

**The 2016 – 2017 Year of the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association
March 21, 2017**

The year 2017 is the Chinese Year of the Rooster. The Rooster is the epitome of fidelity and punctuality. For many who had no alarm clocks, the crowing was significant, as it could awaken people to get up and start to work. Too, the year 2017 has been hailed the African Year of Quality Infrastructure. This in recognition of the efforts that Africa has made towards improving its infrastructure and cultivating a culture of collective responsibility in building a quality infrastructure.

From these two cultures, what symbolism does this have for the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association. I frankly believe that over this year that we as an Alumni Association have been loyal and faithful in promoting the types of programs that are beneficial not only to the Edgecombe County Community but also beneficial to the Legacy that W. A. Pattillo School will leave for posterity. This department has taken place in an infrastructure --an organizational structure - that it is without a doubt tailored to do just that.

During the past year, in addition to our regular programs of Scholarships and Incentive Awards and support to our charter schools: Pattillo and Princeville, we have reached out to support the Tarboro and Princeville communities that were the victims of the flooding from Hurricane Matthews. Specifically, and primarily from special contributions, we put \$5,000 for coupons on deposit at Bryan Drugs in Tarboro. Those coupons were distributed through the two Relief Centers in Tarboro for flood victims to purchase toiletry items. Additionally, we purchase some \$2,000 worth of Christmas gifts for the students of Princeville School so that those students would feel vested from their developmental standpoint in the Holiday Season.

The association answered a question on the validity of the History of the association – the Founders specifically and the published names of persons involved in the organization process. A Research on History Survey Document was sent to 50 people in classes 1932- 1970. The responses were analyzed and a determination was made that our published History, pertaining to the Founders, is accurate but we did add several other names in the History.

This year, as well as last year, with our community outreach Fellowship Brunch Program we returned to Edgecombe County two individuals who grew up in the East Tarboro Community and walked the halls of W. A. Pattillo School. Two individuals who have national and international recognition for their department in work and community. This Son and this Daughter of Pattillo School are individuals who every person in Edgecombe County can be proud of and who many more should have come out to hear and welcome back.

Yes, Fidelity and punctuality have been evident and hallmarks doing our 2017 departments and we have continued to work to build an organizational structure that is sound programmatically, physically and historically. A contingency or individuals: board members, officers, chairs and committee members have made these successes possible with their long and arduous hours of work and sacrifice for the Alumni Association. This has made it possible for each and every one of us to declare still: “Standards High.” Those of you who have endeavored to support this organization with your contributions and your expertise also deserves credit for being a part of an infrastructure that can be recognized is one bent on improving the quality of students and education in Edgecombe County.

As we move toward our 36th Annual Reunion we are fortunate to have the coordination of this effort led by the graduating class of 1967 which celebrates its 50th year since graduation. We look forward to your attendance. I look forward to greeting you.

Sincerely,

Fred

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

