



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**More Than
A Decade of
Accomplishment**

Sep. 1997 to Aug. 2009

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 1997 - 2009

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Incorporated in the State of New Jersey as a non-for-profit corporation.
- Received approval from the Internal Revenue Service to operate as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- Established an office at Weequahic High School.
- Hired our first *Executive Director* to manage our alumni affairs.
- Set up a *Board of Trustees* that meets on a monthly basis.
- Held our 1st *Board of Trustees Retreat* to review our successes and to identify areas in need of improvement.

FINANCIAL/ FUND RAISING:

- Received \$75,000 from the *Jaqua Foundation* (1956 graduate Eli Hoffman is President) for marching band uniforms and instruments and additional grants for scholarships.
- Received a nine-year grant from the *Chancellor Foundation* (1965 graduate Steve Dinetz is President) to fund the administration of the alumni association.
- Generated more than \$50,000 in memberships and merchandise in 2007.
- Raised nearly \$400,000 in scholarship funds.
- Raised more than \$120,000 from the Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner hosted by Alvin Attles in September 2006.
- Raised more than \$50,000 for the *Les and Ceil Fein Endowment Fund*.
- Raised \$25,000 from the *American Gangster NJ Movie Preview and Scholarship Fund Raising Event*.
- Raised \$15,000 from the *Heart of Stone* film screening at the South Orange Performing Arts Center.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Increased our mailing list to nearly 7,500 - representing alumni and faculty throughout the United States and in 12 other countries.
- Increased our membership base to more than 1,300 and established various levels of membership.
- Increased web site registration to over 2,800.

SCHOLARSHIPS / SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FUNDS:

- Established 17 scholarship funds and four endowment funds.
- Awarded 216 first-year college scholarships totaling \$237,000 and 78 second, third and fourth year scholarships totaling \$76,000.00.
- Selected legendary basketball coach *Les Fein* (now deceased) as the honorary chair of our Scholarship Committee.
- Established the *Ron Stone Endowment Fund* in memory of Weequahic's Principal who passed away in November 2007.

NEWSLETTER:

- Published twenty-nine issues of our 20-page popular *Alumni Calumet* newsletters which is sent out on a quarterly basis to members of the alumni association. The newsletter consists of articles, letters, current high school information, photographs and trivia about the past and presence - representing 75 years of Weequahic history.

WEB SITE:

- Developed an interactive web site at weequahicalumni.org where more than 2,800 alumni have registered. The web site has a home page bulletin board, school history, Alumni Profiles, a photo gallery, a forum for on-line conversation, In Loving Memory profiles, high school news, samples of alumni articles and newsletters, reunions and events information, and an alumni store to purchase merchandise, memberships, and to make scholarship contributions.

STUDENT/SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Through a \$75,000 grant from the *Jaqua Foundation*, new marching band uniforms and musical instruments were purchased.
- Through a \$5,000 gift from former NJ Net's basketball star *Jayson Williams*, new uniforms for the boys basketball team were purchased.
- Raised more than \$23,000 to send 13 French class students, their teacher, and three chaperones to Paris France in late March 2005. Raised more than \$30,000 for a 2nd trip in March 2007.

- Sponsored *Career Day* events at the high school using Weequahic alumni.
- Provided funds for the girl's and boy's basketball teams and members of the football team to attend sports camps and/or participate in leagues in the summer and Fall.
- Contributed towards the support of the marching band's trip to Florida for their annual band competition.
- Contributed to the school's *Thanksgiving Food Drive*.
- Provide funds for a reception for parents and graduates following the 2004 graduation ceremony.
- Provided funds for a celebratory meal for successful sports teams.
- Provided funds and merchandise for a meeting between the Student Councils of Weequahic and Columbia high schools.
- Provided funds for a ski trip for students who passed the HESPA test.
- Purchased books for the Library - some written by Weequahic alumni.
- Provided lunches for the *Building Communities Through Conversation Group*.
- Provided hats, shirts and sweatshirts to students at no cost.
- Cosponsored a school essay contest on the value of education.
- Sponsored annual African-American History Month events at the high school: *Judge Carl Stewart (5th U.S. Circuit Court); Jason Williams (former pro basketball player for the NJ Nets); Rabbi Israel Dresner (local rabbi who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.); Rev. Ralph Lord Roy (minister who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.); Teresa Witherspoon (basketball player for the NY Liberty); Dr. Clement Price (history professor at Rutgers Newark); Sharpe James (Mayor of Newark); Emmanuel & Pauline Dongala from the Republic of the Congo; Hal Braff & Raz Baraka, 50th anniversary of Brown vs. The Board of Education.*
- Sponsored a trip to NYC to see Laurence Fishburne's one-man performance of Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall.
- Conducted tours of the Weequahic High School facility with members from the Newark Public School's Superintendent Office and members of the Newark Board of Education to identify areas that were in need of urgent attention.
- Conducted tours of the high school for alumni reunion groups.
- Provided assistance to the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest for their exhibit: *Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark's Legendary Neighborhood.*

- Rented four large TV screens and video equipment to broadcast the *President Obama's* inauguration to students and staff at the high school.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES:

- Sponsored 6 all-classes alumni receptions at *The Newark Public Library, the Robert Treat Hotel, the Newark Museum (twice), Rutgers Law School, and Congregation Oheb Shalom.*
- Sponsored 10 *Homecoming* events at the high school.
- Cosponsored a *West Coast Reunion* in Los Angeles, California which was attended by 200 individuals.
- Organized the *2002 Alumni Celebration* at Congregation Oheb Shalom which was attended by 600 people.
- Organized the *Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner* hosted by Alvin Attles at the Robert Treat Hotel in 2006 which was attended by more than 600 persons.
- Organized the *Coach Les Fein Memorial Tribute* at the Jewish Community Center in West Orange which was attended by nearly 200 people to honor the memory of Weequahic's legendary basketball coach and to launch *The Les and Ceil Fein Endowment Fund.*
- Organized the *American Gangster NJ Movie Preview and Scholarship Fund Raising Event.* The movie was based on the experience of Richard Roberts, a 1956 Weequahic graduate.
- Honored alumni and faculty for their outstanding career achievements: *Al Attles, 1955, Les Fein, Sid Dorfman, 1937, Principal Benjamin Epstein, Loraine White, 1964, and Bert Manhoff, 1938.*
- Organized a dinner celebrating the *10th Anniversary* of the Alumni Association.
- Organized a *Diamond Jubilee* event, celebrating the high school's 75th anniversary.
- Created an *Alumni Hall of Fame* and inducted 12 individuals into the first class.
- Cosponsored a *2nd West Coast Reunion* in San Diego, California which was attended by 150 individuals.
- Participated in the making of the award-winning documentary film, *Heart of Stone*, about Weequahic High School past and present, its successful alumni association, its dynamic leader, Principal Ron Stone, and the challenges of urban high school life.
- Organized two showings of the *Heart of Stone* documentary at the South Orange Performing Arts Center which was attended by 830 people.