



To: Alumni, Friends, Family, and Supporters

From: Matt Wills, Chair

Date: December 3, 2021

Re: Bel Alton High School Alumni Association 2021-2022 Membership Drive

PRESERVING OUR BLACK HISTORY IN CHARLES COUNTY

The only remaining **Historically Black High School** building in Charles County is Bel Alton High School. And we can thank the founders of the Bel Alton High School Alumni Association (pictured below) for that. Members of the Association that was founded in 1993, stopped the planned demolition of the historic school, restored the building, and ran a community center at the site. Charles County built the school in 1938 for 'colored' children and closed it in 1966 after schools were integrated.

The cultural history of Bel Alton includes the school building, the lives of its students, teachers, and staff. Also, the school's cultural history includes the Black community of Charles County that it served during the segregated 'Jim Crow' era. We refuse to let this history fade away.

YOU CAN HELP PRESERVE THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF BEL ALTON HIGH SCHOOL BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION

If you attended or worked at Bel Alton Senior/Junior High School or Bel Alton Elementary School prior to 1966, you and your spouse and relatives are eligible to apply for a regular membership in the Association. We also welcome other individuals, businesses, and community organizations, who support our mission, to join as associate members. The membership application is attached.

WE HAVE UPDATED THE ASSOCIATION'S BYLAWS TO BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY

- ❖ Our **NEW PURPOSE** is to preserve, promote, and share the cultural history of Bel Alton High School with our community and others for generations to come.
- ❖ Our **NEW MISSION** (summary highlights include):
 - ✓ Provide scholarships for students attending HBCUs or community colleges, and financial aid for students attending trade schools or entering apprenticeship programs.

- ✓ Research and chronicle the lives of the Bel Alton High School community from pre-WWII to the end of school segregation in Charles County.
- ✓ Increase membership by offering incentives to families, innovative programs, alumni activities, and media platforms for former students, teachers, staff, and friends of Bel Alton High School.
- ✓ Support the Bel Alton community by volunteering and partnering with other nonprofits and by offering programs to support our youth, seniors, and others in need in the community.

YOU CAN HELP US WITH OUR PLANNED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Annual Scholarship program for students planning to attend an HBCU, a community college or a trade school
- ❖ All-Classes Alumni Reunion Dinner-Dance
- ❖ Development of an exhibition and memorabilia showroom
- ❖ Historical research and the acquisition of a National Historic Property designation
- ❖ Community outreach
- ❖ Creation of a multi-media platform to share our story and to enable members to stay connected

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TODAY.

Our new purpose requires us to increase and diversify our membership and to welcome new ideas and energy in order to fulfill our mission. In addition to your membership dues, we hope that you will also support our other fundraising activities. And, if you wish to be a more active member, you may attend meetings, serve on committees, and volunteer for our community outreach programs.



THESE FOUNDING MEMBERS STOPPED CHARLES COUNTY FROM DEMOLISHING OUR HISTORIC BEL ALTON HIGH SCHOOL. THEY DID THEIR PART. NOW, IT IS UP TO US TO KEEP THE LEGACY OF BEL ALTON HIGH SCHOOL ALIVE.

BEL ALTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CDC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Categories (select one):

_____ **BAHSAACDC MEMBER**

_____ (1) I attended or was a faculty or staff member at Bel Alton High School or Bel Alton Elementary prior to 1966.

_____ (2) My spouse or relative attended or was a faculty or staff member at Bel Alton High School or Bel Alton Elementary prior to 1966.

_____ **FRIEND OF BAHSAACDC MEMBER**

An individual who is not a BAHSAACDC member but supports the purpose of BAHSAACDC and is interested in furthering its mission.

_____ **CORPORATE/ORGANIZATION MEMBER**

Membership Information:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

HOME/OFFICE NUMBER _____ CELL NUMBER _____

WHEN AND AT WHICH SCHOOL DID YOU WORK OR ATTEND?

School _____ Date _____

WHEN AND AT WHICH SCHOOL DID YOUR RELATIVE WORK OR ATTEND?

School _____ Date _____

RELATIVE'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Annual Dues and Payment Information: (BAHSAA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.)

_____ Individual – \$50 _____ Family of three or more – \$25 each member
(# of members _____)

_____ Corporations/Organizations – \$100.00

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

Please make your payment to **BAHSAACDC** and mail to: BAHSAACDC, P.O. Box # 2614, LaPlata, MD 20646. You may contact us at 301-848-1854 or wills6035@comcast.net.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please add any comments about your interests, relationships, or feelings for or with or about Bel Alton High School Alumni Association. Do you have any Bel Alton related memorabilia, pictures, or historical information that you can share?

BAHSAACDC needs volunteers. Will you be a volunteer? Yes No Not sure

NAME: _____ DATE: _____