

# W. A. PATTILLO HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.



## 2021 Incentive Award Honoree

### Shirley Odell Mays

Growing up in the East Tarboro and Princeville communities we were blessed with many role models. The W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association, Inc., is delighted to sponsor an Incentive Award Program. The association presents an award to a student in each ECPS elementary and middle school in the name of an early pioneer in leadership and community services for those communities.

Shirley Odell Mays was born June 18, 1928, to George Henry Mays and Violet Wooten Mays. She attended Princeville School and graduated from W. A. Pattillo High School in 1945. Shirley studied English for several years at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro, North Carolina. Shirley developed a passion for nursing

while being trained by Dr. M. D. Quigless. She became a Licensed Practical Nurse and continued her education at Edgecombe Community College to become a Registered Nurse. Shirley worked at Quigless Clinic until it closed. She retired from the State of North Carolina in 1993 and continued various part-time nursing positions until 2008.

Shirley is a member of Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School. She mentored and educated youth groups for many years including the Sunbeams consisting of pre-school and elementary school children. She also volunteered at Pattillo School where she tutored elementary and middle school children. Shirley remained active in the community with the NAACP and other civic and professional organizations. She participated with the Local, State and National Senior Games for 25 years. Shirley is currently a lifetime member of the Pattillo High School National Alumni Association.

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## The 2021 Annual Report to the Membership



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*Reunion 39: "Rescheduled to July 2022"*

FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

**Financial Summary**

Dear Members:

The president and officers have prepared this 2021 Annual Report to the Membership. It has been approved by the Board. This report will address the fiscal management, the programmatic achievements and highlights of the association for the 2020-2021 association year.

The basic responsibility of the directors is to exercise their judgment and to act in a manner that they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the association and its members. The day-to-day management and administration of the association is the responsibility of the president and officers per the By-Laws, all applicable laws and regulations, and the strategic and operational plans approved by the Board.

The Board wishes to thank the officers, standing and special committee chairpersons and all of the committee members who worked so diligently this association year to bring the goals and objectives to fruition. We, too, thank each of you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Wood, Jr., Ed. D., '62  
Interim President

**Opening Balances 8/1/2020**

0000 Reunion:	1.77
1000 General Fund:	280.25
2100 Scholarship:	5624.12
9000 PayPal:	10.21
	<b>Total</b>
	\$5916.35

**Revenue**

Membership:	1776.50
62 (Annual 53; Sustained 9)	
Scholarship:	3660.00
16 Contributors	
Reunion: [(COVID-19 Cancellation) (RMEC 2020 Refund)]	750.00
Miscellaneous: Donations (Board Benevolence)	570.00
Fundraisers: Gen (Admin/Maint.), Targeted Solicitations	7123.00
Interest Income:	00.73
NC Sales Tax Rebate:	00.00
	<b>Total</b>
	\$14,880.23

**Disbursements**

0000 Reunion:	60.00
1000 General Fund:	9822.52
2100 Scholarship:	00.00
9000 PayPal:	210.00
	<b>Total</b>
	\$10,092.52

*(Account Transfers)*

	To	From
0000 Reunion:	\$65.00	\$ 00.00
1000 General:	\$8810.00	\$2898.00
2100 Scholarship:	\$2863.00	\$7750.00
9000 PayPal:	\$5.00	\$1095.00

**Credit Card Balances**

General Credit Card Expenses:	00.00
Reunion Credit Card Expenses:	00.00
	<b>Total</b>
	\$00.00

**PNC Bank Balances as of June 30, 2021**

Reunion:	\$ 11.77
General Fund:	\$ 8059.01
Scholarship:	\$ 3824.27
PayPal:	\$ 185.21
	<b>Total</b>
	\$ 12,080.26

Submitted July 31, 2021 by:

Janette Williams-Pettaway, Finance Secretary  
Fred S. Wood, Jr., Treasurer

## Program Highlights from the Year

In the midst of a pandemic year the programmatic thrust of the Association was severely curbed. The normal activities from committees that were programmatic in nature were not able to be held. The few activities that were possible have been highlighted below.

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Reviewed current processes and procedures used to select scholarship applicants. Held a second W. A. Pattillo Alumni Christmas Ornament fundraiser. Continued the 2020 W. A. Pattillo Secondary Scholarship Honoree (Mrs. Susanna M. Thomas) and the Incentive Award Honoree (Ms. Shirley Mays) into the 2021 association year. Provided \$1500 in second semester grants (\$250 each) to the six (6) 2020 Scholarship applicants from the ECPS. Received scholarship applications for the 2021 year and on May 15, 2021, the Scholarship Interview Team conducted interviews via a Zoom for the eight applicants approved.

Awarded \$6000 in scholarships to the 8 Scholarship Applicants in July 2021. Provided the 2021 Incentive Award certificates and a gift of \$50.00 to one student in each elementary and middle school in the ECPS. Posted the pictures of all the 2021 Incentive Award recipients and 2021 Scholarship recipients on the Alumni website.

Presented a certificate honoring Ms. Shirley Mays our 2020/2021 Incentive Award Honoree and a certificate honoring Mr. James Edward Bridgers ( posthumously) for an Endowed Scholarship named in his honor by Ms. Jean Benns.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE (COMBINED PUBLICATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEES)**

Continued its oversight programs for all official publications and served as the approving authority for all posts to Facebook, webpage and media in the public domain. Assumed oversight over all components of technology that serve to promote and enhance the Alumni Association. Continued to generate articles related to various facets of the Association or alumni in local newspapers/magazines. Other vital functions continued to be a vessel to disseminate the wealth of information about all aspects of the Association to a world-wide audience via the webpage and Facebook. It also served as a receptacle for information that is transmitted to the Association.

Rigorous updating and standardizing the webpage Facebook platform and other media was a continuous effort and activity of the committee. The committee also developed and presented a Virtual Reunion at the end of the 2020 association year and a second Virtual Reunion at the end of the 2021 association year. Both publications received very high acclaim and reached out to all aspects of community, state, national and, in some instances, international audiences to tell the story of the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association.

### **BENELVOLENCE COMMITTEE**

The committee continued its outreach to alums and families whose loved ones transitioned during the course of the year and to the families of alums who passed during the course of the year. Also gestures of thoughtfulness to those alums who were hospitalized with extended illnesses.

The committee continues to distribute quarterly greeting cards to those individuals in the Association who are 80 plus years of age, Life Members (retired teachers) and those individuals who are sick and shut in. The committee has also crafted a tribute to three Trojans who were Killed in Action in the Republic of Vietnam. The pandemic cancelled the 2020 and 2021 Reunions. Plans are to present their program to the Association in the presence of the Gold Star Families at the 2022 Annual Reunion.

### **RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

This committee made a humongous effort to solicit persons for vacancies in the Association. They were successful in a very modest way but pledged to keep their efforts up. The committee is planning a full-scale Marketing Initiative of those persons who graduated in the years 1970 through 1973, with the message that their youth and involvement in the governance, administration, and programmatic efforts of the Association would extend the life of this association 15 to 20 years.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

This committee was resurrected after an eight-year hiatus and resumed the function of budget development, budget management, and also the monitoring of the overall fiscal health of the Alumni Association. The committee has structured general and reunion budgets for the 2022 association year that will guide funding activities and expenditures.

W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association, Inc.

W. A. Pattillo Secondary Scholarship Honoree  
SUSANNA MATTHEWSON THOMAS



The W. A. Pattillo Alumni Secondary Scholarship is named annually for a former Pattillo or Princeville School faculty member. Our 2021 honoree was Mrs. Susanna M. Thomas. The award (\$500 - \$750), is given to an ECPS student who has a 2.0-2.5 GPA and may have financial needs or has a hardship.

Susanna Matthewson Thomas was born on April 1, 1906, in Tarboro, North Carolina. She was the youngest child and the only girl in the family. She attended elementary school in the area. The Tarboro School Board started construction of the first high school for Blacks in 1920. Susanna was in the new high school's first graduating class of 1924. Always being a great student, she graduated at the top of her class.

After high school, she received a B.S. degree from Shaw College (now Shaw University) in Raleigh, NC. She also did graduate work in the field of Biology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. After completing her education, she taught General Science and Biology in Richmond County (NC). Later, she returned home to Tarboro to teach General Science, Biology and Chemistry at Tarboro Colored High School and W. A. Pattillo High School.

Susanna was a firm teacher, but was always loved and respected. Her greatest desire was to help all students succeed, each discovering his/her own uniqueness. She reveled in each student's accomplishments and successes. On weekends, she would take her students to colleges for High School Senior Day to inspire them to further their education. Many of her students did not appreciate her no nonsense approach to teaching when they were students in school; however, when they became adults, they realized that she had the correct approach and she had their success at heart.

She was married to the late Henry Thomas. Not having any children of her own, she considered her students as her own children. She was a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. For many years she worked with young ladies from this area as debutants, many whom became SGR Debutant Queens. Susanna was a member of Excelsior's Retired Club, NC Teacher's Association and the NCAE-ACT.

Susanna Matthewson Thomas died on May 6, 1996. She will always be remembered as a pillar of the East Tarboro and Princeville communities.

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W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association, Inc.  
Nathan Lewis Alumni Member Scholarship



A scholarship (\$500 \$1000) awarded to a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of any member of the Association who meets the eligibility criteria. Awarded to a student who has a 2.5 – 4.00 GPA. This scholarship is named after a 1955 Pattillo graduate and former Pennsylvania educator, the late Mr. Nathan Lewis.

Born on September 23, 1934, Nathan Lewis was raised by his grandmother, Mary Eliza Lewis. He loved Tarboro and his football playing days at Pattillo High School passionately. After graduating from Pattillo in 1955, he accepted a full scholarship at Shaw University where he also played football. His teammates nicknamed him "Mule Train" because he hit hard, protected the ball and ran with great speed. Nathan was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Shaw University for his exceptional football skills, determination, and ultimate love of the game. He graduated from Shaw University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. Later, he got a Master's Degree in Special Education from Antioch University.

He was married to the former Peggy Bailey while they were employed as teachers in Georgetown, SC. Later he moved to Philadelphia, PA where he had an interesting and productive career in education, working with juvenile boys with behavioral and emotional challenges; serving as Director of Education for the Pennsylvania Department of Justice at Grateford Prison. After his retirement from Grateford Prison, he accepted a position in special education at Camden High School in Camden, NJ where he was given the opportunity to assist the football coaching staff – for him, a dream come true.

He belonged to the NAACP and The Chapel of Four Chaplains. He was a member of J. C. Price Lodge #82, Prince Hall Affiliation; The United Supreme Council (Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry), Prince Hall Affiliation, North Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.; and the Shrines Pyramid Temple #1. He also served as a faithful member of Bright Hope Baptist Church.

## Mr. James (Ed) Edward Bridgers



The Board of Directors, Officers and Members honor the life and service of this 1938 Tarboro Colored High School graduate for his service to the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association, Incorporated and the services that he rendered to his city, state and nation.

Mr. James (Ed) Edward Bridgers, a centenarian, passed from this life on January 29, 2021 in Princeville, North Carolina. He gave unbridled service and dedication not only to residents of Princeville, Edgecombe County and the State of North Carolina but across the fruited plains of this nation in countless and unique ways.

For his fidelity to the cause of humanity, he was awarded the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association's Inaugural Community Trailblazer Award for significant contribution to the East Tarboro/Princeville communities, he was awarded the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association's Founder's Award for giving outstanding service to the citizenry of the local, state and national levels and he was selected as an Incentive Award Honoree for the 2021 association year.

The members of the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association, Incorporated, recognize our Alumnus, James (Ed) Edward Bridgers for his faithful and dedicated service to the organization and its purposes.

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### Officers, Board Members & Chairpersons

#### Officers

Interim President:	Dr. Fred S. Wood, Jr., '62
President – Elect:	TBD
Vice-President:	TBD
Secretary:	Ms. Barbara G. Carter, '68
Assistant Secretary	TBD
Treasurer:	Dr. Fred S. Wood, Jr., '62
Assistant Treasurer:	Mrs. Ann C. Adams, '69
Financial Secretary:	Mrs. Janette Williams-Pettaway, '66
Sergeant at Arms:	Mr. Charles Lyons, '69
Parliamentarian:	Mr. Othar Woodard, '68
Chaplain of the North:	Mr. Johnny Bryant, '58
Chaplain of the South:	Elder Clinton Stephens, '66

#### Directors

At-Large:	Mrs. Carolyn Pritchette, '73
At-Large:	Dr. Veronica J. Bradley, '67
At-Large:	Mrs. Delia W. Perkins, '60
At-Large:	Mr. Thomas Reeves, '65
At-Large:	Rev. George Cromwell, '61
NE Regional:	Mr. Richard Lyons, '68
NW/SW Regional:	Mr. James Victor Spencer, '63
SE Regional:	Mrs. Gladys H. Dunn, '63

#### Committee Chairpersons

Finance:	Dr. Veronica J. Bradley, '67
Public Relations:	Deaconess Cynthia K. Dockery, '73
Archive:	Dr. Florence A. Armstrong, '63
Scholarship:	Mrs. Charlotte S. Privott, '66
Hall of Fame:	Ms. Stellyne Curtis, '70
Membership:	Mrs. Ruby W. Williams, '65
Benevolence:	Mrs. Minnie Pitt-Pierce, '67
Recruitment/Nomination:	Mrs. Joanne R. Jefferson, '66
By-Laws/Policy:	Mr. Jack Mathewson, '62
Program:	Mrs. Lois C. Hinton, '68
Logistics:	Mr. Charles Lyon, '68 (Co-Chair) Mr. Melvin Betrand, '68 (Co-Chair)

2022 Reunion Co-Chairs:	Mr. David Knight (1970) Mrs. Doris Stith (1970 - Interim) Mrs. Cynthia Harrell (1971) Ms. Fay Taylor Smith (1971) Mrs. Linda Williams Knight (1972)
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## Additional Information and Updates

The Bylaws of the association require that a report to the membership be made annually in the form of an Annual Report. This we have done since 2013. Our protocol has been to highlight specific activities of the year in the Annual Report and include a Financial Summary. The report is presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting, distributed at the Meet and Greet event and posted on the website. The document is prepared by the president and approved by the Board before distribution. The cancellation of the Annual Reunion for the 2020 and 2021 years negated the presentation of the report at the Annual Reunion, however the report has been posted on the website for the past two years.

The 2021 report reveals that we have been able to remain in touch with the alumni population over the past two years, even in a pandemic environment. It also reveals that our scholarship efforts have been stable and that we have been able to subscribe to our association purpose by presenting scholarships to worthy individuals to help them to further their education.

The report, too, reveals that our staffing is strong. We have a full complement of directors, and we are only short three officers from the administrative team and two chairpersons from the programmatic element. The election that was approved by the Board did not result in a slate of candidates as no one availed themselves or nominated persons for the three officer positions opened for election. However, operationally the association is doing well with the complement of directors, officers and chairpersons being at 87% of the total. Efforts continue to staff the two vacant chairperson positions and the officer positions will be among positions available for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

The Financial Summary reflects that the organization was fiscally solvent at the end of this association year as it was at the end of the 2020 association year. This can be attributed to the positive response to fundraising efforts and solicitations that were begun in April of 2020. These efforts are presently ongoing during these hiatuses of reunions and their successes allow us to meet our obligations with the dignity that it has done so over the past years.

While we do have some areas to shore up, the state of the association is strong with respect to staffing, programming and financial sovereignty. We are in full planning and operational mode for the present association year that hopefully will culminate with a 2022 Annual Reunion coordinated by the Classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Submitted by the Board of Directors