Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association
PO Box 37
Weatherly, PA 18255

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary Year

www.weatherlyhighalumni.com

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www.cafepress.com/meanwreckermarketplace

Our Mission Statement
The purpose of the WAHSAA is to provide scholarships and awards to seniors in the Weatherly Area High School and to help support and finance worthwhile school activities.

February 2017 Newsletter

Dear alumni member:

This year marks our 25th Anniversary Year! Thank you to all of you who contributed in any way over the past years to make the Association the remarkable organization it has come to be.

It is a new year and the passcode has changed to view our current and past newsletters on our website. You will need to enter **WAHSAA97** in the "Members Only" tab at the top of the page to gain access.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of our colleague Mr. Joseph E. D'Andrea. At the time of his passing, Joe was an active member of the board of directors and also of the scholarship committee. Joe passed away on November 1st and was a member of the class of 1954. Also passing away was Jean D. Weston on December 19th and was a member of the class of 1960; Maurice C. (Benny) Heater on December 22nd and was a member of the class of 1952. My prayers and condolences go out to their family and friends.

The board of directors appointed Celine Gerhart to fill the vacant seat of Joseph D'Andrea.

Enclosed is the annual membership roster. If you haven't done so, please remit your annual $10.00 dues.

Sincerely,

Todd A. Gimbi, president
Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association

Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association

General Fund Checking Account

Balance on hand as of September 30, 2016		$ 9,008.84
Receipts:		
Membership	$1,760.00	
Total Deposits		$ 1,760.00
Expenditures:		
#1338 Penteledata (monthly fee)	$ 11.95	
#1339 Weatherly Baseball Parents (don)	$ 300.00	
#1340 WASD (Zortrax M200 3D printer)	$ 500.00	
#1341 WASD (Study Island Software)	$1,000.00	
#1342 WASD (Middle School Word Wall)	$ 200.00	
#1343 Penteledata (website upgrade & fee)	$ 487.00	
#1344 Joshua Reiner (scholarship)	$ 500.00	
#1345 Postmaster (postage for newsletter)	$ 353.00	
#1346 WASD (Printing of newsletter)	$ 36.81	
#1347 Wrecker Booster Club – Ad for prog.	$ 110.00	
#1348 Dawn's Vinyl designs – (change ck.)	$ 37.10	
#1349 Penteledata – (Oct/Nov. fee)	$ 19.90	
#1350 Penteledata (web design & Dec. fee)	$ 496.95	
Total Expenditures		$ 4,052.71
Balance on hand as of January 10, 2017		**$ 6,716.13**

Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association

Scholarship Fund Account (Money Market)

Balance on hand as of September 30, 2016			**$ 49,718.10**
Receipts:			
Interest Payment (October)	$	10.49	
Interest Payment (November)	$	10.15	
Interest Payment (December)	$	10.49	
Total Interest			**$ 31.13**
Deposits			
Donations	$	425.00	
VOYA (closed)	$	178,560.72	
Total Deposits			**$178,985.72**
Expenditures:			
Total Expenditures	$	0.00	
Balance on hand as of January 10, 2017			**$228,734.95**

Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association

General Fund Savings Account

Balance on hand as of September 30, 2016		**$ 24,295.25**
Interest Payment (October)	$ 1.03	
Interest Payment (November)	$ 1.00	
Interest Payment (December)	$ 1.03	
Total Interest	**$ 3.06**	
Expenditures:		
Deposits		
Deposit	$ 0.00	
Balance on hand as of January 10, 2017		**$ 24,298.31**

Investments

VOYA (CLOSED) (Dep. In Sch. Fund)	**$ 0.00**
Edward Jones (Eff. November 25, 2016)	**$ 157,395.70**
Anna Raynock Scholarship Fund (Eff. November 25, 2016)	**$ 10,142.02**

WEATHERLY AREA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

January 19, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Weatherly Area Middle School LGI Room

The Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association (WAHSAA) Board of Directors met on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Weatherly Middle School LGI Room. There were 12 members in attendance. President Todd Gimbi called the meeting to order. Those in attendance each received a pen. Gimbi began by stating that the meeting marked the beginning of the Alumni's 25th anniversary year and highlighted changes and growths the Alumni has gone through from the beginning. Madison Hartz, Senior Class President, was welcomed to the Board of Directors as this year's student board member. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of friend, colleague, and board member Joseph E. D'Andrea. He was an active member of the Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee at the time of his passing. A moment of silence was also held for Jean D. Weston, Maurice "Benny" Heater, and John P. "Jack" Galvin. Galvin was the husband of Jean who serves on the Alumni's Finance Committee. The minutes from the October meeting were read by Yvonne Felker and approved. Georgeann Herling, member of the Weatherly Area School District Board of Directors, said she has heard great reports from students and teachers about Study Island. The treasurer's report given by Sue Ann Gerhard was also reviewed and approved. The Finance Committee will be planning a meeting soon. Gimbi, Membership Committee Chairperson reported there are currently 617 members. Celine Gerhart was appointed to the Board of Directors to fill the vacant seat of D'Andrea. Barbara Sandt will be filling his vacant seat on the Scholarship Committee. This year, there will be a one-time Special 25th Anniversary Scholarship given in the amount of $2,500.00. The Scholarship Committee will determine the logistics of the special scholarship. The June 15th meeting will be held in the Weatherly Area Community Library at 7:00 P.M. Gimbi, Gerhard, Gerhart, Felker, Jane Suitch, Betty Henry, Barbara Sipler, and Sarah Hamm volunteered to serve on a committee for the WAHSAA's 25th anniversary celebration. Thank you notes were received from Katie Leach, Michael Nemshick, and Theresa D'Andrea and Family. Also received were thank you letters from Christina Caravella for sponsoring the September Senior of the Month program and Thomas W. McLaughlin for the $1,700.00 donation toward the 3-D printer, Study Island Software, and the Middle School Word Wall. After adjourning, those present enjoyed refreshments provided by Henry. The next Board of Directors meeting will be in the Weatherly Middle School LGI Room on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7 P.M. Katie Leach will be the guest speaker.

The Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association donated $500 to the Weatherly Area School District toward supplies for the annual Read Across America Day in early March. Presenting the donation to Barbara Sipler, title I coordinator k-5 (center) Sue Ann Gerhard, treasurer and Todd A. Gimbi, president of Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association.

This year the Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association will be celebrating 25 years as an organization. Pictured below is: (front row) Yvonne Felker, Recording Secretary; Todd A. Gimbi, President; Theresa D'Andrea, Nominating Committee Chairperson; Jane Suitch, Board Member; (Back row) Maddison Hartz, Student Board Member; Betty Henry, Vice-President; Sue Ann Gerhard, Treasurer; Celine Gerhart; Board Member; Barbara Sipler, Board Member; and Sarah Hamm, Corresponding Secretary. Missing from the photo are Steven Thompson & Otto Barbush, Board Members; Ronald Bittner, Finance Committee Chairperson; and Bette Rambaran, Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

The Officers of Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association, Betty Henry, Vice-President; Sue Ann Gerhard, Treasurer; Todd A. Gimbi, President; and Yvonne Felker, Recording Secretary. Missing from the photo; Sarah Hamm, Corresponding Secretary.

Schwab School saved, belongs to Weatherly

The former Mrs. C.M. Schwab School has been saved from further deterioration and will once again belong to the borough of Weatherly.

"It's like a love story," said Mayor Tom Connors, a member of the Mrs. C.M. Schwab School Restoration Project, a nonprofit organization formed seven months ago to save the historic building.

On Thursday, Connors and board President Charlie Palermo said the group signed an agreement to purchase the school for $50,000.

They expect to close on the deal within two weeks, and at that point, the building — originally listed for $227,000 — will be transferred to the borough.

"The bank and the realtor always wanted the town to have it back and they really worked with us," Palermo said, referring to the price drop.

The school was built in 1901 as a gift to the borough from Bethlehem Steel magnate Charles M. Schwab, whose wife had ties to the borough. It housed kindergarten to grade 12 and closed in 1991. An out-of-state buyer purchased the property from the Weatherly Area School District in 1997, and since then, it had fallen into disrepair.

It was listed for sale earlier this year.

Fearing another party would purchase the property, the group began soliciting donations. To date, it has collected a little more than $50,000 — enough to purchase the school and pay for fees associated with the sale.

"It shows what you can accomplish when people come together," Palermo said.

Plans are to convert the building into a community center.

While a neighboring annex that housed a gym will likely be demolished, board members said the school itself remains in solid shape.

It will need a new roof, and local contractors have agreed to help with painting, plastering, plumbing and electrical work.

"My hope and goal is to make use out of this building by next year," Connors said.

Connors said additional fundraisers will help with repairs.

Those interested in donating or getting involved can get more information at www.charlesmschwabrestorationproject.org or from Palermo at cpalermo_51@yahoo.com or 570-582-5028. Donations may be mailed to Mrs. C.M. Schwab School Restoration Project, P.O. Box 150, Weatherly, PA 18255.

"It's nice because it was a gift given to the people, then taken from the people, and now it's going back to the people," Connors said.

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WEATHERLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS

RESTORED PAINTING, PRIDE IN ITS 25-YEAR HISTORY

BY KELLY MONITZ / PUBLISHED: JANUARY 31, 2017

HAZLETON STANDARD SPEAKER

Standard-Speaker File Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association got its start 25 years ago when it sprang from the Weatherly Citizens Committee that formed to restore the floor-to-ceiling painting of Mrs. Charles M. Schwab from the former Mrs. C.M. Schwab School.

The Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association logo is shown. School nickname is the Wreckers.

photo Provided Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association is celebrating its 25th year. An anniversary dinner is planned for Oct. 8 and all 618 members will be invited. Association officers, from left, Betty Henry, vice president; Sue Ann Gerhard, treasurer; Todd A. Gimbi, president; and Yvonne Felker, Recording Secretary.

Photo provided Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association scholarship winners ride on a float during an October parade celebrating the borough's 150th anniversary.

Weatherly area graduates continue the tradition of the town's original benefactress, Mrs. Charles M. Schwab, giving back to the school community that nurtured its members.

The Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association formed 25 years ago from the Weatherly Citizens Committee that saved Mrs. Schwab's portrait from the school that bears her name.

The committee raised funds to restore the portrait by soliciting donations from alumni of the Mrs. C.M. Schwab School, said Todd Gimbi, association president and original committee member.

"We reached out to former class presidents to obtain lists of their graduating class," he said. "We sent letters asking for donations and the committee was off and running."

Mission accomplished

As word spread, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gans Sr., local cable company owners, stepped forward with a $10,000 donation for the restoration and the committee took other donations for the climate controlled, steel and glass frame that encloses the portrait, now on display at the Weatherly Area High School.

After completing its mission, the committee had some additional funds and a vast mailing list of former graduates, and the idea of forming an alumni association was born, Gimbi said.

"I believe the amount was just a few hundred dollars that was transferred to the association," he said. "Basically, the officers asked for donations to the scholarship fund and sold memberships of $10 each for the general fund to be used for operating costs as well as to fund worthwhile teacher, student and district requests."

The association officers spent years developing the general and scholarship funds through various fundraisers and the first large financial donation — $50,000 — came from the Hugo Paul Estate, Gimbi said.

"The association sold T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts and little by little the general and scholarship funds grew," he said. "By 1998, we had enough money in the scholarship fund to award the scholarship of $10,000 to Sarah Hamm."

Scholarship fund

The scholarship fund continues to benefit from small donations and bequeaths from estates, Gimbi said. Scholarships vary from $250 to $15,000, he said. Gimbi estimates the association has given out $200,000 in scholarships and funded nearly $50,000 in student, facility and district requests.

"The alumni association has been a great supporter of our district during my time here at Weatherly," said Tom McLaughlin, superintendent of the Weatherly Area School District. "I'm very appreciative of all that they have done for our students. Each year, they sponsor scholarships to our qualifying graduating seniors.

"Also, over the years, they have also made numerous monetary donations to our district to assist us in adding new programs for our students," he said.

The association purchased the buzzer for the high school's Scholastic Scrimmage team, bought questions from the National Academic Quiz Tournament for the team to practice with, and gave the high school $500 to help purchase a 3-D printer, said teacher Katie Leach.

"We got (the printer) a few weeks ago, and it is like magic," said Leach, who also heads the school district's gifted student program.

The association also financially supports the Read Across America program, which is a celebration of reading in the schools, said teacher Barbara Sipler.

"They generously donate $500 to the program each year," she said. "It ensures that we get books into the hands of students. They are the mainstay of the program. It wouldn't be possible without the alumni association. They just do magnificent things for our students and schools."

Other funding over the years went toward a new piano, a scoreboard, a message board, field trips, software, learning equipment and programs, Gimbi said.

Assets nearly $500,000

Association memberships remain $10 each today, but assets have grown to nearly a half-million dollars, allowing the association to offer an annual $15,000 student scholarship, Gimbi said. The association hopes to continue to grow its membership and soon offer a $20,000 scholarship, he said.

"When the association was formed, we set a goal to raise enough funds to provide a $10,000 (scholarship)," Gimbi said. "Once we reached that goal, we looked to the future goal of $15,000, and now that we reached that goal our next goal is for $20,000.

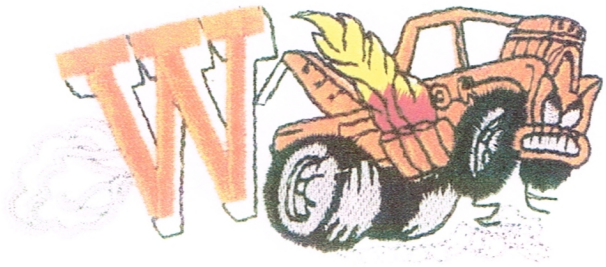
"This year, in addition to the $15,000 scholarship, we will be offering a one-time $2,500 anniversary scholarship," he said.

The association will be celebrating its 25th anniversary throughout the year. Guest speakers will attend each of the association's four board meetings, recognizing the organization. Leach and Carbon County Commissioner Tom Gerhard are among the speakers scheduled, Gimbi said.

Past presidents and past scholarship award winners have been also been invited to attend the annual Memorial Day dinner and general membership meeting on Memorial Day, he said. The dinner and meeting has been a staple of the association from its inception, Gimbi said.

The association is also planning an anniversary dinner on Oct. 8, which is Columbus Day weekend. All 618 members of the association will be invited and more details will be announced in the February newsletter, Gimbi said.

Over the past 25 years, the people leading the Association in the capacity of president were Wilbur (Tim) Frable, Gary Makuch, Richard L. Hinkle, Alicia Richie-Quinn, and currently under the leadership of Todd A. Gimbi. Past Vice-Presidents were Edward Young, Wilbur (Tim) Frable, Todd A. Gimbi, and currently Betty Henry. Serving in the role of Recording Secretary was Loretta Allison, Myra Wolf Hoffman, and currently Yvonne Felker. Treasurer was John (Jack) Koehler and currently Sue Ann Gerhard. Membership Secretary Todd A. Gimbi continues to serve for the past 25 years. The office of Corresponding Secretary was added and the appointment went to Sarah Hamm. Serving as the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee was Frederick Oleck, Wilbur (Tim) Frable, and currently Bette Rambaran. Ronald Bittner is the Chairperson for the Finance Committee, Yvonne Felker is the Chairperson of the Memorial Day Dinner Committee, and Theresa D'Andrea is Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Working with the officers are board members Celine Gerhart, Stephen Thompson, Otto Barbush, Barbara Sipler, Jane Suitch, and Madison Hartz serving as this year's student board member. Scholarship winners are: Sarah Hamm, 1998; Ray Marcero, 1999; Erin Lesko, 2000; Angela Petrone, 2001; Courtney Hadzick, 2002; Lindsey Hinkle, 2003; Kerri Romig, 2004; Jeremy Leach, 2005; James Somers, 2006; Joshua Titus, 2007; Jennifer Miller, 2008; Amanda Bartosevich, 2009; Melani Clabia, 2010; Mia Cavello, 2011; Matthew Caccese, 2012; Heather Cichowic, 2013; Rachel Moon, 2014; Catherine Strizak, 2015; and Muskan Khatiwala, 2016.



Weatherly Area High School
Alumni Association

25th Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, October 8, 2017
Weatherly Area Middle School
at
1:00 in the afternoon

Entertainment will be provided

Guided tours of the
Weatherly Area School Complex will be available

Reservation forms will be sent with the July Newsletter