

SPRING 2009
WCS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
(<http://www.WillsboroAlumni.com>)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Willsboro Alumni Association is to create, maintain, enhance, and promote Willsboro Central School and its students; and to unite, inform and involve alumni and friends in fellowship and support of education.

ALUMNI OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

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THE PREZ SEZ

Well, it has been a long winter here in the Adirondacks. We are hoping that spring is just around the corner. Here's hoping that everyone has been well since we last saw you. We are looking forward to seeing you at the banquet in June.

SUPERINTENDENT BROADWELL'S UPDATES

Our school superintendent, Mr. Steve Broadwell, has furnished us with information on the goings on at WCS for the past two newsletters. I think it is a fine new addition as it keeps us up-to-date. His time and effort to contribute to this new section is much appreciated. Thanks Mr. Broadwell!

AUDIT REPORT. Willsboro Central School recently underwent an audit by the New York State Comptroller's Office. Superintendent Broadwell states, "We are very pleased with the report from the State Comptroller's Office as it reinforced the best practices that the district has embraced and has utilized within our business department to safeguard the district's financial assets. While the majority of the audit focused on the internal controls, the auditors reviewed all aspects of our financial operations and we were found to be operating effectively and efficiently while establishing adequate controls in the business offices. In essence, we received a clean audit report. Special credit should be given to the Board of Education for their oversight as well as the day to day operations by the district's treasurer, Sheila Vanags, for her experience, diligence, and thoroughness within the district's business office." The OSC audit reaffirmed that the Willsboro School District's financial policies, controls and safeguards are appropriate and they are being followed.

SCHOOL REPORT CARD. Willsboro Central School recently received its latest school report card from the New York State Education Department. "The 2008 school report card shows record highs in all areas of the school reports," said school Superintendent Steve Broadwell.

“We are very pleased with our continued positive academic achievement of our students,” said Broadwell.

The district continued its three year trend of higher composite scores in the required state testing of ELA, Math, Science, and Graduation Rate and continues to be recognized as a school “in good standing” by the State Education Department. Willsboro was cited as meeting and/or exceeding the required academic benchmarks and performance indicators.

SHARING WISDOM LECTURE SERIES. This past year Willsboro Central hosted a “Sharing Wisdom Lecture Series” in which local people shared their wisdom with community residents at the school. Ralph Marcotte and Nick Muller started the series in the fall, followed by Regent James Dawson and Dr. Rick Dalton in the winter and George Hearn and Thurston Clarke in the spring. The lecture series was a huge success with each person sharing their wisdom, insight, and knowledge with the audience members. We hope to continue this in the future as it truly was an educational experience for everyone who attended.

BIGGEST LOSER STAFF COMPETITION. For eleven weeks, thirty three faculty members at Willsboro Central were involved in a school-wide weight loss competition similar to “The Biggest Loser” television weight loss show and had great success. As the competition concluded in March, the group lost a total of 279 pounds. On behalf of the school district, we would like to congratulate all the participants.

WILLSBORO STUDENTS VISIT WADLEIGH HIGH SCHOOL IN HARLEM. In April nine students visited Wadleigh High School in Harlem, New York City. This was part of a cultural exchange in which students from Wadleigh visited Willsboro in the fall and our students visited the city in the spring. The visit was a tremendous learning experience for our students. They had the opportunity to visit an inner-city school and experience the differences in the city culture. They enjoyed the trip a great deal and have new friends from their visit.

ALUMNI NEWS

Since our last newsletter, material was purchased and delivered to Gerry Spooner who is building the new trophy cases that WAA has donated to the school. The two will not be enough to house all of the trophies, but until others can be built or purchased a rotation system can be established to display the currently “hidden in the attic” trophies.

The Class of 1959 is celebrating their 50th anniversary and they are planning on a dinner and attending graduation on Friday night and then attending the banquet on Saturday night. If you have not answered the correspondence that your class representatives have sent to you, take a moment make them aware of your plans. They need this information to make the necessary arrangements for dinner, etc.

Jane and Spencer Lobdell wrote that their oldest granddaughter, Sunnie, Class of 2004, graduated from UVM and was on her way to Hawaii for her interview for her graduate study in Child Psychology where she hopes to be studying for her doctorate. She also had another bit of interesting history. Three straight generations of Spencer Lobdells have graduated from WCS; Spencer Sr, Class of 1959, Spencer Jr, Class of 1979, and Spencer III, Class of 2007.

In the last newsletter we included an application form for recommendations to the Wall of Distinction that has been established at the school. This year Mr. James Mason has been selected as the 2009 recipient and his name will be added to the wall.

DUES

We urge all WCS alumni to participate in the Willsboro Alumni Association. The dues money is used to try and bring you updated information by means of a newsletter, for items such as the trophy cases, we contributed to the playground, and we provide the plackard for the Wall of Distinction each year. We have also created our own website with the help of Bill Morgan. Even if you cannot attend the banquet, we would really appreciate it if you would take a minute and fill out the membership form and send to our treasurer.

Membership dues should be sent to our Treasurer, Lorna Marx, at WAA, PO Box 211, Willsboro, NY 12996. A printable membership form can be found on our web site. Even though many of you are receiving the newsletter on-line, we would really appreciate it very much if you would also send in dues money. This money is used for school projects.

Again, we want to thank all of our members who have continued to pay dues and to the many that have sent along additional contributions. We think that we have done some very good things with the money and hopefully you will also.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/DATABASE CORRECTIONS

Change of address or corrections to the database should be sent to Bettie Lawrence, Bettie1940@att.net, or mailed to her at 14048 Fontana Road, Roanoke, TX 76262. If you received information on the newsletter from someone else, please send me your email address so that we can correct the problem.

NEWSLETTER

Information for the newsletter should be sent to Bettie Lawrence at Bettie1940@att.net or mailed to her at 14048 Fontana Road, Roanoke, TX 76262. And I might add that ANY and ALL alumni news would be great! It's your N/L so if you have some interesting information you would like to share, we would be happy to include it. Your class may be organizing a reunion, etc., and this would be good advertising for you. Or perhaps your class has done something you would like others to know about. Anything you could contribute would be good. I need to thank Ada Hutchins for having the letter copied and her group of volunteers for folding and mailing the finished copies. I also need to thank Laura Marsha for printing the mailing labels. For some reason I have been having trouble trying to get my computer to print them! These gals really came to my rescue on this!

2009 BANQUET

It hardly seem possible that another year has come and gone! Remember when we were young and our parents used to say, "The older you get, the faster the time goes?" I don't know about you, but I sure do understand what they meant!

Our banquet will be held on June 27th at Cricket's in Peru again this year. Cricket's has been most helpful in the planning of this event and are so nice to work with. We are very fortunate to have a place that is big enough to hold us, reasonable in price, and not too far from home. We hope you will all plan on attending, it is so much fun to see folks we have not seen for a long time.

You will find a reservation form included as an insert in this newsletter. We must have your reservation and money by June 15th to ensure proper seating, etc. Cricket's has to have this information to ensure that they are prepared to serve us properly. So, if you are planning on attending, please complete this and get it back as soon as possible to make things easier for everyone involved.

Each year it gets harder and harder to find people to participate in our program. Janice tries hard to find speakers and MCs, but it is becoming a more and more difficult job. If you or someone you know would consider one of these spots, please contact her so that she can sign you up...if not for next year, then just give her a year you would like to do this.

Our guest speaker this year is going to be David Leaning, Class of 1976. To date we don't have a bio on David, but we are grateful to him that he has agreed to do this.

Wanda Reynolds McQueen has agreed to be our MC. Wanda is a member of the Class of 1984 and is celebrating the 25th anniversary of her graduation. We also appreciate Wanda taking her time to keep us in line and on schedule

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Classes celebrating a 5-year anniversary, and this year that would be any class ending in a 4 or a 9, will have reserved seating. There will also be a special table set up for the 25th and 50th classes. As in the past, you may sit anywhere that there is not a reserved name tag. Just place your "reserved for" name tag in any blank place and then you are free to mix and mingle and when dinner time comes, you will have a place to sit waiting for you.

CLASS CONTACTS

This list is quite long so to save space please go to www.willsboroalumni.com to view the list. If you do not have access to a computer and the internet, drop Bettie a line or give her a call and she will be glad to give you the information you need.