

Worcester Central School Alumni Minutes 2019

The 123rd Worcester Central School Alumni Banquet was held on Saturday, June 29, 2019 in the WCS Cafenadium with 197 alumni and guests present. Decorations of floating carnations were placed on the tables by the alumni association. Kelly McLaughlin Reed Class of 1981, and Mary Ann Verity Holmes, Class of 1961, served punch during the social hour.

President Anita DuBois Cleveland, Class of 1986, introduced the alumni officers and administration attending: Superintendent Timothy Gonzalez, Secondary Principal Kimberlea Curran, and Elementary Principal Jessie Westfall. She also recognized Mr. Ed Shults for his many years of dedication to Worcester Central. She welcomed guests and the class of 2019 to the banquet. There were alumni from New York State and 8 other states attending the banquet.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all attending and President Cleveland gave the invocation. Dinner was catered and served by Chef Joe Calleja and the WCS staff.

President Cleveland and members of her family entertained us with musical selections after dinner. Her father, retired WCS music teacher P. Elliot DuBois, and mother Pat, sang along for their last song and received a standing ovation. President Anita made mention that after the recent renovation of the school auditorium, it was dedicated to P. Elliot DuBois.

Norma Alexander Ralph, Class of 1956, introduced our guest speaker, Ron Van Buren, Class of 1964. He was celebrating his 55th alumni reunion, taking us down memory lane for "The Life and Times of at Worcester School Boy". He went to school in East Worcester in September of 1952. He spoke of escapades in the classroom, and how the teachers were very strict, but this taught him respect. Teacher Mrs. Babcock allowed him to help the younger students in class with their reading and arithmetic. He mentioned teacher Mrs. Bellinger, school nurse Erva Rock, music teacher Mildred Whitcomb and Mrs. Houghton. There were no field trips back in the day, but many local events, including minstrel shows. He said that back in the day the Smith Jersey Dairy sold milk for 2 cents. He noted that the 2002 Worcester Schools History book has the old school district boundaries listed, and this can be found at the local Historical Society.

When there were only 10 students left in the East Worcester School, they transferred everyone to Worcester, so Ron rode bus #16 with driver Bill Mattice, straight through graduation, which was June 22, 1964. In March 1986 Ron became Class the head custodian at WCS, and was hired by then Superintendent Lawrence Bobnick,

Class of 1959. As a supervisor he had nothing but praise for the workers under him. The administrators and faculty of the school felt like family to him.

Ron said his biggest reward was the students as he knew all of them by name, and he knew where they all lived. 971 students graduated while he worked at the school. In 1999 the students dedicated the yearbook to him. In 2008 he retired and was again recognized by the senior class in the yearbook. He noted that he had spent practically his whole life in the school system, and for that he felt he was a lucky man.

Addressing the current seniors, Ron asked them to have respect for others and then you can accomplish anything.

President Cleveland called the business meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence for members of the alumni and military who have fought for our country. She asked for any new business, and there was none.

Naomi Scott, class president, introduced her classmates and class advisors, Dawn Handy and Shelby Casola. A motion was made and seconded to accept the class of 2019 into the alumni association. Gifts of WCS note paper were given to each senior in attendance from the alumni association.

The secretaries and treasurers' reports were read and accepted as presented.

Vice President Linda Karker read 2nd 3rd and 4th year generation of graduates from WCS:

2nd Generation:

Joshua Wayman and his mother Sherri Shafer Murphey, Class of 1989.

3rd Generation:

Lyla Banhart and her parents, Kristen Rundblad Banhart, Class of 2000, Anthony Banhart, class of 1999, and her grandparents Anne Dedek Hren, class of 1946, and Anthony Hren, class of 1942.

Trevor Fancher and his mother, Heather Hunt Fancher, class of 1990, his father, Steven Fancher, class of 1988, his grandmother Shirley France Fancher, class of 1945, and his grandfather Ron Hunt, class of 1949.

Matthew Ferris and his mother Rhonda Hunt Ferris, class of 1989, and his grandfather Ron Hunt, class of 1949.

Brianna Rock and her father, Brian Rock, class of 1988, and her grandfather Arnold Rock, class of 1953.

Victoria Spina and her mother Joanne Millias Spina, class of 1989, her father Joel Spina, class of 1988, and her grandmother Teresa Cicchini Millias, class of 1964, and her grandfather David Millias, class of 1960.

4th Generation:

Max German and Sam German with their mom Yvonne Morrell German, class of 1986, their grandparents, Linda Dettling Morrell, class of 1965, and Ken Morrell, class of 1962, and their great grandfather Curtis Dettling, East Worcester class of 1933.

Corresponding secretary Norma Alexander Ralph gave the roll call of classes. Many of the anniversary class members received gifts of tote bags with the WCS Alumni logo on them. The anniversary classes were as follows:

10 years, Class of 2009, Jordon Beverland Egelston, and David DuBois

30 years, class of 1989, Rhonda Hunt Ferris, Christine Gartung Hanus, Joanne Millias Spina, and Sherri Shafer Murphy.

35 years, class of 1984, Elaina Toriello Scozzari, Anne Rooney Rode, Jim Wright, Ed Kersmanc, and Ellen Dayan

40 years, class of 1979, Peter Capozzola.

50 years, class of 1969, Tom Head, Kim Weidman, Karen Mereness Curlis, Steve VanDyke, Tom Willenbacher, Alfred Hill, and Warren Robinson.

55 years, class of 1964, Janet Blair Carpenter, Ron VanBuren, Teresa Cicchini Millias, and Vickie Miller Sawyer-Bello.

60 years, class of 1959, Evie Makely Lane, Lawrence Bobnick, Ronald Head, and Alta Sperbeck Fairchild-Sutton.

61 years, class of 1958, Judy O'Connor Amitrano, Hazel Conklin Jenkins, Jean TenEyck Patton, and Patricia Milavec Golding.

63 years, class of 1956, John Kerin, Margaret Conklin Herrala, Sharon Graham Storms, Norma Alexander Ralph, Art Gell, and Jeanette Bozanic Boxill.

64 years, class of 1955, Gynger Skinner O'Connor, Shirley Holloway Wright, and Donna Hilsinger Nagle.

65 years, class of 1954, Dan Twomey, Bob Lane, Richard Wright, and Charles Dufresne.

66 years, class of 1953, Arnold Rock and Charles Golding.

68 years, class of 1951, Catherine Milavec Rooney and Mary Ann Wilcox Ehrmann.

70 years, class of 1941, John Howland and Marilyn Wright Dufresne.

The oldest graduating class was 74 years, class of 1945, Ellen Moak Leverett and Vera Bozanic Peters.

President Cleveland recognized past and present teachers and support staff in attendance at the banquet.

The 49th A.B. and Gladys Doig Memorial Award was presented by Shirley Holloway Wright, class of 1955, and given to Virginia Squires. The WCS Alumni Award was presented by Richard Wright, class of 1954, and given to Naomi Scott.

Representing the nominating committee, Evelyn Usalatz Preston, class of 1966, stated that all current officers would stay on another year, except Kelly McLaughlin Reed. Sadie Kassinger Ostrander, class of 2002, was nominated for corresponding secretary. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers.

Add new members of

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the business meeting of the banquet.

President Cleveland addressed the seniors with closing remarks. She thanked the maintenance staff for setting up for the banquet, her family, the tour guides, officers of the alumni committee and the cafeteria staff for preparing the food.

The program concluded with the benediction by President Cleveland, and the singing of the WCS Alma Mater.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McLaughlin Reed, Class of 1981