

Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association



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WLCAA Statement

"It is our duty and responsibility to protect our children."

- Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association Mission Statement

The Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association (WLCAA) is a membership organization whose programs foster a life-long connection with the Walter L. Cohen Sr. High School and the Cohen College Prep High School. The WLCAA actively supports the educational, cultural, and social life of the school. The WLCAA is proud of the dedication and participation of its membership that includes the first graduates of the Class of 1953 to recent graduates.

The WLCAA is pleased to announce that the Recovery School District (RSD) has cancelled its controversial plan to land bank the Cohen High School building and relocate the students, teachers, and staff to a proposed new school on a portion of the Clio Street/Silver City Dump, where the Booker T. Washington School (BTW) was built in the 1940s. In addition, the RSD has made a commitment to rebuild a new Cohen High School in its present location that will continue to be managed by the New Orleans College Preparatory Academies. This is a remarkable victory won by the hard work and sacrifice of the WLCAA, Cohen parents, BTW alumni, and concerned citizens of New Orleans. We are confident that the decision to rebuild the Cohen High School at its present location will benefit our young people and help to ensure a brighter future for New Orleans.

The WLCAA Board is extremely grateful to Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (AEHR) for its exceptional legal representation and advocacy. We are especially thankful to Attorney Monique Harden, the co-director of AEHR, who has been inducted as an Honorary Cohen Alumni Member for her outstanding service.

We deeply appreciate the outpouring of support from New Orleanians as well as people and organizations across Louisiana and other states. The WLCAA gives special thanks to the following individuals for their tremendous support:

- ♦ Attorney Nathalie Walker, AEHR
- ♦ Attorney Adam Babich, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic
- ♦ State Representative Joseph "Joe" Bouie
- ♦ Wilma Subra, LA Environmental Action Network
- ♦ Lt. General Russell Honoré, GreenArmy
- ♦ Jacques Morial, GreenArmy
- ♦ Dr. Beverly Wright, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University
- ♦ Levon LeBan, NAACP
- ♦ Pat Bryant, Justice & Beyond
- ♦ Darryl Malek-Wiley, Sierra Club Delta Chapter
- ♦ State Representative Walt Leger
- ♦ Joe Gildersleeve, Booker T. Washington Alumnus
- ♦ Al Mims, Booker T. Washington Alumnus
- ♦ Theophilus Moore, Booker T. Washington Alumnus
- ♦ Rev. Eddie Payne, First Agape Baptist Church
- ♦ Pastor C. S. Gordon, Jr., New Zion Baptist Church
- ♦ Rev. Deanna Vandiver, Unitarian Universalist Church
- ♦ Rev. Jim VanderWeele, Unitarian Universalist Church
- ♦ Elodia Blanco, Agriculture St. Dump/Superfund Site
- ♦ Shannon Rainey, Agriculture St. Dump/Superfund Site
- ♦ Gina Womack, Families & Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
- ♦ Attorney Sue Jernigan, National Council of Jewish Women
- ♦ Michelle Erenberg, National Council of Jewish Women
- ♦ Shanda Quintal, Concerned Parent
- ♦ Claire Barnett, National Healthy Schools Network
- ♦ Lauren Jesmer, National Healthy Schools Network
- ♦ Attorney Steve Fischbach, Rhode Island Legal Services

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