

Historical Chronology of the Eastern Region,  
West Virginia State University Alumni Association

**In the Beginning**

1976: On March 27, 1976, due to the foresight of the then Philadelphia, PA Alumni Chapter, during the local alumni chapter meeting held at the Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan, Pastor, Class of 1943, and the alumni discussed forming a regional conference. Dr. Harold McNeil, then President of West Virginia State (then) College (WVSC), Dr. P. Ahmed Williams, National Executive Secretary, West Virginia State College Alumni Association (then WVSCAA). Mr. William Lonesome, Esq. (then WVSCAA); Dr. John Jones, Director of Development, WVSC, and Mr. Fred Bailey, director of alumni affairs, WVSC attended. Also, other alumni members in attendance from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Cleveland, OH, and Washington, DC were supportive of this proposed endeavor.

**Organization**

1980: In 1980, Sylvester Slade. Philadelphia, PA Alumni Chapter was asked to serve as the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Region Director overseeing chapters from Massachusetts (NE area) to Maryland. In this role, he attended chapter meetings, informed members about other chapters in the region, and provided support to encourage and strengthen chapters' endeavors.

1983: In 1983, Grace Crichlow, New Jersey Alumni Chapter, became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Region Director until she began experiencing health problems. Thus, Sylvester Slade was asked to fulfill the responsibility by reassuming the position. He served tirelessly and unselfishly nearly twenty years in this capacity.

### **Moving Into the New Centennial and Beyond**

May 1998-October 5, 2013: In May 1998, during the National Conference of the WVSCAA in Las Vegas, NV, Betty M. Bates. Sylvester Slade, Region Director, swore in Baltimore-Charm City Alumni Chapter, as the 3rd Eastern Region Director, due in part to the support and recommendation. Ms. Bates continued the efforts and examples displayed by her predecessor, Mr. Sylvester Slade and adhered to the provisions set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the WVSUAA.

October 5, 2013: Judy Mason of The Metropolitan Alumni Chapter and Kimberly Stevenson of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter were installed during Homecoming as Eastern Region Director and Eastern Region Secretary respectively to continue the legacy for the East.