UPDATES

**1st Annual Alumni Picnic**

The first annual picnic held October 17, 2015 in City Park was a huge success. A total of 21 classes participated, however there were BTW alumni present from the 1950’s through the 2000’s. Each class that registered was assessed a small fee, less than $50, to cover expenses such as Port-A-Potties, DJ, Space Walk, generator and gas and fee to reserve space at the park. The class of 1978 provided a second Line Band. Each class decorated their chosen area and a grand time was had by all. The committee presented a full report at our October 22 meeting. Annual Picnic Committee Chairperson Yvette Cambridge and Co-chairperson Yvonne Bell were authorized by the alumni to use the funds remaining from the picnic to reserve the site for this year’s picnic, which is scheduled for October 15, 2016. The City Park site has been reserved for the October date. Hats off to the picnic committee for organizing this grand affair!!

School Update

* Superintendent Patrick Dobard assured us that the school name will remain Booker Talifaro Washington.
* KIPP: New Orleans Schools will be the charter operator for the school.
* The alumni association is in discussions with KIPP and the Recovery School District to ensure that we have a seat at the table to provide meaningful input in the development of the school. We are also advocating for community involvement and the preservation of the Booker Washington model, which includes a strong academic component along with a vocational education program.
* An extension to the Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA has been approved allowing the project to move forward.
* A survey of the auditorium was done by representatives of FEMA, RSD, architect, project manager and contractor to determine the scope and extent of renovations needed to restore the auditorium.
* A meeting with Dillard University’s Nursing Department staff was held to determine whether a nursing program could be established at the school, equipment needed, and appropriate agencies to contact for information and guidance.
* The RSD was advised of the need to secure the auditorium from vandals and the elements, especially the upper floor windows.
* Architect informed us that engraved bricks with names/and or graduating class can be included to line the walkway to the auditorium.