

Peabody High School National Alumni Association, Inc.

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THE SCRIPT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to All Association Members,

As I complete the first year of my two-year term as PHSNAA President, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments and pave the road as we continue to work toward the goals set forth for this Association. Each one of you have contributed in some way to our successes and I express to you my greatest thanks. Thank you officers for your expertise, hard work, concern, devotion and for just "backing me up." Thank you committee chairs – you deserve much credit for your untiring efforts. A special Thank You to the entire membership body for your participation in the different programs, showing your support, your encouraging words, and for making numerous contributions. All that you did helped to make the Association grow and helped to make it a successful year.

When I took office as President, I promised that I would do all that I could to keep the legacy of Peabody High School alive, because "I Believed in Myself," and I believed I could do the job. I have worked hard, along with the officers and other board members to strengthen this Association and to bring it to another level. Being a leader of any organization is a trying task. You take the praises when things are going well and you take the criticisms when they are not. However, serving as your President this past year has taught me to be patient, and in spite of adversity, to strive for the best. As I grew into this position, I continued to mature and I learned not to take it personal. As I continued to strengthen my professional skills, I learned by doing and improving upon what I had done in the past. Those that knew me before I became President know that I strive for excellence. Excellence demands that I better myself. In order to experience excellence, I must take action – careful – well planned action. There are no short-cuts. Therefore, it is now my planned goal to continue to bring growth and improvements to everything this Association is involved with.

During this past year, we have come one step closer to the placement of the Historical Marker in the city of Petersburg, we have submitted a proposal that will assist in the restoration of the old Peabody building and the structure of the Peabody High School Museum, we participated in the dedication of the Peabody Middle School Auditorium seats and other interior improvements, we submitted a creative design and Logo for the Peabody Middle School Digital Sign, we have participated in community functions to make the Association more visible and to solicit memberships, we submitted a plaque design and names of donors to the Restoration Project, that will be placed in PMS, we continue to publish the newsletter so that alumni will be kept abreast of what we are doing and how we are growing, we have been able to spark the interest of graduating classes as they represent themselves and show support by making donations to the Restoration Project, and we were able to increase our membership by 20% from the last year's total. Those accomplishments are just a few of what is yet ahead. However, the voice of experience tells me that no matter what heights we achieve there will still be more hills to climb; therefore, we can not rest on our victories. We must record those victories and go on to achieve better things.

Last year's accomplishments have been filed and we should now focus our attention toward the new challenges and tap into the opportunities for growth as we continue into the 2008-2009 year. This year will be a busy one if we expect to reach another rung in this ladder. I ask the cooperation of everyone. I further ask that you continue to be active, continue to attend the meetings, volunteer to serve on committees and/or the board, and keep your engines running as you assist to make all projects successful.

I want to set your minds at ease regarding one other important issue. During the first two months of my administration, I listed four short range goals and two long range goals that I believed could be accomplished during my two year tenure. We have accomplished five of those goals. The 501-C-3 is yet to be completed. It was an important factor before my administration and is now the most important issue set before us. Please know that this completed project will also be listed among our accomplishments very soon. In addition, I want to add one more goal for this administration for the 08-09 year, and that is to reinforce the relationship between PHSNAA and the Public School Administration. School Administrators need to be better informed and more involved in our Association so that they can offer their support and encouragement to us as we strive to reach our goals.

Thank you for a good and productive year in 2007-08, and I look forward to an even better year for 2008-09.

Best regards,

Thelma M. Jefferson

