



Volume 34, Number 3

Fall 2024

## From the President



Greetings to all Bellhops!

Well, it's been a very busy time since my last report.

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, our board had a great dinner together and then attended an interesting lecture about the architecture of several of our buildings at CMA's campus. We learned how COL Wright convinced several folks throughout Middle Tennessee to lobby for and receive what became the Columbia Arsenal in 1892. Although the Arsenal was closed soon after the Spanish-American War, the school we loved and attended followed soon after.

On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> we had CMA Day and visited with the students of Columbia Academy and told them about our times at CMA. I urge all of you to consider attending a future CMA Day. They really help remind our youth of the great school we once attended.

After lunch we had a Board Meeting and decided to host our 2025 Reunion on September 18-21, 2025, at the Franklin Cool Springs Tennessee Marriott. Please mark your calendars for those dates. We will send out more information this Spring about prices and

such. We were not able to have our Reunion in August as the hotel is renovating then.

We also looked at and discussed our photo negatives that we obtained from the old Orman's studio in Columbia that once took all our annual and dance photos at CMA. As many of you know, we purchased those from the studio when it closed some 7 years ago. We have found a person who will scan these images but need some help in sorting the negatives. If any of you would like to help us in this effort, then please contact me or Becky Moon. We can give you more information.

Several Bellhops also met down at St. George Island for a great time of fellowship together.

Finally, once again, let me thank Dr. Thomas and the staff of Columbia Academy for their support for this Association. The best way I think to thank them and preserve our heritage is a contribution to our Legacy Endowment. Contact me for any details, but our beautiful museum and our stately buildings will need your support in the years to come.

Until Our Next Formation,

Tom

Tom Carr  
Class of 1975  
CMAAA President

## CMA Endowment

Columbia Academy recently provided a report on the CMA Alumni Endowment Fund at Columbia Academy for the fiscal year of June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024. Gifts totaling \$4,575 were made to the fund during the fiscal year and \$1,566.10 was withdrawn during this period to provide funds for renovations and improvements to buildings original to the CMA campus. For the fiscal year of June 1, 2023 to 31 May, 2024, the fund had a return of approximately 14.62%. The ending value of the fund on 31 May was \$51,738.26.

## Class Points of Contact for 2025 Reunion

Kay (Wetzel) Bircher, Mike Glover and Sandra (Hart) Hasler are the Class of 1974 contacts and Tom Carr and Becky (Algood) Moon are the Class of 1975 contacts for the 50th Reunion Classes as part of the 2025 CMAAA Grand Reunion.

### Class of 1974

Kay Bircher  
kwetzbi@aol.com

### 50 Year Reunion Contacts For 2023

Mike Glover  
mdglove@yahoo.com

Sandra Hasler  
Sandhsl180@att.net

### 50 Class of 1975

Tom Carr  
tkcarr@bellsouth.net

Becky Moon  
becsmoon@gmail.com

# **CMAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 6 September 2023**

## **Attendees**

Tom Carr-President (75), Mike Glover-Vice President (74), Charles Field (63), Mike Gilchrist (63), Billy Akin (66), Robin Salze (66), Bill Wade (68), Howard Keltner (69), Jimmy Bane (72), Woody Pettigrew (73), Tricia Murphey Brown (74), Winston Elston (74), Sandra Hart Hasler (74), Marshall Briggs (75), Bob Orr (76), Jay Robins (76), Dr. James Thomas (Honorary Member)

## **Meeting Minutes**

The CMAAA Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by President Tom Carr at 1:30PM September 6, 2024. Tom Carr asked for a moment of silence to remember our Alumni who we have lost since our last meeting. Tom Carr then read the list of Alumni: Ken Brown '45, James Patton '51, Clyde Wilhoite '53, Larry Zimmer '53, Marshall Cranford '54, Richard Hayes '57, James Downey '58, Raleigh Bates '59, George Hamilton '61, Bill Carden '66, Rex Coker '66, Bill Wilson '68, Don Kinkade '70, Dan Mueller '72, Frank Shippen '72, Lee Williams '72, Roger Bedford '74. Mike Gilchrist gave the invocation. Tom Carr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Carr gave the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Becky Moon. The current balance in the checking account is \$41,215.36. We have projected expenditures of approximately \$30,000.00 through the 2025 Reunion. A large portion of these expenditures will be recouped through the Reunion Revenue. Woody Pettigrew gave the Museum Report. Cash on hand is \$17,380.00. The projected income is \$7,900.00 which is a reimbursement from the General Fund for the Museum upgrades. Total budget currently is 25,280. Budgeted expenses for rent, insurance and miscellaneous through October 2028 is \$13,167.00. Available funds after income and expenses is \$12,113.03.

Tom Carr introduced Mack Garvin, Chairman of the Columbia Academy Board of Directors who was present for the meeting. Mr. Garvin thanked us for the foundation that CMA created which has evolved into Columbia Academy and the culture that still exists.

Dr James Thomas, CA President, welcomed the CMA Alumni back to campus for CMA Day and gave us an update on CA. They have another rec-

ord enrollment of 1,210 students. They are continually creating enhancements including a new track, new tennis courts, and a new addition to the Pre-School. Projections are to renovate Lee Hall for use as a multi-purpose facility. There is a new security gate being built at the main entrance on West 7th Street. There are no immediate plans for Frirerson Hall currently. Upgrades to Academy Hall are on the Campaign List of improvements. One of the goals is to create more class space as there are currently 87 7th Graders and graduating 69 Seniors.

Tom Carr spoke to us about the Legacy Endowment. Tom encouraged us to donate to the Endowment and also consider the Endowment in our Estate Planning. The Endowment will continue to fund the upkeep of the Museum and projects such as the restoration of Frirerson Hall. Tom encouraged us to discuss this with our fellow classmates at the Reunion. Dr Thomas noted that the Endowment fund is currently \$3,000,000. CA uses 5% of the fund each year for maintenance of the Museum and historical buildings.

Tom Carr requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2023 Board Meeting to include the Treasurer's Report and Museum Report. The motion was made, seconded and approved by the majority.

## **Old Business**

Tom Carr gave a report on the status of the photo negatives from Orman Photography, which the Association had purchased several years ago. Tom Carr, Mike Glover, Mike Gilchrist, and Becky Moon met with David White to discuss digitizing our photo negatives. David determined that he could do the process for \$1.00 per negative. The digital files could then be uploaded to a website, either the CMAAA or Columbia Academy page. The Columbia Academy website is considered a more secure location. The negatives are in poor condition. They along with many photos have been stored in our storage room on North Johnson Hall. At some point the window was broken and the room flooded. This ruined all of the photos and many of the negatives. The recovered negatives have been moved to a room upstairs in the CA Business Office. Tom asked for volunteers to help sort the negatives and determine those which would be suitable to be digitized. There was a discussion with multiple volunteers. Tom also noted that the negatives would be available for any of our Association Members to help sort

them during any hours that the CA Business Office is open.

## **New Business**

Tom Carr gave an update on the Marriott availability for the 2025 Reunion. We will not be able to have our Reunion during the usual First Weekend of August due to renovation of the banquet rooms. The Marriott offered us the options of June 12-15 with a room rate of \$189.00 or September 18-21 with a room rate of \$169.00. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and approved to set September 18-21, 2025 for our Reunion.

The Classes of 1974 and 1975 will be celebrating their 50th Reunion. Mike Glover, Kay Bircher, and Sandra Hasler are the 1974 Class Contacts, with Tom Carr and Becky Moon being the 1975 Class Contacts.

The Honor Group for the 2025 Reunion will be the Classes of the 60's. All Alumni who attended CMA and were part of a class graduating during the 60's are encouraged to attend and be recognized with this group. If you attended one year or many years, graduate or non-graduate you are part of our Family and welcomed.

Woody Pettigrew proposed reviving our Hall of Honor. There have been no additions to the Hall of Honor in several years. After discussion, the majority of Directors suggested we create a new Hall of Honor Committee. Tom Carr will appoint a Chairman of the Hall of Honor Committee who will appoint Committee Members.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned.

## **Columbia Arsenal History Lesson**

Columbia Academy hosted a Columbia Arsenal historical review event September 5th with many local Columbia residents and former CMA Cadets attending. The event included a detailed presentation on the history of Columbia Arsenal, its origin, blueprints and historical importance. It was a very good presentation and provided very interesting information on Columbia Arsenal and the buildings that became Columbia Military Academy. Columbia Academy recorded the event and will be posting the video on the Columbia Academy You Tube Channel.



## CMA Alumni Florida Trip



The annual Florida invasion occurred in September this year with a good group of CMA Alumni invading Saint George Island for a week of fun in the sun. Tex Tucker ('71) and Jim Law ('72) once again organized the venture for the group, making this the second year enjoying Saint George Island. A great turnout including Tex, Jim and Elaine Law, Bobby and Betsy Chambliss ('72), Bobby ('72) and Kathy Bain, J.T ('71) and Julia Bryan, Donna Ryland ('73), Bill Patrick ('73), Tom ('73) and Sharon Norris, Dudley ('73) and Mildred (76) Dolinger, Sharon Hartnett ('74), Laura Harpel ('75), Tom ('75) and Kathy Carr, and Kirk ('77) and Shayne ('78) Harris. As with all previous trips, a good time was had by all.



### A Blast from the Past



There are many buildings in Columbia that CMA Cadets and their parents will remember but the Holiday Inn certainly holds great memories for any CMA family that visited Columbia for CMA events. It was even the home of several CMAAA Reunions.

## CMA Day—2024



Bottom Row, Left to Right: Jay Robins ('76), Jimmy Bane ('72), Bill Wade ('68), H.C. Keltner ('69), Bob Orr ('76), Tom Carr ('75), Marshall Briggs ('75), Robin Salze ('66)

Top Row, Left to Right: Winston Elston ('74); Mike Gilchrist ('63), Charles Field ('63), Woody Pettigrew ('73), Mike Glover ('74), Billy Akin ('66), Jim Borum ('66)

Fifteen CMA Alumni made it back to campus for the 2024 CMA Day at Columbia Academy. CMAAA President Tom Carr addressed to Student Body during assembly in Old Main and the entire group fielded questions from the Seventh Grade class after the assembly. Another session of great questions from the students that have heard rumors of life as a CMA Cadet and wanted to check on the reality of what they had heard and also just learn a little more about what it was like to be a Cadet. After that session the alumni were treated to lunch with the students in the Mess Hall. This year's event was tied to the Columbia Arsenal History Session that was given the previous evening and the CMAAA Board of Directors meeting that occurred on Friday afternoon after CMA Day. About 20 alumni met for dinner at Legends Thursday night before the History Presentation to kick off the festivities. It was a great opportunity to get a full dose of CMA memories and to spend some time with old classmates. If you have not participated in a CMA Day before you may want to plan on being part of the event in 2025. It is a great time back on cam-

pus and a good way to further explain the CMA experience with those young men and women now attending Columbia Academy.

### Golf Outing During Reunion



Calling all Golfers. We will once again be conducting a golf outing during the next CMAAA Reunion planned for the weekend of 18-21 September 2025. The golf outing is planned for Friday, 19 September. Registration information will be included in the Winter Bugle. Make plans now to join in.



## Looking Back 10 Years—CMA Grand Reunion 2014

The 2014 CMA Grand Reunion proved to be a great event for all those participating. The new venue for the event, the Marriott, proved to be a great choice with the facilities and support provided being great. The real adventurous showed up Thursday for a little “Pre Reunion” socializing and then the masses starting arriving on Friday. The golfers enjoyed time on the links Friday morning and a new Sporting Clays Shooting event Friday afternoon proved to be a real hit with about a dozen guys participating. That event will certainly remain on the agenda for future reunions. A great reception at the Marriott on Friday evening and then various classes and groups got together for dinner and other evening activities. A trip to campus Saturday morning for the Association meeting in Old Main where two individuals were inducted into the CMAAA Hall of Honor. One of the inductees, Bill Young of the Class of 1965, was present for the induction ceremony. As per tradition, after the meeting the group assembled at the Flag Pole for a ceremony to honor the lost cadets from the two classes celebrating their 50th reunion (Classes of 64 and 65 this year). The color guard from the Central High School Navy ROTC detachment performed the flag duties while Dave Trammell from the Class of 1962 played Taps. A moving ceremony. Back at the hotel Saturday night for the banquet where we had 226 attendees. The night was capped off with a recognition of the members of the Classes of 1964 and 1965 that were celebrating their 50th reunion and with a recognition of the Mr. and Miss CMAs from through the years. Twelve Mr. and Miss CMAs were present for the reunion and one wife of a deceased Mr. CMA attended in his honor. It was an impressive group that well represented all that was good about the CMA Corps of Cadets. Ruben Rochi ('76) was recognized for traveling the farthest distance to attend the reunion (from El Salvador) and R.C. Smith was recognized as the oldest alum (Class of 1944) in attendance. What a great compliment those two individuals paid to CMA and to the Alumni Association with their attendance. All in all, a great weekend.



Ten Mr. CMAs and two Miss CMAs were recognized during the Banquet on Saturday night, along with the wife and son of the 1958 Mr. CMA, Joe Gufford, who we lost to Silver Taps in 2010. Those recognized, from left to right, were Richard Hayes ('57), Herbert Eustis ('67), David Briggs ('68), Bill Birmingham ('78), Jim McEwen ('65), Gale (Courtney) Moore ('77), Robert Field ('66), Laura (Harlan) Harpel ('75), Harold Smith ('63), Bobby Chambliss ('72), Frank Lawing ('71), Kirby Turnage ('53), and Marlyn and Charles Gufford, wife and son of Joe Gufford ('58).



Central High School Navy ROTC unit lowers flag to half staff during ceremony. Dave Trammell, Class of 1962, plays Taps in the background.



Bill Young, Class of 1965, acknowledges the gathering upon his induction into the CMAAA Hall of Honor during the General Membership meeting Saturday morning.



Bobby ('72) and Kathy Bain hosted a group at their home for lunch on Saturday. Thirty six alums, plus significant others, enjoyed a great meal.



Some of the alums that took on the reunion's newest event, the Sporting Clays Shooting Competition.



Alumni gathered in Old Main for the General Membership meeting on Saturday Morning.

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# SILVER TAPS

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## **Marion A. Hooper, Class of '40**

Marion A. (Big Hoop) Hooper passed away on June 18, 2008. Marion was born on February 28th, 1921, in Nashville. He attended CMA for 5 years, graduating with the Class of 1940. After CMA, he attended the University of the South at Sewanee, Vanderbilt University and Yale University. He attended Army summer camps and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Reserves. He was called to active duty in January 1942 and went to the European Theater in 1944. He returned to the United States in February 1946 and separated from the service in April 1946. He then worked for an engineering firm, an architectural firm, and then formed his own general contracting firm in Nashville, Tennessee in 1950. He retired in 1993 and moved to Jacksonville, Florida. He was involved in the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, the Boy Scouts, served as a church deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Woodmont Baptist Church, and worked in political action groups. He married Bettye Kirby in September 1943 and had two daughters, Suzanne and Margaret and four grandchildren.



**Marion Hooper**

## **Robert H. Goodall, PG, Class of '51**

Robert (Bobby) Harden Goodall, Sr. passed away on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on September 4, 1931, he graduated from Gallatin High School in 1950, as captain of the football and basketball teams, and was a postgraduate at CMA with the Class of 1951. He then graduated from



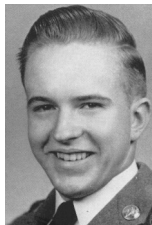
**Bobby Goodall**

Vanderbilt University and served our country for 2 years in the U.S. Army stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington. On June 12, 1955, he married Vanderbilt classmate and love of his life, Betty Ann Yancey. Bobby graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 1968 and practiced law in Gallatin, Tennessee. He then became involved in residential land development and homebuilding. Bobby was a member and former Board member of First United Methodist Church in Gallatin, former

member of the Board of Directors of Gallatin Housing Authority and the Blue Grass Country Club. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Sovran Bank and an original incorporator and member of the Board of Directors of First Independent Bank. The loves of his life were his wife, Betty Ann, who pre-deceased him in April of 2024 and his family. He was pre-deceased by his brothers William Thomas Goodall (Nancy) and Leon Steele Goodall (Billie). He is survived by his children Laura Yancey Goodall Niewold (Charlie); Robert (Bob) Harden Goodall, Jr. (Karen); three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and five nieces and nephews.

## **Carter H. Witt, Class of '55**

Carter Witt, lifelong farmer in Lynnville, Tennessee died June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the age of 86. Mr. Witt attended Jones School and then attended CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1955. He then attended and graduated from Vanderbilt University. Carter served as principal of Jones High School for five years. During this time, he served a term as President of Giles County Education Association. He served two terms in the Tennessee General Assembly. During his second term, he was chairman of the House Commerce Committee. In 1973 he accepted a position with Ford Motor Company as a Governmental Affairs Representative in the Southeast Region. He left his position in 1975 to become Director of Governmental Affairs for the Tennessee Manufacturers Association. He became Vice President of TMA in 1976 and President in 1977. TMA became Tennessee Association of Business in 1987. Carter is a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufactures. He served as the Chairman of the Conference of State Manufactures and as Chairman of the National Industrial Council. He served on the Tennessee Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council and was Secretary of the Conference of the State Chambers of Commerce. After retirement from TAB in 2003, Carter increased his farming activity, serving as a director of Giles Farmers Coop, Giles Cattleman Association, Giles County Farm Bureau and



**Carter Witt**

Charter Member and President of the Giles County Cattle Marketing Alliance. He is preceded in death by his parents, Carter Harrison Witt II and Mary Dora Witt, his sisters, Jane Witt Forrest and Betty Witt Long. He is survived by his wife, Judith Witt, son, George (Sarah) Witt; and granddaughters Virginia, Mattie, and Georgia.

## **Howard J. Nason, Class of '59**

Howard Jerome "Jerry" Nason, of Aberdeen, passed away Thursday, August 29, 2024, surrounded by those who loved him most. Jerry was born November 5, 1939 to Howard G. Nason and Anice Nason of Aberdeen. He attended CMA for four years, graduating with the Class of 1959.



**Jerry Nason**

He then attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas where he was the star of the track team, winning numerous awards and medals. Jerry was recognized by the Baylor Letter Winners Club in 2013, commemorating his achievements in track and field. Jerry was a long-standing member of First Baptist Church in Aberdeen, where he loved entertaining his Sunday School class and worshipping the Lord. He enjoyed a long and fruitful career in heavy construction, beginning with underwater welding, pipelining, oilfield services and trucking. He later endeavored to site preparation and installation of cellular phone towers in the mountainous Eastern US, and finally ended his career as a senior pipeline and welding inspector in Texas and Louisiana. Jerry is survived by his beautiful wife, Eva; his son, Howard J. Nason, Jr. (Trisha); daughters Elizabeth Pergande (Scott), Carol Chitwood (Bill), Tonya Lancaster (Darius), and Ashley Provias (Nick) ; and two stepsons he adored, Larry Coggin (Shelly) and Keith Coggin. He was abundantly blessed with 18 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren, and a host of special nieces and nephews. Welcoming him in heaven are his parents, Howard and Anice Nason, his sisters, JoAnn Goodgame and Patsy Williams, his nephew, Richard Callender, his mother-in-law, Star Dahlem, and his granddaughter, Morgan Manuel.

- Continued on Page 6 -



# SILVER TAPS

- Continued from Page 5 -

## John Scott Gregory, Class of '62

John Scott Gregory of Marion, Kentucky passed away May 5, 2018. John attended CMA for five years, graduating with the Class of 1962. He was survived by his son, David (Chelsea) Gregory; daughter, Cheri Gregory; grandson, Kyler Goodwin; brothers, Richard (Jan) Gregory and Bill Gregory; **John Gregory** and sister, Rose Gregory.



He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Virginia Gregory and his wife, Nina Elaine Slack Gregory.

## James L. Gobble, Class of '65

James "Jimmy" L. Gobble Jr. passed away on October 12, 2022, at the age of 75. He was born on February 4, 1947, to his parents, James Gobble Sr. and Elaine Lively Gobble, in Lawrenceburg, TN. He attended CMA for five years, graduating with the Class of 1965. Jimmy was married to the love **Jimmy Gobble**



of his life, Sara Oliver Gobble for 56 years. He loved his family and friends and his four-legged kids. You would often find him mowing his yard, or fixing cars, he was a great mechanic. He had a great interest and love for old cars and collectables. He is survived by his loving wife, Sara Oliver Gobble; daughters Raquel (Benjamin) Fisher and Maegan (Nathan) Potts; brother-in-law Tim (Benida) Oliver; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; several nieces and nephews;

cousins; and special pets Lady, Sadi, Buddy, and Luci. He is preceded in death by his parents: James Leo and Elaine Gobble; father-in-law Dalton Oliver; mother-in-law Frances Oliver; and sisters Reba (Clayton) Mobbs and Janet (Arthur) Shouse.

## William J. Carden, Class of '66

LTC William Jasper Carden III, US Army Retired, passed away July 27, 2024 at his residence. Born September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1948 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, he was the son of the late William Jasper Carden, II and the late Katherine Pappas Carden. He was raised in Columbia and attended **Bill Carden** CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1966.



## Thomas L. Pittman, Class of '75

Thomas "Tommy" Lee Pittman, age 66, passed away June 17, 2023. Tommy was born April 13, 1957, in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He is the son of the late Edward and Syble Pittman. Tommy attended CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1975. He later served in and retired from the **Tommy Pittman**



United States Navy. He is survived by his wife Clairissia (McAlister) Pittman; two daughters, Dana (David) Thurmond Seaton and Melinda (Skip) Thurmond Schreffler; one son, Patrick Lee Pittman; and one brother, Bruce Pittman. Tommy also leaves two grandchildren Mallory Dawson and Wyatt Dorsey. Tommy was preceded in death by his brother Sonny Pittman.

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### CMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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