

# WEST WIND

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5      1 MAY 2014

## HEY YOU, YES YOU! GOT A SECOND?

Your Alumni group, the West End School Association, is working hard to reach out to all graduates (and attendees, even if you didn't graduate) of simply the best school that Nashville had to offer—public or private. We want to have a completely updated database of every class from 1937, until they closed the doors on the high school after the class of 1968 graduated and we need your help.

If you have served as the person in your class who got in touch with your fellow classmates, please let us know so they we can make sure we have current information on all those from your class. We are also trying to add as many e-mail addresses as possible so that we can communicate without the expense of postage and printing so that we might



better utilize the funds that you are so generously making available to us.

Homecoming 2014 should be a wonderful event at Hillwood Country Club on July 26th and we look forward to seeing you there!

With a sit down, table service dinner and some wonderful meal options there will be lots of opportunity to renew old friendships and

perhaps even make some new ones.

When you gather together with your fellow Blue Jays, whether it is Lunch Bunch, a monthly class luncheon, Homecoming or helping out the PTSO at the Middle School you are not only rewarding yourself with a truly wonderful experience, you are helping to keep alive and renew the spirit that made West best!

So join in won't you? Even if you can not attend the Homecoming event return your form with your updated personal information and pass those forms to those you know who have not received one themselves.

Together, working as Blue Jays always have, we can enrich our own lives while maintaining that Blue Jay spirit as well!

## DID WE MENTION WE HAVE SHIRTS FOR SALE?

Did we mention we have some great West High Alumni wear for sale?

The merchandising director for West Middle School has worked with us over the last year to help us get our very own West End Alumni

T-Shirt and West High Alumni Golf Shirt.

The T-shirt is high quality and a true bargain at only \$10 and the Golf Shirt is simply extraordinary—all embroidered, no silk screen, with a Blue Jay, Clock Tower and Alumni

all showcased on a beautiful blue shirt. Even at \$40, you would be hard put to find one of better quality.

More information as well as an order form can be found at our website: [www.WestHighBluejays.com](http://www.WestHighBluejays.com) Please check them out and get yours today!

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New Calendar Page*
- *New Page for Updates on Bluejays*
- *Treasurer's Report*
- *Spring is here!*



*"I'm looking over a four leaf clover..."*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

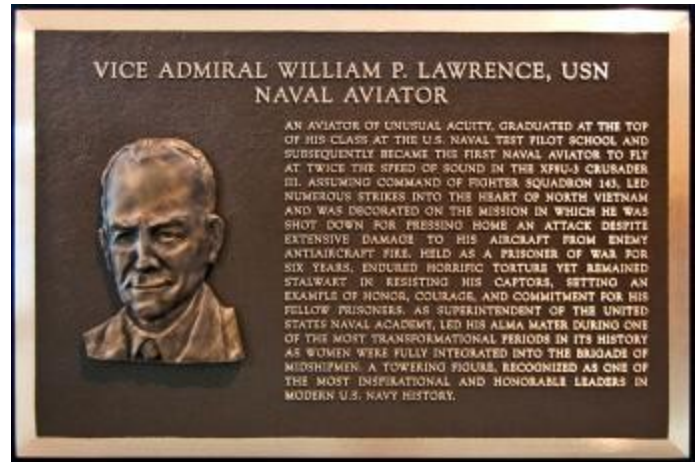
WEST HISTORY	2
TREASURER NEWS	3
CALENDAR	4
BLUEJAY PAGE	5
CLOTHING SALES	1
MISSION	6
WANT TO HELP?	6

## Admiral William Porter Lawrence

WHIT STOKES,  
CLASS OF 1954,  
WILL OFFER US A  
MONTHLY LOOK  
INTO THE  
HISTORY OF  
WEST

It is difficult to say who the most famous West End High School graduate is out of the over 4,000 men and women who received diplomas between 1938 and 1968, but Billy Lawrence would almost certainly rank among the leaders. Lawrence, the son of former Vanderbilt football player, Robert “Fatty” Lawrence, and Tennessee Brewer Lawrence, was the third of the Lawrence brothers to attend West. Older brother Bobby played football and basketball for three years before graduating in 1943. After military service he played football at Vanderbilt. The middle brother, Eddie, played football and basketball in 1944 and 1945, but rheumatic fever ended his athletic career after high school. Billy not only played football and basketball like his older brothers for three years, but added baseball and tennis in his last two years before graduating in 1947. In his spare time he also served as student body president his senior year.

His athletic career continued at the Naval



### Naval Air Museum Hall of Fame

Academy where again he played football, basketball, and baseball. However, he abandoned his athletic career his senior year to concentrate on academic and other activities. Not surprisingly, the “other activities” included his duties as class president and brigade commander. After graduating in 1951 he went on active duty and began a thirty five year career in Naval Aviation. He was the first Navy pilot to fly at twice the speed of sound and was almost selected as one of the original astronauts. Unfortunately, a slight heart murmur disquali-

fied him as an astronaut, but not as a pilot. While serving in combat in the Viet Nam War, his plane was shot down in 1967. He was a prisoner of war until 1973. While he was a prisoner he wrote the poem “Oh, Tennessee, My Tennessee” which was named the state poem in 1973. One of his fellow prisoners was John McCain who later became a Senator and candidate for President. Lawrence did not pursue a political career, but served as a Navy officer until his retirement in 1986 with the rank of Vice Admiral.

(See Next Page)

## Admiral William Porter Lawrence

One of his assignments after he returned to the United States was Superintendent of the Naval Academy. He assumed the position in 1978, twenty seven years after he graduated. One of the changes in the interim was the admission of women, and one of them was his daughter Wendy. After graduation she also became a pilot and an astronaut, so a



*Admiral William Lawrence*  
*Class of 1947*

member of the Lawrence family did become part of the space program after all.

Admiral Lawrence died on December 2, 2005. The story of his life, *Tennessee Patriot*, was published in 2006. Lawrence was a co-author of the auto-biography and the 200 plus pages provides a lot of detail that could not be treated in this short writing. On April 17, 2010, the *USS William P. Lawrence*, a guided-missile destroyer was commissioned. There is an exhibit about Admiral Lawrence's career in the Alumni Room at the at West End Middle School.

*(Next issue-How did Four Leaf Clover ever become a fight song?)*



**USS William P. Lawrence DDG-110**

**All-Class Reunion coming up July 26th, if you have moved in the last two years, please let us know your new address and e-mail!**



*Remember these?*

### APRIL 2014 TRESURER'S REPORT

Each month the Treasurer's Report for our alumni group will be posted in the West Wind and on the alumni website. For more information about our group's finances please contact any of the WESA officers.

Beginning Balance, April 1 - **\$846.25**

Deposit, April 11 - **\$155.60** - Credit card proceeds T-Shirt and

Golf Shirt sales April Lunch Bunch

Deposit, April 18 - **\$100** - Cash and checks from T-Shirt and Golf Shirt sales April Lunch Bunch

Deposit, April 22 - **\$310.00** Payments for Homecoming 2014 and donation to WESA

Check, April 23 - **\$42.00** Check to Hillwood CC for Strickland

family meals at April Lunch Bunch

Deposit, April 30 - **\$577.00** Payments for Homecoming 2014, Donations to WESA, postage on T-Shirts

Closing Balance, April 30 - **\$1,946.85**

Financial obligation Homecoming 2014 - **\$700.00**

# MAY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	3	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Thursday May 1—Class of 1960 lunch at Carrabba's in Green Hills at 11:30.
- Monday May 5—WESA Officer's Meeting
- Thursday May 8—Lunch Bunch, Hillwood Country Club, 11:15.
- Saturday, May 10—West Middle School PTSO Brunch for Blue Jays who helped work concession stands at football and basketball games this year.
- Let's FILL this calendar in May with LOTS of activities of the Blue Jays!



## FABULOUS APRIL LUNCH BUNCH!

Lunch Bunch for April was simply one of those occasions that you will kick yourself if you missed it.

Ray Sharer, Charlie Daugherty and Bob Dudley Smith brought the memories of Emmett Strickland alive during an incredible presentation.

Coach Strickland served as basketball coach at West during much of the 1940's and was responsible for helping bring more state cham-

pionships to our school than anyone else.

Coach Strickland's son and daughter were able to attend and added memories of their Dad to the discussion in what was a very memorable event.

Our May Lunch Bunch will feature Buck Dozier, former Metro Councilman-at-Large, mayoral candidate, Metro Fire Chief and Director of the Fairgrounds. He prom-

ises a program that will bring back fond high school memories for us all.

Lunch Bunch meets at Hillwood Country Club, the second Thursday of every month beginning with lunch at 11:15 and then a program starting at noon. We promise to have you out by 1:00. Just \$14, it has to be one of the best bargains in town—Blue Jay friends, great food and program! Please join us, renew old friendships or make new ones!



## BAND REUNION DURING HOMECOMING

West was known not only for academics and athletics, but music as well.

If you were a member of the band from any year, then this message is for you!

This summer during the West Homecoming, former band members will have their own gathering Friday night for a dinner, or Saturday morning for a brunch.



**Last Marching Band  
Fall of 1966**

ner, or Saturday morning for a brunch.

Keep your calendar open as we finalize the plans to celebrate the wonderful years we had with Mr. D. F. Bain as our teacher. By the way, did you know Mr. Bain was the only band teacher the school ever had?

Many of you have already expressed interest, if you have not heard, now is the time to join this festive occasion.

*(Updated from April)*

### Catching Up



### With Bluejays!

## CLASS OF 1959 REUNION PLANNING!

The Class of 1959 is having their 55th year reunion at the home of Carter and Emily Baker on Friday evening, July 25th. It will be a barbeque type dinner catered by Billy Terrell, a national and international award winning chef. We have chosen



pulled pork and grilled chicken with all sorts of fixins', and we hope to talk Billy's mother into

making her "Taylor Swift" banana pudding for dessert for us. We will have plenty of beverages, but if you have a particular brand of wine or alcohol, you are asked to provide that. We intend to have a few hours of fun and fellowship talking about the wonderful memories we seem to still be able to recall!



**Principal Jeff Keith gets more than \$14,000 from the old alumni group**

## CLASS OF 1960 JULY REUNION

The Class of 1960 will have a reunion dinner at Sunset Grill on Friday, July 25, the night before our Blue Jays Homecoming. They expect over 60 to attend and urge classmates to respond if they have not yet done so.

Many class-

mates continue to enjoy luncheons at Carrabba's in Green Hills at 11:30 on the first Thursday of each month.

For more information about the reunion or monthly lunch please contact Ray Bell at:

[raybell8787@comcast.net](mailto:raybell8787@comcast.net)

If you have not received your letter about the reunion, please contact Alice Rose Plummer at (615)824-7734 or :

[alice.plummer@comcast.net](mailto:alice.plummer@comcast.net) if you have not already done so.



**Yes Virginia, you can have your very own!**



## WEST END SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 292731  
Nashville, TN 37229-2731310

Phone: 615-310-4682

E-mail: [Info@WestHighBluejays.com](mailto:Info@WestHighBluejays.com)

---

IT'S HERE!

[WESTHIGHBLUEJAYS.COM](http://WESTHIGHBLUEJAYS.COM)

---

BLUEJAYS CARRYING FORWARD A  
GREAT TRADITION!

## OUR PURPOSE

WESA is organized to be a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to conduct alumni activities typically associated with graduates from a particular institution of learning.

### Other Specific Purposes

To foster mutual support among the Alumni of West End High School and West End Middle School, Nashville, Tennessee including alumni gatherings, support for those in ill health and passing of WESA participants.

To continue the preservation of the West End physical facility and grounds.

To support the ongoing educational program at West End School by working with the Parent Teacher Student Organization, faculty, students or other interested parties in school activities, fund raising, and mentoring students.

To set an example to all as to why "West is Best".

## HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE NEWSLETTER

What an incredible year it has been for Blue Jays! Lunch Bunch the second Thursday of every month, alums helping out the Middle School by working concession stands for the ball games, class lunches and planning for a wonderful Homecoming for all Bluejays, Saturday July 26th at Hillwood Country Club.

More info at our website:

[WestHighBluejays.com](http://WestHighBluejays.com)

Please feel free to contact us about anything.

We are nearing completion of our database

of all classes who graduated from our great school and if you are the contact person for activities by your class, please contact us to make sure we have you completely up to date! When we are done, we will have current contact information for every Blue Jay, as well as e-mail addresses for those who have them, so we can keep in better contact!

We have some great Lunch Bunch activities coming up with Buck Dozier this month, Mike Organ of the Tennessean in June to talk about the incredible days of the N.I.L., David Maples

(Blue Jay and former FBI agent) in July and Ms Cheap in August. Truly events you want to put on your calendars now so you won't forget them as they approach!

Don't forget to mail in your reservation for Homecoming 2014!

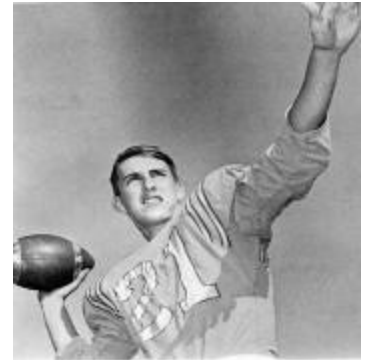
Blue Jays celebrating Blue Jays, how could it get any better than this?

Thanks!

*Burton*

Burton Dietz

WESA President



*Ronnie Fuqua Class of 1967*

Comments, suggestions and ideas for future issues are always welcome! The Blue Jay spirit will never die!