



Booker T Washington Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 503
Staunton, VA. 24402

June 2021

Greetings Alumni, Friends and Supporters:

It is hard to believe that spring of 2021 is here.

After an unbelievable year of being shut-in COVID- 19, its springtime and virus restrictions are loosening and hopefully we are returning to normal. We are not there yet but if all who are eligible would get their vaccinations, by year's end, we might be back to normal entirely.

The 2020 Booker T. Washington High School reunion weekend was cancelled with the hope of happening in 2021 but the alumni Board felt we are not quite ready to have a reunion weekend this September. The Board thought it best to allow alumni, friends supporters and their families to enjoy being with each other since we were highly encouraged to maintain our distance from one another.

When it was decided to cancel the 2020 Reunion Weekend, we wondered if we may be making a mistake but in hindsight the decision to cancel proved correct. Not only were we encouraged to socially distance, but the economy also took a hit, and we may have been financially challenged as well.

Even so, Booker T's alumni, friends and supporters did not forget the purpose of why we exist forty-eight years after our first high school alumni event. It is doubtful that anyone who attended that initial alumni dance at Ingleside in 1973 thought that event would be the beginning of more than 46 years of awarding scholarships to Black high school graduates of Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County.

As stated above contributors to the Booker T. Washington High School Scholarship Fund did not forget our purpose. When it was deemed best to cancel the 2020 Alumni Weekend activities, normal alumni weekend costs were avoided. Costs such as paying for a banquet facility, catering and musical entertainment were not incurred.

That said however there were other alumni costs. The Board decided that to keep the Booker T. Alumni Association from disappearing from local residents minds. For example, the board purchased 400 Booker T. COVID-19 masks and distributed them to local the Valley Mission, Shelburne Middle School, the Boys and Girls Club and the Women's Shelter.

Of course, the Association awarded its annual scholarship. The 2021 scholarships are awarded to Keeziak Williams, Staunton High and Amaya Lucas, Buffalo Gap (Augusta County). We're able to award two scholarships because of your generosity and special donations from BIG DOGG Riders and the Dr. Theodore M. Johnston Family Memorial Fund, and the Staunton NAACP.

Even though major costs will not be incurred, please donate as you have previously. In fact, due to COVID-19 related stimulus awards you may be able to donate a little extra. Regardless, please know that any amount you're comfortable donating, is greatly appreciated.

We also wish to acknowledge donations to the BTW Library Museum from Jennifer Vickers and Patsy Tate Turner

Sadly, we announce the passing of Board Members Mrs. Helen Becks and Mrs. Thelma Brown.