

## 2011 Annual Meeting

September 17<sup>th</sup> was the perfect time planned for all alumni to meet, greet and discuss matters of importance regarding the association. Thus, the Annual Meeting was held on Saturday morning at Club 17 in Petersburg. The morning started with fellowship and a continental breakfast. A heartfelt welcome was extended by Arlene Hill, member of the Class of 1944. Greetings were extended by The Honorable Brian A. Moore, Mayor of the City of Petersburg, Dr. Ann M. Ford, Student Services Coordinator and Conduct Officer (representing Dr. Alvera J. Parrish, Superintendent of Petersburg City Public Schools), and Dr. Yardley Farquharson, Principal of Peabody Middle School. We were very honored to have as the Speaker for the morning, the new Petersburg City Manager, Mr. William E. Johnson, who not only gave an informative history report of Petersburg, but also shared some of the opportunities and plans for the future of Petersburg. We were also honored to have Dr. Elsie Jarmon, Petersburg School Board Member, join us.

While enjoying lunch, members were entertained with musical selections by alumna Betty Williams-Hardy. Following lunch, President Jefferson called the Business Session to order. The business agenda included the following items for discussion: Insurance Coverage, Community Outreach, Historical Marker, Fund-Raising, Restoration Project (Progress of MOU), Recommendations to Board of Directors, and Election Up-date. Committee Chairs (Mildred Allen/Membership; Oriette Bellamy/Scholarship; Iris Brown/Historian; Russell Prude/Fund-Raising; and Lee Dugger/Restoration) submitted written reports and gave up-dates of the progress being made in their committees.

The Annual Meeting Committee was chaired by Maude Brown. Other members were Mildred Allen, Oriette Bellamy, Deborah Buford, Lee Dugger, Harry Quarles, Bernice Richardson, and Mary Wilson. President Jefferson thanked all of them for doing an excellent job in planning the day's activities.



Arlene Hill

Betty Williams-Hardy

The Honorable  
Brian A. Moore

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**November  
2011**





Dr. Ann M. Ford



Dr. Yardley Farquharson



Dr. Elsie Jarmon



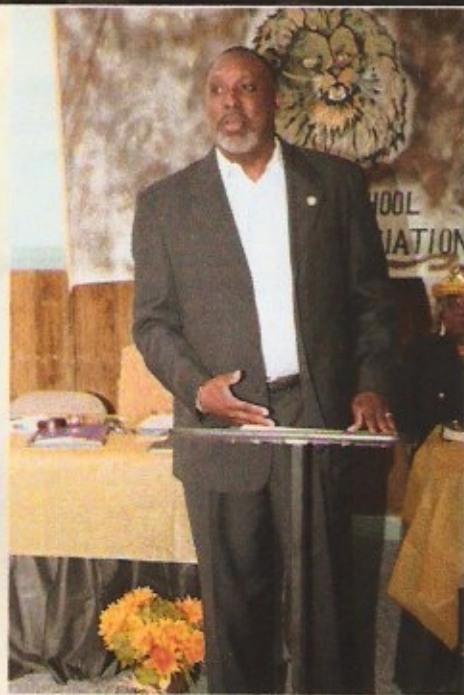
Dr. Ford, Dr. Farquharson,  
Virginia Barbour

### Annual Meeting Committee (above)

Lee Dugger, Mildred  
Allen, Maude Brown,  
Oriette Bellamy,  
Harry Quarles, Bernice  
Richardson, Mary  
Wilson



Mr. William E. Johnson





## Officers for 2011-2014 Installed



The Nomination and Elections Committee worked very hard to get a slate of officers for the new term. As reported by Chairman Virginia Mann, it was very hard to get alumni to commit to elected positions. In the June 7, 2011 meeting, a motion was made and passed to ask the current officers to consider re-election, if the Elections Committee was not able to fill the positions. A recommendation was also made to change the term for elected officers to three years instead of two years. The recommendation was passed and was also voted on by the membership during the election process in August.

At the October meeting, new officers for the next three-year term were installed by 1970 Alumna Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch-Griffin, Pastor of Oak Street A.M.E. Zion Church in Petersburg. The installed officers are: Thelma Jefferson, President; R. J. Bragg, Vice-President; Charlene Buford, Recording Secretary; Oriette Bellamy, Financial Secretary; Patricia Miller, Treasurer; Mildred Allen, Membership Secretary; Ann Ellison, Chaplain; Iris Brown, Historian; and Thomas Banks, Sergeant-at-Arms. Rev. Griffin administered the oath of office to each person as they answered "I do" to the question, "Do you accept this responsibility and promise to fulfill to the best of your ability the duties of your position?" Before the closing prayer, officers were asked to recite in unison the Preamble of the PHSNAA Constitution.

President Jefferson's message to the officers and members was "Believe." In order to achieve, we must believe," she said. She also stated, "It is not about me, but it is about the Association and what we're doing and where we're going. And, if we plan to get there, we must believe and have faith that it will happen." She further told members that oftentimes, she gets her inspiration from the lyrics of songs. She then played a song by Yolanda Adams, "I Believe I Can Fly" which clearly says, "If you can see it, and believe it, you can achieve it."



"Any dream is possible, if you believe," Jefferson said. She asked that we believe in her and with the help of all alumni, we will be able to accomplish all that we dream of.





## CLASS REUNION - 50<sup>TH</sup> Year Celebration

Fifty years older and still roaring like MIGHTY LIONS, the Peabody High School Class of 1961 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion during the weekend of August 12-14. "Peabody Memories thru Fun and Fellowship" was the theme of the reunion. Activities kicked off with a meet and greet at the home of classmate Joyce Brown Greene, where class members received a beautiful memory book and fantastic gift bags filled with lots of memorabilia.

Classmates arose early Saturday morning, got dressed in their black & gold and enjoyed a delicious breakfast at Golden Corral. The highlight of the morning was a surprise visit from one of the senior English teachers, Mrs. Marie Manigo Scott. Making a beautiful transformation into their finest attire, classmates attended a dinner/dance at the Fort Lee Regimental Club, where they danced the night away.



The weekend celebration ended with worship service at Oak Street A.M.E. Zion Church, where the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch Griffin is the pastor. Following the service, a farewell lunch was held in the fellowship hall of the church. Big hugs and sad good-byes were exchanged as they departed. Now they look forward to the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

## VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Jefferson is requesting volunteers to fill the vacant positions on the Board of Directors. Serving as representative on the board is one way to keep your classmates informed of activities involving the association. To date, there are six vacant positions. If you are a member of one of the classes with no representation, please contact President Jefferson and volunteer to serve.

1945 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1947 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1949 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1951 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1953 \_\_\_\_\_

1955 Jean Gee  
 1957 Willard Taylor  
 1959 R.J. Bragg  
 1961 Willis Brown  
 1963 Nancy Prude

1965 Pricilla Carter  
 1967 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1969 Pacing Dugger



**Delores  
J. Skelton**  
(Class of 1961)  
is an  
**Appreciated  
Wife**



*This Certificate of*

# EXCELLENCE

*Is presented to Sister Delores J. Skelton for your Untiring Love,  
Patience, Understanding and Hard Work in helping me through these  
past three years as Worshipful Master of Pocahontas Lodge #7.*

*Presented this day, April 16, 2011*

*By Your Husband,*

*Maynard A. Skelton*

*Worshipful Master Maynard A. Skelton*





## CLASS REUNION

### Class of '56 Celebrates 55 Years

The Class of 1956 celebrated its 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion on Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17. Saturday activities were held at the Holiday Inn in Colonial Heights, Va. The program consisted of several trumpet solos, rendered by F. Nathaniel Gatlin, Jr. and a beautiful dance routine performed by Bernice Neverson (member of The Rockaway Revue). Also included in the day's program was a rendition of "Invictus" done by Leroy Jackson. The class poem, "Parting" was written and read by Deloris Duncan Moore. Addresses were given by Judith Cephas Anderson, "From Whence Have We Come," Arnida Griffin Allen, "Where Are We Now?" and Emma Taylor Gatlin, "Whither Are We Bound?"

The memorial service was done by Bernice Brooks Griffin and Moses Martin. In memory of the 31 deceased members, they placed photos in a broken circle with one unity candle. The class motto is "This Far and Farther," but they were thrilled to hear a special report written by Marion Morse Wooten entitled "Seventy and Sedentary, By No Means!"

On Sunday, members attended worship service at Zion Baptist Church where the Rev. Dr. Andrew J. White, Sr. is pastor. They were blessed and inspired with a spiritual song, "Ordinary People" sung by classmate Rev. Dr. Vernon S. "Billy" Lee. After the service, they were able to fellowship and enjoy a delicious lunch at The Café at The Globe, which is owned by Paula Mims. The reunion was well attended and enjoyed by all classmates and guests.





## WHY CLASS REUNIONS MATTER SO MUCH

Iris S. Brown

Why attend your High School Reunion? Well, this is what Clarence Page suggested in the "Free Press" paper. "Facing a class reunion can be daunting enough to make a teetotaler crave a bracing cocktail. But fear not. It's worth the effort. For at least one sweet nostalgic night, you can revisit the best parts of high school without worrying about the silly stuff. High school is where we begin to shape into the adults we are about to become for the rest of our lives. Class reunions are, by comparison, low stress. We become history detectives; taking a fresh look at who we were and what we put up with before we reinvented ourselves into post-graduates. Reunions have a therapeutic value. They prove how right your parents were when they assured you, back in the throes of teen angst, that time heals all wounds—and wounds all heels."

"Bill Cosby used to say that it is not hard to recognize your classmates at a reunion because they all look like their parents used to look. After 45 or 50 years—try grandparents. It took some of us 20 years to work up enough nerve to show up at a class reunion. After 40 years, you're happy merely to see who is still alive and able to show up. Just a few words of advice if you're facing a class reunion. Resist the impulse to ask your fellow classmates, "Do you remember me?" This is particularly true if there is any chance that the other person doesn't remember you."

**See you in 2012 as the  
Class of 1962 Celebrates  
their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion.**



## DONATION TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Peabody High School Class of 1961 presented a check in the amount of \$300.00 to the Alumni Association, which is to be earmarked for the PHSNAA Scholarship Fund. Willis Brown presented the check to President Thelma Jefferson at the Annual Meeting, which was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Willis was joined by other class members: Oriette Walker Bellamy, Dorothy Lewis, Norma Bullock Turner, Delores Brown Skelton, and Lee Dugger.

President Jefferson was very appreciative of the donation and thanked the entire Class of 1961 for their interest in the scholarship fund.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

As an Outreach Project, the Peabody High School National Alumni Association, Inc. organized a donation of food items to send to U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Virginia Barbour and Harry Quarles served as co-chairs of this project. According to Virginia Barbour, "This project is geared toward recognizing the sacrifices that our troops make each and every day. Our troops are stationed in foreign, hostile countries risking life and limb to secure the freedom of all United States citizens."

The non-profit organization, Operation Stars and Strips, located in Marietta, GA recommended that we send some of the following items.

Energy and Power Bars	Power Aid Drinks	Gator Aid Drinks
Chewing Gum	Peanut Butter Crackers	Dried Energy Powder
Trail Mixes	Foiled Packs of Tuna	Foiled Packs/Ground Beef/Taco flavor
Playing Cards	Travel Games	Zip Lock Bags
Toothbrushes	Body Wash	Envelopes
Protein Powder	Peanuts/Almonds/Pistachio/Nuts	Boxed Popcorn
Dried Fruit (all kinds)	Cheese Crackers	Crystal Light Powder, etc.
Individual Boxes of Raisins	Hand Wipes in small packs	Band-Aids/Cotton Balls
Uno, Checkers, Dominoes	CD's/DVD's	Deodorant Toothpaste
Postage Stamps	Writing Tablets	

The project was a huge success. In addition to the food items donated, also received were monetary donations that assisted in covering the shipping costs to Marietta, GA. According to Barbour and Quarles, an abundance of items were received—enough to fill four boxes. The boxes were shipped the first week in November so that the troops will receive them by Christmas.



**Special  
thanks to  
everyone  
who  
contributed  
items  
and/or  
money to  
support this  
project.**



## CLASS PORTRAIT PRESENTED

The Class of 1968 has had their portrait completed and it can now be displayed on the walls of Peabody Middle School, along with other Peabody High School class portraits. The portrait was presented in October by Linda Buford to school principal, Dr. Yardley Farquharson. Six other members of that class were present to witness the presentation. Dr. Farquharson was thrilled to receive the portrait and assured the class that it will be hung in its proper place. Class President, Linda Buford, also indicated to President Jefferson that the class members of 1968 will become more active in the alumni association and offered her assistance in helping with the many long range plans.



Pictured: Patricia Pierce Crenshaw, Linda Buford, (2<sup>nd</sup> row) Linda Williams Smith, Dr. Yardley Farquharson, Stephanie Fitzgerald McNeil, Natalie Goode Hill, (3<sup>rd</sup> row) John Alexander, Louis Goodwyn

## PROPOSAL WRITERS NEEDED

President Jefferson and members of the Board of Directors, along with members of the Restoration Committee are working on the proposal that must be submitted to the City Council in support of the Association's desire to renovate the old Peabody building. In addition to the proposal detailing the specific uses for the building and specific details on how revenue will be generated to support the building, the Association must submit a detailed strategic plan of operation in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be submitted for approval. Assistance from the membership at-large is requested. If you have some expertise in proposal writing and suggestions and/or recommendations that will assist President Jefferson in completing this task, please contact her to share your knowledge. She can be reached by calling (804) 862-1192 or e-mail [thelma2033@comcast.net](mailto:thelma2033@comcast.net). Please know that this endeavor will require the suggestions and input from all alumni.





## FORMER PEABODY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ASPIRES IN BUSINESS

Retired Sgt. Major Jimmy Cunningham knows ambition when he sees it. Sgt. Major Cunningham, the manager and owner of the Sustainment Center of Excellence Cafeteria, which is located in the Scoe headquarters building at Fort Lee, met his entrepreneurial match in 16 year old Danyelle Parham, now a junior at Petersburg High School. Danyelle told Cunningham that she was an entrepreneur too, involved in her business called "Danny's Delights." He was impressed and struck by the young lady's self-assuredness and demeanor. Cunningham encouraged Danyelle to apply for a worker's permit and offered her a food service position at the cafeteria. With her mother's consent, she accepted the offer.

Cunningham, a conscientious businessman, has worked for sometime supporting the area's at risk youth. At Cunningham's place of business, Danyelle worked during the summer, making sandwiches and performing other food preparation tasks, and selling her own cookies and cupcakes. She said the opportunity provided her with some insights on how a business with other employees should be run, in comparison to a one-person shop.

Danyelle said she had a fruitful experience at the cafeteria, however, she clearly prefers calling the shots and passing out business cards with her name on them. With the experience of the cafeteria behind her, she hopes to pay her way through college, expand her business and look for new business opportunities.

## ALUMNI MEMORABILIA STILL AVAILABLE



As a fund-raising project, committee chair Russell Prude has made available, PHSNAA Jackets (\$36.00); Crew-neck Sweat Shirts (\$19.00); Zipper Hooded Sweatshirts (\$24.00); Long Sleeve Tee-Shirts (\$15.00); Hats (\$15.00); Coasters (\$15.00 set of 4); and Umbrellas (\$15.00). Add \$5.00 for sizes 2XL and larger. If you wish to purchase any one of the mentioned items, please send your information and check to PHSNAA Fundraising Committee, P.O. Box 972, Petersburg, VA 23804. Contact Russell at 861-1875 for additional information. If you desire to have your item(s) mailed, please remember that you must also add shipping and handling to your total.



**Peabody High School  
National Alumni Association, Inc.**

# CHRISTMAS GALA

**Friday, December 16, 2011**

**8:00 – 12:00 p.m.**



**Sunlight Elks Lodge  
Hopewell, VA**

**Music by: "KD Express"**

**DRESS TO IMPRESS**

**For Ticket Information, Call: (804) 733-2936**

**DONATION: \$20.00**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL ASSIST IN THE RESTORATION PROJECT.**



# WE NEED YOUR NEWS ARTICLES!



## *The Script Committee*

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*"Far away, there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow them."*  
Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888)

Peabody High School  
National Alumni Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 972  
Petersburg, VA 23804-0972

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## The Mighty Lions

"Reuniting/Renewing/Restoring/Rejoicing Peabody's Legacy"

