

WSO Alumni Association 2017 Annual Winter Gathering

December 6, 2017

Location: BP Grill Hillsborough Rd

22 attendees (24 RSVP'd)

1. Welcome from Susan Avent, current president at 6pm
2. Invocation given by Rosalin Robinson
3. Dinner began around 605p – 655p
4. Introductions were made by each member and guest present.
5. School Update by Dr. Peggy Walters
 - a. The students have decided to use some of the money in the fund provided by the Alumni Association each semester for several rolling white boards. This will help them with their study groups and test prep.
 - b. We do have a few new faculty at the school. 40% are doctoral prepared.
 - c. We had our renewal for national accreditation for the whole program in October.
 - d. The school is moving to a new student information system.
 - e. Student enrollment is up. By the spring we will have 160 students attending the program. Our maximum is 200. The current retention is 80%. Average age is 22-28 yo. 12% male, 21% minority.
 - f. The students brought back the White Cap yearbook last year, which is also available online. We have had a good response and will continue to publish a yearbook again this year.
 - g. BSN program update: This continues to be a work in progress. Once completed the new name of the school will be “Watts College of Nursing.” We are still awaiting our license to operate as a BSN program which must be issued by the NC General Assembly. Hopefully that will be awarded this Spring 2018. Once obtained we will officially present to NCBON for approval. They only meet for such in January, May and September. So hopefully this can be presented in the Fall of 2018. So, first class would probably not be accepted until Fall of 2019.
 - h. One of our senior students passed unexpectedly recently, Amber Best. Her diploma will be presented to her parents at the December graduation.
 - i. Our next big anniversary event for the school will be 2020.
6. Treasurer’s report provided by Reba Beavers – we have approx. \$1500 in the checking account and we have increased the ECP scholarship fund to \$170K(+/-). We gave 2 scholarships in the Fall.
7. As we did last year we collected cash donations for a selected charity.
 - a. In previous years we have given to the Wounded Warriors Project, Durham Rescue Mission, Women’s and Children’s unit, the local Meals on Wheels program, and the Salvation Army.
 - b. We collected \$211 and the group voted to give this donation to the Bull City Outreach Ministries based here in Durham. <http://www.bullcityoutreach.org/>
8. Alumni Association Updates
 - a. Dues are due now - \$30
 - b. Members reminded that the dues are largely used to provide student support and activities every semester.
 - c. Alumni snacks for final exams continue to be provided for each semester which is another use of the dues that are collected from members.

- i. Exam dates are Dec 1 (9-1130a covered by Rosalin), 6 (9-1130a covered by Melissa), 7 (10-1230p covered by Melissa, and 12 (9-1130a covered by Gina).
 - ii. Senior Luncheon – Dec 14 at 1145 Melissa will attend.
 - iii. Graduation – Reba will attend to represent alumni board.
- d. The Next “Meet & Greet” for Freshman is Monday, 1/8/18 at noon at the school. Susan invited all present to attend. Those who can attend, please meet at the school by 1130 to set up. Anyone else who would like to attend and assist with this event, please contact Susan. We are expecting 45-50 students.
- e. 2018 Spring Banquet will be held on May 9th at Croasdaile, mark your calendars.
- f. We are still collecting email addresses – if you need to update or if you know of someone who is not getting emails please contact the alumni board

Meeting adjourned at 715p

Submitted by G. Edwards, Secretary

Revised 2/6/18