



To: Alumni, Friends, Family, and Supporters

From: Matt Wills, Chair

Date: February 1, 2023

Re: Bel Alton High School Alumni Association 2023 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 on page 2) for that. Members of the Association, which was founded in 1993, stopped the planned demolition of the historic school, restored the building, and operated a community center at the site for eight years. 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 High School includes the building, the lives of its students, its teachers, and its staff. The school's cultural history also 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 OR SIMPLY BY DONATING TO THE ASSOCIATION.

The attached application describes the membership types and costs. You can also use the application to make your donation.

WE HAVE UPDATED THE ASSOCIATION'S PURPOSE AND MISSION 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** is to
 - ✓ 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 and sustain 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 our community by volunteering and partnering with other nonprofits and by offering programs to support our youth, seniors, and others in the community who are in need.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL HELP US TO:

- ❖ Continue providing scholarships for students planning to attend an HBCU, a community college or a trade school
- ❖ Sponsor our first All-Classes Alumni Reunion Dinner-Dance in 2023
- ❖ Continue to seek grants and raise funds to turn one of our rooms at the school into a heritage museum
- ❖ Conduct historical research and continue our efforts to acquire a National Historic Property designation for Bel Alton High School
- ❖ Increase our community outreach
- ❖ Create a multi-media platform to share our story and to enable members to stay connected



THESE ARE THE FOUNDING MEMBERS THAT 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OFFICERS

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BEL ALTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CDC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

★BAHSAACDC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.★

Applicant/Donation Information

(Please print)

NAME (Individual/Organization) _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____

Membership

(Select one)

BAHSAA Membership (Eligible if you or a relative attended or worked at Bel Alton Junior/Senior High School or Bel Alton Elementary School.)

1. I last attended/worked at (check one) Bel Alton Junior/Senior High School or Bel Alton Elementary School. I was (check one) a student, a teacher, member of a staff during my last year _____.
2. Or, a relative attended/worked at (check one) Bel Alton Junior/Senior High School or Bel Alton Elementary School.

Relative's Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

BAHSAA Associate Membership (Eligible if an Individual, a business or a community organization does not qualify for BAHSAA Membership)

Dues and Donation Payment Information

BAHSAA Membership (Individual) Dues – \$50

BAHSAA Associate Membership (Individual) Dues – \$50

BAHSAA Associate Membership (Business or Community Organization) Dues – \$100

Donation-Scholarship \$ _____ Donation-General Fund \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____