



John W. Paisley National Alumni Association

Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2017



**Happy holidays!!! Welcome to the
Fall/Winter newsletter of the John W.
Paisley National Alumni Association.**

Happy holidays, fellow alumni!!! We are nearing the end of 2017, a year of collaboration and achievement (as well as my first full year as President of the Paisley Alumni Association)! It has been a challenging year for our association but health-wise, it has been physically and emotionally exhausting for me, yet it has been fun! We have been so very blessed to have had many opportunities for camaraderie, including a game night held last Valentine's weekend, a bowling party at Northside Bowling Lanes, Lanes, attendance at the Sinbad show during the National Black Theatre Festival, and lots of cooperation and collaboration to promote the success of the Big Four Festivities in October. Also, many of us have spent numerous hours this year supporting school and community projects, such as supporting Cook Literacy School; the Boston-Thurmond Innovation Network; the Napoleon Wilkes Scholarship which awarded \$1,000 to Vanessa Guerra, who graduated from Parkland High School; the Paisley International Baccalaureate School Groundbreaking; holiday baskets for needy families from Paisley, Cook, Kimberly Park Schools and M.L. King Recreation Center; the Paisley Clothes Closet; and the recent International Festival held in the Paisley Auditorium where students were honored by the North Carolina Humanities Council for their participation in the Odd Fellows Cemetery Genealogical Project. Our sustenance is because of the benevolence of many of you and others who attend the fish fries, the Flapjack Breakfast, and the Raffle and Fellowship held each year at St. Stephen's Baptist Church. Many of you have paid your memberships, which increased to \$100 a month in 2017, and several of you who made additional pledges to support our monthly obligations, such as our office space.

Needless to say, your alumni association needs you in order to continue the work we do to support our alma mater and the surrounding community. We all attended Paisley, which is why we exist, and we grew up in the Boston-Thurmond community, a neighborhood that we all love. With this year coming to an end and 2018 approaching in just a few weeks, I am appealing to you to please pay your dues for the upcoming year, beginning January 1, 2018. In addition, please consider joining us at alumni meetings. You are welcome to attend our next alumni meeting on December 19 at 6:00 pm at S. G. Atkins CDC Enterprise Center. This will be our last meeting before the end of the year. The agenda will include a short business meeting and a happy party with refreshments and



Paisley Alumni Office

We are grateful for the Paisley Alumni Office, Suite 224. Most of you will recall that we moved into our new space on May 1, 2017. If you haven't already, please pay us a visit. We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful working environment at the S.G. Atkins CDC Enterprise Center, where we receive regular support from the Center administration.

This support has appeared in many forms: Connections to Winston-Salem State University and Dr. Pagiavlasno's Marketing Class, which is writing a Business Plan for the Paisley Alumni Association. In addition, we are partnering with Honorable Youth, Inc. that provides leadership opportunities for young people. Its Executive Director, Rasheeda Shankle, is a WSSU senior, graduating this month and a genuine source of support for our programs. Accordingly, the Enterprise Executive Director, Carol Davis, has been astounding in unveiling grants and other available resources for us to pursue. Our occupancy has allowed us to attend monthly networking meetings at the Enterprise and classes offered by the Small Business Center at Forsyth Technical College. The kindness, love and generosity we receive from our link to the Enterprise CDC is much more than we hoped for seven months ago when we moved into the building.

Our Memorable Teachers

We are similarly grateful for the teachers who advised, guided and molded us. There are no words to adequately express our appreciation. As many of them age (and we along with them), we are more and more aware of the positive impact they made on us. We are who we are because of them. Already this year, we have lost some of our favorites: Mrs. Adele Burney (Home Economics), Mrs. Wilhelmina Lash (Librarian), Mrs. Selena Nichols, and Mrs. Bettye Hannon. We continue to celebrate our teachers, our mentors, our foundation. The very last class to graduate from Paisley and have the benefit of studying under our stalwart leaders is the class of 1968. They will be celebrating their 50 years in 2018. Anyone who was a member of that class is invited to attend planning meetings being held at the Enterprise Center. For more information, you may contact James Pickens at 252-578-9371.

Paisley Groundbreaking

The biggest present in the holiday gift box is the new Paisley International Baccalaureate School being constructed on the same grounds as our alma mater that was built over 55 years ago. Though it saddens me that our building is being replaced, I am reminded that our legacy remains and cannot be replaced. We must hold onto our history and share it with other students who have attended Paisley, yet were not part of our era. We must document, educate and inform them of the riches that emerged from the seven (7) short years that we were in our current location. We have a wealthy legacy to uphold.



Paisley alumni who attended the groundbreaking



Mrs Billie Matthews and Dothula Baron speaking at groundbreaking

Community Giving

On November 21, fellow alumni came together to purchase food for Thanksgiving baskets. They delivered eight baskets to families in the Boston community. Names were provided by Paisley, Cook, Kimberly Park and the Martin Luther King Recreation Center. The project was coordinated by Carolyn Hampton and Paisley Alumni Association's Spirit Committee, which includes Delores Ginyard, Darinda Boston and Joyce Smith. Other Paisley alumni who shopped and delivered groceries included Eric Martin, President of the Big 4 Alumni Association; Colista Ramseur-Green; Ronnie Amason; Ann Saunders Caldwell; and Robert Noble. Baskets will also be distributed at Christmas time.



Christmas Celebration and New Year Aspirations

Please join us on Saturday, December 9 at 8:00 pm at the American Legion Post on Old Rural Hall Road. This event is being given at no cost to our paid members and one (1) guest, so if you have your 2017 dues paid please come, without charge. For all others, the admission fee is \$15. If you have paid your dues or if you have not, please RSVP immediately. Call our office at 336-464-3137 or reply by email to dothulabaron@yahoo.com. We assure you a great time! Lots of fun and celebration! Attire is dressy casual.

In the new year, will continue to grow our organization. Goals are to increase our financial base; strengthen our organizational capacity; build relationships and presence in the Boston-Thurmond community; and continue to research and document our history and legacy in Boston and other traditional African American neighborhoods in Winston-We need your support to move forward.

Respectfully submitted, **Dothula Baron**, President, Paisley Alumni Association