



THE
PANTHER PROWL

HENDERSON INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

HENDERSON INSTITUTE BOARD of DIRECTORS

William "Bill" Holden, Chair Larry Carroll, Vice Chair Jeanette Kingsberry, Secretary
Karen Patterson Johnson John Martin James Ragland Frederick Williams
Ruth H. Wilson Jacquelyn Woodard Janice Woods

We are excited to inform you that this year will be our 50th School Reunion for the Henderson Institute Alumni Association! We will be celebrating our Golden Anniversary marking five decades since the graduating class of 1930 invited all HI graduates, former students, faculty, administration and staff to the very first HI Class Reunion in 1976.

Board members and the National Committee are focused on this year being a once in a lifetime event. We would like all Graduates and former students to come and join us, so we urge you to plan to attend - you cannot miss this one! This year's 50th Class Reunion will be held during the weekend of Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13. See the details in the National Exec. Committee section of the Newsletter below.

Meanwhile, your Board of Directors has continued to focus on managing the business of the Association ensuring our organization continues to be successful.

COMMITTEE



REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

John Hodge, Chair Barbara Crews, Vice Chair Karen Johnson, Museum Planning Chair
James Henderson, Vice Chair Museum Planning Dorothy Henderson, Treasurer
Janice Ellis Woods, Board Member Calvin Thompson, President National Exec. Comm.
William Holden, Board Chair Jackie Woodard, Board Member

The first cut of the 2026 Budget was presented by J. Hodge and reviewed, discussed, confirmed with the Budget Committee in January of this year. All budget line items were vetted among the committee members and corrected as required by the chair. The Budget Committee will be presenting the finalized budget to the Board for approval during month of February 2026.

FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

John Hodge Dorothy Henderson Karen Johnson William Holden

Financial allocations to include all deposit/expenditure tracking will continue to be managed utilizing the Excel database/spreadsheet. All transactions are currently being tracked, monitored, and reported monthly. In addition, a summary report is prepared and reviewed at the end of each quarter. The team is staying ahead of all activity in this space. We plan to run QuickBooks in parallel with Excel for several quarters to ensure reporting/tracking consistency.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Janice Woods Dorothy Henderson

Committee members continue to efficiently manage the three insurance policies which cover HI's overall insurance requirements. HI has been insured by The Hartford since 2010. In August 2025,

HI filed its very first insurance claim with the company. After some back and forth discussions, The Hartford agreed to pay the claim and a check was issued for the cost of the Museum roof replacement. The roofing company, First Response Roofing, reported that storm level winds caused shingles to dislodge from the roof's surface. The roofer reviewed the details of the work order with HI and a deposit was provided. The job is scheduled to start in February 2026. HI Insurance coverage consists of The Hartford Casualty Insurance, the Wester Surety Officer Dishonesty Coverage and Board Liability Insurance.

HI FUNDRAISER

Henderson Institute raised a total of \$6,270.00 at the HI Elijah Nicholson Annual Golf Outing to include 31 golfers, 49 sponsors and three friends of HI. We are grateful to all golfers, sponsors and friends who contributed to our successful outing. The funds were used to cover the cost of a chartered bus to transport nine junior and 14 senior college-bound students to the 2025 Alfred Street Baptist Church-HBCU Annual Scholarship Festival in Springfield, Virginia, to support the HI Museum and cover the green fees. The trip to the HBCU festival was a success as the students gained valuable experience and knowledge needed to navigate their collegiate journey.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Frederick Williams, Co-Chair
Jacqueline Woodard, Co-Chair
Culpepper Website Development

The Henderson Institute Website covers Henderson Institute's complete history from 1887 to 1970, the HI Museum virtual tour and Yearbooks from 1952 to 1970. The 2025 Reunion pictures were posted in September, and we also displayed banners for the various holidays. The Website still provides an opportunity for you to pay dues, registration for the 2026 Reunion and to make donations to HI. Continue to visit our website at Henderson-Institute.org for updates.

MUSEUM FACILITY SUPPORT COMM

James Henderson, Vice Chair Museum Plan
Willie Holloway, Sargeant at Arms
Larry Carroll, Vice Chair Board
John Hodge, Financial Secretary

Our HI Museum Facility Support team is positioned to supervise the Museum roof replacement, working with R. Boyd of First Response Roofing and his team. The team will make sure the letter 'N' on the front of the building is remounted this month. We would also like to note that Mac Thompson did an upgrade to the Museum bathroom. James Henderson and W. Holloway continue to manage all repairs to completion.

ROBERT BOGAN SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Robert Bogan, Chair Barbara Massey Anita Bailey Elnora O'Hara Vivian Bullock
Edward Ellis James Harrison Deborah Brown Geraldine Floyd
LaVerne "Lucy" Johnson Pruden Jacqueline Woodard

Our HI Scholarship Committee lead, Vivian Bullock, provided Dr. Ross-Putney, Vance County Schools with an overall explanation of the Bogan Scholarship. Dr. Tim Hall, a member of Dr. Ross-Putney's team, reviewed the scholarship application process, including the application form\requirements, with William Holden and Robert Bogan. Based on the final review by Vance County Schools, Dr. Hall received the green light from all interested parties to communicate the program to staff and selected students. This broader approach should reach additional college-bound students while familiarizing them with the application requirements prior to submitting their packages to the Bogan Scholarship Committee.

**ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
HBCU SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Jackie Woodard John "Rip" Martin Sandra Jones Bill Holden

HI Board members, J. Martin, W. Holden, Dr. T. Hall, and three members on his team from Vance County Schools attended the 2025 HBCU Scholarship Festival in Springfield, VA in support of the students. Dr. Hall and his team were successful in selecting 23 students to participate. The HBCU experience continues to open doors and enhance perspectives for students regarding higher education. We received positive feedback from the students and are awaiting information about this year's host site and schedule.

MUSEUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Karen P. Johnson, Chair James Henderson, Vice Chair, Larry Carroll
LeVerne Burwell-Grant Dorothy Henderson Jeanette Kingsberry
Rodney Kingsberry Willie Holloway

The HI Museum continues to serve the Vance County community and the HI Association membership as a beacon of our history. Over the years, the Museum has served as a hub for HI alumni, school groups, church groups, and families nationwide and 2025 was no different. 110 guests visited the Museum last year, including students, educators, parents, families, and parishioners. Throughout the year, the grounds were decorated to highlight various holidays, and these activities will continue through 2026. The Museum is open to the public every Thursday from 1:00-4:00 PM and special tours can be scheduled by calling the museum office at least 72 hours in advance. The contact number for the Museum, is 252-430-0616 and Dorothy Terry-Justice manages all calls. Donations to the museum are appreciated. The HI Veteran's Day Program 2025 took place at the Museum and approximately 35 veterans attended the annual program. This event was primarily an educational session focused on providing information critical to veterans. Again, Representatives from the Vance County Veterans Services Office, Bailey Shaffer and Nicola Goslin-Ricks, reviewed the services available to the 2500+ veterans currently residing in Vance County and our event was received favorably by the attendees. This will continue to be an opportunity for the veterans to stay connected and share their stories/experiences with each other. When entering the HI Museum, the first thing visitors see is a wall of photos of graduates who served in the US Armed Forces and a display akin to rows of service ribbons on an officer uniform. ³

**Additional HI Contributions Needed to
Support Our Historical Museum Operating Expenses**

Calvin Thompson, National Committee President William Holden, Board Chair

We asked for and received contributions from various HI Officers and HI members during the 2025 Business Meeting. Approximately twenty officers and members committed to and/or contributed to date. We are asking all Officers and HI members to contribute whatever possible to provide financial support for our HI Historical Museum. The Museum represents the only remaining structure for Henderson Institute, and we want to keep it thriving for years. However, it is an old building in constant need of maintenance and repair. Your financial help is needed and appreciated, so give what you can in the coming months.

We want to note that HI officers will continue to focus on obtaining state funding to restore our valued Museum however, the North Carolina state budget has not been finalized to date.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Reunion Planning Committee

Calvin Thompson, National President Sandra Jones, National Vice President
Evelyn Alston, Secretary Ola Thorpe-Copper Alice Clements Barbara Crews
Fedora Daye LeVerne Burwell-Grant James Harrison Dorothy B. Henderson
James Henderson John Hodge Vera Hodge Ruth H. Wilson
Rose Jean Bullock

It is hard to believe that 50 years have passed since the first Henderson Institute Graduates & Former Students Associations Annual Reunion was held. To mark this milestone, the Executive Committee is excited to announce the kickoff of the 50th Annual Reunion Celebration.

The National Executive Committee and the host class of 1966 are excited to announce that plans are underway for the upcoming reunion. While the full details are still being finalized, we want you to mark your calendar early. Ms. Rose Jean Bullock, class chairperson and contact, encourages all members of the class of 1966 to contact her via email, queendiviarose@gmail.com.

The 2026 Annual Reunion will be a three-day celebration during the weekend of September 11 - 13, 2026. It will begin the evening of Friday September 11, 2026, with a lively Meet N Greet at Vance Granville Community College. Saturday activities will also be held at Vance Granville; the breakfast and business meeting in the morning and a Black & Gold Formal Banquet Ball in the evening. On Sunday September 13, 2026, a Black & Gold worship service will be held at Kesler Temple AME Zion Church followed by a 4:00 PM show presented by Gerald Alston & the Manhattans at McGregor Hall.

Anyone that has never attended our annual reunion but attended or graduated from Henderson Institute is welcome, including family!

A half-century ago, things were quite different. In the 50 years since 1975, it feels as if a whole new world has formed, leaving the old one behind. But, like James Baldwin once said, "History is not the past. History is the present. We carry our history with us." That sentiment is consistent with the African concept of Sankofa, the charge to look back and fetch what was best from our past in order to move forward intelligently. Let us look back and see if the inaugural Annual Reunion event can inspire us today to move forward and create some history of our own.

Why not go? The food will be awesome, and the music is your own. It is a milestone anniversary that will more than likely attract more classmates than any other. If you are on the shy side, that works in your favor, you can move from one superficial (but sincere) conversation to the next all weekend long. If you must, consider it a challenge to step outside your comfort zone. Working a room is a skill that will always serve you well.

For those who joined us and experienced our 2025 Reunion, we look forward to seeing you again and for those who were unable to attend our reunion, please don't miss out on the excitement of our 2026 Annual Reunion. **THIS SPECIAL REUNION IS FOR YOU!** Details regarding registration are forthcoming.

I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of our great Alumni Association. Your support is valuable and appreciated. We appreciate and need your support to continue to meet our mission and goals of providing scholarships, sponsor, participation in community activities, continuing our annual reunion and most of all preserve the legacy of Henderson Institute.

May you be richly blessed.

"There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.

Nelson Mandela

HENDERSON INSTITUTE
50TH ANNUAL SCHOOL REUNION
Friday, September 11, 2026 - Sunday, September 13, 2026

Henderson Institute 49th Annual School Reunion

On Friday, September 5, 2025, and Saturday, September 6, 2025, the Henderson Institute Alumni Association hosted its 49th Annual School Reunion. The events began on Friday morning with a Golf Outing held at Kerr Lake Country Club.

Vance Granville Community College was the site of the remaining activities. Friday evening featured Reunion Registration and a Meet-and-Greet, followed by a Saturday morning breakfast and business meeting.

Saturday evening, The Class of 1965, chaired by Frances Richardson Turner, hosted the Annual Reunion Banquet. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Priscilla Johnson. Frankey Lewis Daye conducted the Class Roll Call, and Raymond Terry, Jr. introduced the Class of 1965. James Hicks delivered the invocation. The Memoriam was presented by Patricia Taylor Ellis, Mary Wright Markham, and Frances Turner.

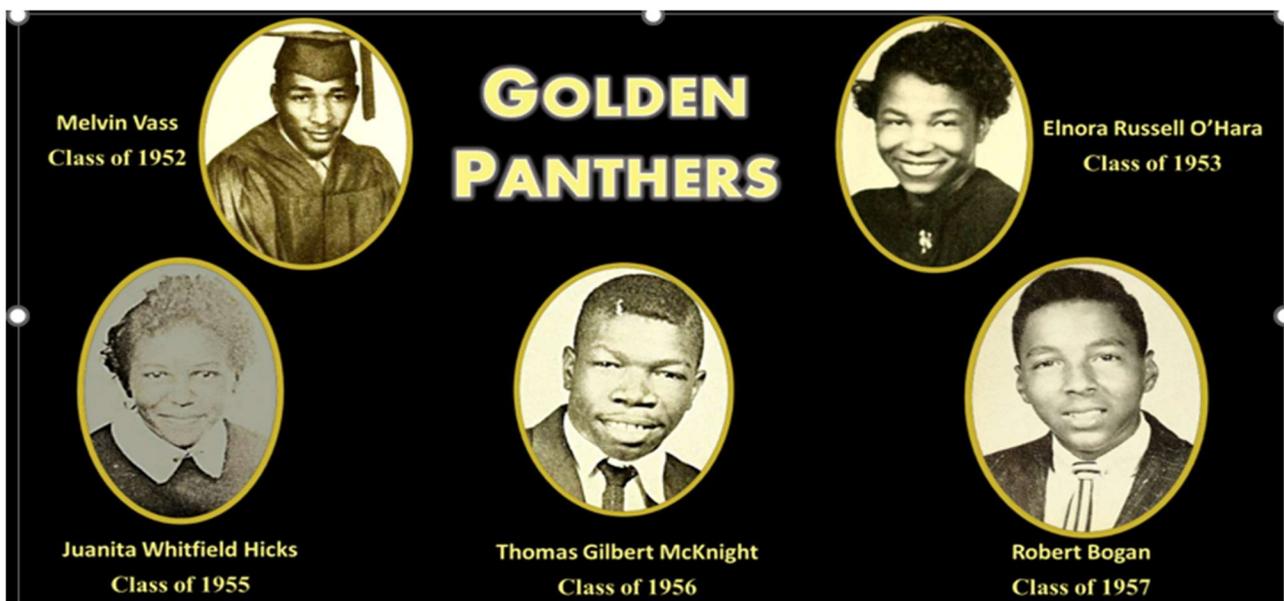
Guest speaker for the evening was former Henderson City Manager, Hasaan Kingsberry. JD. Kingsberry shared with the audience his familial bonds with Henderson Institute and the importance of knowing the past as we move forward.

Two service awards were presented. Robert Bogan received the Association's Service Award for establishing the Scholarship Committee and the Alfred HBCU Festival. He shared that he had not planned to go to college. However, a representative from A and T was at HI, and Bogan was encouraged by a counselor to speak with him. A scholarship resulted that changed the course of his life. A second Service Award was presented to Ruth Helen Wilson for her dedication and technical expertise.

Five members of the Association who graduated prior to 1960 were honored as Golden Panthers and presented with HI throw blankets: Melvin Vass (1952), Elnora Russell O'Hara (1953), Juanita Whitfield Hicks (1955), Thomas Gilbert McKnight (1956), and Robert Bogan (1957).

The Association received donations from several sources: the family of an honored golfer, Elijah Nicholson; Paul Crews (representing Davis-Royster Funeral Home) in honor of Mary Davis Royster (1968); the Hicks family in honor of Juanita Hicks; Robert Bogan; Schevon Holden; the Class of 1965 and the Triad Chapter.

The evening ended with the Alma Mater followed by the benediction delivered by the Association Asst. Chaplain, Rev. Ola Thorpe-Cooper.



KLCC hosts Annual Elijah Nicholson Golf Outing

Daily Dispatch Oct 20, 2025



HENDERSON — The 2025 HI Annual Elijah Nicholson Golf Outing on Sept. 5 was a tremendous success, bringing together over thirty enthusiastic golfers for a day filled with excitement, friendly competition, and lasting memories. Participants enjoyed a vibrant atmosphere, making it an unforgettable event for everyone involved.

The Winners Congratulations to Mr. J. Peoples and Ms. L. Taylor, who demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship throughout the outing. Their achievements truly contributed to the spirit of the event.

Celebrating the Legacy. At the conclusion of this year’s HI Annual Elijah Nicholson Golf Outing, several distinguished senior golfers were honored for their remarkable contributions to the sport and the community. The event paid special tribute to William ‘Lil ‘Bill’ Bullock, the late David L. Ballard, Irvin ‘Bae Bae’ Stamper, and the late Elijah Nicholson, whose name the outing memorializes. Each of these men not only demonstrated exceptional skill on the golf course, but also served as ambassadors for the sport, inspiring generations to follow in their footsteps. Plaques, and/or Awards were presented to or in honor of each of these mentors.

Thank You, Sponsors. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our forty-nine sponsors who helped make this day possible. Your commitment and contributions had a significant impact and are deeply appreciated by all involved.

Special Thanks. Henderson Institute extends its deepest appreciation to the coordinators of the Golf Outing for their dedication and hard work. Special thanks go out to Mr. James ‘Head’ Williams, Mr. Clarence ‘Kip’ Hicks, Mr. Joe Allen Jr., Mr. Chester Cheek, and Mr. Bill Nicholson. Without the commitment and efforts of these gentlemen, none of this would have been possible.

Their leadership and organizational skills played a crucial role in making this event a success. We thank them for their time, energy, and unwavering support. This outing is a testament to your teamwork and passion for our HI Alumni Association.

Looking Forward. As we celebrate this year's success, we are already looking forward to next year's outing. We hope to see even more golfers and supporters join us for another fantastic event.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered and sponsored the HI Annual Elijah Nicholson's Golf Outing. Your enthusiasm and support make all the difference.

With HI's net proceeds totaling \$6,100.00 this year's fundraiser will allow 30 to 40 Vance County students to travel to the HBCU Annual Scholarship Festival and be served two meals — as opposed to six students who travelled in 2024.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Vera Hodge, Chair

Valissa Williams Smith

As of 2/2/2026, membership dues paid since 2024:

Former Student, 5
Grad (1971-1973), 4
Graduates, 187
Legacy/Offspring, 29

Current:

Membership, 225
Members Attend Reunion, 139
Members, Not Attend Reunion, 48
Members listed as deceased since 2024 Reunion, 5

Coats for Kids

Evelyn Alston

The Association did not have a Christmas float in the Christmas parade again this year. The funds were used to purchase thirty coats, hats, and leggings for the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Vance County. They expressed how grateful they were because too many of the children did not have jackets to wear during the winter months.

TRIAD Fundraiser

J. Kingsberry

The 220 Seafood Fundraiser took place on Monday, 29 -Sept 2025 from 4-7 PM. The team sold tickets to friends, family members, church members and co-workers. With additional contributions, a total of \$2,675.00 was raised. Many thanks to the HI Volunteers who helped at the restaurant.

TRANSITIONS

Jesse Beason Adams (60)

A gifted artist and a gentle heart, forever ingrained in HI's soundtrack.

Clyde Tyrone Burwell, Sr (69)

Stanley McArthur Fogg (65)

John Henry Henderson, Jr (65)

Charles Thomas Hodge (68)

Calvin Kearney (67)

Harvey Smith (66)

Charles Tabourn (67)

Melvin Vass (52)

Hazel Perry Waverly (62)

Alfred St. Baptist Church HBCU Festival Woodstock, Virginia

