

# CERES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (CAA)

*Dedicated to maintaining the pride and spirit of Ceres*

## Newsletter

Year 2024

AUGUST

Edition No. 1

### NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

If you or your company would like to sponsor a future newsletter, please contact any officer, or mail your check for \$175 to P.O. Box 32, Ceres, VA 24318. This does not cover the full cost but it helps.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to everyone. Hope everyone is having a great summer. I realize this summer has been almost the opposite of last summer. Last summer being cooler and wetter, and this one being hotter and quite dry.

Once again, our events have been well attended. We've been having over 200 people at our events. Many thanks to all who have attended and helped support your association. I would like to thank the Central Pickers Band who has come and provided entertainment for most of our dinners. I believe everyone has enjoyed having this as an added feature to our events. It gives folks an extra chance to fellowship and to be entertained at the same time. I also want to extend our thanks to all of you people who have worked so hard to put these events together. We added the water activities outside for the children, and I think they were well received. Thanks to Janet and Gary White for their making of our ice cream for our events. This has become quite the draw for many folks. I'm always astounded at the amount of ice cream we use at these meetings.

We try to support the community Bible School each year in any way we can. I must mention

that each year it draws quite the crowd. Each of the churches in the area work together to put it on. For the last 2 years they have put on the fireworks display with the help of Melissa Renninger, the Pruett family and the Copp family. This year, this association served hot dogs and ice cream to the Bible School attendees and also served them to the crowd prior to the fireworks. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to pull all of this together. I must say that for a tiny community everyone here has become a well-knit group working together for the betterment of our area.

Please remember this is your organization, your buildings, and we are always looking to you for new ideas and help. Thanks to the younger folks who have stepped up to bring fresh, new ideas and help to the association.

I hope that everyone has a great finish to their summer and please remember to look on our website for upcoming events

G. H. Peery, III,  
President

### CERES SCHOOL BUILDING

Sadly, it looks like the Ceres Ruritan Club might need to end the club's 76-year operation.

Membership has declined mainly due to the deaths of older members. The Ruritan Club has had a lease on the Bland County owned school building for over 20 years. This building houses the only school auditorium in Bland County.

The Alumni Association is trying to help find the best way to

preserve this 90+ year old landmark and make it self-supporting. Your ideas will be welcomed and may be mailed to P. O. Box 32, Ceres, VA 24318.

### CERES DAY & CHILI COOK-OFF

The Ceres community recently celebrated its annual Ceres Day and, new this year, the Chili Cook-Off, bringing together residents and visitors for a memorable day of food, fun, and festivities. Held on May 4th, the event was a success, showcasing the best of what Ceres has to offer—Ceres Day offered many vendors with various items for sale. Breakfast, including gravy, biscuits, sausage, eggs, and more, was available to start the day. The delicious and most looked forward to homemade ice cream was also there to devour.

A delicious Cornbread & Beans lunch was served in the school cafeteria by the Ruritan Club.

The Chili Cook-Off was a new event this year; it comprises five chili teams and approximately 60 visitors sampling and voting on their favorite chili. Some chili teams were local, while others traveled from the Carolinas. Nathan and William Tickle of Bland, VA, ranked with the best-tasting chili and brought home the first annual Ceres Day Chili Cook-Off engraved wooden spoon trophy. As the event concluded, there was already talk of next year's celebration, with many expressing excitement and anticipation for what promises to be another fantastic gathering next May.

## REPORTED DEATHS

Sue Thompson Repass  
Beulah Tibbs Newberry  
Otho Cassell  
Jerry Harden, husband of Maria  
Foglesong Harden  
James W. Blankenship, husband of  
Barbara Umbarger Blankenship  
DeLisa Hammons  
William David Epperson  
Richard Lewis Lambert  
Leland Umbarger  
Revena Hubble Cox  
Fred Cox  
Ralph Edwards  
Danny Ray Bridges  
Cecil Gates, brother of Goldie  
Harris  
Nancy Lambert Hatcher  
Eleanor Davis Atwell  
Jimmy Miller, husband of Wanda  
Fields Miller  
Priscilla Dillow, daughter of  
Charlie & Patsy Dillow  
Dawn D. Morgan, daughter of  
Charlie & Patsy Dillow  
Bob Hamm, husband of Weire  
Dillow Hamm  
Shirley Moxley Davis  
Geneva Smith Gentry  
Roby S. (Junior) Cregar, Jr.  
Judy Hannah's Grandson  
Joyce M. Cassell  
James Darnell Cox  
Hazel Sue Hayton Wilson  
Annette Washburn  
O, Paul (Pudge) Umbarger  
Vince Morehead, husband of Shirley  
Kidd Morehead  
Lorene Lambert Perkey  
Jonathan Boysaw, son-in-law of  
Winifred Foglesong

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Terry Ray Umbarger  
By Sue S. Umbarger  
  
In memory of Sue T. Repass  
By Brenda R. Finch  
By Grey Withrow  
By Mike Umbarger and  
Tammy Smelser  
By Cheryl Meynig  
By Betty C. Hubble  
By Lorraine Waddle

By Rita & K.R. Repass family  
By Evelyn H. Groseclose  
By Amy M. Shupe  
By Peery Family; Annie, GH,  
Phil, and Denise  
By Brian and Kim Squibb

In honor of O. P. Umbarger  
By Davis and Carol Umbarger

In memory of O. P, Umbarger  
By Lorraine Waddle  
By Betty C. Hubble

## DONATION TO CREGGAR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Jeffery D. Cassell  
By Melanie Cassell (2)

## DONATION TO THE MUSEUM

By Leslie D. Gregory

## DONATION TO CAA

By Frances C, Davis  
By Lisa Hall

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## UPCOMING ANNUAL HOMECOMING - Oct. 19, 2024

Plans for our 23rd annual homecoming are under way

### Annual Raffle – Drawing 10/19/23

Our annual raffle is our major fund raiser of the year to maintain the buildings and pay for utilities. Your assistance in selling or buying these tickets will be greatly appreciated. We always have some very nice gifts. **Raffle tickets are enclosed.** Tickets are \$1 each and are in packs of 10 tickets. For additional tickets, call **276-682-4255**. A partial list of prizes appears below.

### Raffle Gifts

The following raffle gifts have been received:

- Rifle, Henry Golden Boy 22 Long Rifle\* (or \$400) donated by CAA. \*Must meet firearm requirements.
- Framed P. Buckley Moss Print donated by Jimmy Wilson Family

- Hand-made Throw donated by Crabtree Sewing
- Framed P. Buckley Moss Print donated by the Moss Foundation and framed by Farmers' Daughter
- Hand-carved Wood Bowl made and donated by Glen Repass
  - Hand-made Quilt made and donated by Nebo Hobo Quilters
  - Several other Gifts and Gift Certificates

## TO USE THE FITNESS ROOM

You must watch a short video on the use of the fitness equipment before getting your own key to the facility. To schedule your training, call 276.613-0789. A \$5 monthly donation is requested for the Fitness Room use.

## TO RESERVE THE GYM

To reserve the gym for your use, you may call 276 613-0789 or 276 682-4255. Some past uses were graduation celebrations, wedding receptions, family reunions, exercise, basketball practice, and meals by bereaved families, etc. Your donation helps cover the cost of utilities and upkeep. **After using the gym, please remove your trash and clean up.**

## A RECENT GYM USE

The Sluss Family Reunion was held August 3, 2024, at the Ceres Gym, marking the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Sluss Family Massacre** that took place in Ceres. Some of the Sluss family members survived that Indian attack. A large crowd of family descendents from several states were in attendance. Events of the weekend included tours of the Bland County Historical Society, the Henry C. Groseclose FFA Museum, Sharon Lutheran Church Cemetery, and the massacre site. On Sunday a smaller group visited the Mud Fork area, visiting the Sluss Cemetery and the Clovis Sluss home in Tazewell. More information regarding the Sluss

Family Massacre can be found on-line at [www.Ceresva.org](http://www.Ceresva.org) or by contacting Lisa Sluss Burke at 615-785-1262.

**PAID DUES DATES...FYI**

We frequently get calls to learn when members last paid their dues. Here is a solution. Look at the mailing label on this envelope. If there is a number after your name, that number indicates the year through which your dues are paid. (Example: 24 means paid through 2024. An "L" means you have LIFETIME paid membership.)

We do not charge for Back Dues. If you last paid in 2021, paying now will bring you current through 2024.

If there is no number or letter after your name on the envelope, you have either never paid dues or it has been a long time.

Dues are welcome to help support CAA but are not required for attendance to any of our events. **EVERYONE is welcome.**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

.....**FOR THE REST OF 2024:**

**PIG ROAST AND CORN-ON-THE-COB**

Music by Central Pickers  
Water Activities (weather permitting)

August 17, 2024  
start serving at 5:00 PM  
Price: By Donation

**BEEF DINNER**

**Appalachian Hoe Downers  
Dancers at 6:00 PM**

Water Activities (weather permitting)

September 14, 2024  
start serving at 5:00 PM  
Price: By Donation

**23rd ANNUAL CERES  
HOMECOMING**

Former Ceres School Campus  
Saturday, October 19, 2024  
More Details Later

**ELECTION BREAKFAST**

November 5, 2024  
6:00 AM - ? AM

Vote and enjoy breakfast  
+By Donation

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS  
POT LUCK SUPPER**

December 7, 2024  
starting at 6:00 PM

Drinks and paper products  
furnished

**CHRISTMAS PORK ROAST  
Boston Butts and Pork Loins**

Take Out  
December 20 2024  
More details later

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Check the web site  
[www.ceresva.org](http://www.ceresva.org)

**Ceres Alumni Association on  
FACEBOOK**

For other events as they are  
scheduled.

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**Ceres Alumni Association LLC**  
**P. O. Box 32**  
**Ceres, VA 24318**

**Web Site**  
[www.ceresva.org](http://www.ceresva.org)  
 Elmer Beardshall, Web Master

**Reminders**  
 Monthly Board Meetings  
 7:00 PM on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in each month except  
 Annual meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in October  
 (Subject to change by the Board)  
**Everyone is welcome**

*Officers for 2024*

|                      |                  |              |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President            | G. H. Peery, III | 276.688.4450 |
| Vice President       | Sara L. Kidd     | 276.210.7888 |
| Secretary/Reporter   | Racheal Gray     | 276.613.0182 |
| Historian            | Laura B. Mustard | 276.682.0162 |
| Treasurer/Membership | Betty C. Hubble  | 276.682.4255 |
| Past President       | Wade Hall        | 276.613-0789 |

**Association Directors and term ending year:**

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Margaret Stevenot – 2024 | Rebecca M. Peery – 2025     |
| Karla P. Turner – 2024   | Evelyn H. Groseclose - 2026 |
| Janet R. White – 2024    | Elizabeth Kimberlin – 2026  |
| Darleyne Atwell – 2025   | Sandra Sayre – 2026         |
| Frankie Gray – 2025      | Wade Hall – Past President  |

**Endowment Trust Fund Directors & term ending year:**

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Edd Houck – 2024           | Michelle Groseclose – 2025 |
| Iris C. Pruett – 2024      | Melissa Renninger – 2026   |
| Glen Repass – 2024         | Robin U. Repass – 2026     |
| Judith Cassell – 2025      | Lorraine Waddle - 2026     |
| William H. Crabtree – 2025 | 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\*.

\* Deceased

**Ceres Alumni Association LLC (CAA)**

**Funds Transmittal Form (for your convenience)**

**Return to: CAA, PO Box 32, Ceres, VA 24318**

Name(s) and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                 |                |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Dues for 1 year . . . . .                                       | @ \$ 25.00     | \$ _____ |
| Dues for 5 years . . . . .                                      | @ \$100.00     | _____    |
| Lifetime Dues . . . . .                                         | @ \$250.00     | _____    |
| Raffle Tickets . . . . .                                        |                | _____    |
| Donation to Endowment Trust Fund . . . . .                      |                | _____    |
| Donation to Association . . . . .                               |                | _____    |
| Donation to Scholarship Fund in memory of Bill Creggar. . . . . |                | _____    |
| Donation to _____ in Memory/Honor of _____                      |                | _____    |
| Other                                                           |                | _____    |
|                                                                 | Total Enclosed | \$ _____ |