COLLEGE OF WEST AFRICA, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, USA INC.©

CWA-AA, USA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE I

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Fellow Foxes/Friends:

I would like to invite you once again to join us during our 19th Annual Reunion and Convention which will be held in the Maryland area over the Memorial Day Weekend.

Funds raised from these activities go a long way in helping to rebuild the educational structure of Liberia through the College of West Africa High School. We (a committed few) have been working diligently and sacrificially to assess and address the needs of CWA. Unfortunately, this year has not been a great year for raising funds for this noble purpose. Yet, we have been able to provide much needed help in the form of scholarships, graduation gowns (brand new), sports uniforms etc. However, there is still much more to be done.

During my recent visit to Liberia, I had the opportunity to tour the restrooms that smelled as far as

than acceptable - empty class-



Alex Wonasue, MBA

room during regular school hours, dusty halls, no or antiquated office equipment, empty teacher's lounge, open security doors in the front and back of the building, fallen fence in the back, loitering students in the halls, cafeteria and even on the front porch, filthy

school and what I found is less the auditorium, leaking roof, stained ceilings, chair-less auditorium, antiquated computer lab with no air conditioning and more.

> Currently, we are writing a comprehensive plan that will help fix these conditions. However, it will require a great financial commitment from us - the only stakeholders of CWA. Simply put, we must act now or resolve to watch CWA meet its inevitable end.

> This year, you can help by purchasing reunion tickets (even if you don't live in MD). You can also make a contribution to CWA-AA USA, Inc. via www.cwaaausa.org and encourage your friends and families to do the same.

> I would like to thank the classes and individuals who have supported our events and/or scholarship efforts. We cannot succeed without your support.

Best regards, Alex Wonasue

CWA-AA, USA TO AWARD MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The alumni association will be awarding four new scholarships to current students at CWA for the new academic year.

The scholarships to be awarded will fall under the following categories: CWA-AA, USA Deserving Student/ Teacher Sponsorship Program; The Qualls Stevens Special Scholarship; and the Class of '88 Ernestine Smith Scholarship.

CWA-AA, USA in accordance with

the scholarship guidelines, is working with members of the association in Liberia to help implement and present the scholarship to the beneficiaries in May.

CWA-AA, USA would like to thank members of the class of '88, Dr. Qualls Stevens and all others who contributed (contributes) to this important program.

The Scholarship Program was designed to help provide assistance to needy and deserving students (for academic performance). The program will also provide assistance for teachers at CWA in an effort to maintained qualified teachers at the school. The program will also provide books and monetary reward to students who maintain an average above 3.0 GPA, as well as students who win the Essay Competition – opened to all.

19th ANNUAL REUNION & CONVENTION



Host Chapter: Washington, DC Area

The 19th Annual Reunion & Convention will be held in the Washington, DC Metro Area this Memorial Day Weekend—May 27-30, 2011.

Taking the economic recession into consideration, the host chapter has created programs that are affordable, yet fun.

Also, at this year's convention, we will host the national elections of officers . If anyone is interested in running for office, please send your letter of interest to Mr. John McClain at P. O. Box

1421, Pointer Ridge, MD 20717. Also, to participate in the elections all contestants and voters must be in full compliance with the constitution and up to date with their dues. You can pay your dues (\$60.00 per annum) via pay pal on our website, or via P. O. Box 1421 Pointer Ridge, MD 20717.

Other activities planned for this year reunion include: a Sports Tournament, an After Hoops Fashion Party; An Installation Banquet; and a Farewell Brunch. Music for the week long activities will be provided by Alumnus Christian "Noko-4" Nelson.

Detailed information re the advancement of CWA and CWA-AA, USA will be shared with you at the convention. Please plan to attend the reunion and start to book your tickets now.

The advancement of CWA is in our hands. We are counting on your support and full participation to make this reunion a success.



VIRIDIAN



What will you do for CWA today?
We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends at the 19th Annual Reunion in MD.

VIRIDIAN: NEWEST MEMBERS' BENEFIT

CWA-AA, USA is always in search of meaningful ways that could help the association generate revenue—outside of membership dues.

The Association also looks for programs that will directly benefit its members, while creating possible income.

We are pleased to introduced to you a new members' bene-

fit program, provided by the Viridian Company. Viridian is a power-source company that provides power to residents of certain states (moving progressively to provide power nation-wide).

Viridian helps most of its customers save money on their utility cost—monthly.

You will not have to change your current energy provider (e.g., Pepco, BGE, Cox, Other), Viridian will only be the source provider, while your current energy company will be the distributor — sending you only one bill.

Viridian is also a "green" company—environmentally friendly.

Life Member, Alum John McClain, will spearhead this new venture.

19th ANNUAL REUNION & CONVENTION-CON'T

If you would like to advertise in our souvenir program (death, memorial, birth, anniversaries, business, others), please send your information to the Public Affairs (CWA_publicaffairs@yahoo.c om) before May 15th. Information about how/what to submit is on our website at www.cwaaausa.org.

Our Installation Banquet will be held at the renowned La Fontaine Bleu Banquet Hall in Lanham, Maryland.

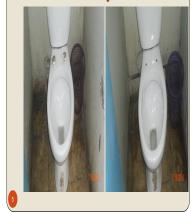
If you would like to participate in any of our sporting activities (basketball, soccer, volleyball), please contact our Sports Chair Person, Mr. J. Levee Moulton—ilmotion@yahoo.com.

The Reunion Committee has also negotiated with several of its "partner" hotels (Choice Hotels) for reasonable rates for the weekend. You may call any of the hotels listed on the flyer before your schedule of arrival.

Finally, you can use this opportunity to sign up for the CWA Visa Platinum Credit Card to assist with your travel needs.

CWA RESTROOM PROJECT: A CLASS EFFORT

Current Photos of Boys Restroom







The students and staff restrooms at CWA are deplorable. Some students are leaving campus to use alternative restrooms and return to class.

See some current photos

CWA-AA, USA Inc, says this is totally unsanitary and unacceptable. This could lead to inevitable sickness and an unhealthy/ disruptive learning environment.

CWA-AA, USA needs your help!

Please log onto our website at

www.cwaaausa.

org and select

"Projects/Goals"

for a complete

presentation and workman

estimates re this

project.

CWA RESTROOM PROJECT - CON'T

It is often said, an educated child begins with a healthy child.

After many years of usage, this is what the restrooms at CWA look like. A typical reaction from an American child would be, "Yikes! I'd rather pee in my pants, before I use that restroom."

We have embarked on this restroom restoration project to provide CWA students a healthy/ sanitary learning environment. CWA-AA, USA Inc. has a team of dedicated officers who are working diligently to help restore CWA, through advocacy (full operation), and by raising awareness amongst its alumni, other stakeholders and friends. CWA-AA, USA officers work effortlessly to raise funds for standard education (academics), teacher retention (maintaining qualified teachers) and importantly, a furnished and sanitized facility for student occupancy

(structure). And with your assistance, we can help eliminate serious sicknesses and diseases that seem inevitable.

Remember: Before you reinvent the wheels in giving to CWA, the Association already works 24/7 to assess the needs of CWA and find the best (specialized) ways to meet those needs.

CWA-AA, USA thanks you for your support!

CWA PLATINUM VISA CREDIT CARD

Do you remember the "fly and bee" story from our last issue? I hope you did. It was not just a beautiful story and/or lesson taught, it was a call to action to help your association.

This card, which will provide some form of revenue for our operational costs, will also benefit you by providing discount to many other chain businesses nationwide. With such low interest rate, you can transfer your balances from current "high interest" cards to your CWA Visa Logo card and enjoy a low interest payment.

You can also use your visa card for your travel needs, while feeling proud of carry-

ing our card in your wallet.
Please do not wait until it is too late, log onto our website now—www.cwaaausa.org and sign up for your personalized CWA Visa Logo Credit Card.





Is your excuse - school, kids, illness, work, flying to the moon :) ?

MESSAGE: WHAT IS YOUR EXCUSE?

Fellow Alums: What is your excuse—re your full participation in CWA-AA, USA?

While this problem may not be unique to CWA-AA, USA (Liberian organizations), it is important that we as CWA alums support our association in its effort to help advance initiatives at our Alma Mater.

Most times, when we ask you why haven't you paid your dues, or attended one of our local or national events, or supported one of our projects, or encouraged your classmates to join us... your answer is: I am in school; I am busy with the kids; I am very busy at work; I am ill; or I am working on programs that land people on the moon (smile). Is your excuse one of the above?

Please stop making excuses! We all know that we make time and effort for the things we are genuinely interested in. Please let us make CWA one of the endeavors that we

all are passionate about. CWA provided us privilege education to be about to compete with our contemporaries today. There are others now who are depending on us to help make CWA a "habitable learning environment" for them. Please join us in our efforts to help prepare great minds for the future of our country.

Truth is: Life in the Diaspora is busy for all. However, others are making the sacrifice to help this cause, please join us today!

NATIONAL PRESIDENT LOSSES FATHER

In law he followed the tradition of the county's legal luminaries, including Chief Justice J.J. Dossen, and William V.S. Tubman – former President of Liberia. Other eminent legal minds from Maryland were E. Himie Shannon, O. Natty B. Davies, A. Dashward Wilson, among others.

Daily Observer News Story

On January 28th, 2011, the father of our National President Mr. Alex Wonasue died in a tragic car accident.

Cllr. Isaac Erasmus Wonasue, hailed from Maryland County, Liberia, was the Senior Legal Council of the Central Bank of Liberia (where he worked for more than 24 years). Cllr. Wonasue was also an Alumnus of the University of Liberia and President of the Parent/ Teachers Association at CWA for more than 6 years.

Before serving in his capacity as Senior Legal Council of the Central Bank, Cllr. Wonasue rose through the ranks to become the Deputy Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, where he served with credit and distinction until 1986.

Cllr. Wonasue served on the committee to draft the New

Financial Institutions Act of the Central Bank of Liberia. He also served as Technical Staff for the 1999 Tax Commission, which drafted the New Revised Tax Code of Liberia.

Cllr. Wonasue leaves to mourn his loss, his wife of more than 40 years, Mrs. Whiema Tate-Wonasue and 8 children and several grand children, in-laws, and other relatives.

Our sympathy to the family.

CWA-AA, USA INC. CHAPTER NEWS

More news and updates from our local chapters and lor clubs.



The Washington, DC Metro Area Chapter is preparing to host the 19th Annual Reunion & Convention this May 27-30, 2011. The host president, Mr. Richard Miller, is calling on all alums in and around the DC Metro Area to join us in making this event a success. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please contact Mr.

Miller at 302-898-6382 or the Reunion Committee via CWA_publicaffairs@yahoo.com.

Alumnus Michael Gray is working with some alumni in the New York Area to help form the New York Area Chapter. If you live in New York or its surroundings, please contact our Membership Chair Person (2nd

VP), Ms. La-Verne Jones Williams – voisy@aol.com.

The Dallas Branch of the Texas Chapter has pledged a sum of \$500.00 towards the Deserving Student/Teacher Sponsorship Fund.

The Minnesota and Georgia/ Carolina's Chapters are also planning local summer events

CWA ASSESSMENT: A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION!

On his recent visit to Monrovia, National President, Alex Wonasue, took a strategic tour of CWA, created a videography, and had a charge meeting with the President, officers, and other local alumni members.

As a result of the meeting, it was discovered that the root of CWA's declining academic status may be attributed to three core problems. Upon his return, Mr. Wonasue has proposed a four-year plan that may address and seek to correct some of these problems.

The main objective of the plan is

to turn CWA around within a four year period. The plan will focus on providing exceptional financial support for the school, reduce the number of students, and consequently reduce the total number of teachers. By doing this, the plan will shrink the overhead cost of the school, improve current compensation, thus attracting qualified teachers and competent students.

The following are the three core problems that CWA currently face: Academic, discipline, and structural.

CWA's academic and disciplinary problems may be attributed

to the lack of qualified teachers (a nationwide problem) and incompetent students as a result of the lack of an available feeder school (as JJ Roberts UMS is now a high school). Also, the lack of a strong curriculum and limited resources are also major problems. Structural: Income from tuition is insufficient to sustain the

is insufficient to sustain the school's operating budget and at the same time maintain the school's aged infrastructure. The four-year plan that has been created, will address these core problems and put CWA back on the map academically.

Charity begins at home! Please be ready to join this great effort now.



Action Now! Info: www.cwaaausa.org

"No action, No change; Limited action, Limited change. Lots of action, change occurs."

~ Catherine Pulsifer

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"A man is the sum of his actions, of what he has done, of what he can do. Nothing else."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

In an effort to aggressively reverse the status quo at CWA - making it the premier learning institution in Liberia - CWA-AA, USA in collaboration with CWA is working to revise the curriculum at CWA. This effort will not only affect the courses taught, but will provide professional development, learning resources/materials, and create a safe and habitable environment for the students. With this said, our national president is

calling on all teachers and/or educators (especially Jr. Sr. High School and/or College) to kindly contact him ASAP via 203-887-4867 to assist in this very important endeavor.

If you have ever thought about giving back to CWA or Liberia in some way, this could be your golden opportunity to assist with the curriculum preparation and other related initiatives. The president has been in contact with a

few teachers already and they have started initial discussion. He has also contacted a few high school principals to collaborate with us in this endeavor.

Some schools/organizations are providing quick-fixes as a means to an end. CWA-AA, USA does not wish to provide a quick-fix in its effort to restore CWA. We would like to create exceptional plans, obtain modern equipment/materials and provide training.

Share Your Story - Wedding, Graduation, Birth, Class Reunions...

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

A special Congratulations to alumnus Samuel Cole and wife on the birth of a beautiful baby girl – April 2011.

Congratulations also to James Harvey family who just celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in Minnesota.

CONDOLENCES!!!

To the families of our National President for the passing of his father, Cllr. Isaac E. Wonasue; Alumna Aken Wariebe and family for the passing of their mother-Ms. Nester Duncan; Alumna Caroline Barnard for the loss of her mother and Alumna Golda Simpson for the passing of her father – Mr. Simpson.

GRADUATION!!!

Congratulations and best wishes to alumna Pam Deshield and alumnus Richelieu Clinton who just received their Master Degrees in Management and Public Administration respectively.

Fellow Foxes, CWA-AA, USA wishes you all the best in your professional endeavors.

Class Reunions!!!

Congratulations to the following classes who will be celebrating milestone reunions: Class of 1971 (40 Years); 1981 (30 Years); Class of 1986 (25 years); Class of 1991 (20 years); and Class of 1996 (15 yrs). CWA-AA Salutes You!!!



About the College of West Africa

CWA-AA,
U3A Website
Gets Facelift/
Updates!!!

CWA-AA, USA would like to thank the following volunteers for their recent services/

Volunteers - Thank You!

following volunteers for their recent services/ assistance to CWA.

A special thank-you to alumnae Estelle Marshall and Wede Dennis who represented and made a contribution on behalf of CWA-AA, USA at the home-going of Mrs. Ernestine Smith

Ms. Yuwudi Wallace-Gblee for volunteering her time/services at this year's convention.

Thank You!

P. O. Box 1421 Bowie, MD 20717 Phone: 203.887.4867

E-mail: cwauspresident@yahoo.com

"Though a thousand fall, Let not Africa be given up." ~

Melville B. Cox

The College of West Africa (CWA) is an United Methodist Institution. Its establishment was realized through the vision of Mr. Melville B. Cox of Maine, USA, who was the first Methodist missionary to Liberia.

CWA, established in the 1800's, is one of the oldest academic institution in Liberia, dating back as far as the founding of Liberia itself.

CWA has served as "academic" home to several thousand secondary and post secondary students of Liberia and other countries (including presidents and vice presidents of Liberia).

Like many academic institutions in Liberia, the civil crisis of the 1990's had its toll on CWA—leaving it shattered (academically and structurally). However, the alumni of CWA are working diligently to help restore CWA to its glory days!



CWA-AA, USA STUDENT/TEACHER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The CWA-AA, USA Deserving Student/ Teacher Sponsorship Program is designed to help provide scholarships and books for needy and performing students at CWA, as well as incentives for all teachers at CWA.

The program is well on its way. Please get 100% involved in this process and be an angel for a deserving student at CWA and/or help CWA maintain qualified teachers to carry on its legacy.

CWA-AA, USA in collaboration with CWA has opened a separate account (Wachovia Bank) for this project and will publicly list names of all contributors and their contributions for proper accountability and a smooth running of this program. Please refer to our website for more information about this program

a n d / o r c o n t a c t CWA_Publicaffairs@yahoo.com.

This program is the framework for most of our current operations. We will need your financial and moral support in order for this



Celebration of Scholarships!!!

program to succeed.

We would like to thank all those

who have contributed to this program thus far - including some of the established classes and clubs.

Leave a legacy for yourself, your class and/or your family!

There are several other key projects that have been spear-headed by the new administration that you could contribute to.

If you need more information about this program and the other projects, we can mail you a catalogue with details about the program or you can read more on our website. Please contact:

President Alex Wonasue (cwauspresident@yahoo.com) or

P. O. Box 1421, Bowie, MD 20717