

# **TCCHS Alumni Association Begins New Year**

The TCCHS Alumni Association has been active at several basketball games promoting the association, selling polo shirts and silicone bands, and accepting association memberships. We do hope you will be certain to maintain your yearly memberships since these funds help to finance our alumni scholarships! Our gray polo shirts sport our alumni logo, and the silicone bands are ideal for both adults and youth. The bands also make excellent jar top openers. Please stop by and chat when you see us at different events.

The alumni association meets regularly the third Thursday night of each month at 6:00 PM in the media center at TCCHS! We hope you will join us for a meeting. We also are still having "Alumni Night" each fourth Monday night at L & R Soda Shop in Elkton. We hope you will also take time to join us at L & R and support both the alumni association and L & R as well!

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## **Alumni Association Extends "Best Wishes" and Reminders**

The TCCHS Alumni Association extends its warmest wishes for a joyous Christmas and a blessed 2015. We have accomplished much throughout 2014, and we anticipate continued success in 2015. Please remember if you have not mailed in your \$10.00 yearly dues for 2014 to do so. We have sent emails as reminders to those who joined last fall, and we hope you will choose to

renew your membership again. Remember that monies generated from memberships fund our scholarships.

We would love to see you at “Alumni Night at L & R Soda Shop” each fourth Monday as the Claytons and staff of L & R support our efforts to generate additional funds for scholarships! We know you will be blessed with the congeniality of the L & R staff, and we know too you will enjoy the meal provided by the staff at L & R.

We ask you to share information about the TCCHS Alumni Association with as many folks as you can! We also invite you to attend any of our meetings whenever possible. We meet the third Thursday night of each month at 6:00 PM in the media center at TCCHS! We hope to see you soon!

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## **“1st Annual Womanless Beauty Pageant”**

Grenville Kleiser, a North American author of inspirational books born in Toronto, Canada, and a public speaking instructor at Yale University, left us this very memorable quote – “Good humor is a tonic for mind and body. It is the best antidote for anxiety and depression. It is a business asset. It attracts and keeps friends. It lightens human burdens. It is the direct route to serenity and contentment.” When you consider the many accolades of ‘good humor’ cited in Kleiser’s quote, you more than likely will concur that ‘good humor’ is indisputably ‘good for the soul.’

With those attributes of 'humor' in mind, mark your calendar for Saturday evening, November 15, 2014. That date, the third Saturday night in November, is one that will bring those in attendance several hours of laughter and smiles as quite a few educators, community leaders, a local preacher, several TCCHS students, the TCCHS dance team, and the TCCHS cheerleaders will provide both the entertainment and concessions for those in attendance. Add to that the benefits of assisting with a worthy cause and enjoying one that is 'family-oriented,' and you will agree the evening will be one well worth your being in the audience. Sponsored by the TCCHS PTO, the goal of this fund-raising event is to generate funds to purchase a new video projector system for the auditorium. Faye Turnbaugh, PTO president, added, "The PTO officers tossed several fund-raising ideas around at an earlier meeting this year, and everyone agreed that we wanted to do something different; we also wanted something the whole family could attend, and we wanted community involvement."

Mrs. Jennifer Pope, TCCHS principal, remarked, "The 'Womanless Beauty Pageant' will feature Todd County staff, students, and community members. The event will be entertaining and fun for the entire family. When the PTO works for our students, they always go above and beyond expectations to entertain the community." She added, "I expect nothing less than a great show on the 15th. The students, staff, and I appreciate so much the PTO's contributions to our school; the members consistently donate time and skills to TCCHS, and each effort made by the PTO directly benefits our students."

Noting the TCCHS auditorium and its facilities are used not only for students' benefit but for the community's benefit as

well, Mrs. Pope explained, "The school truly is an extension of the community. By having a projector available for events, the auditorium can be used by outside groups and allow for more people from the community to bring activities to our school. It is always the goal of TCCHS to get the community involved."

Of course, all folks are wondering who the participants will be in this 'womanless beauty pageant,' and some of those tentatively slated for contributing to the 'good humor' of that night include Arthur Green, former TCCHS staff member and president of the Todd County Retired Teachers; Todd Marshall, former TCCHS principal; Michael Taylor and Ed Oyler, Todd County Board of Education administrators; Steven K. McGhee ('06), history teacher and girls' soccer and girls' basketball coach; Chuck Sadler ('86), South Todd Elementary; Bruce Voth, South Todd assistant principal; Jon Partlow, preacher at West Side Church of Christ; Jason Clardy ('01), Elkton policeman; and Kendall Farmer and Lucian Moore ('89), TCCHS football coaches. Emcees for the evening will include Craig Bristow ('03) and Shane Hessey, owner of Todd County and Cook-Webb Funeral Homes. Also assisting with one of the events planned for the night are several TCCHS students – those young men, mostly seniors, include Grant Edwards, Logan Powell, James Bishop, Nathan Brown, Dylan Wilkerson, Cody Morgan, Naytrimus Harris, Hunter Harper, and Dylan Nichols.

Doors open at 5:30 PM with concessions available to the public; please note that proceeds from the concessions are earmarked for the cheerleaders and dance team. Concessions to be sold will include hot dogs, pork chop sandwiches, popcorn, and drinks. Tickets for the pageant are \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Those five and under are free. Mrs. Turnbaugh also expressed

thanks to Robert Downey, representative of Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial, who is matching a pledge of \$1250.00 of total monies collected that night at the door. With the event striving for a goal of \$7000.00 to purchase the new video equipment, your attendance will definitely serve two purposes – it will add to the coffers necessary to assist with improving the capabilities of the TCCHS auditorium, and it will also provide a ‘family-oriented evening of entertainment’ that is guaranteed to produce several hours of ‘good humor and laughter.’

*~Article by Carolyn L. Wells*

*October 24, 2014*

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## **TCCHS’s 50th-Year Celebration a Success!**

An alumna of the Class of 1980, Renee Brizendine Thompson, said it eloquently – “What a nostalgic day! Every time I go ‘home’ I appreciate where I grew up even more. Elkton, Kentucky: Rich dirt. Open spaces. Winding roads and rolling hills. Values instilled. Friends to share it all with. God Blessed. Today was Todd County Central High School’s 50<sup>th</sup>-Year Celebration. Never thought of it as historic, but now I guess it is!” Those words truly portray the sentiments heard so often this past Saturday, May 17, as the halls of TCCHS were opened to the 50 years of graduates, educators, and friends who have fond memories of a place so many are proud to call

their 'home.'

The TCCHS Alumni Association's primary goal during the planning stages of the event focused on paying homage to the leaders of 'yesteryear' who provided the solid footing for the first year of TCCHS's history, a year that included the opening of a new school facility along with the opening of the doors of Todd Central to all Todd Countians as integration of the former high schools in Todd County also transpired with the beginning of the 1963-1964 school year. That smooth transition to a new facility and to the new concept of integration in Todd County is credited by many to the strong management abilities of Henry C. Malone, superintendent of the Todd County School District during the planning stages and first years of TCCHS's history; to the very positive leadership style of Robert N. Bush, first principal of TCCHS; and to the many educators who formed the first faculty of TC, many of those faculty members former educators at the high schools that merged into TC.

Mr. Henry Malone along with the first-year teachers who could attend the celebration on Saturday were recognized early in the afternoon program by Wayne Benningfield, current superintendent, and Phyllis Hardison Traughber, a member of the first graduating class and a former educator in the Todd County School District. Mr. Benningfield presented Mr. Malone, a resident of Guthrie, a copy of the 2014 TCCHS Rebel yearbook dedicated to him by the yearbook staff as a memento for his years of service in the formative years of TCCHS's history. Mrs. Joe Nell Waters, Class of 1973 and former principal of TCCHS, also recognized each of the eleven former principals of TC during its first 50 years along with current principal Todd Marshall. Ann Bush Wolfe, daughter of Mr. Robert Bush, was also presented a certificate honoring her father as the first principal, a leader so many of his colleagues and former students recall as a very caring and capable person able to make appropriate decisions at a crucial time in the founding

of a new school in a new era.

Judy Anderson Donnelly, Class of 1968, recalled in an email about Mr. Bush – “Few principals are respected and admired, much less remembered, fifty years later! Mr. Bush led quietly, sternly, or with great humor, depending upon the situation, and he was a great judge of when to let things go.” She added, “He loved his students and had a strange power of knowing what we were doing, even on weekends! I remember that students and teachers secretly donated money for his Christmas presents! One year he received a color TV and another year a recliner! Doesn't that speak volumes? He was presented his gift at an assembly or pep rally, and he was led in blindfolded.”

A secondary goal of the alumni association on Saturday was to provide for the public an opportunity to ‘walk the halls’ of Todd Central to see the many updates that have transpired during its first 50 years – those changes include many that students of the early years had not witnessed – new lighting, new lockers, and energy-efficient windows; central heating and air; renovated restrooms; an expanded media center and cafeteria; and the many other facelifts that have occurred in recent years. Ann Wolfe and former teacher and principal Jim Young, along with many of the other visitors on Saturday, were extremely complimentary of the new state-of-the-art auditorium that opened in 2006. Anyone who has seen this facility will echo that reaction as the facility hosted the afternoon program that also showcased the musical talents of former students Euletta Harris Sweeney, Latrice Sweeney Ford, Amanda Sweeney Bassingthwaite, Anthony Hightower, Rocky Rager, Libby Sims Lancaster, Carol Sims Tapp, Amanda Sims Groves, Cedrick Leavell, Halie Sawyers, Class of 2015, and Roger Sweeney, another Todd Countian and a 1966 graduate of Muhlenberg Central who contributed his musical talents. Also adding to the afternoon program was Darrell Crawford, Class of 1993 and current pastor at Living Hope Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, who provided opening remarks along with the invocation. Mike

Kenner, Class of 1975, former teacher, principal, and superintendent, ended the program with a benediction. In his remarks, he too voiced the strong foundation that TCCHS has provided for so many individuals who have exited TC's doors.

Tours of the building included for many a walk down memory's lane as the TCCHS media center became a 'hodgepodge' of memorabilia with displays for each decade grouped for all to see. Cherie Higgins Morris, Class of 1985, remarked that one of the favorite items for her decade was a picture of Ms. Marion Williams, TCCHS's first librarian, riding a four-wheeler. Those who recall Ms. Williams would indeed smile to see her perched on a four-wheeler with former teacher, coach, and principal, Mr. Harold Ross, perched behind her. Obviously, many visitors were certain to remark that their decade's collection rated much higher scores than the other four. The association expresses its thanks to Sharon Patterson Shemwell, Darlene Powell Groves, Cherie Higgins Morris, Brittany Withers Prather, Brittney Addison, Judy Anderson Donnelly, and Anna Jo Moore Parmley for their efforts organizing the collectables.

Kane Reed, six-year-old son of Dr. Dusty Griffin Reed, Class of 2000 and former vice-principal at North Todd Elementary, was excited to visit Todd Central for a 'party,' and his great-aunt, Cherie Higgins Morris, stated Kane was very pleased that 'the party' included cakes and punch in the cafeteria. Linda Stokes Fritz, Class of 1966 and vice-president of the alumni association, expressed her gratitude to Debbie Johnson, Susie Camp Greenfield, and Bettye Fowler for their willingness to tackle the preparation and donation of the cakes and punch along with Ms. Johnson's willingness to create a beautifully decorated cafeteria. Mrs. Fritz also voiced the gratitude of the association to Mr. Wayne Benningfield, Larry Rager, the TCCHS PTSO, and the faculty and staff of TCCHS for their support of the association and the day's celebration.

Ms. Fritz also stated, "The TCCHS Alumni Association is so



very blessed that we were provided the backing necessary to host a day's event to honor the first 50 years of TCCHS. When we asked someone to complete some task for the day, we were always greeted with a positive remark. Our efforts could not have succeeded without the enthusiasm and work of so many of our alumni, officers, friends, and alumni directors." Sharon Mallory Wilson, Class of 1970, stated it beautifully, "Many thanks are due for the efforts put into the TCCHS 50th Anniversary Celebration. From the tour, to the refreshments, to the memorabilia, to the special music and program, and most especially to the opportunity to see former classmates and teachers – the day was enjoyed by all who attended. As Linda Stokes Fritz said during her remarks, 'This was the **only** TCCHS 50th Anniversary. Kudos!'"