

# CHSAA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

*"Nothing Succeeds Like Success"*

NOVEMBER 2020



**SHIRLEY PITT-FREEMAN**  
CHSAA PRESIDENT

## CHSAA OFFICERS

Shirley Pitt-Freeman, President  
919-796-1977

Augustus Exum, Jr., Vice President  
252-452-3126

To Be Named, Secretary

Wamese Knight-Jones, Asst. Secretary  
252-446-0370

John Bryant, Treasurer  
817-455-0632

Lula H. Council, Asst. Treasurer  
252-795-4615

Elbert Powell, Sergeant-at-Arms  
252-823-8639

Dolores Jones-Faison, Parliamentarian  
910-340-0158

Levy Dickens, Assistant Parliamentarian  
252-641-1733

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Website: [www.conetoe.org/](http://www.conetoe.org/)  
Email: [conetoe@conetoe.org](mailto:conetoe@conetoe.org)

## GREETINGS FROM CHSAA's NEW OFFICERS!

Please stay safe in this COVID-19 pandemic. We pray that this deadly pandemic season will end soon.

We are preparing for our 2021 School Reunion. It will be our 50<sup>TH</sup> year and we want it to be a "grand" celebration! Conetoe High School closed in 1971 and we are still united. What a blessing! Our sincere thanks to **Lewis Higgs, David Gray, Hilda Morris, Rev. William Suggs, Milton Higgs, Ernestine Alston, Annie Morning** and the **Planning Committee** for the tremendous work they have done over the years in keeping the CHS legacy alive.

**Save the Date: Memorial Day Weekend**  
**Friday, May 28 – Sunday, May 30, 2021**

## ABOUT CHSAA's NEW PRESIDENT:

**Shirley Pitt-Freeman** is a 1970 graduate of Conetoe High School, Conetoe, NC. Following graduation, she entered the corporate workforce at the New York Telephone/NYNEX/Bell Atlantic/Verizon. She excelled in climbing the corporate ladder and achieving management positions. She attended Lehman College School of Continuing and Professional Studies in New York. She was certified as a Novell Network Engineer. Shirley retired from Bell Atlantic/Verizon and relocated to Raleigh, NC. She arrived in Raleigh, NC and was hired by IBM where she worked and managed in areas of Network Operation Software Professional, Large Enterprise Technical Assurance Mgr. and a Critical Situation Resolution Executive. While working at IBM Shirley graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, NC. In 2005, Shirley became an IBM/Lenovo employee working in the areas of Business Controls, Compliance, and ISO Internal Auditor Executive. Shirley retired from Lenovo in 2017.

Shirley's areas of professionalism empowered her to interact with a wide range of management across North America, Latin America, China, Japan, Austria, and Portugal. She achieved various awards: IBM Bravo Awards – Advanced Monitor Exchange Project, IBM Peer Thank You Gift Awards, IBM Service and Support Quarterly Achievement Award – ServicePac Project, Large Enterprise Direct Order Fulfillment Peer-to-Peer Team Award, Recognition for Outstanding Achievement and Customer First Initiative, Tonee Excellence Awards: Significant Contributions to the Goals and Objectives of the Netfinity Server Team, Outstanding Teamwork and Executing on Customer First, Lenovo Award - Battery Recall Performance and ISO Audit Results Peer Award.

Although Shirley's career aspirations were demanding, her areas of professionalism required continued education to keep her skills viable. She still found time for community service. She was Co-Chair of Black Data Processing Organization, Career Development Committee. She also spearheaded the implementation of a neighborhood computer center. She served as owner and operator of C&S Carpet, Upholstery, Janitorial Cleaning Services, Inc. in the capacity of President. She serves as Secretary on her Homeowners Association Board.

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## **CHSAA's NEW PRESIDENT:** *(continued from Page 1)*

Shirley is a Disciple of Wake Chapel Church in Raleigh, NC. She serves as Gatekeeper Coordinator for Senior and Youth Ministries and works on the Wake Chapel Church Adoption Ministry.

Shirley is the daughter of the late Arthur Lee Pitt and the late Claretha Jones Pitt. She is the granddaughter of the late Benjamin J. Pitt and the late Roxie Battle Pitt. She is the loving parent of one son and a loving grandparent of one granddaughter.

Shirley is extremely passionate about the Conetoe High School heritage. She has served on the Class of 1970 Reunion Committee since 2014. Her class celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2015. She served as the Co-chairperson in 2018,. Planning for Class of 1970 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion in 2020; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, those plans had to be rescheduled for 2021. She began serving on Conetoe High School Alumni Association Committee under the administration of **Lewis Higgs** and **David Gray** in 2002. Shirley actively attended and participated in committee

meetings 99%. She worked with banquet hospitality sub-committee projects and assisted the Banquet Decoration Committee. She attended and support Twin County Hall of Fame induction and NCABHSA events on behalf of CHSAA. Shirley was elected as CHSAA President in June 2020.

Shirley's passion and drive for continued education is displayed through her life's journey. She thrives to maintain Conetoe High School's legacy and instill the significance of education in our youth now and for generations to come just as our sharecropper parents, communities. and CHS teachers instilled in us.

**Shirley is extremely passionate about Conetoe High School's heritage.**

## **CHSAA STANDING COMMITTEES**

**We are looking for motivated and idealist people to maintain and carry forward Conetoe High School's Legacy.**

### **Scholarship Committee**

- ◆ Assist with creating applications to be used by applicants for consideration of grants or scholarships and evaluation criteria.
- ◆ Assist with planning and implementing scholarship awards ceremony.

### **Benevolence Committee**

- ◆ Responsible for contacting members family during bereavement (sending cards, phone calls, visitations, etc.).

Shout out "Thank you" to **Annie Barnes Morning** for her diligent work maintaining our fallen alumni's record and distributing sympathy cards to the bereaved families.

### **Membership Enhancement Committee**

- ◆ Assist with recruitment of new members.
- ◆ Formulating, reviewing and presenting projects to the CHSAA for consideration that will benefit the community

### **Social Committee**

- ◆ Plan social activities, including the bi-annual alumni event.

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### **Communications Committee**

- ◆ Assist with development and maintenance of the CHSAA website, media relations, newsletters, and the publishing articles.
- ◆ Assist with managing the CHSAA's social media presence and outreach.

### **Historical Committee**

- ◆ Responsible for the compilation and storage of historical records for the CHSAA ensuring that appropriate back-up files are maintained.
- ◆ Liaison with alumni and others as appropriate, to acquire and maintain CHSAA memorabilia.

### **Policy and Procedures Committee**

- ◆ Develop and maintain Policy and Procedures Manual.

To join a committee, provide your contact information, best time to be reached, and the name of the committee you would like to join. Submit your information to **Asst. Secretary, Wamese Knight-Jones** at 252-446-0370 or email us at: [conetoe@conetoe.org](mailto:conetoe@conetoe.org).

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## CHSAA's WEBSITE

We've updated our website to include new information. Our new officers' names have been added and we will be posting photos as we receive them.

### Officers as of June 27, 2020:

- ◇ President: **Shirley Pitt-Freeman** (Class of 1970)
- ◇ Vice President: **Augustus Exum, Jr.** (Class of 1970)
- ◇ Secretary: To Be Named
- ◇ Asst. Secretary: **Wamese Knight-Jones** (Class of 1971)
- ◇ Treasurer: **John Bryant** (Class of 1968)
- ◇ Asst. Treasurer: **Mrs. Lula Council** (Class of 1957)
- ◇ Sergeant-at-Arms: **Elbert Powell** (Class of 1966)
- ◇ Parliamentarian, **Dolores Jones-Faison** (Class of 1970)
- ◇ Asst. Parliamentarian, **Levy Dickens** (Class of 1961)

### Added Classes of 1972 through K-1982

We are happy to report that the remaining classes from 1972 through K-1982 have been added to the website. If you have additional information regarding this (or any website information), please let us know by calling Communications Chairperson, **Elizabeth Ruffin Miller** at: (757) 466-8554 or emailing her at: [lizmil1@cox.net](mailto:lizmil1@cox.net).

### Alumni History Page

Videos of alumni discussing the history of CHSAA have been uploaded to our website. Please check it out. You may find it very interesting and informative. Website: <http://www.conetoe.org/>.



"The Mighty Eagle"

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

CHSAA Scholarship Committee has challenged the Classes of Conetoe High School with a fundraising initiative to assist children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Alumni with achieving higher education. The initiative is to raise money for the CHSAA Scholarship Fund. Each class will be recognized at the CHSAA Reunion Banquet for the funds they donate to the Scholarship Program.

### CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

- 1949-Ethel R. Collier (252) 823-6517 [ethelcollier@embarqmail.com](mailto:ethelcollier@embarqmail.com)
- 1950-Ruby J. Howell, 631-637-0583
- 1951-Ruby J. Howell, 631-637-0583
- 1952-Shirley P. Freeman, 919-796-1977, [fshirley574@bellsouth.net](mailto:fshirley574@bellsouth.net)
- 1953-Ethel R. Collier, Ruby J. Howell, Lula H. Council
- 1954-Ruby J. Howell, Ethel R. Collier, Lula H. Council
- 1955-Augustus Exum, Ruby J. Howell, Lula H. Council
- 1956-Ernestine Alston, 336-275-0338
- 1957-Lula H. Council, 252-717-3986, [lhccouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:lhccouncil@yahoo.com)
- 1958-Ruby J. Howell, Ethel R. Collier
- 1959-Shirley P. Freeman, 919-796-1977, [fshirley574@bellsouth.net](mailto:fshirley574@bellsouth.net)
- 1960-Ruby J. Howell, Ethel R. Collier
- 1961-Ethel Collier, 252-823-6517, [ethelcollier@embarqmail.com](mailto:ethelcollier@embarqmail.com)
- 1962-Annie M. Barnes-Harrison, 252-823-1219, [Harrison0331@yahoo.com](mailto:Harrison0331@yahoo.com)
- 1963-Ruby J. Howell, 631-637-0583
- 1964-Elizabeth Ruffin Miller, 757-466-8554, [lizmil1@cox.net](mailto:lizmil1@cox.net)
- 1965-Mary Higgs, 704-919-0137, [higgs66chosen@aol.com](mailto:higgs66chosen@aol.com)
- 1966-Levon Harrison, 252-823-7192, [lharrison1@centurylink.net](mailto:lharrison1@centurylink.net)
- 1967-Rev. Shirley E. Hill, 252-641-4140, [learningstones@aol.com](mailto:learningstones@aol.com)
- 1968-John Bryant, 919-728-8447, [jrlsbryant@msn.com](mailto:jrlsbryant@msn.com)
- 1969-Milton Higgs, 252-567-5514, [higgsme@suddenlink.net](mailto:higgsme@suddenlink.net)
- 1970-Dolores J. Faison, 252-823-6931, [djfaison1985@gmail.com](mailto:djfaison1985@gmail.com)
- 1971-Gladys E.-Huggins, 336-285-8397, [gehuggins@msn.com](mailto:gehuggins@msn.com)
- 1971-Wamese K.-Jones, 252-446-0370, [wameseevonjones@gmail.com](mailto:wameseevonjones@gmail.com)

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## MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

The **Membership Enhancement Committee (MEC)** was established to ensure that Conetoe High School graduates, students that attended but did not graduate from Conetoe, and those students that would have graduated up to the year 1976 and K-1982 have an enjoyable experience while participating in the many activities provided by the **Conetoe High School Alumni Association**.

The committee members will contact active members and non-active alumni members to provide information and explain the purpose of the association. The committee will encourage non-active members to participate in social events, including the bi-yearly banquet.

In addition, and most importantly, we will listen to you, record your feedback, opinions, and suggestions; and share them with the officers and committee members. This is your association and the MEC team wants to make sure your voices are heard.

There are several Alumni on our roster with incomplete, missing or inaccurate contact information. People move and phone numbers change. If you know of Conetoe High School alumni who have not been participating, we appreciate your help in attaining their contact information.

Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to speaking with you soon.

John Bryant  
MEC Chairperson

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

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1972- Linda Joyner, 252-823-0188, [ldjoyner1@aol.com](mailto:ldjoyner1@aol.com)

1973-Eddie Jackson, 252-751-7293, [jacksonglenda96@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksonglenda96@yahoo.com)

1974- Isabelle P. Andrews, 252-885-6886, [ipandrews275@gmail.com](mailto:ipandrews275@gmail.com)

1975-Debra Lynch-Martin, 252-907-0217, [Lynchdebra195@gmail.com](mailto:Lynchdebra195@gmail.com)

1976-Gwendolyn C. Lancaster, 252-544-1857, [lancastergwendolyn94@gmail.com](mailto:lancastergwendolyn94@gmail.com)

K-1982-Shirley P. Freeman, 919-796-1977, [fs Shirley574@bellsouth.net](mailto:fs Shirley574@bellsouth.net)

## CHSAA TREASURER REPORT

First, I want to thank the President and Officers for entrusting me to handle Conetoe High School Alumni Finances. Thanks to Reverend William Suggs for handing over all past financial records and explaining in detail his responsibilities in the position since inception of the association. We would like to acknowledge and thank the previous administration for making this a smooth transition. They left us with a financial cushion and an overall blueprint to follow and to continue to build upon. All monies, bank statements, and transactions balanced at the end of June 2020 when I officially assumed responsibility.

I have created an electronic financial report with transactions and bank balance starting January 1, 2020. A report will be emailed to the President and Assistant Treasurer at the end of each quarter. An up-to-date summary report will be available at all in-person committee meetings. The Register and Transaction Report will not be printed. As a measure of transparency, the Association's Financial Report will be available for viewing by individual request upon approval by the Board.

John Bryant, Treasurer



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**JOHN BRYANT**

**Telephone:** 919-728-8447

**Email:** [jrlsbryant@msn.com](mailto:jrlsbryant@msn.com)

**USPS Mail:** 25 Midlavian Ct.  
Franklinton, NC 27525



**"WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS."**



*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

Happy  
KANZAA