



100 years ... and counting

Lake Worth High School

Alumni News

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
West Palm Beach FL
PERMIT #4595

Volume 28, No. 1

Spring 2026

LWHS Alumni Foundation Board

President

Ann Carter

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Maggie Shamo Witherow

Corresponding Secretary

Open

Treasurer

Robert Busch

Past Presidents

Dennis F. Dorsey

Al Elam

Virginia Thomas

Roberta Stephens

Lonnie Mills

John Adair

Phil Calcagno

Jenni Chastain

Harold Gilmore

Carol Webster

Rut Velazquez

Jessica Latour

Membership

Bobie-Sue Bressmer

Board Members

Caryl Anderson

Jose Delgado

Doris Dorsey

Wilneeda Emmanuel

Dr. Annette Grimes Gilbert

Harold Gilmore

Rick Harlowe

Lady Hereford

Jessica Latour

Karen Mostler

Vincent Taormina

Elena Villani

Doris Welsh

Maggie Witherow

Carol Webster

John Adair, Emeritus

David Cantley, Emeritus

Virginia Thomas, Emeritus

Dr. Helen L. Gilmore

Emeritus

President's message

Effort alone won't keep Foundation going

When we first posted the announcement of the Luau by the Lake, a longtime supporter of the Alumni Foundation asked why it was so expensive, \$65 per person. A valid question as there aren't a lot of meals I would pay \$65 to eat. Let's break this down. The Beach Club charged us \$35 per person for a choice of two entrees, a starch and two vegetables. Plus a 23 percent gratuity.



Ann Carter

Then we were charged \$700 for the exclusive use of the dining room and \$600

for the use of the tiki bar. The manager waived the tiki bar fee. We anticipated a crowd of 150 -- the 2019 luau sold 198 tickets at \$50 apiece -- so we're looking at costs of \$47 per person just getting in the door. Now we need entertainment, decorations, printing tickets and fliers, photo booth and miscellaneous expenses. That adds about \$10 -- if we sell 150 tickets. Despite a campaign

on Instagram and Facebook, phone calls and postcards, and word of mouth, only

80 tickets were bought.

Cynical readers might notice that we have raised millions of dollars for scholarships since 1998. Can't the income from these endowments support the awards? In 1998, a year of public higher education cost about \$3,299. In 2026, that same year costs about \$10,000. You see why we need to keep raising money. And we want to expand the program, larger awards to more students. We need your help for that, whether in the check you write or the time you give.

Will you be part of your school's legacy?



Trisha Bishop, left, class of 1963, Peggy Wiley Allen, class of 1974, and two unidentified but eager students, learn the techniques of Polynesian dancing during the Luau by the Lake on April 11 at The

Beach Club on the Municipal Golf Course. More pictures from the luau, a fund-raiser for the Foundation and Dollars for Scholars, on Page 2.

Principal's message

LWCHS will always be a part of my story

It is hard to find the right words to express what these past four years have meant to me.

Serving as principal of Lake Worth Community High School has been one of the greatest honors of my career. As my first high school as a principal, this community has shaped me as much as I hope I have contributed to its growth and success.

Together, we have much to celebrate. Over the past four years, we have seen our graduation rate rise to an incredible 99% and our acceleration rate reach an all-time high of over 85%, meaning more of our students are leaving us with industry certifications to



Elena Villani

enter the workforce while earning college credits to get a strong head start on their postsecondary education. These accomplishments are not just numbers. They represent lives changed, doors opened, and futures redefined.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our Alumni Foundation. I am especially grateful for your dedication to Mr. Cantley's vision through Dollars for Scholars. Your commitment to providing financial support for our students has made a meaningful difference in their steps after graduation. It has been an honor to support and celebrate this work alongside you.

Your presence, your pride, and your belief in our students have strengthened the bridge between past and future, reminding our students that they are part of something bigger than themselves. While I will be down the road at John I. Leonard High School, know that this school, this community, and all of you will forever be part of my story.

I welcome Dr. Pamela McDonough as the next principal. I know she will continue to build on the foundation in place. I am confident that the partnership between the school and the Alumni Foundation will continue to thrive. I carry the pride and spirit of Lake Worth with me wherever I go. GO TROJANS!

Enchanted Evening



Bustin' a move the Polynesian way

Gale-force winds didn't chill the mood as classmates from 1950 to 2000 partied at The Beach Club at the Municipal Golf Course in Lake Worth Beach.

About 80 graduates and friends of the Alumni Foundation/Dollars for Scholars ate, drank and danced while bidding on auction items that included two massages at EAU-Palm Beach, and raffle items such as a \$100 Publix gift card.

Mayor Betty Resch was among the honored guests, along with current and former members of the Foundation/DFS board.

Sharon McConnell Miles won \$270 in the 50/50 raffle, which she graciously donated to the Foundation. The Polynesian dancers of Dance Dance Tahiti demonstrated authentic dances, taught us some South Pacific history, while teaching men and women some seismic techniques.

D&L Photobooths was there to capture the tropic attire and the festive mood.

-- Ann Carter



For the record, photographs clockwise from upper left: Maggie Shamo Witherow, class of 1950, intently watches and follows the moves of a dancer from Dance Dance Tahiti; the highlight -- pun intended -- of the entertainment was the fire dancer; Pat Davis Murray, 1963, with Karen Manner Mostler, 1963; Vicki Morris Bridgman and Kathy Brand Peters, both from the class of 1966; former Foundation President Roberta Stephens, class of 1956, with Carla Blockson; sisters Linda McConnell Walker, 1967, and Sharon McConnell Miles, 1963; . Photos by Carol Childs Webster, 1966, and Karen Manner Mostler, 1962



Alumni Foundation On-Line

The Alumni News publishes twice a year, but the news about Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation never stops.

The official Web site is: lwhsalumni.org

Instagram @LWHSAlumniFoundation

Facebook: Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation

E-mail: LWHSAlumniEvents@gmail.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 15004

West Palm Beach FL 33416-5004

ALUMNI FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP FEES

DUE JAN. 1 EACH YEAR

Single \$30 Couples \$50 Business \$150 Lifetime \$250*

Please mail your payment with application to
Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation
P.O. BOX 15004 WEST PALM BEACH FL 33416-5004
PAYING YOUR DUES ENSURES YOU'LL BE
ON OUR MAILING LIST.

* Lifetime Membership/One-Time Fee

Class of 1976



Above, left: Lyn Tate explains that there are a few cups available for sale, while Tami Valentine remembers to hydrate. Above right: Longtime friends pose for a special picture at the 1976 reunion.



On the dance floor, doing the electric slide -- or the Cupid shuffle?

Lunch with the class of 1971



Sixteen members of the class of 1971, spouses and friends gathered for lunch at the Waterway Cafe in Palm Beach Gardens on April 25.

Class of 1966



Classmates, spouses and friends from 1966 partied at Mel's Way Bistro. The group sitting on the floor is impressive. Photos by Pat Mieszczenski



Foundation President Ann Carter and Fred Bevins, class of 1965, with the flag filched in 1967 by a Seacrest High student.

Purloined pennant returns to Trojan country

In 1967, a rabid Seacrest High student broke into LWS through the teachers lounge and stole this emblem of Trojan spirit.

The flag has been hidden away until Fred Bevins learned of its whereabouts a decade ago and began a personal campaign to recover banner. Once he took possession of the flag, he wasn't sure what to do with it.

When he saw Alumni Foundation Pres-

ident Ann Carter at the reunion of the class of 1966, he knew he had found a protector and defender of all things Trojan.

The first job is to see if we can erase some of the six decades in storage. Fred had no idea how old the flag was, just that it had been stolen in 1967.

We'll keep you apprised of the disposition of the flag.

-- Ann Carter

Special visitor to Easter luncheon



Above left: Easter bunny and Alumni Foundation President Ann Carter. From left to right: Ken Wilkinson '62, Gerard Donaghy (Marilyn's husband), Marilyn Olsen Martens '62, Dan Dummett '61, Ann Dickins Long '62, Pat Murray Davis '63, Trisha Morris Bishop '63,

Linda McConnell Walker '68, Sharon McConnell Miles '63, Kathy Snyder Graves '53, Barbara Campbell Roth '63, Ann Carter '72, Judy Williams Streets '53, Maggie Shamo Witherow '50, Dede Owens Lewis '53, Laura Smith, Nat Smith '53

Celebrating season with Trojan pride

We had a nice visit from the "bunny" played by Linda Walker. After her entrance, the bunny walked around to each person and gave out candy-filled plastic eggs while posing for photos.

Nat & Laura Smith again furnished the name tags, their beautiful unique Easter cards, and candy.

Ann Carter, Alumni Foundation president, and Maggie Witherow reminded all of the LWS Alumni Luau fundraiser on Saturday, April 11 at The Lake Worth Beach Club and that they had tickets to sell. The future Classmates scheduled luncheons at Olive Garden are: June 11, August 13, October 29, December 17

-- Kathy Snyder Graves

Equestrian community, generous donors help students over finish line

By Lady Hereford

President/Dollars for Scholars

There was excitement in the air that chilly January evening as spectators at Wellington International cheered on teams of horses and riders during a relay-style equestrian jumping event for a good cause.

By the end of the night, Lake Worth Dollars for Scholars was the recipient of a \$25,000 donation courtesy of the Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments. In all, the GCC distributed \$2.3 million to over 80 nonprofit organizations through its annual event.

This month, the GCC's donation to DFS will be awarded to several deserving LWCHS students who are continuing their education beyond high school. We cannot thank the GCC enough for investing in our students.

In all, we expect to disburse about \$100,000 in scholarships to more than 50 students this spring. DFS relies on donors to make our scholarships possible.

We recently learned about the passing of one of our esteemed donors, Ron M. Finch Jr., Class of 1950. Ron and his sister, Char Macon, 1948, donated \$50,000 each to endow a scholarship that will benefit two LWCHS graduates each year in perpetuity. We offer our condolences to Ron's family and our eternal gratitude to Char's son, Ron Fulton, 1973, who helped to

arrange this special gift. This year, a scholarship will be awarded in honor of the late John Boynton thanks to his family and friends.



We also want to send a special thank you to the family of the late Alexandra Scavnicky, Class of 1961, for creating an enduring scholarship legacy.

In addition to our growing portfolio of endowments, we also have kind donors who make annual gifts. Among our yearly donors are the MLK Committee, Baha'is of Lake Worth Beach, the Rotary Club of Lake Worth Beach, the James & Nancy Woodall Family and others. One annual gift comes from the proceeds of the high school's popular flea market. We are grateful for Principal Elena Villani for continuing that tradition.

Also of note was a recent donation from the Lake Worth Centennial Volunteers, a group that raised over \$10,000. Those funds are now benefiting students through scholarships.

We are always looking for new annual and endowment supporters. Please email us at lakeworth@dollarsforscholars.org.

Lastly, many will recall that in 2017, DFS celebrated the achievement of \$1 million in scholarships awarded. We are closing in on the \$2 million mark and are planning a celebration next year. Stay tuned!



The DFS logo, above left, flashes on the screen at the Great Charity Challenge. Above right, one of the DFS riders, following the theme of Rhyme Without Reason; our riders were nicknamed First Lady, Tom Brady, Slim Shady. Below, Alumni Prez Ann Carter, left, and Lady Hereford with the goods.



Photo courtesy of Great Charity Challenge

Dollars for Scholars board members were all smiles despite the 40-degree temperature and the 30-mph winds. At right, Rick Harlowe, left, Lady Hereford and Dr. Annette Grimes Gilbert (class of 1975) enjoy the sumptuous feast for charities for the challenge. Lower photo, Maggie Shamo Witherow, left, class of 1950, and Leah Harlowe bask in the warm tent.



Lake Worth High School Dollars for Scholars Board

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| President
Lady Hereford | Awards Co-Chair
Doris Welsh | Dr. Annette Grimes Gilbert |
| Vice President
Carol Childs
Webster | Past Presidents
Rock Tate
David Cantley | Harold Gilmore |
| Secretary
Gail Paglialungo | Board Members
Paul Blockson | Pat Growney |
| Corresponding Secretary
Sandy Florence | Caryl Anderson | Jessica Latour |
| Treasurer
Mike Woods | Bobie-Sue Bressmer | Karen Mostler |
| | Ann Carter | Carol Childs |
| | Doris Dorsey | Webster |
| | Sandy Florence | Maggie Witherow |
| | | Associate Members |
| | | Vince Taormina |

In Memoriam

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Julia Katherine Eubanks 1955 | Robert Coles 1969 |
| Nona Childs Holt 1960 | Rick Coy 1969 |
| Gail Gorder 1961 | Brenda Hiestand |
| Kyle Sellars 1963 | Bankston 1969 |
| Sherry Leeser Miller 1963 | Carl Christian Holme 1974 |
| Mike Penzenik 1964 | Allan Menne 1975 |
| Linda Doherty 1965 | Marc Masterson 1976 |
| Wanda Stafford Barnett 1965 | Jane Armstrong 1976 |
| Cliff del Santo 1967 | Jeffrey Ellis Johnson 1979 |