West High Alumni Occident

www.westhighalumni.com

A quarterly publication of the West High School Alumni Association

A Tradition For Tomorrow

Winter 2025 **Number 131**

Congratulations!
2025 Hall of Fame Honorees

John Morlan '65, Moses Carreker '72, Dr. Douglas S. Lowery '76, and Robert W. Coles III '65

Our Hall of Fame Ceremony was held on September 14, 2025, at the West High School library. I am always so impressed with the accomplishments of our alumni. The ceremony opened with an invocation by **David Dobos '73** and then we had a few remarks by Vice President **Stacy Neff Campbell '78**.

Do you happen to know which of our newest honorees was on a professional baseball team? Do you know who has been playing the double bass in orchestras across seven decades? Do you know who retired from the Columbus Ohio Division of Fire as a Deputy Chief of Special Operations? Do you know who was named National Principal of the Year?

Read the biographies of these incredible alumni in this issue of the newsletter. **Sara McPeek Sampson '69** chaired the Hall of Fame committee.

West High School Alumni Association
P.O. Box 28056, Columbus, OH 43228
www.westhighalumni.com

Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President
Dan Martin '72, (614) 580-5519, danamart5@aol.com

Vice-President
Stacy Neff Campbell '78, (614) 580-3584, stacyberndsen12@gmail.com

Secretary
Georgia Martin Ward '70, (614) 203-4068, Georgiamward@gmail.com

Treasurer
Mike Miller '70, (614)832-6316, mrmerm52@gmail.com

Concessions	Eli Bowen'74
	Rosalie Martin Williams '72*
Communications/Social Media	Larry Titus '85
December Luncheon	Stacy Neff Campbell '78
Florida Reunion	Joe Castorino '67
Fundraising Events	Wanda Estepp Ross '73
	Joseph Hoye '99*
Golf Outing	Georgia Martin Ward '70
Hall of Fame	Sara McPeek Sampson '69
	Ellen Nasner '68*
Newsletter	Nancy Lloyd Laver '79
Membership/Nominating	Greg Large '70
	Randall Horn '07*
Scholarships	Chuck Patterson '83
Summer Potluck	Randall Horn '07
	Joseph Hoye '99*
Website	Greg Large '70
Yearbooks	Dorance Nichols Hornsby '63

Members at Large denoted with *

Past Presidents

2021-22 Vida Fulton Williams '73	2005 Paul Pennell '57
2018-21 Dave Dobos '73	2002-04 Nancy Hardy Smith '50
2017 Susie Katon Ward '70	2001 Donna Spring Falter '49 Jan
2016 Paul Pennell '57	2000 Richard Borror '48
2015 Bill Pabst '56	1996-99 Ed Schmidt '45
2013-14 Dorance Nichols Hornsby '63	1995 Gus Cross '47
2011-12 Baileen Gary Dodd '48	1994 Dick Weber '43
2009-10 Susie Katon Ward '70	1993 Connie Vanderburg Murphy '70
2007-08 Robin Schmidt '49 Jan	1992 Dean Potts Jan '59
2006 Ed Sensenbrenner '50 Jan	

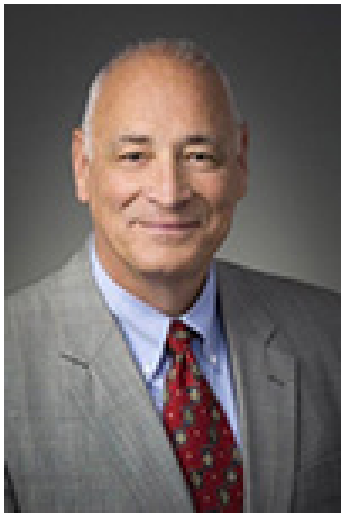
Newsletter Editor
Nancy Lloyd Laver '79
6238 Borror Rd.
Grove City, OH 43123
nancylaver@icloud.com
(614) 570-0018

West High School Alumni
A Tradition For Tomorrow

Deadline for Submitting Articles to the Occident
To be printed in the West High Alumni Occident, all articles and suggestions for articles must be submitted to the editor by the following dates:
November 20th - February 20th - May 20th - August 20th

President's Message

Dan Martin '72



I would like to update the association on the General Meetings that were held at York Steak House to nominate board members and officers on October 16, 2025, and then the election on November 20, 2025. The board remains about the same with a few changes. I would like to thank our departing Chairperson of the Summer Picnic, **Nikol Madison Owens '97** and her family for all of their dedication over the past several years. New additions to the 2025 WHSAA Board are: **Ellen Nasner '68** and **Joseph Hoye '99**. The elected WHSAA board and officers are posted on this page.

I would like to introduce: **Ellen Nasner - class of 1968**. She was born and raised on the West side of Columbus. She attended West Mound Elementary, West Broad Elementary, Westmoor Junior High and then West High. Her fondest memories at West were Drivers Ed with Mr. Young, and her biology teacher who told everyone at the beginning of every class to open the window and throw all of your "I can't" out the window, because you can! She loved study hall on the balcony. Orchestra was another love as she played viola in her sophomore year. That was a year that the WHS orchestra was awarded first place in the Statewide Competition. She really cherished and loved her classmates the most as some have become lifelong friends. Sincerity is what has been a guiding light for her all of these years because it is the cornerstone of authenticity and she places a high value on that. Authentic friends, authentic values, authentic work, and authentic faith. Education has been important to her life. She received an Associate degree from Columbus Technical Institute, a Bachelor's degree from Ohio University and a Master's of Theology from Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. She worked for United Way of Central Ohio and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh for over ten years. For 21 years she worked for the State of Ohio and in the last four agencies she held leadership training positions. Her hope is to contribute to the Alumni Association based on her experience and serve her classmates with sincerity, honor, and wisdom. Go Cowboys!

Monthly Alumni Gathering - Did you know that a group of WHSAA classmates gather the second Friday of each month, for lunch at the Hilliard, Olive Garden? This is a well-attended event for all alumni from all classes of West High School to gather for conversation, meet old friends and find new ones. Everyone enjoys a great lunch as we reminisce about the "Good Old Days" at West and we share news of activities in support of the students, staff,

Continued on page 11

Reservation Form

Florida Mid-Winter All-Class Reunion

March 14, 2026

33rd Year!

Reservation Deadline
March 7 , 2026

No refunds after March 1, 2026.

All alumni, spouses, and friends are invited.

Anyone who comes for the very first time gets in for FREE!

Same price as last year for the all you can eat buffet!

WHEN: ***Saturday, March 14, 2026 • 11:00 am - 2:00 pm***

WHERE: ***Sarasota, Florida***

Der Dutchman, 3713 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, Florida 34232. (941) 955-8007

Saturday Luncheon Buffet at the Der Dutchman.

Doors open at 11:00 am with lunch at 12:00 noon.

Cost is $24.00 each. Fun and Prizes until 2:00 pm

Bring your WHS and Hilltop Memorabilia to share!

Chairs: Joe Castorino '67 and Tom Ramage '67

Questions? Contact Joe Castorino '67 at 352-683-5135

e-mail: joecastorino@earthlink.net

Clip along dotted line and return form along with your check

Number Attending

2026 Mid-Winter All-Class Reunion Reservations

Luncheon - number attending @ $24.00 each

Saturday _____ X $24.00 each = _____ Total enclosed ---> $

Make check out to:
West High Alumni Association

Mail check to:
West High Alumni Association
P.O. Box 28056
Columbus, OH 43228

List any additional names included in your registration.

_____

_____

_____

PRINT LEGIBLY Year Graduated _____ January or June _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

PRINT LEGIBLY Year Graduated _____ January or June _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email

Moses Carreker, 1972

Moses Carreker, Class of 1972, has distinguished himself as a musician, educator, and marathon runner. His most significant contributions and achievements have occurred in instrumental music, where his study and career currently span over seven different decades.

On October 18,1952, Moses Lawrence Carreker was born at OSU Hospital, the oldest of three sons, who include Ray (1973), and Mark (1978). Shortly afterward, his parents (his father was a World War II veteran) moved to a farm near Marysville. Although Moses began elementary school at Fornof Elementary, in the Marion-Franklin HS area, the family settled at 380 Midland Avenue in the Hilltop in December of 1959. He attended Highland ES for a year and a half before a redistricting required him to transfer to West Mound ES. From there, he attended Hilltonia Junior High School before enrolling at West High School in the fall of 1969.

At Hilltonia, he responded to an announcement inviting students interested in participating in the band to see William Stewart, the instrumental music teacher there. Moses introduced himself saying that he wanted to learn to play the double bass. Mr. Stewart told him that, if he was serious about learning to play well, he needed to contact Carl Fulton, a Westside bass player (and football coach). Moses did so and his learning quickly accelerated. During his junior high years, he auditioned for and played in the Columbus Cadet Orchestra, the junior high developmental orchestra affiliated with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. He was also selected to the Columbus All-City Junior High School Orchestra that performed as part of the Columbus Public Schools Music Festival.

By high school, Moses was absolutely hooked on music. West HS instrumental music teacher, Jim Hill, quickly recognized Moses' talent, passion, and work ethic and made sure that he participated in every performance group possible at West. Moses played the double bass in the orchestra, tuba in the marching band and wind ensemble, and bass guitar in the dance band throughout high school. He was selected to the All-City Orchestra twice and auditioned for and performed with the Columbus Youth Symphony, which was comprised of many of the best high school musicians in Central Ohio. He rose to the Assistant Principal Chair in the Youth Symphony.

When it came time for college, although his natural curiosity and aptitude for how things work might have inclined him to gravitate toward engineering, Moses' choice of field of study boiled down to his passion to make music. So, he majored in Music Education, with instrumental music area expertise, at The Ohio State University. While there, he played in the OSU Symphony and Concert Band. Perhaps his most memorable performance experiences occurred during his five years in the OSU Marching Band, indeed the finest collegiate marching ensemble in the nation, where he played the tuba. Moses dotted the "I" in Script Ohio three times, once in a game against Michigan State, once against Indiana, and once in the first ever double Script Ohio at a Homecoming game. The two tuba players who dotted the "I" in that first double Script Ohio were **Moses and Aaron Jackson, West Class of 1972** (inducted into the West HS Alumni Hall of Fame last year, 2024).

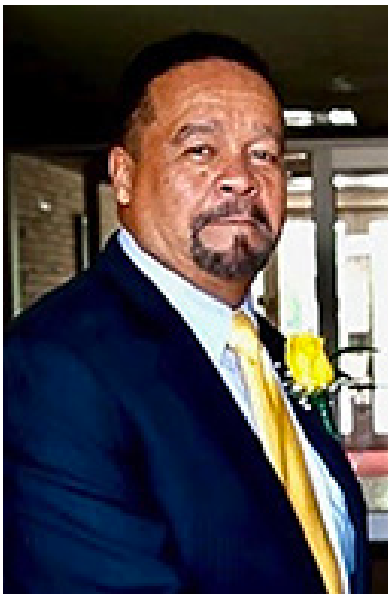
At Ohio State, Moses studied the double bass with Theron McClure. Upon completing his BME (Bachelor of Music Education), he continued his education, pursuing and earning a Master of Arts in double bass performance, where he also studied music theory and orchestration extensively. His graduate faculty instrumental instructor was Paul Robinson. Throughout his collegiate studies, he worked to finance his education at such west side employers as Sears Distribution and United Parcel Service.

Moses was hired as the instrumental music teacher at Champion Junior High School. During his second year there, he auditioned for a third time and was selected to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for 16 years. He soon left teaching to concentrate on his responsibilities with the Symphony. Over time, his reputation grew, and his talents came into greater demand. Several regional orchestras contracted him for his services. Currently, he plays in five area symphonies, all of which he has performed with for over twenty years. They include the Springfield Symphony (started in 1986), the Lancaster Festival Orchestra (1988), the Mansfield Symphony (1997), the Lima Symphony (1999), and the Ashland Symphony (2001). In addition, he has spent time with Opera Columbus, the Licking County Symphony, the Newark-Granville Symphony, the Muskingum Symphony, the Knox County Symphony, the Westerville Symphony, and the Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra.

Moses has had the opportunity to study under and/or meet three of the foremost names in instrumental music direction. He spent time learning conducting from Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony. He has taken Tilson Thomas' philosophy to heart: "It's not the age of the conductor that matters; it's what he can do." He also met with Eugene Or-

Continued on page 6

Robert Coles III, 1965



Robert Coles III moved with his parents, Stella and Robert Coles, Jr., to South Wayne School, prior to graduating from West High School in 1965. Also, graduating from West was his sister, **Juliet, Class of 1959**; his brother **Llewellyn, "Lew", Class of 1963**; and his sister **Caroline, "Buttons", Class of 1970**. His youngest sister, Deborah, "Debbie" graduated from Central High School.

After graduation, Robert worked at Westinghouse Electric Corporation until 1967, when he joined the United States Army. He served in the Vietnam War: 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Calvary, 9th Infantry Division from 1967-1968. Upon leaving the Army, he returned to Westinghouse Electric Corporation where he worked until 1975. At that time, he became a member of the first recruit class of the Columbus Ohio Division of Fire following the Dozier v Chupka racial discrimination case ruling. He ranked number one on the minority list and number four on the combined list. The members of the recruit class elected him class spokesman.

Following his recruitment class, Robert was assigned to Engine 25 (Port Columbus), 3 Unit for two years. He was then assigned as a Firefighter to Engine 9 (West 3rd Ave.), 3 Unit for three years followed by being assigned as a Firefighter to Engine 17, 3 Unit, for five years. As a Firefighter, he obtained EMT-Basic and Technical Rescue Certifications. He was then assigned as a Lieutenant to Engine 17, 3 Unit for six years. For two years, Robert was a Fire Station Captain at Station 31, E- 2 Unit. He was a Fire Station Captain at Station 8, Ladder 8, 1 Unit for 3 years. During early 1999, he was an Unassigned Battalion Chief in the Emergency Services Bureau. From 1999-2002, Robert was Battalion Chief in the Fire Prevention Bureau, as well as Assistant Bureau Head. For two years, 2002-2003, he was Deputy Chief of EMS Training. As a Deputy Chief, Robert served as the EMS Billing Project Manager and Contract Manager from 2003 through 2007. He served on the Entry Level Firefighter Hiring Committee and the Uniformed Personnel Promotional Testing Committee as Chief Pettus' representative concerning diversity. He also chaired the Fire Chief's Gala Committee for Fire Chief Ned Pettus, Jr.'s appointment and reappointment celebrations. He served as an Accreditation Manager for the division's successful initial international accreditation and reaccreditation projects for eight years.

At the time of his retirement on April 19, 2011, Robert was Deputy Chief of Special Operations, which managed the Emergency Medical Services, the Technical Rescue Program, the Bomb Squad, the Hazmat Unit, the Tactical EMS Unit, and the Dive and Rescue Team. He had been in this position since 2005.

Robert has held memberships in the: International Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA), Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, Inc., International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF), and the Columbus African American Firefighters Association (CAFFA). In this organization, he served as the CAFFA 1st Vice-President from 1992-1994. During this time period, he won a racial discrimination complaint filed with the State of Ohio Attorney General's Office against the Columbus Fire Chief for routinely wrongfully denying special duty leave requests from CAAFA members who had requested the leave to attend regional and national IABPFF conferences. The Fire Chief had made the claim that attending the conferences was only a benefit to the individual, not the Division; despite the fact that classes on fire ground strategy and tactics, leadership, fire science, etc. are being incorporated in the conferences. At the same time, the Fire Chief had routinely granted special duty leave for division personnel to attend similarly structured conferences held by the IAFF, IFCA, NFPA, etc. Robert was also a member of the Cross and Shield organization, which was active prior to 1975 (when he became a firefighter) and for a short time afterwards. It was a predecessor organization to CAFFA and Police Officers for Equal Rights.

Robert has received several awards during his career as a Firefighter. In 2002, he received the CFD Distinguished Service Award for intervening on a suicide attempt and in 2007 he received the CFD Fire Chief's Award for managing the Fire Division Accreditation, as well as the City Council Resolution for managing Fire Division Accreditation. In 2024 he received the CFD Award of Excellence for his contribution made to the compilation and publication of the Columbus Division of Fire 200 Year History Book.

In addition, Robert earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration in 1996, graduating, Summa Cum Laude. In 2002, he completed the Leadership Columbus Program, "which is a dynamic, experiential journey that equips people to lead from where they are, turning passion and knowledge into real-world impact where it matters most". In 2011, he attended Columbus State Community College where he received his Paralegal Certificate.

Continued on page 6

Douglas Lowery, 1976

Douglas Lowery was born on June 19, 1958, at the Old White Cross Hospital in Columbus, Ohio to proud parents, Aaron and Gladys Lowery. He was raised in the tight-knit community of Georgian Heights on Atlanta Drive, where his early years were shaped by involvement in Eagle Scout Troop 410 (1973), Westgate Hawks Football traveling team (1970 – 1976), and the supportive environment of the Glenwood United Methodist Youth Group (1970 – 1976) and Church.

Doug attended Georgian Heights Elementary, Wedgewood Junior High, and graduated from West High School where he distinguished himself as a student leader and athlete – captaining the Cross Country team, running track, and serving as both Junior Class President and Senior Class President of the Bicentennial Class of 1976.

After high school, he enrolled at Ohio Dominican College, earning a Bachelor of Science in Education in just three years (1979). His teaching career began in 1979 at St. Stevens the Martyr School on Clime Road. This was followed by a move to Madison Plains, where he taught, coached football, and began his journey in educational leadership. He earned his Principal Certificate and started as an Assistant Principal at Madison Plains Middle School and remained there for several years. He continued his education by receiving his Master's Degree from the University of Dayton in 1982, followed by his PhD in 2014 from Atlantic University.

Dr. Lowery went on to serve as an Assistant Principal with the Hilliard City School District, dedicating 24 impactful years to the district. His leadership was widely recognized, earning him numerous honors including Ohio Principal of the Year in 2003, National Principal of the Year in 2004, and being named Best Principal in the Nation by *Reader's Digest*, *USA Today*, and *The New York Times* in 2005.

In 2003, Doug took on the role of Superintendent at the Ohio School for the Deaf. In the course of over five years, he helped transform the institution into one of the largest of its kind in the country.

Fulfilling a long-held dream, Dr. Lowery returned to the district that gave him his start. For the past five years, he has proudly served as the Principal of Columbus International High School, continuing his lifelong mission to empower students through education.

Dr. Lowery credits his success to the foundational values of hard work, faith, and strong family instilled in him by his parents. He is the proud brother of **Diane Lowery Offenberger, Class of 1979**. He is married to Kathy Van Fossen, and together they have two children, Ellie and Ean Lowery, of whom they are immensely proud.

Diane Lowery Offenberger (sister), Class of 1979, nominated Doug.

Moses Carreker *continued*

mandy, the quintessential conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and Count (William James) Basie, the legendary jazz pianist, band leader, and composer. Moses has great interest in orchestration, composition, and conducting, as well as learning the scores of great classical works on a routine basis. His favorite classical composer is Johannes Brahms, whose complex, detailed, rich, lush, melodic musical works are concert favorites all over the world.

His second pursuit, outside of music, is distance running. In 1996, at the age of 43, he started running long distances. He completed his first marathon at age 49. Including that first, he has finished 11 Columbus Marathons and one United States Air Force Marathon. He has broken 4 hours (approximately 9 minutes per mile pace) several times, finishing his last marathon at age 60. It is not uncommon to see him completing a 10-mile run along West Broad Street.

Even at 72, Moses continues to perform, study, and run. True to the Tilson Thomas' adage, he continuously seeks to improve himself, realizing that he has much yet to learn and contribute.

Dave Dobos, Class of 1973, nominated Moses.

Robert Coles III *continued*

As for his family, Robert's three children are all West High School graduates. His daughter, **Tiffany**, graduated in **1988**; his son, **Robert IV** in **1990**; and his daughter, **Tonya**, in **1993**. Their mother, the late **Pamela Good Coles**, also graduated from West in **1964**.

He and **Linda Williams Coles, West Class of 1970**, have been married for 27 years. Both are retirees. Linda retired from AT&T and Robert from Columbus Ohio Division of Fire. They have delivered a "Meal on Wheels" route on Mondays for the last nine years. In addition, Robert served as a Board Chair of the Jacob J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center from 2006 to 2011. Robert and Linda enjoy traveling, especially to their annual winter vacations in Jamaica.

Earl "Wimpy" Potts (deceased), Class of 1951, nominated Robert. Deborah Coles Stinson, Robert's sister, will introduce him.

John Morlan, 1965

John Morlan grew up on the west side of Columbus and attended Dana Avenue Elementary and Westmoor Junior High before entering West High School. He was President of Varsity W and a member of the Student Council. His baseball career began in Little League and continued into junior high. He was on Westmoor's first Junior High School City League Championship team. At a later date, that same Westmoor Team, beat West High School's Varsity Baseball Team by a score of 9 – 3!

While at West High School, he played both baseball and football. In football, he played quarterback and was also Captain of the team. John was voted for the All-City team in his Junior and Senior year as well as All-District and All-Ohio his Senior year. John was named Central Ohio Back of the Year in 1965, the first player to be named from West since the 1940's. This award was presented to John on TV by longtime Columbus TV sportscaster, Jimmy Crum. John also played at Canton, Ohio in the High School All-Star Game.

In baseball, John led the City League in scoring his senior year with 72 points. He was All-City, All-District, and All-State his sophomore, junior, and senior years where he both pitched and played center field. John played in the East-West All Star game at Jet Stadium. He was voted the Best Male Athlete by his 1965 Senior Class.

John comes from a family of athletes. His father, John Sr., and his four uncles, Charlie, Joe, Art, and Steve all played football and baseball at Central High School. His dad caught for the Cleveland organization in the minor leagues and later was a scout for the Cleveland Indians.

John was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds his senior year at West. His mother wanted him to attend college, so she was pleased when he was scouted by dozens of colleges, including Notre Dame, Michigan, and the Naval Academy. The legendary OSU Football Coach Woody Hayes also recruited him. Woody was bound and determined that John should come to OSU. After wooing John, his parents, and his grandparents, Woody was able to get John to sign a letter of intent to go to Ohio State. However, Bob Wren, the baseball coach at Ohio University had also heavily recruited John and Coach Wren continued to keep in touch. Later, when presented by Coach Wren with the opportunity to play baseball on a full scholarship and to play football, if he chose, John decided to attend Ohio University. He was pleased to let Coach Wren break the news to Woody.

John was drafted, again, during his freshman year at Ohio University by The Pittsburgh Pirates and his sophomore year by The Cleveland Indians. He decided to continue his college education. During a game as a sophomore, he collided with another ball player, fracturing his cheek. This resulted in him sitting out most of that season. He rebounded his junior year and had an 8 -1 pitching record. He was selected as an All MAC (Mid-American Conference) player. He was also selected, along with Rich McKinney, as MVP's for playing on the MAC winning team during regional finals. After his junior season, The Pittsburgh Pirates drafted him again. This time as their Number 1 pick. John signed with them, thus sitting out his senior year at OU.

Once with Pittsburgh, John played in the minor leagues for 2 ½ years before being sent up to the majors along with Dave Parker. While in AAA at Charleston, he was pitcher of the year and voted most valuable player. He had the lowest ERA with 2.01, his record was 12 – 4. He was also Topps Chewing Gum Pitcher of the Year while in Charleston. During the 1973 and 1974 seasons, he earned the position as a starting pitcher for the Pirates. He played under manager Bill Verdon and alongside such notables as Willie Stargell, Bill Mazeroski, and Al Oliver. He pitched to Hank Aaron, Pete Rose, Mike Schmidt, and Johnny Bench, among others. After the 1974 season, John had surgery on his elbow to remove bone chips and was sent to AAA to rehab. His arm was never able to return to its pre-surgery form and John was finally released from the Columbus Clippers, who was the Pirates AAA team in 1977.

After being released by Pittsburgh, John took a teaching position at West High School. He became the Head Coach for the Girls Softball Team. Along with Gary Link as his Assistant Coach, they won the City League West Division Title in the mid 1980's. He was also an Assistant Coach for the West Football Team. John continued to teach for 28 years in Columbus Public Schools.

Since his retirement, he and his wife, Susan, have traveled extensively. They have been from Yellowstone to the Maine coast and from Quebec City to Florida. He and Susan, whom he met while at Ohio University, have been married for 55 years. They have one daughter, Jody, who is a nurse. She and her late husband, Kenny, have two daughters, Aubrey and Hallie. Aubrey has her Master's in Social Work and Hallie is currently working on her master's at Simmons University in the Boston area. John is an avid golfer, a sport that now occupies most of his spare time.

Dan Martin, Class of 1972, nominated John.

Over $3600 Raised for WHS Scholarship Foundation

Even a flash flood could not stop the West High School faithful Alumni from helping raise $3633.45 for the WHS Scholarship Fund!

Our Annual Golf Outing, normally held on the 2nd Friday of August, had to be rescheduled due to Groveport Municipal Golf Course suffering extensive flood damage in late July/early August. But on September 26, 83 golfers, and 32 hole sponsors came out to support this worthy cause. Thanks to these generous friends the delay did not hurt our efforts in contributing to the Scholarship Fund.

Individual winners of the 18th Annual Outing were as follows:

- 1st place awards went to the team of Mark Green, Mike Humphrey, Steve Gerrard, and Steve Ator, shooting 61
- Skins Game winners were the team of Georgia Martin Ward, Rick Percy, Eric Frazier, and Xander Uxley
- The Pink Ball Contest winners were the team of Mike Murphy, Kathy Redmond, Mike Redmond, and Fred Berkemer
- The 50/50 winner was Jim Clark. Thanks to Jim's generosity, his $183 winnings were given back to the Scholarship Fund
- Longest Drive winner for the Men was Tim Bell
- Longest Drive winner for the Ladies was Diana Love
- Longest Putt winner was Steve Chrisman
- Closest to the Pin Awards for the Men went to Ryan McDaniels and Dave Horn
- Closest to the Pin Awards for the Ladies went to Karen Lee

In addition to the golfers and hole sponsors, this event is successful due to the tireless efforts of my great Committee. They donate door prizes and gift certificates. They get sponsors to purchase signs, and they work all day to make things run smoothly. Please join me in thanking the following committee members: **Eli Bowen, Stacy Neff Campbell, Leslye Creek, Dave Dobos, Dorance Nichols Hornsby, Lynn Johnson, Nick Joseph, Steve Scarpitti, Karen Nixon Stattmiller, Debbie Ash Upcroft** and **Rosalie Martin Williams** for all their hard work.

Over the past 18 years this event has raised over $35,000. Each year the Alumni Association accepts applications from WHS Seniors wishing to continue their education. We award scholarships to students planning to attend 4-year colleges, 2-year colleges and trade schools. Please consider joining us next summer as we continue supporting our future Alumni!

Mark your calendar now for the 2nd Friday in August. As long as the Golf Gods allow, we will play on August 14, 2026. If you have suggestions or are interested in helping with future events, please reach out to me or one of the committee members.

Please visit our alumni website at www.westhighalumni.com for more pictures from this year's event. And watch the newsletter and website for details on all WHSAA activities.

Sincerely, and as always, Go Cowboys!

Georgia Martin Ward, Class of 1970
Golf Outing Chairperson, WHSAA Secretary

Low Gross
Team #16: Mark Green '76,
Mike Humphrey '76, Steve Garrard '75, Steve Ator '76

Skins Game
Winners Team #10: Nick Joseph (Eastmoor) '63, Georgia Martin Ward '70, Rick Percy (Whitehall Yearling) '71, Eric Frazier (Pickerington Central), Zander Uxley (Pickerington North) '10

50/50
Winner Jim Clark Team #5: Mike Merz '70,
Joe Merz '72, Jim Clark '73, Rich Jackson (Briggs) '89

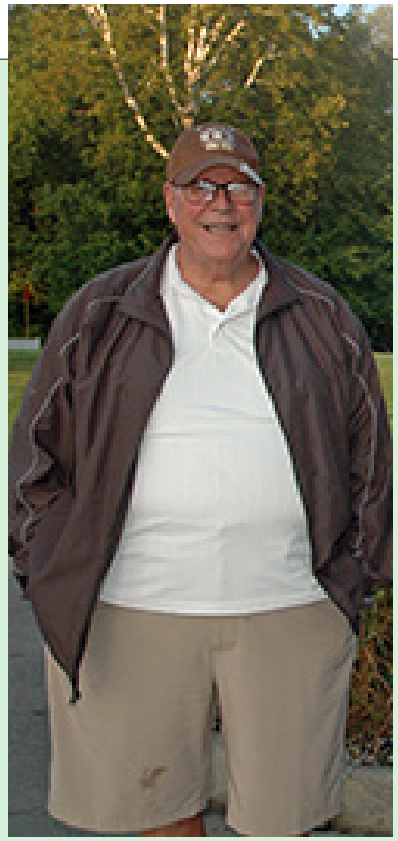
Pink Ball Winner
Team #11: Kathy Redmond '75, Mike Redmond '75,
Fred Berkemer '65, Mike Murphy '79

Longest Drive Men
Team #21 - Tim Bell '81 on the team of
Tom Martin '81, Ray Miller '81, Tim Bell '84, Stu Hartwell '84

Team #3
Craig Hedges '68, Steve Hedges '67,
Josh Elswick '99, Danny Elswick '76

Longest Drive Men – Tim Bell

Longest Drive Ladies – Diana Love



Longest Putt – Steve Chrisman

Ginger Thrush, Realtor
ERA Real Solutions Realty

614-214-2522 • Mobile
gingerthrush@gmail.com

30 years experience serving the needs of Central Ohio buyers and sellers.

Call Ginger for help buying or selling!

Ginger Thrush

REALTOR®

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ERA REAL ESTATE

REAL SOLUTIONS

Save the Date – Class of 1976
50th Class Reunion
Saturday, June 6, 2026

Place: Gidget's Garden and Event Center
5975 Lambert Rd
Orient, OH 43146

Cost: $50.00 per person
Time: 6pm-10pm

Cash bar, casual food, casual dress, and good times.
DJ - Jim (Class of '76)

Questions? send an email to: **76westhight@gmail.com**
If you know of someone who is not receiving this information, please pass this along. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser Gift Cards

Honey Baked Ham has generously offered to give back 20% of every gift card sold through us! The gift cards never expire. Coupons can also be honored. Buy as many gift cards as you wish.

If you don't eat ham, they also have sliced turkey, salads, side dishes, and desserts. They also make a great stocking stuffer or gift.

Please tell your family and friends about this fantastic opportunity. Purchase gift cards for Christmas, New Years and Super Bowl Sunday.

https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/WHSAA_Honey-Baked_Ham_Fundraising

---

President's Message, continued from page 2

overall school, and scholarship for our beloved alma mater. The lunch is self-pay; selection is from the menu. Coordination of the reservations for the luncheon is by **Jill Eichenberger Idzkowski '69**. Please contact Jill by text at 614-570-4084 or on Facebook at **Columbus West High Alumni Lunch.**

100th Year Celebration - I would be remise if I did not include the need for volunteers to step forward to be a class representative or committee member of the 100th year celebration of West High School at its current location at 179 S Powell Ave., in 2029. Also, if you have WHS memorabilia to donate to the school to be shared with others you can drop items off at the school or mail them to the school in the care of the WHS Alumni Association. Your support is appreciated and most welcome.
In closing, as always, Go Cowboys!"

Congratulations to Sara McPeek Sampson '69!

Sara McPeek Sampson '69
has served 50 Years
as a dedicated
Redcoat Buckeye fan
who has served the guests
at Ohio Stadium.

Congratulations, Sara.

THANK YOU for Your Donations!

The Alumni Association is designated as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.
All Scholarship donations qualify as a tax deduction on your federal taxes.
Checks should be made payable to the WHSAA and
mailed to Treasurer, P.O. Box 28056, Columbus, OH 43228.

THANK YOU for donating in memory of, or in honor of, an individual

Don Kruckeberg '57
in memory of **David Pence '57.**

Mike and Edie Ochab
in memory of **David Pence '57.**

David and Cheryl Kriska
in memory of **David Pence '57.**

Linda Erven
in memory of **David Pence '57.**

Bonnie McEntire Street '58
in memory **of David Pence '57.**

Brian Napier
in memory of **David Pence '57.**

Andrew Shockney '57
in memory of **David Pence '57.**

C. Sue Thomas '55
in memory of **Dale Thomas '78.**

Jane McIlyar Conrad '59
in memory of **Janet Gove Dye '59.**

Lorane Morgan Hawk '63
in memory of **Dan Hawk '62.**

Lowell Marx '63
in memory of **Robert K. Slee, Jr. '63.**

THANK YOU for Your Scholarship Donation

Bill Lust, 1963

WELCOME New Members

Debbie Ash Upcroft, 1974

Joseph Hoye, 1999

Corin Bentz Cunningham, 1984

Brian Cunningham, 1983

WELCOME New Life Member

607 life members
never have to remember to pay their dues!

Douglas Lowery, 1976

Moses L. Carreker, 1972

Ellen Nasner, 1968

Bill Lust, 1963

THANK YOU for your General Fund Donation

Friends of Christine Cockley

Newell and Mary Yaple, 1950

Carl R. Tippets, 1971

Vera Jean Ruff, 1957

! The WHSAA board decided at the last board meeting that we will no longer be mailing membership cards. We do not ask members to see their membership card to participate in any function so we decided that we would discontinue this practice. !

Update Your Alumni 2026 Calendar!

SAVE THE DATE

January 9, 2026 **Friday**	**1:00 PM All-Class Luncheon - Everyone is invited!** Olive Garden, 5450 Renner Road, Columbus 43228
January 11, 2026 **Sunday**	**5:30 PM Board Meeting** West High School Library, 179 S. Powell Ave., Columbus 43204
February 8, 2026 **Sunday**	**5:30 PM Board Meeting** West High School Library, 179 S. Powell Ave., Columbus 43204
February 13, 2026 **Friday**	**1:00 PM All-Class Luncheon - Everyone is invited!** Olive Garden, 5450 Renner Road, Columbus 43228!
March 8, 2026 **Sunday**	**5:30 PM Board Meeting** West High School Library, 179 S. Powell Ave., Columbus 43204
March 14, 2026 **Saturday**	**11:00 AM Florida All-Class Reunion in Sarasota** Der Dutchman Restaurant. More information in this newsletter! First timers eat free!
June 27, 2026 **Saturday**	**Hilltop Bean Dinner** sponsored by the Grove City Rotary Club at Westgate Park. Proceeds to benefit West High School and Westgate Park.
August 14, 2026 **Friday**	**Golf Outing - All are welcome! Save the date!** **More information to come.**

NEWSLETTER MAILINGS

If your Alumni Occident newsletter is 'snail-mailed' to you it is mailed in a bulk mailing which is not forwarded if you move. It is not returned to the Alumni Association, so we do not know you have not received it. Contact the Association Editor with the dates that you will be in another location, and we will mail your newsletter to that address.

Kroger Plus Card Benefits West Alumni Association

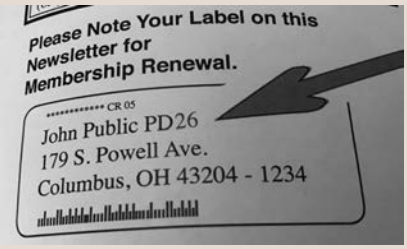
Thirty-nine alumni households contributed $81.97 to the Association without having to do anything but register their Kroger Plus Card on their computer. This is easy money! Please follow the directions on our new website to see how to join the Community Rewards Program.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR DUES BY MARCH 1.

Membership Renewal – Check your label!

If you have already paid your dues for 2026 before January 1, you will see a PD26 after your name on the mailing label.

If you are a Life Member, you will see LM. If your label does not show either of these, please renew your membership dues now.



In Memoriam - Alumni No Longer With Us

(If you know the graduation class of anyone listed without a year, please contact the Association editor so we may update our records. Also, if you know of any alumni deaths that we have not reported, please also let us know of those.)

Class	
1940s	
Beatrice McLaughlin Carpenter, November 21, 2025	1948
Patricia McClellan Elliott, October 2, 2025	1948
Patricia Wolfendale Mahan, October 4, 2025	1948
1950s	
Brian W. Lewie, September 28, 2025	1956
Walter "Cy" Wolske, Jr., September 29, 2025	1950
Robert Sandusky, January 11, 2023	1957
2011 Hall of Fame Honoree	
Carolyn Henthorn Heimlich, September 7, 2025	1958
Sandra Wareham Briggs, November 2024	1958
George "Larry" Rice, January 16, 2024	1958
Janet Gove Dye, August 23, 2025	1959
Charles "Whitey" Roush, November 22, 2025	1958
Charlotte Cranston Prior, November 19, 2025	1950, Jan.
Peggy Craig Schwartz, November 15, 2025	1954
David N. Pence, October 14, 2025	1957
Joseph "Jack" Cannon, October 22, 2025	1955, Jan.
Sue Hardy Garman, October 25, 2025	1952
Dolly Fladt Johnson, September 28, 2025	1952
1960s	
Danny Kay Ball, August 20, 2025	1967
Richard "Dicky" Flint, August 8, 2025	1961, Jan.
Charlene Neale, September 21, 2025	1966
William Gray, Sr., September 22, 2025	1964
Connie L. Williams, September 8, 2025	age 76
William "Bill" Castle, August 27, 2025	1960, Jan.
James E. Smiley, August 25, 2025	1960
Ginger Ullman Karr, November 13, 2025	1962
Philipp D. Bush, October 17, 2025	1962
1970s	
Sharon Kuhn Haughey, March 26, 2025	1976
Greg Vradenberg, August 27, 2025	1970
Mike "Ralph" Basil, September 25, 2025	1972
Gilberta Barry Young, September 15, 2025	1971
Clifford A. Rose, October 5, 2025	1978
Leonard J. Gallucci, October 2, 2025	1971

Class	
1970s continued	
Patricia Armentrout Salsbury, September 30, 2025	1973
Jimmy D. Welch, June 28, 2025	1975
Sherri L. McCall Rieser, November 24, 2025	1973
Cynthia S. Rogers Ash, October 19, 2025	1979
1980s	
Mary Lee Finney, September 27, 2025	1981
Carolyn Hundley Kaiser, October 21, 2025	1986
Debbie Edgell Grimm, October 5, 2025	1981
1990s	
Scott R. Hooks, Jr., August 29, 2025	age 45
Lorenzo S. Jackson, July 13, 2025	age 50
Curtiss McDonald, September 27, 2025	age 51
Matthew A. Hyland, October 17, 2025	1990
2000s	
Amy Blevins Ford, October 13, 2025	2000
Staff	
Paulette S. Smith, September 19, 2025	Theater Teacher
Dave Kathary, November 13, 2025	Algebra Teacher

Thank you to our Alumni and friends
who informed the Association of the passing
of these cherished alumni, teachers and staff
of West High School.
Without your help
we would not have this section.

Did you know
that you can follow us
on Facebook?

West High School Alumni Association
Columbus, Ohio

Share this newsletter with a friend!

Membership Application

2026 Annual Membership Dues

West High School Alumni
A Tradition For Tomorrow

Mail Form & Payment to:
West High School Alumni Association
P.O. Box 28056
Columbus, Ohio 43228
www.WestHighAlumni.com

131

PLEASE CHECK:
❑ Renewal ❑ New Membership ❑ Address Change ❑ E-Mail Change

Member Information

PRINT LEGIBLY

Year Graduated _____ January or June _____

First Name_____ Last Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State_____ Zip+4 __ __ __ __ __ + __ __ __ __

E-Mail Address _____ Phone (_____)_____

Choose One

Annual		*OR* Lifetime Membership			
Annual E-Mailed Newsletter	Annual Paper Mailed Newsletter	Lifetime (Under age 65) E-Mailed Newsletter	Lifetime (Under age 65) Paper Mailed Newsletter	Lifetime (Age 65+) E-Mailed Newsletter	Lifetime (Age 65) Paper Mailed Newsletter
$25	$30	$250	$275	$140	$150

Donations

- Donations to General Fund $ _____
- Donations to Scholarship Fund $ _____

In Memory of_____

In Honor of_____

Special Gift Newsletter

During 2026 with your membership renewal you can give an emailed newsletter to a friend with an interest in West High School. Lifetime members may also participate! We think that most people who receive a gift newsletter will join the association. We can double our membership if every current member participates in this special offer! Do your part - it is FREE!

Name_____

E-Mail Address _____

Roster of Members

- Roster of Members (Mailed in May)
  $20.00 $ _____

Roster Format
Choose 1
❑ Printed Version (US Mail)
❑ E-Mailed PDF format

- Roster of one graduation class $ _____
  $10.00
  - Sorted alpha by Last Name
  - E-Mailed PDF format

Total Enclosed $_____

West High School Alumni Association
P.O. Box 28056
Columbus, OH 43228

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 6870

Florida All-Class Reunion is March 14!
Please join us!