



GMSAAI ALUMNI CONNECTION

VOLUME I

FALL EDITION DECEMBER 2014

**From the President
Tim Snyder**

Attention Please!!

Remember when one of the principals would blow in the microphone? I won't do that, but here is my take on what's happening in GMSAAI.

Reflections on the Convention

We had another great convention. We conducted our business, and it was apparent that all of our committees worked hard to get their work accomplished. I appreciate all who served on committees this year. Our auction earned close to \$1000 and was characterized by fun and spirited bidding. Our talent and variety show continued to be a great success; all of the other participants provided the talent, and I provided the variety. All in all we have a great convention/reunion. Thanks to Frances Council and her committee for doing such a great job.

Upcoming General Meeting

On January 24, 2015 at the Holiday Inn North, we will hold our Winter General meeting of GMSAA, Inc. As usual, we will have finger foods, educational programs, a short business meeting and great fun and fellowship together. You can get rooms for a discounted rate in the hotel. We only have five rooms reserved for a discounted rate, so if you want to stay on the 24th, call early to reserve your room. If you know you will be at the meeting, call Lawrence Carter at 919-856-0034. Traditionally, we do not have any charge for this meeting although we do incur expenses. I would like to maintain this tradition, but we may have a way for you to give with a cash offering opportunity or a way to use plastic to make donations. As you prepare to come to this January meeting, please consider making preparations to make a donation to help defray the expenses for GMSAA.

Committees Working

I want to thank each of our committees for getting to work in good order this year. I appreciate all who have agreed to serve on our various committees. Our committee chairs are as follows:

Archives and History: Tim Snyder

Awards/Scholarship: George Littlejohn

Benevolence: Robert Parrish

Communications: Fred McEachern

Constitution and Bylaws: Yvonne Wright Kea

Convention: Lawrence Carter

Education: Ricky Scott

Finance: Fred McEachern

Legislative and Advocacy: James Benton

Membership: Thelma Crumpler

Nominations: Darryl Eaton

Resource Development: Douglas Davis

Belk Charity Day

By the time you read this newsletter the Winter Belk

Charity Day event will be history. Thanks to all who participated. We had participation in a record number of stores. We participated for the first time in the Wilmington and Shallotte stores. Let's begin now to plan what we might be able to do in 2015.

More Communications

Are you interested in being a part of a GMSAA email group list? If so, I would like to hear from you. I do not know if we need an announcement list so that news can be more easily spread between newsletters, or if we need a discussion list where we can all throw out news and ideas for discussion, or if we need both. We already have a Facebook page, but not all of us use Facebook. I think that email communications may be easier for most of us than texting. Please tell me what you think. Call me at 919-635-1000 or send email to gmsaamail@gmail.com. I do want to hear from you.

I need to get off this intercom so the teacher can give you your homework assignment. If she/he doesn't have any homework for you, I think one of our committee chairpersons can find some wonderful work for you to do. In any case have a great and safe winter. I hope you had wonderful Thanksgiving and have a very Merry Christmas.

Planning Committee
By Lawrence Carter

The GMS Alumni Association invites you to attend its annual winter meeting, which will be held the weekend of January 24, 2015 at the Holiday Inn North located at 2805 Highwoods Blvd in Raleigh, North Carolina. The purpose of this winter meeting is to provide you the opportunity to engage in fellowship, fun and food while at the same time providing you with an update at a brief business meeting of some activities impacting the blind and visually impaired community. The planning committee anticipates that the general brief business

meeting will commence around 1 PM and concluding with updates and information beneficial to the blind and visually impaired of our organization and those within the community. Following these afternoon activities, food, fun and fellowship will begin around 4 PM.

Therefore, it is essential that you contact the planning committee so that an accurate count can be made so that sufficient food and beverages will be provided to all in attendance. This event is free to the public. The Holiday Inn North is providing room rates of \$65.90 per night for those who contact the hotel and make their reservations. Therefore, you can reach the Holiday Inn North at 919 872-3500 and ask for the rooms under the Governor Morehead School Alumni Association. In addition, you may contact the Planning Committee Chairman Lawrence Carter at 919 856-0034 to communicate to him your interest in attending this event. Your attendance at this event is welcomed and

appreciated. We have selected the Embassy Suites Hotel at Crabtree for our Convention/Reunion for August 7 – 9, 2015. A link for the hotel is provided below. Your POG Link is: <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/R/RDUCMES-590-20150807/index.jhtml>
Comments from POG team:

EYE Report
By Alan Chase

The 2014 EYE Retreat was held Saturday, July 26th to Saturday, August 2nd. A total of 37 participants attended, including our group leaders. States represented included Connecticut, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Participants were housed on the campus of The Governor Morehead School and part of the daily programming was also held on the campus. Other programming was held on the campus of North Carolina State University. The total operating budget for 2014 was roughly \$7,000.00. Also this year, the EYE

Retreat launched its new website at www.eyeretreat.org. The EYE Retreat continues to be the only college transition program planned, operated, and evaluated solely by those with visual impairments in the eastern United States.

The programming for 2014 differed from previous years in that a mock class was taught on a specific topic (disability history and advocacy) and homework assignments were required of all participants as one would expect to find in a real college course. Additionally, participants were required to eat off campus for dinner twice during the week in small groups. This required them to arrange transportation, balance a food budget, and manage time to complete homework. Finally, they were provided additional off campus time each evening and during the day Friday to explore the City of Raleigh as a way of encouraging travel skills, independence, and decision making.

Other programming during the week included sessions on time management, careers, note taking, advocacy, roommates, cooking, chair yoga, self-defense, and goal ball. The EYE Retreat again partnered with the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind to host some of its college prep students during select activities and also attended the annual dance at the end of the week.

At the conclusion of the week, it was decided that an advisory board would be created in order to advise the leadership team on matters of programming and policy. This advisory board is in the process of updating the EYE Retreat policy manual, developing a strategic plan, and planning for 2015. The board recommended two educational tracks for 2015 with one being dedicated to careers and the other being the continuation of college preparation. The board further recommended that in 2016 or 2017 a two week program be considered.

Finally, the board suggested yearlong programming to include monthly conference calls on specific topics of interest and possibly a mid-year winter mini-retreat.

Applications for the 2015 EYE Retreat will be available starting January 1, 2015. Staff applications will be available starting November 1, 2014. The dates for the 2015 EYE Retreat have not been finalized. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/eyeretreat or on twitter at www.twitter.com/eyeretreat.

Committee Reports

Benevolence
By Rev. Robert Parrish

[Marian B. Hall obituary From the News & Observer
Marian B. Hall Raleigh
Marian. Hall, 86, passed away Friday November 14, 2014. She was born March 9, 1928 in Cumberland County, NC the daughter of the late A. F. Barrett and Lula (Cameron) Barrett. She was a graduate

of Flora McDonald College. Mrs. Hall taught at the Governor Morehead School f/t Blind in Raleigh NC until she retired.

Mrs. Sandra Harrison passed away September 12, 2014. She taught at the Governor Morehead School f/t Blind Raleigh, NC until she retired.

Lois Dickson Moffett of Sanford, NC, went into eternal glory on August 22, 2014. Born July 22, 1923, in Arlington, NJ, she spent childhood with her beloved parents, brother, close cousins, and extended family. In June 1944 just before graduating from the NJ State Teachers' College, she met the love of her life, Chaplain Polk Moffett, Lieut. J.G., when her college choir sang at the Coast Guard Barracks' Sunday service. They were married Nov. 22, 1944, and the following spring, Polk left to serve overseas. From 1946-1959, Lois and Polk welcomed five beautiful daughters and served in churches in Blackstone, VA,

Dallas and Greenville, TX, and Duncan, OK. In 1964, they moved to Raleigh, NC, and became a part of White Memorial Presbyterian Church. Lois then began an eighteen-year teaching career at Gov. Morehead School for the Visually Impaired. Lois was active in many groups, including the NCSU Civic Symphony Orchestra (violin section, 20 years), co-founder of the History and Archives Board for the GMS Archives Museum, Priv. John Grady Chapter of D.A.R., Sir Walter Lioness Club, Delta Kappa Gama Society (Omicron Chapter), Keenagers Ministry at White Memorial, and women's prison outreach ministry. Lois was an avid gardener, talented artist in porcelain painting, knitting, ceramics, water color, and oil painting, and an accomplished musician, playing the Violin, piano, bugle, mandolin, and dulcimer, and teaching piano too many of her grandchildren and others. Lois will best be remembered for her strong

faith, zest for living, boundless energy, and steadfast love and grace.

Resource Development
Douglas Davis

As this year's Fundraising (Resource Development) Chairman; I'm currently searching high and low with a fine toothed comb throughout GMSAA looking for committee members. The hours are long, the appreciation is tremendous, the pay is none, but pleasure derived from working tirelessly for The Association is tenfold. It is my goal to assemble the most geographically diverse committee in the history of our organization. Potential committee members must share my deep passion for fund raising; which could involve going over and beyond the call of duty for the success of a fund raising project. So, for those persons who enjoy using their talents and capabilities to assist others and are genuinely interested in exploring new and exciting fund raising ideas

for the next 12 months please contact me as soon as possible. Please find my contact information here. Thanks for signing up for fun and hard work in service to GMSAA (Governor Morehead School Alumni Association Inc.)

Membership Chair
Thelma Crumpler

As your new Membership Chair, I want to welcome all of you to a new year as members of the Alumni Association. I want to invite you to join and/or maintain your membership with our great organization. Again we have several ways for you to submit payment for your membership dues. We have added VANCO Card Service and we continue to use PayPal. You can also pay by check or money order. If you need to contact me please do so. My phone number is 919 828-8666 and my e-mail address is tcrumpler630@nc.rr.com

7.3 Acres of GMS Property
Might Be Sold
By Alan Chase

Here's a link to an article published in the News and Observer on October 3.
http://www.midtownraleighnews.com/2014/10/03/4203342_nc-offers-to-sell-308-acre-dorothea.html?rh=1 the major areas of dispute appear to be how much land is going to be included vs. reserved for DHHS offices, and who pays for environmental clean-up costs.

What caught my attention was the article suggesting apparent agreement that "Under both proposals [City's and State's], Raleigh would get a 7.3-acre field on the Western Boulevard side of the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. It would provide a connection from Dix to Pullen Park."

In your own words and in your own way, I encourage all of you to make your feelings/thoughts/positions

known to GMS, City, and County and State leaders.

Finance Committee
By Fred McEachern

As of December 14, 2014 we have \$4,178.60 in our Fidelity portfolio account comprising of 187 shares. Our portfolio is a reinvestment account meaning that every dividend earned it is used to purchase additional stock and/or shares. The finance committee is in the process of adding additional balanced funds to our portfolio so we may increase our earnings. Balanced funds are very similar to retirement investment funds with low risk and with gains over the long-term, several years. At this point we continue to be in the positive or black. If any of you who would like to become involved in the stock market please contact me.

Education Committee Report
By Ricky Scott

As Chairman of the Education Committee of our Alumni

Association, I wish to bring you up-to-date regarding the composition of the committee and the goal for the year. First, following my appointment by President Tim Snyder to chair the committee and the subsequent approval by the Board of Directors of the Association, I secured the agreement by the following individuals to serve with me on the committee: George Littlejohn, Alan Chase, Alice Kelly and Sharon Benton. At our initial meeting in October, we decided to solicit your input on specific topics or areas of interest that you might wish for us to consider in planning seminars for the

membership and the public over the next year. Subsequent to this meeting, an email request was sent soliciting your input. It is my hope that you will take full advantage of this opportunity. Second, the goal of the committee is to provide educational seminars that will enhance the lives of individuals who are blind and those with other disabilities who might participate in our educational activities. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the following email address: Rickyscott09@gmail.com or call me at (919) 673-8300

Lucky 365 Winners

Mr. Gerard Ritter – First Prize Winner	\$1,000.00
Mr. Van McLean – Second Prize Winner	\$ 500.00
Ms. Allen Lowery – Third Prize Winner	\$ 250.00

GMSAAI 2015 Slate of Officers, Board and Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Tim Snyder
Vice President	Robert Parrish
Secretary	Alan Chase
Asst. Secretary	Yvonne Wright Kea
Treasurer	Margaret Carter

Members-At-Large

Vickie Burke
Thelma Crumpler
Darryl Eaton
Terry Lewis
George Littlejohn
Rufus Poole
Ricky Scott

Committee Chairs

Tim Snyder	Archives & History
George Littlejohn	Awards Scholarship
Robert Parrish	Benevolence
Fred McEachern	Finance/Communications
Ricky Scott	Education
Lawrence Carter	Convention/Reunion
Alan Chase	Secretary
James Benton	Legislative Advocacy
Thelma Crumpler	Membership
Darryl Eaton	Nominating Committee
Douglas Davis	Resource Development
Yvonne W. Kea	Constitution/By-Laws

Contribute to the Alumni Connection

The GMSAAI communications chair reserves the right to edit for grammar, content, and formatting any material submitted for publication in this newsletter. All submissions must include the name of the author. Submissions can be e-mailed to FredMcEachern@bellsouth.net.