

June 20, 2026

Alumni President Michael Ames welcomed all to the 129th annual Alumni Banquet, thanking the committee members, the Supt. and Principals for organizing the banquet. He gave a special shoutout to Norma Ralph who, he said, "is the glue that holds it all together."

After the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation offered by Pres. Ames, he welcomed the Senior Class and their class advisor, Dawn Handy, as they processed in. There was a total of 150 in attendance, of which 79 were Alumni and 18 were seniors.

All then enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Kayla Wolfert and her staff.

Reed Ference, Class of 1976, was introduced by Pres. Ames. Reed worked for 35 years as a periodontal dentist in Albany. He recalled growing up in Worcester where his parents ran the grocery store next to the bank and how the town helped look after him. At age 3 his mother would help him cross the street to the old Post Office (now the Historical building) and he would ride on his tricycle past all the stores as the owners and townspeople watched over him. Then Emma Bingham (from the funeral home) would cross him back to the other side and he would ride back to the store. He said he learned about running a business by working in the store from age 8. Reed stressed the importance of family, the benefit of small classes at WCS and the trust of the teachers. His message to the seniors was to never forget you are from Worcester. It takes a village to raise a child.

President Ames opened the business meeting with a moment of silence for those we have lost this last year and for the members of the armed services. Senior class President, Abigail Pasqualino, then introduced each of the seniors individually. Motion was made, seconded and carried to vote the Class of 2026 into the Alumni Association.

Secretary's notes from 2025 were read. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the secretary's report. Sidney Chase then gave the treasurer's report. He said the investments at FAM Funds for the A.B. Doig Memorial had done so well that the Committee was raising the annual award from \$1,000 to \$2,000 starting this year. Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Linda Karker gave the Generation Report of this year's seniors. Second generation were Grayson Basso and Abigail Pasqualino; 3rd generation- William Martin, Lucas Warren and Olivia Moore; 4th Brandon Eager; 5th Michael Head and Liam Serdy. Her final words to the seniors were, "In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

Norma Ralph did the roll call of classes. Gifts were given to 50 year, 60 year, 65, 70 and 75 year graduates. Oldest alumna present was Marilyn Wright Dufresne, class of 1949, 77 years.

Shirley Holloway Wright, Class of 1955, read the criteria for the awards. She presented the A.B. Doig award of \$2,000 to Grayson Basso. Sidney Chase presented the Alumni Award of \$600 to Matthew Sanders. Jeanette Bozanic Boxill, Class of 1956, gave a short history of her family of 12 children, all of whom graduated from WCS. After her mother died in childbirth, teachers and people in town became very important in helping raise the family. She reiterated what Reed Ference spoke about – the dedication of the teachers at WCS and that people in a small community help when needed. The Bazonic award of \$500 was presented to Alena Hahn.

Following the Benediction by President Ames and the singing of the Alma Mater, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Preston, acting Sec.