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Save the Date
125th Anniversary of WHS
ALL CLASS BBQ
& Organ Concert
October 19th 2025

Newsletter of the Whittier High School Alumni Association and Educational Foundation

Cardinal Chatter

WHSAAEF
PO BOX 65
WHITTIER
90608-0065

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- \$125 for the 125th

Give
125
Donate \$125 to celebrate
our 125th Anniversary

A word from our WHSAAEF President, Rob West

Summer
2025

Here is a simple question: What do you call a group of Cardinals? The answer, however, is not so simple since the term can refer to many things including Bishops, Birds, Directions, and Numbers. My favorite is "Conclave" since it refers to gatherings of those select bishops recently in the news and the birds that bear their name. Our beloved eponymous mascot is native to the Americas and its brilliant plumage reminded early European settlers of the colorful robes of those pre-eminent clerics of the Roman Catholic faith. Today we wear the Cardinal red to demonstrate our Whittier High School loyalty and pride. When we gather together, we can rightly proclaim ourselves a Conclave of Cardinals! It is in this spirit that I revisit my last message about the life-blood of our organization, which is donations and sponsorships, and expand that metaphor to include the muscle of our association, which is volunteerism.

At each and every event we host you will meet Cardinal volunteers who make these events work for all who attend. These volunteers are WHS alumni, faculty, administrators, and students, none of whom are paid to attend our events. Unlike students, who accrue community service credits, our adult volunteers are only compensated by acknowledgement, satisfaction of a job well done, and confidence in the difference they make with their work. Chief among the volunteer workforce of your alumni association is the membership of its board of directors. Who are these tireless individuals who generously give of themselves to support our work? Please let me name them for you and provide a modicum of acknowledgment in the process.

We have several past presidents of the WHSAAEF who continue to serve in various capacities to assure our success including: Ben Meza ('67) who is our Comptroller (he writes the checks) and chairs the Hall of Fame (HOF) Nominating committee; Karen Boulter ('71) who is our banker, post box attendant, Wurlitzer Organ committee chair, Lopez Auditorium seat sponsorship coordinator, and BBQ organizing chair;

(Continued on Page 4)

...And Always, Always Love You Whittier High!

UPCOMING CARDINAL REUNIONS

- 2025 Reunions** - All Class Reunion BBQ/Tour/Organ Concert Sun Oct 19, 2025 at noon. Contact Janice Lanham Zolnekoff whittierhighalumni@gmail.com or 562-556-4000 to update reunion/class contact info.
- 1965 - 60 year reunion Sat Oct 11, 2025.** Class rep is Cathy Chandler George 562-631-5311 or cggeorge0910@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/674858959262657/>
- 1970 - 55 year reunion Sat Oct 18, 2025.** Contact Janice Lanham Zolnekoff at 562-556-4000
or whittierhigh1970@aol.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/422788928513867/>
- 1975 - 50 year Reunion Sat Sept 20, 2025 at DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier at 5pm.**
Facebook – “Whittier High — Class of 75” Contact Patti Oeh Lagrelus 310-753-4159
or WHSCardinals1975@gmail.com There will also be a WHS Tour on Sun Sept 21 at 11:15am.
- 1985 - 40 yr reunion?** WHS will be showing *Back To The Future* on Sat June 21, 2025 for the 40th Anniversary of the film.
<https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/back-to-the-future-returns-to-whs/>
- 1995 - 30 yr reunion Sat June 28, 2025 at Sage Uptown Whittier at 6pm.** Appetizers, soda & tea provided.
Contact: Jennifer Medrano Porras 562-501-6707 medicjenn@yahoo.com or Tina Carrillo 480-828-3933
krisvercar@outlook.com. Please check out our Facebook page for more info:
<https://www.facebook.com/whittier.classofninetyfive>
- 2005 - 20 yr reunion?** Contact Amanda Manning: amandamanning14@yahoo.com, or on Instagram: mandachellemanning14; or Maddie Haas Lopez Madeleinehaas1@gmail.com or on Instagram: madeleinatown; or Senior Class President Audrianna Talavera audriannat@gmail.com
Check out <https://www.facebook.com/events/666121993521974/>
- 2010 - 15 yr reunion Sat June 21, 2025 at 4pm at WHS.** Contact Jonathan Tujanjanin, 562-325-0343 or whittierhigh2010@gmail.com Facebook: Whittier High Class of 2010.
- 2015 - 10 yr reunion?** Contact Dejah Irving at 562-639-3759 or Dejah.rai97@yahoo.com

If you are planning a reunion reach out to the WHS Alumni Association to give you some ideas and to post your event on our website.
If any of the contacts above are incorrect, please let us know. Email whittierhighalumni@gmail.com or call Janice 562-556-4000.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY AT
WHITTIERHIGHALUMNI.ORG

Yearly Membership - \$25
Lifetime Membership - \$1200
or monthly payments of \$100 for one year.
Tax I.D. #95-4753005



BACK TO THE FUTURE
RETURNS TO
WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL

FILM SCREENING
CAMPUS TOURS
ACTIVITIES
PIZZA DINNER

JUNE 21, 2025

GET YOUR
TICKETS
TODAY!

WHITTIERHIGHALUMNI.
ORG/BACK-TO-THE-
FUTURE-RETURNS-TO-
WHS/

Join 'Cardy McFly' for Back to the Future returns to Whittier High School!

This exciting fundraiser supports the **Hall of Champions** renovation project.

Get your tickets today!

Date: Saturday, June 21, 2025

Location: Whittier High School

Time: Gates open at 5:00 PM, Movie Screening at 7:00 PM

Dinner provided by Brickhouse Pizza

Campus tours and photo ops at WHS filming locations

Fun activities for the whole family

Exclusive movie screening in the WHS Auditorium

\$ Tickets: \$40 per person

Visit **WHITTIER BREWING COMPANY**
week of **June 16th through the 21st** and
mention: **Back to the Future**. 25% of
proceeds will go towards the fundraiser!

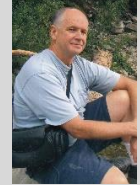
Get yours today: whittierhighalumni.org/back-to-the-future-returns-to-whs
Last day to purchase tickets: June 14, 2025

The 25th Annual Hall of Fame

Held on April 13th, 2025

Honoring:

Carl Devore MD '71, Sean Curran PhD '95, "Bud" Hurlbut '36, Bill Cole '66, William C. Rempel '65, John "Jack" Hales Jr. '60.



*As well as 25 amazing senior scholarship recipients
Awarding a total of \$50,000 in Donated Scholarships.*



Sean Curran PhD. '95



William C. Rempel '65



Bill Cole '66



Teacher of the Year
Mayra Hernandez

Photos by
Alumni
**Paul
Mora**

Paulimora.com



President Rob West '78



(continued from Page 1) - Word from the President Rob West ('78)

Lori (Peel) Eshilian ('72), who serves as Past President (keeping me informed of practices and protocols), spearheads our informal fundraising work through excellent communication and a memory for who is who amongst our donors. Other board executives include: Charles Bennett ('07), who is our Historian, Social Media Coordinator, and Co-chair of our Publicity Committee along with Chatter Editor Sarah Peel ('06) who also chairs our HOF organizing committee; and 2026 HOF inductee Janice (Lanham) Zolnekoff ('70), who is our Corresponding Secretary, our Reunion Coordinator, Membership Chair and a resource to us all in countless ways. More recent additions who round out our executive board are Recording Secretary Susan (Garrett) Astarita ('72) and CFO Stephanie Gotts ('17) both of whom are joined by Ben Meza to advise me as an interim-tag team Vice President until that role is filled.

Did you think I was done? Not even close! In addition to the aforementioned executives, we have other voting board members and board-adjacent members who contribute to our success. For instance, HOF inductee Dr. Dan Orr ('68) joined our board with a surge of support for our Senior Scholarship program and now sponsors five named scholarships dedicated to his family and his principles. Dan also generously under-wrote the production of our 125th WHS anniversary video. Board member Ann Garrett ('75) was recruited by her sister Susan and now they both sponsor an annual Senior Scholarship.

Almost every member of the board of directors was recruited by someone at some point and I can say that Randall Clark ('78), who is steward to our collection of canopies and banners, is largely responsible for me joining shortly after our 40th reunion in 2018. Deb McCarty ('71) joined by virtue of Lori Eshilian's outreach and is now leading a fundraising inquiry to help us build on our past success to assure continued support for our programs and the WHS students they support. Darrin Hammond ('86) is the most recent alum to join our board and I am proud to say that he was recruited by yours truly. Darrin coordinated a special tribute to the late Bob Algarin and his family in honor of their contribution to the WHS Wrestling program at their season-end banquet. I got to sit next to Bob's daughter Michelle and learn more about the amazing man that coached both Darrin and me (though 8-years apart) and watch as they presented the first Bob Algarin Award for Integrity to a student that exemplified Bob's dedication and character.

For every rule, of course, there is an exception and none more exceptional than Nadia Moya ('99), who joined us as a Lifetime Member after attending the All Class BBQ in 2023. Ostensibly, she only came to "see my Chemistry teacher Mr. Chu" but had such a good experience that she reached out to Janice to find out how to participate. Almost immediately she jumped in to lead a fundraising collaboration with WHS to renovate the Hall of Champions entrance to the Bob Chandler Sports Complex. That collaboration is our upcoming Back 2 the Future event scheduled for June 21st at WHS. Nadia, like many others, participates in multiple committees and she brings close attention to our accountability by providing notes, which empowers the rest of us to honor our words and support our intentions.

Sometimes giving looks like service and it shows up in a variety of ways. Each of us brings something of value to the board and together we help achieve the larger mission of supporting WHS. I am proud to share this brief view of our board members and hopefully you can see yourself participating in some small or even large way. Consider past board members like Ellen Durman ('80), who briefly served as CFO and President while helping restore our non-profit status, or former VP Stephanie Cuevas ('08) who created and continues to perfect our annual Christmas Sing-Along Concert. You don't have to join the board to be involved. Give when and how you can. We depend on volunteers and donors alike! (Continued on page 6)

Lifetime Members: ALAN & SYLVIA LIPPINCOT '79, AMY BALTHASER JENKINS '77, BILL WELSH '70, BILL WOOD '41* #, BILLY EORDEKIAN '75, BRIAN BECK '61#, CARLOS RODRIGUEZ '55#, CATHIE MOON BROWN '49 #, CHARLENE (PEAKE) SIMS '61, COLLETTE MARCELLIN '77 #, DANIEL ORR '68 #, DAVE HARRIS* '60 #, DOREEN ALBEE RIDDLE FRANK RIORDAN '46, DON L. JENKINS* '49 #, ELIZABETH ANN CARROLL SNYDER '48, ELOISE MARTINEZ GONZALES '70, FRANCINE HATHAWAY RIPPY '56, FRANK MCKENNA '73, GORDON CROCKER '50, HEIDI FREY GREENWALD '78, IVANNIA SOTO-HINMAN '94*#, JACK & ERLINE MELE*#, JAN SLATER LOPEZ WOOD '47 #, JEROME MONTGOMERY '52, JOAN MEISTER EVERETT, MD '60 #, JOAN McNEILLY NAY '47*, JOHN & ROBIN DEWITT '53, JOHN LAW DDS '70, JOHN L RICHARDSON '52, JOHN PEEL '74, JOYCE WALL SHILLING '56, LAURIE WELSH PEEL '80, LOUISE JOHNSON PASCALE '60, MAGGIE WILLIAMS VALDESPINO '60, MARJORIE JOHANA MOON GARRISON '48#, NADIA MOYA '99, PATRICIA & GEORGE ENGELAGE '54, PATRICIA BEHNKE BECK '61, PETER & LOUISE KEMPF '54*, RAY & JOAN DEZEMBER '52*, RICHARD '45 *# & BILLIE DEIHL '46, RICHARD LANTZ '48, RICHARD WELSH '74, RODERICK HILLS '48 *#, SANDY SANCHEZ THORSTENSON '73 #, STEPHANIE CUEVAS '08, STEPHEN KOELLE '70*, STUART GOTHOLD '52 #, SUSAN GARRETT ASTARITA '72, TOM AUGUST '45*#, TOM SEMINOFF '51, WALTER GARRETT '51, WILLIAM (BILL) PRENTISS '72, WILLIAM E. "BILL" COLE '66 #, YOSH NAKAMURA (FACULTY) # (* DECEASED # HALL OF FAME MEMBERS)

Pulling Out All the Stops (For the Wurlitzer)

By: Daniel L. Orr II, WHS 1968

For the last 125 years WHS has often pulled out all the stops, or given a great effort. 60 years ago, on a foggy night in the L.A. Coliseum, the classes of 1965-68 saw the Cardinals win the CIF 4A Football Championship, even as huge underdogs in each of 4 playoff games. This streak culminated with the defeat of Loyola H.S. and its 35-game winning streak in what the L.A. Times called: "the most historic overthrow in Southern California prep football annals."

Last year I attended the WHS All-Class BBQ and part of the program was the screening of an old silent movie to be accompanied by the singular Cardinal Wurlitzer organ. I still had to drive back to Las Vegas that evening and honestly I had planned on napping for the organ stuff. However, when the lights dimmed and the music started, I found myself enthralled. All the figurative stops were pulled and the performance was compelling. So much so that I'm going to try to make the trip for future events the Alumni Association is considering, such as Wurlitzer backed silent spooky movies peripheral to future Halloweens, or Holiday carols in December.

By the way, "pulling out all the stops" is totally appropriate in promoting our Wurlitzer. The phrase accurately refers to something unique with organs, which can have thousands of pipes, and each has a stop, or a rod that can be manipulated in order to change the overall musical sounds emitted. This technology remained largely unchanged since the middle ages and is the basis of the phrase at hand.

When all the stops are pulled out, air flows every pipe loudly emits its own note.

Please consider supporting the Wurlitzer and its events. Maybe we can even arrange to pull out all the stops. I would love to hear what that sounds like.

Follow the Wurlitzer on Social Media



Whittier High School Wurlitzer Theatre Organ



WhittierHighWurlitzerOrgan

Donations towards the upkeep of this magnificent organ can be made at www.whittierhighalumni.org/donate/. Auditorium seats can also be purchased on our website in memory or in honor of family or Cardinal Classmates.



John Peel '74 uncovers the Wurlitzer back before installation

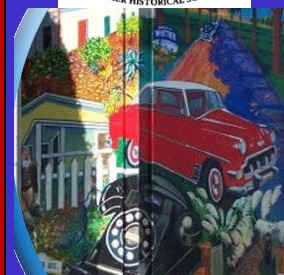


This fall, the Whittier Museum will be hosting an exhibit on the history of Whittier High School to commemorate the school's 125th anniversary

We are looking for loans of:

- Athletics, band and cheerleading uniforms
- Hi-Jinx costumes
- Any WHS-branded paraphernalia
- Artwork created at WHS
- Projects from the WHS shops
- Photographs of WHS

If you are interested, contact whittierhighalumni@gmail.com



Donations honoring the 125th Anniversary can be made by visiting our website <https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/donate/>





WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL
Alumni Association &
Educational Foundation

PO Box 65
Whittier, CA
90608-0065

President Rob West (Continued from Page 4)

When was the last time you visited Whittier High School? I encourage you to put the following dates on your calendar to be sure you get a chance to see the mix of old and new that brings back memories and inspires confidence in the future. You can find these events and updates on our website at:

<https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/whsaaef-events/>

June 21 – Back to the Future Returns to WHS –
(Campus Film Location Tour and Film Screening)

Sept 6 – WHS 125th Anniversary Exhibit - Whittier
Museum (Tentative Opening Date)

Oct 19 – All Class Reunion BBQ (Including WHS
Campus Tour and Wurlitzer Organ Concert)

Dec 7 – Whittier Holiday Celebration (Wurlitzer Organ
Sing-Along, and Santa Photo Op)

April 19, 2026 – Alumni Hall of Fame Induction
Ceremony and Senior Scholarship Awards Luncheon

June 27 – 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of
Independence (Patriotic Wurlitzer Organ concert).

Gratefully Yours,
WHSAAEF President, Rob West '78

Principal's Message

Dear Whittier High School Alumni Association & Educational Foundation,

As the school year draws to a close, we want to extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to Whittier High School and its students. Your recent Hall of Fame Induction & Scholarship Awards event was a resounding success, and we were so moved by your generosity in awarding 25 much-needed scholarships to our graduating seniors. This incredible contribution will undoubtedly make a significant difference in their lives as they embark on their post-secondary journeys, and it speaks volumes about your commitment to fostering the next generation of Whittier High alumni.

Beyond this wonderful event, your ongoing support throughout the year has been invaluable. From consistent and ongoing collaboration to direct donations to our students, your commitment to our school's success and the well-being of our students is deeply appreciated by the entire Whittier High School community. Thank you for your continued partnership and for embodying the enduring spirit of the Whittier High School legacy of excellence. We look forward to continuing to work together in the years to come.

-Andres Favela, WHS Principal