCTS/NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.****Century Club Members****As of September 30, 2025**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Joyce Alexander        | Esther Mayfield        |
| Delbert Baskerville    | Helen Mayfield         |
| Eugene Baskerville     | Quinnilla H. Meyer     |
| Jerry Bell             | Gloria B. Moss         |
| Dorothy M. Brown (2)   | Barbara Palmer         |
| Freddie Brown          | John Palmer            |
| Evelyn Bullock         | Murrell Palmer         |
| George Bullock         | Mattie B. Palmer       |
| Rev. Candace B. Carter | Dr. Vera J. Palmer     |
| Carolyn M. Davis       | Maxine Patillo         |
| Henry Durham, Jr.      | Ruby L. Rogers         |
| Ruby Downey            | Barbara Russell        |
| Ocerine Fields         | Jimmie Russell         |
| Odessa B. Gatewood     | Eva Shaw               |
| James Green            | Gloria Sledge          |
| Geraldine Hargrove     | Clyde Smith            |
| John Hargrove          | Jeanette H. Somerville |
| Carolyn B. Hawkins     | Larry H. Somerville    |
| Frank Hendrick         | Zandra G. Spruill (4)  |
| Harvey Hendrick        | Alice J. Stewart       |
| Carrie H. Hill         | Ben Stewart            |
| Reginald Hinton        | Rev. Maggie Stinnett   |
| John C. Honor, Jr.     | Charles Talley         |
| Vivian J. Honor        | Esther Terry           |
| Dock E. Jones          | Emmitt Thomas          |
| Faulkner P. Jones      | Martina G. Williams    |
| Lawrence Jordan        | Ruby D. Williams       |
| Ann Long Kersey        | Cynthia H. Woods       |

# THE AGGIE SPIRIT

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**WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.  
Post Office Box 122  
Wise, North Carolina 27594**

**Permit #1**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## 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—Reginald Hinton—has made available.

## National Officers

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| President       | Odessa B. Gatewood<br>919-939-3646  |
| Vice President  | Martina G. Williams<br>252-456-2635 |
| Exec. Director  | Reginald Hinton<br>252-432-2684     |
| Secretary       | Arvella Scott<br>252-204-5096       |
| Financial Sec.  | Carolyn M. Davis<br>919-846-1263    |
| Treasurer       | Ruby Downey<br>252-767-3576         |
| Chaplain        | Maggie Stinnett                     |
| Parliamentarian | Vacant                              |