

Oakdale School
A L U M N I
News

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Fall 2009

Oakdale School Hosts 10th All-Class Alumni Reunion on July 4th



took place in 2007.

Activities began at noon as alumni congregated in classrooms to relive high school days and to reunite with classmates. Members of the Class of 1959 celebrated their 50th Anniversary as they shared stories and refreshments.

The school library served as a hospitality room and a place for folks to get together to talk, share memorabilia, and watch a video filled with old photos.

More than 200 gathered in the evening for a business meeting, dinner, and dancing. The business meeting was called to order by Alumni Association President Charles Brown. Minutes from the previous reunion



As the United States celebrated its 237th birthday, Oakdale High School alumni and their families gathered for the school's 10th all-class reunion. The last reunion

business meeting were read and approved, and a treasurer's report was given.

In the new business, a motion was made to go back to having the reunion every 5 years and to have the next reunion in 2015 (6 years from now in order to have the reunions in years divisible by 5). The motion failed. Another motion was made to have the reunion every 3 years. That motion passed. New officers were elected. The officers for 2009-2012 are:

- President - Charles Brown
- Vice President - Spencer Whalen
- Secretary - Regina Headden
- Treasurer - Barbara Matney

Awards were presented to the following:

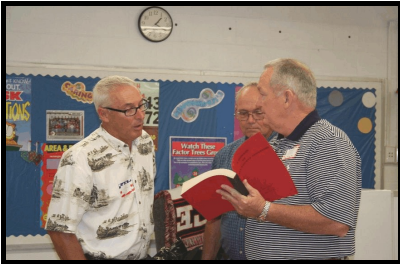
- Most Senior Faculty Member Present - Joe Zumstein
- Most Senior Graduate Present - (from the Class of 1939) - Nellie Williams
- Youngest Graduate Present - Julie Johnson
- Graduate who traveled the farthest - Henry Ruppe (from California)
- The Whalen family was also honored for having seven alumni members present.



The 2009 graduates who received \$500 scholarships from the Alumni Association were also recognized. (See article in next column).

After the meeting was adjourned, alumni and their guests were served steak dinners followed by music and dancing.

Seen at the Reunion



Alumni Association Awards Seven Scholarships to 2009 Graduates

The Oakdale Alumni Association has been awarding scholarships to graduating seniors over the last 30 years. This year seven \$500 scholarships were presented to members of the Class of 2009.

Graduates who received a scholarship are: Christian Bingham, Jonathan Mathis, Korrine Pease, Kayla Clark, Heather Craven, Jessica Justus, and Clint Foster.

Scholarships will be awarded this year as well. Beginning this year, scholarships will be awarded in honor of distinguished Oakdale alumni and faculty members. Anyone who would like to contribute to a specific scholarship or start a scholarship in someone's name, may send a check to the Oakdale Alumni Association, c/o Oakdale School, Oakdale, Tennessee 37829.

The scholarships that have been established in honor of Oakdale Alumni include the following:

- The Hollis and Bessie Eble Distinguished Faculty Scholarship
- The Paul and Vera Scarbrough Leadership Scholarship
- The Sam Hoskins Principal's Scholarship

The remaining scholarships will be named later.

The Alumni Association Is on the Internet

In October 2007, the Oakdale Alumni Association voted to set up a website to keep alumni and those interested in Oakdale School updated on events. Regina Headden volunteered to maintain the website. The URL is: www.oakdale-eagles.org.

The website has links to the Alumni Association, Oakdale School, the history of Oakdale, photos

of Oakdale and people through the years, and other interesting links. One link is to the Oakdale Community. Here alumni and those who went to Oakdale School but did not graduate can get in touch with classmates.

Regina Headden has also created a Facebook page for the Oakdale Alumni Association. Anyone with a Facebook account may join the group. When logged into a Facebook account, search groups for Oakdale Alumni Association.

Alumni Addresses Needed

The Alumni Association maintains a database with all alumni names, addresses, and graduation year. Most of the graduates through the mid-1980s have up-to-date addresses.

Anyone receiving this newsletter should update his/her information with the Alumni Association. Please email the following: graduate's name, address, and year of graduation. The email address is headdenr121@oakdale-eagles.org or a regular mail address is Oakdale Alumni Association, c/o Oakdale School, 225 Clifty Creek Road, Oakdale, Tennessee 37829.

Former Oakdale School Assistant Principal and Beloved Teacher Passes Away

Nellie Bingham, "Miss Nellie" to her students, passed away on July 24, 2009, at the age of 92.

She taught or was an administrator in the Morgan County School system for over 30 years, and was the Morgan County Teacher of the Year in 1978.

A graduate of Wartburg's Central High School and the University of Tennessee, Miss Nellie began her teaching career at Central Elementary School before moving to the White Oak School.

She later taught at Pine Orchard School where she also served as the school's principal until it was closed in 1969. She then taught lower elementary classes at Oakdale, and at the time of her retirement in 1979, she was the school's assistant principal.

Miss Nellie's dedication to teaching has no doubt left a mark on hundreds (if not thousands) of students who spent time in her classroom. She will always be remembered as a caring teacher who maintained discipline but also made sure students had fun learning.

The Alumni Association Meets Monthly

The Oakdale Alumni Association meets the fourth Thursday of every month - except in November and December. The purpose of the meetings is to plan for the next reunion, to discuss ways to help the students and faculty of Oakdale School, and to conduct general business.

All alumni, as well as anyone who attended Oakdale School, are welcome to attend the meetings.

The meetings generally do not last long, and people are not going to be asked to volunteer to do things. Anyone who has a talent or skill to offer will be greatly appreciated, but it is not a necessary requirement for attending the meetings.

The meetings are held in the school library and begin at 6:30 p.m. Meetings for the upcoming year are scheduled for:

- September 24
- October 22
- January 28

Alumni Association Projects and Activities Being Planned

For years, the Alumni Association has given away scholarships to college-bound graduates; however, the group is now adding projects and activities that will impact more students and teachers in the future.

The first activity is - this newsletter. Instead of receiving one letter a couple of months before the reunion, we want to keep folks updated on what we are doing in the mean time. We had wanted to mail this first newsletter, but our records are somewhat dated, and we didn't want to waste money on undeliverable addresses. Hopefully, we will have the addresses updated by next spring for the second edition.

We also plan to set up a table at several ballgames with give-aways and prizes for alumni. We also want to recognize former athletes at these games, as well.

The college scholarships will continue, but we also want to do things that will impact more students and teachers. Some things that we are considering for future projects include: classroom grants for special projects, creating a teacher supply depot (similar to the one in Knox County), and helping to fulfill needs throughout the school.

Another project we have discussed is creating an Oakdale School Hall of Fame. We would have three categories of inductees - Distinguished Faculty, Honored Alumni, and Athletes.

These projects are in the planning stages but will become reality in the very near future.

We are also in the early stages of planning the next reunion, set for June 30, 2012. The next reunion will be different from the previous 10. Watch for updates and details in future newsletters and on the website.

The Alumni Association welcomes anyone who wants to attend meetings or help with any project.



The Oakdale School Alumni News is published twice a year. The newsletter may be accessed online at: www.oakdale-eagles.org.

Oakdale Alumni Association Officers

- President. Charles Brown
- Vice President. Spencer Whalen
- Secretary. Regina Headden
- Treasurer. Barbara Matney

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