

CERES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (C.A.A.)

Dedicated to maintaining the pride and spirit of Ceres

Newsletter

Year 2017

May

Edition No. 1

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello folks.

I realize it has been some time since our last newsletter. Please forgive us, as we don't always have enough hands to do all the jobs.

Our new year has gotten off to a great start as we have had several well-attended activities. We began back in the winter with game nights as a way for people to just come out and socialize and visit with activities for the young and old. Both were well attended, and all seemed to enjoy the evenings. Many thanks to Janet and Gary White and Glen Repass for preparing the food and treats for everyone's enjoyment and all others who helped make these fun evenings.

Our May Day event was as well attended as ever. The early rains did not seem to dampen anyone's spirit. We had quite a few flea market folks and demonstrators. Thanks to Cody and Frankie Gray and Jimmy Pauley for their "antique" corn grinding demonstration. Many thanks to everyone in the CAA for helping put this on and making it the success that it was.

We want to thank everyone who contributed extra money and attended the Bill Cregar scholarship fundraiser. This year we gave two \$500.00 scholarships. One was awarded to Emily Hill and the other one went to Jordan Faulkner. Congratulations to both deserving students. As is our practice, the applications were reviewed by persons from three different counties who made the decision on the co-awards. Hopefully in the future, with everyone's help, we will be able to increase this amount as we all know college tuition and books are continually increasing.

Once again, thanks to everyone who helped with our latest chicken BBQ. Our attendance was down some, but we realize this was graduation weekend and other local activities were taking place. If you haven't attended our recent events, we have purchased a bouncy house for the young children. This appears to be a huge hit with kids, and we hope our community's young parents will feel more at ease attending our events as the kids seem to have a blast with it.

Before I close, I must mention the huge generosity of our small community. As you all know, the CAA does not do fundraisers for individual folks with varying needs as we are a non-profit organization. What we try to do is to provide the building and setting for such needs and all we ask is that, if possible, make a donation for the continued upkeep of the building. This past winter, the Ceres Fire Department and Melissa Renninger asked to use your facilities to put on a fundraiser for two individuals who needed your financial help with large medical expenses. These two fundraisers grossed over \$5,000.00. They were done within a two week period. WOW! Does this alone speak volumes about the community and county we live in? Many thanks to all of you who put these events on and a VERY special thanks to ALL of you who were so generous with your financial contributions. While I find myself constantly asking everyone for their financial help, because of you we have a facility worthy of handling such events. Many thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Please look at our calendar for upcoming events, and we all hope to see you there.

Yours truly,

G. H. Peery III, President

2016 HOMECOMING

The Ceres Alumni Association sponsored its 17th annual Ceres Homecoming on October 21, 2017. The weather was perfect and the turning leaves added to the beauty of the valley. Approximately 140 attended. After the opportunity to visit the Museum and school building (thanks to the Ceres Ruritan Club) guests gathered in the gym, beautifully decorated by Becky Kimberlin and her helpers. The theme for the day was EARLY SCHOOLS and was carried out in the table decorations. Thanks...great job.

Program

G. H. Peery, III, President, welcomed the guests. Michael Pruett and his exercise class provided an impressive Jujitsu demonstration. Following the blessing by Rev. C. Ray Davis, a delicious and bountiful meal, catered by the Berea Christian Church Ladies, was served.

Following the meal, Archie Atwell led the annual "Rose of Remembrance" segment of the program. Thirty-eight (38) members, family and local citizens whose deaths were reported to the Association since the last Homecoming were remembered with a long stem rose presented to family members who were present. Those remembered were: Myra Moler, Lace M. Asbury, III, Norma Cassell Kidd, Ann Cregger, George Keck, Terry "Tubby" Dillow, Tonnie Carver, Richard K. Webb, Eleanor P. Dillow, Richard G. Havens, Garland Dillow, T. Cicero Havens, Stephen Howard Newberry, Nancy C. Tate, Nan Thompson Vencille, Thurman "Dwight" Cox, Elbert "Butch" King, Hope Umbarger Pennington, David C. Hubble, William H. "Bill" Spence, W. Thornton Umbarger, Mary Dillow Ingram, June Durham Sands, Bill Gillespie, Curtis Stowers, Roger Morehead, Donald "Kay" Kitts, Harry Shupe, Andrew Dillow, Jr, Donna Houck Compton, Michael Eugene Woolwine, Harry Lee Smith, and Kathy Head.

This was followed by a moment of silent remembrance and reflection.

Speaker

Doris Stowers Sink, whose Mother grew up in Ceres, then gave a most interesting talk on Early Schools. Mrs. Sink, a former Bland County Teacher, has done a great deal of research on early Bland County Schools and had a very impressive display to share. Over the years we have gone from having a school in almost every little community to having one elementary and one high school in the county. Thank you Doris. We certainly enjoyed your talk. Please come again.

Business Meeting

During the business meeting, minutes of the last Board meeting, Treasurer's report, Museum report and current membership list, as presented in the program, were approved.

Officers

The following Association officers were elected for 2017 President – G. H. Peery, III; Vice President – Kimberly Stowers; Recording Secretary & Reporter – Sara Kidd; Membership Secretary – Lorraine S. Waddle; Historian – Elaine H. Kegley; Treasurer – Betty C. Hubble. Wade Hall will hold the position of Past President.

The Association's Board of Directors for the period through 2017 are J. W. Cassell, Evelyn Groseclose and Elizabeth Kimberlin and through 2018 are Jonan C. Cassell, Sue T. Repass and Janet White. Elected to serve a three year term through 2019 were Frankie Gray, William Hubble and Rebecca M. Peery.

Association Endowment Fund Directors serving through 2017 are Dean D. Kirk, Robin U. Repass and Jerry Thompson and serving through 2018 are Edd Houck, Joyce Keen and Glen Repass. Elected to serve a three year term through 2019 were Judy Cassell, William H. Crabtree, & Michelle Groseclose.

Permanent past president board members are Archie Atwell, Anne H. Britton, (Donna H. Compton-now deceased), Frances C. Davis, Wade F. Hall, Betty C. Hubble, and Doris C. Woodward.

Raffle Winners

A much anticipated event of the day was the drawing of the winning tickets in the annual raffle. 41 raffle prizes were awarded to: Dean DeRosa, Lorree Waddle, Sam Shupe, Simone Manis, Dare

Dillman, Judy Atkins, Mike Brown, Eric Workman, Louise Meck, Bobby Arnet, J. C. Dillow, Jim Hibeau, Richard Sarver, Elmer Beardshall, Dillon Groseclose, Judy Hannah, Will Kegley, Sherril Owens, Jack Smith, Vince Groseclose, Barbara Shannon, Mae Hanshew, Bruce McCall, Ron Neel, Diane Lambert, Rebecca Hubble, Sidney Harvey, Jerod Umbarger, Doug Dillow, Rita Roseberry, Jeff Hanes, Steve King, Tammy Land and Judith Hancock.

The four largest prizes of the day were a handmade quilt donated by "Just for Fun" Quilters, and won by Jim Stone; a Samsung Tablet donated by C.A.A. and several members, was won by Betty K. Munsey; a framed P. Buckley Moss print donated by the Moss Foundation and framed by Ron Stallard was won by Charles Henry Umbarger, and a rifle donated by the Association was won by Vince Morehead. Della Mae Neel of Ceres sold the most raffle tickets for which she received a prize of \$50.00. Door prizes & pocket calendars were given to those attending the Homecoming.

Appreciation was expressed to all the donors of the raffle gifts and door prizes, especially those who gave several gifts, to all who helped make this day such a success, and to the Ceres Ruritan Club for allowing the guests to tour the former school building and for its upkeep.

REPORTED DEATHS

The following deaths were reported since the last newsletter was published:

Harry Lee Smith
Kathy Head, daughter of Margie U. Gay
Lanny Waddell
James Andrew Umbarger
Irene Williams Felty
Esther Repass Umbarger
Bob Parks
Margie Phyllis Umbarger Gay
Carl Russell, husband of June Ellen Atwell Russell
Anna Laura Atwell Dunker
Linda (Mrs. Vincent) Krauss
Robert I. "Buddie" Waddle
Vernon Lee Stowers
Edith Hubble
Roy Harris
Susan Lambert Odell
R. B. Anderson

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Terry Umbarger
By Sue Umbarger

In memory of William Harry Spence
By William and Betty Hubble

In memory of James R. "Bob" Hubble
By Alma K. Hubble

In memory of Donna Houck Compton
By Edd and Dana Houck
By Donald and Sharon Compton
By Frank and Joan Chandler

In memory of Dixie Neel and Robert F. Barger
By Candice B. Puckett

In memory of Betty G. Wilson
By James F. Wilson and family

In memory of Donald & Rick Hanshew
By Mae H. Hanshew

In memory of Esther Repass Umbarger
By Buck and Sue Repass family

In memory of Linda Davis
By Regina Modzelowski

In memory of Leona Cox Calloway
By Helene Umbarger Easton (our 98 year old member)

In memory of Robert I. "Buddie" Waddle
By William and Betty Hubble
By James F. Wilson
By Wade F. Hall
By Arthur "Bill" and Doris Woodward
By Ray and Shirley Davis
By Frances C. Davis
By Elmer and Ann Beardshall
By American Legion Auxiliary Unit 20
By William F. and Wilma J. Snyder
By Dr. Rhonda Catron-Wood and Noel Wood
By Faye F. and Curtis W. Sutherland, Jr.
By Susan and Curtis Odell
By Bland Chapter 41, Order of the Eastern Star

In honor of Josephine T. Alderman's 80th birthday
By Lorraine S. Waddle
By William and Betty Hubble
By Evelyn H. Groseclose
By Tim and Lisa Alderman

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT I. "BUDDIE" WADDLE

The Ceres Alumni Association and the entire communities of Ceres and Bland were saddened by the news of Buddie's death on February 8th (one day after his 84th birthday). Buddie was loved and respected by all who knew him. Buddie, who was graduated from Ceres High in 1952, and his wife, Lorraine, were very instrumental in helping organize the 1999 all class CHS Reunion, were charter CAA members, and Buddie served as an outstanding Treasurer of the Association for approximately 14 years. No one could have done a better job. If a task was needed, give it to Buddie and Lorree for outstanding completion.

This is a quote from the President's Message in a newsletter last year. I could not say it better and feel it bears repeating. *"As many of you know, Buddie Waddle has had some health issues this past year, and he and Lorree have felt it necessary to resign as officers of the CAA. We are very sad to see them go but certainly understand, considering Buddie's health. They will remain as active as Buddie's health permits. The CAA will always be in their debt for their many years of service to the organization. Without their help much of what you see would not have been possible. Their ability to help secure and manage funds and grants from different agencies and other routes for funding have made your buildings what they are today. We all wish them well for the future and send our many thanks for all their help."* G. H. Peery, III

We miss Buddie every day and always will. Thank you, Buddie, for being a wonderful friend.

Buddie had a favorite Bible verse around which he lived his life: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalms 118:24*

APPRECIATION

Thanks to Helen Keck for furnishing the hamburger and Tommy Dunn for potato salad for the Cregar Scholarship Cookout, to Melissa Renninger for all the deviled eggs for the Chicken BBQ and Janet and Gary White for the wonderful idea and providing ice cream for Ceres Day. A special thanks to all who work so hard to make all our events possible. Glen Repass, you certainly are a man-of-many talents! Again, thanks!

GRANT PROVIDES HEALTHIER CITIZENS

We reported in the last newsletter that we hoped to make the Fitness Center more handicap accessible. It has happened. We wish you could see the beautiful concrete walk going down to the Center. Just last week, the new door to the Center came in which will complete the job. Thanks to the Wythe-Bland Foundation for helping make it possible for EVERYONE who needs use of the equipment to be able to safely get there.

2017 CERES DAY

The light rain that we received on May 6th did not dampen the spirit of those participating in Ceres Day. The day started with a breakfast of sausage and ham biscuits and gravy which brought many compliments to the cooks. The gym was full of crafters and flea market tables. There was something for everyone. We had health care information and health handouts; beautiful wreaths; hand painted rocks; clothing; kitchen appliances; pictures; lamps; a variety of sewing items; Historical Society books, plaques, and information; toys; sports items; knick-knacks, fresh eggs, dishes; pots & pans; and crafts.

The hit in the flea market section was Janet and Gary's ice cream booth with floats, ice cream in freshly made cones and banana splits, all with every kind of topping you could imagine.

Anne Britton reported the largest crowd ever in the Museum. A blacksmith was at work at the old forge. Many were heard to say, "We really need to come back and spend the entire day." Come on back. Just call 276.682.4587 for an appointment.

The rain interfered with some of the planned outdoor children's activities. I saw evidence of the pie eating contest but don't think the sack race took place on the wet ground.

Then the Ceres Ruritan Club provided a delicious old fashioned lunch of cornbread and beans in the school cafeteria. Hot dogs were available for the kids of all ages. The school building was open to allow walks down memory lanes (halls). Folks were heard telling their children, "This was my (?) grade classroom."

The outdoor activities that were not deterred by the rain included old tractors and farm equipment display, corn grinding demonstration and FFA wood sawing contest.

Everyone seemed to have a good time. Thanks to the Bland County Messenger staff, the event received a full page coverage in the May 10th paper. Also Elmer Beardshall took pictures and put them in the www.ceresva.org website and the Ceres Alumni Association Facebook page. Look them up.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Ceres Alumni Assoc. (CAA) is available to ANYONE who has an interest in the community. Ceres School attendance is NOT a requirement. As of May 20th, 106 members had paid their 2017 calendar year dues. Twenty (20) of these are lifetime members. Dues are \$25 per calendar year (Jan. – Dec.), \$100 for 5 calendar years, or \$250 for lifetime dues. Dues may be mailed to CAA, P. O. Box 32, Ceres, VA 24318.

FITNESS CENTER

The fitness center containing state-of-the-art exercise equipment and a new super nice handicap ramp and is available for use 24/7 at a minimum cost of \$5.00 per month.

TO RESERVE GYM – Call 276.682.4380 or 276.682.4255. Book early.

MUSICIANS

Musicians are welcome to come and jam at any event sponsored by the Association.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

For a list of items in the Museum Gift Shop, call 276.682.4587 or write CAA, P. O. Box 32, Ceres, VA 24318. We have new white T-shirts (long and short sleeve – some with pockets) with a small blue outline of the State of Virginia, a star indicating the location of Ceres and "Ceres, Virginia" written just below. Nice!

Ceres Alumni Association
P. O. Box 32, Ceres, VA 24318
276 682-3989

E-Mail Address
ceres_alumni_association@hotmail.com

Web Site
www.ceresva.org
Elmer Beardshall, Web Master

Newsletter
Contact Betty Hubble to submit newsletter articles

Reminders
Monthly Board Meetings
7:00 PM on 3rd Thursday in each month
Annual meeting - 3rd Saturday in October
(Subject to change by the Board)

Everyone is welcome

Henry C Groseclose Agriculture & FFA Museum
Open by appointment
Call 276 682-4587

Number printed by your name on mailing label indicates
the year through which current dues are paid

Officers for 2017

President	G. H. Peery, III	276.682.4381
Vice President	Kimberly Stowers	276.688.4873
Secretary/Reporter	Sara Kidd	276.210.7888
Membership Secretary	Lorraine Waddle	276.688.4450
Historian	Elaine Kegley	276.228.2343
Treasurer	Betty C. Hubble	276.682.4255

Association Directors and term ending year:

J. W. Cassell – 2017	Janet R. White – 2018
Evelyn H. Groseclose – 2017	Frankie Gray – 2019
Elizabeth Kimberlin – 2017	William H. Hubble – 2019
Jonan Repass – 2018	Rebecca Peery – 2019
Sue Repass – 2018	Wade Hall – Past President

Endowment Trust Fund Directors & term ending year:

Dean Kirk – 2017	Glen Repass - 2018
Robin U. Repass – 2017	Judy Cassell – 2019
Jerry Thompson – 2017	William H. Crabtree – 2019
Edd Houck – 2018	Michelle Groseclose – 2019
Joyce Keen – 2018	Betty C. Hubble – Treas.

Permanent Board Members (Past Presidents): Archie Atwell,
Anne Britton, Donna Compton, Frances Davis, Wade Hall,
Betty Hubble, G. H. Peery, III, and Doris Woodward



P.O. Box 32
Ceres, VA 24318

**UPCOMING EVENTS
CERES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CERES PEERY CENTER GYM**

Musicians are welcome to come jam at all events.

GAME NIGHT

January 14, 2017 starting at 6:00 PM
Concessions sold by donation

GAME NIGHT

February 15, 2017 starting at 5:00 PM
Concessions sold by donation

**WM. (BILL) CREGGAR
SCHOLARSHIP**

HOT DOG / HAMBURGER SUPPER
Bouncy House for small children
April 15, 2017 starting at 5:00 PM
To raise funds for a scholarship to be
awarded to a Bland County student.
Musicians Welcome
Price: By Donation

CERES DAY

Sponsored by CAA and Ruritan Club
Former Ceres School Campus
May 6, 2016 starting at 8:00 AM
Crafters and exhibits start at 10:00 AM
Children's Activities – sign up before 11:00
Bouncy House for small children
Sausage Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast
Beans and Cornbread Lunch
Flea Market, Yard Sale and Bake Sale,
Crafts, Farm Equipment, Heritage
Demos. and Lots More.
Spaces: Indoor - \$10 and outdoor - \$5
Contact 276.682.4231 to reserve your
space.

CHICKEN B-B-Q

May 20, 2017 starting at 5:00 PM
Bouncy House for small children
Price by donation.

BEEF ROAST

WATER ACTIVITIES (weather permitting)
Bouncy House for small children
July 8, 2017 starting at 5:00 PM
Price: By Donation

PIG ROAST

WATER ACTIVITIES (weather permitting)
Bouncy House for small children
August 12, 2017 starting at 5:00 PM
Price: By Donation

HAMBURGER / HOT DOG COOKOUT
WATER ACTIVITIES (weather permitting)
Bouncy House for small children
September 2, 2017 starting at 5:00 PM
Price: By Donation

17th ANNUAL CERES HOMECOMING
Former Ceres School Campus
Saturday, October 21, 2017
More Details Later

ELECTION DAY NELSON'S CAFÉ
November 7, 2017
6:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Vote and enjoy breakfast or lunch.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS
POT LUCK SUPPER**
December 16, 2017 starting at 6:00 PM

SAVE THIS PAGE

Check the web site www.ceresva.org or **Ceres Alumni Association** on **FACEBOOK**
for other events as they are scheduled.