



PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Greetings Alumni Band Members!

I am excited to welcome you to the 2024 edition of the WVU Alumni Band, now in its 55th year! We have grown immensely from the small group of men that gathered in suits and ties for the 1969 Backyard Brawl. Since that time, the WVU Band has been under 8 different directors, began to include women, and celebrated many recognitions and achievements. Membership now numbers in the thousands and represents every US state and many countries!

Our purpose has also grown immensely from being a homecoming-only group to a year-round organization that offers many opportunities to perform, network, and share our heritage!

We are now very public ambassadors of The Pride and WVU. We are earning a stellar image and respect in the WVU community and among the Alumni Bands in the nation.

Our fundraising makes an incredible contribution to The Pride, whether assisting with the band camp picnic, band banquet, travel fund, and yes even the Pride Practice Field...

The most important thing we have learned is that when our band alumni come together with a common goal, we have a great effect in securing and attaining it!

The last few months of controversy over the Practice Field has opened our eyes to a number of cases where the growth of the Alumni Band over the past decades has left too many members feeling they do not belong. This is unacceptable to me. I am personally committed to changing our culture to ensure every former member of The Mountaineer Marching Band can feel welcome, valued, and included in the WVU Alumni Band. Help us get there; keep speaking up and sharing your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Together, we will accomplish this goal!

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PRESIDENT'S GREETING, continued

I hope to see you at an upcoming Pep Band Performance, the Don Wilcox Michigan Celebration, back in Morgantown for Homecoming, or in NYC for Macy's 2024!

Please do not hesitate to personally reach out to me with questions or to share a band memory - I serve you!

Here's to a year of continued growth and excellent performance for the WVU Alumni Band!

All my best,

Al Hall

President, WVU Alumni Band, Inc.

P: (301) 707-1746

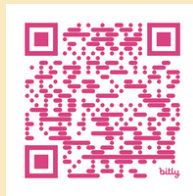
E: alhall@wvualumniband.org

A: 77 Grace Lane, Ridgeley, WV 26753

Have you heard the news?
We're now on Instagram!



Follow us on
Instagram



<https://www.instagram.com/wvualumniband>

Homecoming 2023



Photo credit: Anna Murphy



Photo credit: Anna Murphy



Photo credit: Cindy Woody

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- **April 27**
 - **Gold - Blue Spring Game**
 - Member pregame tailgate WVU Law School. Tailgate from 8:30am - 10:30am. Warm up for the performance will begin at 10:40am.
 - Game performance playing stand tunes with The Pride. Visit our [2024 Gold-Blue Spring Game](#) page for more information and to register.

May

- **May 18**
 - **220 Virtual Raffle** - Tickets are \$100. There will be 11 different monetary prizes with the Grand prize being \$2,200. Click [here](#) for tickets.
 - **ALS Benefit** - Oakland, Maryland, Pep Band event

June

- **June 2 - Membership Meeting** - The next meeting will be June 2, 2024 at 7:00pm. Registration for paid members will open in May.
- **June 8** - Heart Walk, Morgantown, West Virginia, Pep Band event

July

- **July 11 - 14** - Don Wilcox Tribute Trip to Michigan
- **July 19 - 24** - TBT in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Pep Band event

August

- **August 3 - Dirty Birds Baseball** - Charleston, West Virginia - Look for news of a WVUAB/Pride of West Virginia Day at the Charleston Dirty Birds in August! This event will be geared towards raising funds for the Pride's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade appearance in November. This will not be a performance event.
- **August 13 - Pride Picnic**

September

- Date to be determined - Lynch Creek Farms Wreath sales

October

- **October 18 - 19** - WVU Homecoming, Morgantown, West Virginia

November

- **November 27 - 30** - Trip to New York to see The Pride in The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

The Membership Committee has been making plans for some regional member engagement opportunities. Some upcoming activities include:

- Family Day for the Gold - Blue Spring Game, Saturday, April 27, 2024
- Eastern Panhandle river float and canopy tour, Date - TBD
- Baltimore area, DC, and Northern Virginia - various activities, Dates - TBD

Continue to check our Event Calendar (https://wvualumniband.org/upcoming_events) for updates on all of the activities of the WVU Alumni Band!

2024 PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE UPDATES

The busy season is definitely gearing up for the Alumni Pep Bands!

- Spring kicks off with the Gold - Blue Spring Game on Saturday, April 27th and the Summer Gig Schedule is already filling up.
- The TBT Basketball Tourney will be in Pittsburgh July 19 - 24. We are awaiting the game draw for specific dates and times. This move to Pittsburgh gives our members from eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland more opportunities to participate. We have a Digital Pep Band Library online with links to rehearsal tracks so we can play more repertoire both on our own and at joint events with The Pride.
- We have moved from our old storage shed to a new, climate-controlled facility near the Mileground. On Saturday, April 13th, we set up the new facility and completed a thorough inventory. We will address any needs/repairs through a partnership with OB Fawley's in Morgantown. This will also fulfill part of the requirements for a new, more comprehensive insurance policy.
- I am very pleased to have been part of the new Dress Code Policy which will increase our uniformity yet provide great flexibility for our Homecoming participants.

With Pride,
Ellen Woods Ramey, Ed.S
Assistant Director/Performance Chairperson

Gold - Blue Spring Game

**Family Day with the
WVU Alumni Band**

April 27, 2024 | 8:30am-3:00pm | WVU Law School Hill

For more information and to register for
the tailgate and/or performance, please visit
<https://www.wvualumniband.org/2024-Gold-Blue-Spring-Game>

Tailgate & Game Performance
with The Pride

**WVU ALUMNI
BAND**



Photo credit: Sarah Bennett-Harper



Photo credit: Ellen Ramey

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraising opportunities this past year. Our last event for 2023 was the fundraiser with Lynch Creek Farms. Thanks to all of those who made a purchase, we raised \$555.30! Thank you for participating. Be on the lookout for our next Lynch Creek Farms event that launches in September.

There will be donation buckets supporting The Pride's trip to New York at all of our events this year.

We are in need of volunteers to help with our Fundraising and Events Committees. Please reach out to Angelia Barnett (AngeliaBarnett@wvualumniband.org.) if you are interested in serving on one of these committees.

Our next fundraising event, 220 Virtual Raffle, is to support The Pride as they travel to New York for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in November! The live event will be hosted via Zoom on Saturday, May 18, 2024 starting at 11:00AM EST. The estimated cost to send The Pride is over \$600,000. We feel this can be an amazing and impactful event if everyone participates.

Raffle Tickets are \$100 each. The following is a list of prizes:

- Nine \$125 prizes (every 25th ticket)
- One \$220 prize (220th pulled ticket)
- Grand prize \$2,200 (250th pulled ticket)

A Zoom link will be sent to all ticket holders prior to the event. This event is open to the public. Be sure to share the raffle information with all of your friends and family! If you'd like, feel free to team up with your friends and purchase a ticket together to share! Let's get our Pride to The Big Apple!

To purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.wvualumniband.org/event-5653097>.

Thank you in advance for supporting The Pride!

Robert and Pam Mays, Raffle Chairpersons
Angelia Barnett, Fundraising Chairperson



**Have you
joined our
Facebook
pages?**

Official Alumni Band Page

<https://www.facebook.com/people/WVU-Alumni-Band-Inc/100057646441308/>

For members of the WVU Alumni Band.
An official source for WVU Alumni
Band Inc. announcements, news, and
updates.

Alumni Band Social Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wvualumnibandinc/>

**For all former members of the "Pride
of West Virginia."** A social page to
reconnect, share stories, and chat.

Don't miss out- join both!

AL'S ARCHIVES

WVU Alumni Band Oral History Project

This project is focused on collecting interviews from all members of the WVU Alumni Band from all years, including directors. This effort is headed by the Archives Committee and will begin in May and continue throughout the summer, and even on the Michigan trip! The focus of the interviews is to detail the traditions and memories during the member's time in the Pride. The interviews can be virtual or in person. An event will be held in early June for in-person interviews. If you are interested in sharing your stories, please fill out the Google form at <https://bit.ly/3PGWJ8q> or by using the QR code below.

If there are any questions or suggestions, please reach out to Chloe den Uijl chloeb1112@gmail.com.



Photo credit: Sarah Bennett-Harper

220
VIRTUAL RAFFLE
SPONSORED BY THE WVU ALUMNI BAND
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PRIDE TRAVEL FUND
FOR THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE
11 Cash Prizes
Grand Prize
\$2,200
MAY 18
2024
11:00 AM
EST
ALUMNI BAND
<https://www.wvualumniband.org/event-5653097>



Photo credit: Ellen Ramey

2023 HOMECOMING WEEKEND RECAP

Homecoming 2023 was attended by more than 250 members and guests. The weekend kicked off with the group leading the annual WVU Homecoming parade on Friday night sporting a new look - navy blue shirts and jeans. John Hendricks, Ellen Ramey, and Jeff Caplinger implemented a new lineup for the parade block to enhance the group's sound. Many great comments were received from the public about our look and wonderful sound!

The annual reunion party was held at Vice Versa following the parade. Members and guests were treated to another wonderful meal! Games were provided that supported The Pride and KKY. Guests also enjoyed a performance by Seniors from The Pride.

Members had a pregame rehearsal at the stadium early Saturday morning that included a combined rehearsal with The Pride. After rehearsal, members participated in the Annual Meeting and were provided a catered lunch by Apple Annie's of Morgantown. Members also had the opportunity to gather at Law School Hill and participate in the march to the stadium with The Pride prior to pregame.

New for 2023 was an early registration option for members. Packets, party tickets, and parking passes were available for pick up at the WVU Creative Arts Center on Friday from 10AM - 2PM. More than half of the packets were given out at this registration. The membership committee plans to have this option available again for 2024.



Mary Brown, Right
Photo credit: Al Hall



Anita Lawson, Dr.
Miltenberger, Family of Phil
Faini
Photo Credit: Al Hall

Congratulations to all of our award winners during Homecoming 2023!

Outstanding Alumni Award

- Mary Oliverio Brown

Lifetime Alumni Membership

- Robert W. Miller

Oldest Attending Members

- Beverly Campbell
- Joyce Dawley
- Larry Schwab

Honorary Alumni Band Members

- Anita Lawson
- Phil Faini, Dean Emeritus, posthumous
- Dr. James "Doc" Miltenberger

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all of our Homecoming 2023 volunteers! We could not have had such a successful weekend without your assistance. Members assisted with registration packet stuffing, packet pickup, party registration, party games, equipment truck loading and unloading for two days, loaning coolers and setting up and tearing down the different venues. We appreciate your support!

PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE

The Alumni Band has updated their dress code for performances. Please visit the Member only section of our website for more information under Performance Dress Code (<https://www.wvualumniband.org/page-1725039>).



WVU ALUMNI BAND CLASS NOTES

Member Wedding Engagement Announcement:

Congratulations to Austin Anderson (Baritone player and Field Commander) and Brooke Urban (Clarinet) on your recent engagement. Best wishes to you both!

Member New Job or Promotion:

Lori Friedline (Drumline) has taken a new job as Graphic Designer at Wright's Media 2022. Congratulations on your new position, Lori!

Class Notes is a new feature at our website for collecting information you would like to share with your fellow Alumni Band members. Did you recently get married or become a parent? Maybe you moved or have a new job promotion. Provide your news via the Class Notes section of the website, and we will add it to future newsletters. This form will also let you submit information about a member who has passed away so we can inform our membership about the loss of a bandmate. Please check it out and start submitting your news at <https://www.wvualumniband.org/page-1725050>. If you have any questions about Class Notes, please reach out to Hope Poole at hopep1116@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

Remembering those we have lost since Homecoming 2023.

- Richard "Chip" Buck, Percussion
- Robert Douglas, Field Commander
- Ken Godwin, Trumpet
- Jim Jones, Trumpet
- Janell Ostrander, Clarinet
- Beverley Soccorsi, Mellophone
- Mary Swim, Color Guard
- Todd Tucker, Field Commander
- Jay Walton, Tuba

2024 WVU ALUMNI BAND - Michigan Tour

“A Tribute to Don Wilcox”

By: John Hendricks, III
Retired Associate Dean of the College of Creative Arts
Director, WVU Alumni Band, Inc

On July 11-14, 2024, members of the WVU Alumni Band will be traveling to Northport, Michigan to honor our beloved Director of Bands Emeritus Don Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox, who currently resides in Northport, served as WVU’s Director of Bands for 34 years - 27 of these years were as the Director of the WVU Marching Band. This special trip will culminate with a tribute concert to honor the legacy of the man who set the standard for what the West Virginia University Band program is today!

The anticipated 75-member concert band will rehearse in Morgantown on July 10, and then depart for Michigan on July 11. After an overnight in Detroit (with some sightseeing), the group will depart for Northport for the Friday evening, July 12 concert. July 13 will be a day spent at the popular Mackinac Island in northern Michigan; the group will then return to West Virginia on July 14.

Personnel for the ensemble ranges from all ages and talent abilities – spanning the decades Mr. Wilcox spent at WVU. Several younger band alumni who simply want to honor Mr. Wilcox will also be participating. It is anticipated that a few members of the Northport Community Band, which Mr. Wilcox conducted for years, will perform alongside our members for the concert. Plans are currently underway for the music selection for the concert. It is anticipated that music will feature selections that Mr. Wilcox enjoys – including a medley of WVU fight songs arranged for concert band by Mr. Wilcox. Various marches, light-hearted selections, and other concert band pieces will also be programmed. The concert will certainly be wonderful way to honor a man that means so much to us all.

Earlier this month, members who have registered received an email from Jeff Caplinger about the tour, which included a more detailed itinerary, update on music to practice, specific information about the performance (including attire), and other necessary details. Jeff Caplinger’s tour company (All About Destinations) is organizing the details of the tour; John Hendricks is organizing the concert performance.



2024 WVU ALUMNI BAND - Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Update on Macy's NYC Trip and Tour: November 27-30, 2024

The alumni band will be traveling to New York City to support The Pride of West Virginia; in their second Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade performance in 8 years! All About Destinations (group travel company owned by Jeff Caplinger - WVU Band 84-86) will be partnering with Performing Arts Consultants (tour company of The Pride) to make this tour possible. We still have a few seats available for this epic event!

This trip is over Thanksgiving and is an opportunity to attend a once-in-a-lifetime event while also supporting OUR Pride of West Virginia in the parade. There is no performance for this trip, just fun and excitement! The deadline for registration is fast approaching, so don't delay.

Questions should be addressed to Jeff Caplinger. He can be reached via Facebook Messenger or by email at allaboutdestinationstravel@gmail.com.



WVU PRIDE TRAVEL FUND

Visit The Pride Campaign page (<https://give.wvu.edu/campaign/macys-2024-the-pride-is-taking-our-country-roads-to-the-big-apple/c517147>) to learn more about how you can support The Pride as they return to The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!



Photo credit: WVVA