



Celebrating over 25 years

The Wright Information

“A Legacy of Excellence”

March 2020
Volume X

John J. Wright Alumni Association Newsletter

www.JJWAlumni.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

The new year is well under way with many changes taking place. We recalled events and achievements in our history during the month of February. Black History is more than one month of remembrances; it should be a tribute to our history all year and a reminder of the work that lies in the months and years ahead. It is our responsibility to continue the legacy of excellence established at John J Wright School.

CLASS REUNIONS too often take place at the funeral of a classmate or school mate. Two classes recently returned to “our dear old school” as part of their reunion. The class with the distinction of being the last graduating class of John J Wright Consolidated School (1968) celebrated 50 years remembering school days and honoring their teachers. They presented their class picture and a donation to the John J Wright Museum.

In June 2019, the class of 1959 celebrated “60 years together” culminating their activities with a banquet with their teachers as guest of honor. The class also presented a donation to the Museum.

Reunions take place in the museum when former students enter and when younger generations find pictures of relatives. Older relatives are seen from a different perspective and there is the discovery of unknown stories.

An important function of The John J Wright Alumni Association is to preserve the story of John J Wright and ensure future generations will continue the legacy of excellence. Scholarships and stipends are given to qualifying high school students.

Fundraising and donations are our primary sources of income. We are a 501 (c) 3 organization so donations are deductible. We also need qualified applicants. Potential applicants and parents should begin the process by reviewing criteria when students enter high school.

We give our gratitude and appreciation to the Spotsylvania County Afro American Teachers Association aka SCAATA, for their generous donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. This organization of retired teachers was formed in 1987 by former John J Wright teachers. Over the years, the organization gave scholarships to a student at each

high school and honored retiring teachers and staff. In retiring some of its activities, the organization shared funds with JJWAA and the JJW Museum.

Spotsylvania History:

Mrs. Deborah Frazier is the first African American elected to the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors and represents Salem District.. She is Principal of Chancellor Middle School. She has been Assistant Principal at John J Wright, Principal at Berkeley Elementary, opened Harrison Road Elementary School as principal.

Dr. Lorita Daniels was elected to the School Board representing Salem District.

Two new Proclamations by the Spotsylvania School Board of Supervisors:

November 18, is officially John J Wright Day in Spotsylvania County, to be observed every year. February 2020 proclaimed “Black History Month” in Spotsylvania County

The theme for Black History 2020:

African American and the Vote

Remember your vote is your voice. Vote like your right to vote depends on it. If you don’t vote, someone else’s vote counts more.

**Constance Braxton
Class of 58’**

Our legacy:

“ You are where you are today because you stand on somebody’s shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders. It’s the quid pro quo of life. We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.” -Vernon Jordan

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ELIGIBILITY



Through fundraisers and generous donations, the Alumni Association has, since 1996, awarded more than \$90,000 in scholarships and stipends to eligible students. 2019 proved once again with help from all of our dedicated members and pledges, we can help others achieve their goals. JJW Alumni awarded a total of two (2) High School scholarships and one (1) Returning College Student (stipend) in the total amount of \$4,000.00

The recipients were:

**Scholarship Recipients
(\$1500.00/each)**

John Coleman
Germanna Community College

Tyson Maddox
Radford University

**Stipend Recipients
(\$1000.00/each)**

Jasmine Brown
James Madison University

Eligibility

Applicants must be a financial member of the alumni association or the offspring of a financial member. Offspring may be biological, step, adopted, foster or grandchild. The financial member upon whom the applicant is basing his or her eligibility must be a financially current member of the alumni association and for at least two consecutive years prior to the year of the application. (i.e; 2017, 2018 and 2019).

Application Availability

The application is now available! Please visit our website: jjwalumni.org or write: **JJWAA Scholarship Committee, PO Box 1061, Spotsylvania, VA 22553.**

A complete application package must be submitted (*postmarked*) to the Scholarship Committee by **April 15, 2020.**

Note: Scholarship and Stipend amounts are determined by the number of eligible applicants and available funds.

For more information please contact: Sandy Coleman
Email:
sandy_imalni@verizon.net

WAYS & MEANS

T-Shirts; Polos, Caps and other items are available for purchasing. Items are: Blue w/white lettering or White w/blue lettering with John J Wright Logo!

Raffle Tickets

Don't forget to get your Raffle Tickets early. Tickets will be available March through July. Cost will be \$2.00 per ticket; 3 for \$5.00 or 6 for \$10.00!

First Prize: \$300.00
Second Prize: \$200.00
Third Prize: \$25.00
Fourth Prize: \$25.00
Fifth Prize: \$25.00
Sixth Prize: \$25.00

Contact an Officer or Committee Chair for tickets.

Drawing will be July 18, 2020 at The Sunday School Union Park Site (3:00pm) @ Friends & Family Day.

JJWAA Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SOCK HOP



Hope to see you there so dust off those "Dancing Shoes & Best 50's, 60's, 70's Outfit"

There will be a contest for "Best Dressed"!!

Tickets: \$20.00
April 25, 2020: 7 – 11pm
BYOB

American Legion – Post 320
8456 Brock Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

3rd Annual "Oldtimers" BASKETBALL GAME



JJW "Wildcats" & Walker Grant "Tigers" will be battling once again for "bragging rights"! Come out to Support & Enjoy a great time! See you there!!

Tickets: \$10.00

Where: JJWright Educational and Cultural Center

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2020

Time: 1:00pm – Tip Off
(Doors open at Noon)

Should you have any questions or concerns pursuant to possible sponsorships, player participation, purchasing of tickets and any other pertinent matters, please contact **Gerald D. Tyler** at [**\(540\) 785-7700**](tel:5407857700)



FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY

9th Annual Friends & Family Day will be:

Where: Sunday School Union Park Site

Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020

Time: 12:00 Noon – 4pm

Please save this date, come out and have a good time with friends and family. Enjoy lots of food, music, games, vendors, "Sha-Sha" the Clown & raffle drawing.



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DANCE

Alumni, family and friends are invited to attend. Tickets are \$30 and will be available **July 2020 for purchasing @ Friends & Family Day!** Please contact the Committee Chair: Ms. Rochelle Bazemore-Fountain (540-845-5103) for more information.

Tickets: \$30.00
October 10, 2020 7 – 11pm
BYOB

American Legion – Post 320
8456 Brock Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Classes ending in "0" will be honored (i.e., '50, '60, and '70) We would like to have as many members of the above classes to attend this banquet. We would like your help in locating these individuals. Membership is not limited to graduates, it is open to all who shared the year. More details later.

For More Information on The Sock Hop, Friends & Family Day, Raffle Tickets, T-Shirts and all other items for purchase, please contact:
Melvin "Butch" Lewis @ MLL46M@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER



Membership is on an Annual basis: January – December

Dues are \$25.00/year

Dues are currently being accepted for 2020 and future years.

Please feel free to download the application from our website. Once completed, please mail to the address listed on form.

For more information please contact: Lena Henderson at hendersonle122@gmail.com

WHO's WHO???



2005 JJWAA Scholarship Recipient **Ronae Heard** is the granddaughter of the late Walter and Mamie (Rollins) Montague and the daughter of the late Robyn Heard. Ronae graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2009 with a Bachelor's degree of science in Psychology. Shortly after graduating, Ronae started her career in the behavioral health and human services field. Ronae currently is a licensed Qualified Mental Health Professional for children. She will be pursuing her Master's degree at Liberty University this summer.

You will see her around as she has joined JJWAA and will be working on several committees! Come join her and let's keep JJWAA moving forward

Pledges and Donations

All pledges and donations can be sent to the JJW Mailing Address. No pledge or donation is too small and we appreciate your contributions.

Thank you for your Support!!!

Community Outreach

During the past year, JJWAA participated in two Community Outreach programs in Spotsylvania County.

JJWAA was able to donate Ethnic Hair & Skin products to Families in Need. This is an ongoing project and we collect annually during Friends and Family Day.

Along with Spotsylvania Social Services, JJWAA participated in the "Make Christmas Happen" in December.

JJWAA sponsored Five Children and Five Senior Citizens for this program.

JOHN J WRIGHT HISTORICAL MARKER

John J. Wright School was approved for a Historical Highway Marker by Virginia Dept of Historical Resources (DHR) and unveiled in a ceremony held at the JJW Education and Cultural Center on October 26, 2019.

The event was well attended by Alumni, including Principal Charles Conyers, Spotsylvania County Officials and local residents.

This marker will be one of over 2,600 Historical State Highway Markers in Virginia.

John J. Wright Museum

The museum, in the former Sadie Combs Johnson Library, is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

www.jjwmuseum.org

7565 Courthouse Rd,
Spotsylvania Courthouse, VA
22551

Board Meetings

These meetings are held the first Saturdays of March, May, July and November. In January and September the meetings are held on the second Saturdays in each month. The October ***General Meeting*** is held on the same day as the Annual Scholarship Dance.

NOTE: Election of New Officers will be held during our October General Meeting.

Mailing Address

JJWAA
P.O. Box 1061
Spotsylvania, VA 22553