

October 2018

Greetings to Members of the Olde Guarde –

The seasons are changing, our William & Mary campus is running at full speed, and Homecoming is close at hand! I'm writing to highlight the main Homecoming events being planned for our Olde Guarde membership, as well as several other opportunities for your involvement and topics of interest. Please take a moment to review the items below, and stay connected to W&M!

I look forward to seeing you later this month at Homecoming, and Go Tribe!

Howard Busbee '65
Chair, Olde Guarde Council

Homecoming 2018 – October 18-21

If you have not already registered, go to <https://homecoming.wm.edu/> by October 12, for the full weekend schedule and event details. Click on “**Registration**” to register online, select “Olde Guarde” as the Registration Type, and select your events – including the special gatherings for the Classes of 1963 (55th Reunion) and 1958 (60th Reunion). Of special interest to our membership on Friday, October 19 –

- Olde Guarde Reception and Luncheon at 11:30 am in the Sadler Center. Our program will feature Women at William & Mary, as a part of the celebration of the Centennial of Co-Education at the university. We will also recognize those classes celebrating their post-50th Reunions this year. And, we will be honoring all of our Class Reporters in attendance for their faithful service and journalistic skills. *If you are a Class Reporter, we hope you'll register and plan to attend the Luncheon!* [Please note that due to parking constraints near the Sadler Center, a shuttle will be running from the Kaplan Arena (William & Mary Hall) parking lot beginning at 11:00 am.]
- Homecoming Parade – Beginning at 4:00 pm, our consistently award-winning float entry has adopted the theme of “Bury the Bears”, as the Tribe football team takes on the Maine Black Bears. Here's your chance to be part of the action – plan to walk with the float and show our Olde Guarde pride – please join us at 3:30 at the staging area near Brown Dormitory – corner of N. Boundary and Prince George Street!
- Class of 1963 55th Reunion – Reception from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the home of Ray and Sue Warner. Reunion Chairs are Sandy Roberts, Bob Simpson and Ray Warner. [Advance registration via the link above]
- Class of 1958 60th Reunion, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Windsor Meade Community Center. Reunion Chairs are Pat Cell, Carter Cowles and Bob Hardage. [Advance registration via the link above]

What is the Olde Guarde and What Does It Do?

Based on recent feedback we've received, it appears that for some alumni, the nature and purpose of the Olde Guarde are not fully known. So ... following is a brief summary –

Since 1975, members of all 50th Reunion classes have been inducted into the Olde Guarde (officially known as “The Olde Guarde of Their Majesties’ Royall Colledge in Virginia”), and currently number close to 10,000 alumni. Through social, service and educational programs, the Olde Guarde promotes the welfare and support of our university and its alumni, and is dedicated to preserving and advancing the heritage of William & Mary. The Olde Guarde is a constituent organization of the William & Mary Alumni Association, and draws its financial support primarily from the Alumni Association and University Advancement.

The governing board of the Olde Guarde is the Council, composed of two representatives from each of the 12 most recent 50th Reunion classes, and our programming is accomplished by the work of various committees and the participation by many of you in the Olde Guarde membership. Attached to this letter is a listing by Class year of all current Council members – please contact us with any questions, comments and suggestions you may have, and stay in touch!

One of our primary goals for this coming year is to increase participation by our members. So, how can you get involved in the activities of the Olde Guarde and W&M? Here are just a few suggestions –

- Participate in the “signature events” on campus, including Homecoming & Reunion Weekend (above), Charter Day, and Traditions Weekend, among others
- Meet others in your area through alumni chapters and regional events (including December Yule Log celebrations)
- Be a vocal fan (on campus and away) at Tribe sporting events
- Nominate candidates for the Olde Guarde Distinguished Service Award (see below), the Alumni Medallion, Honorary Alumni, and WM Alumni Association Board members
- Provide updates for yourself and others to your Alumni Magazine Class Reporter, and provide your thoughts to your Olde Guarde Council Class Representative
- “Vote” for W&M by your financial support on One Tribe One Day, and attend local gatherings on that day to celebrate our success

Olde Guarde Distinguished Service Award Nomination

The Distinguished Service Award is given annually to a member of the Olde Guarde (other than a current Council member) who has demonstrated significant dedication, involvement and continued service to William & Mary. We would greatly appreciate your nomination of a deserving individual, using the online nomination form found in the link below. The recipient will be determined in December, and the Award will be presented at our Luncheon during Traditions Weekend in April. The deadline for submission of the nomination is November 1.

<https://wmalumni.com/awards-and-recognition/olde-guarde-distinguished-service-award/nomination-form/index.php>

The Name of the Olde Guarde

You will recall that earlier this summer a Survey was sent to current members of the Olde Guarde [OG] (as well as a separate Survey to future members of the OG in the Classes of '69 to '72). Because there have been concerns raised about the connotation of "Olde" in the name, the OG Council was prompted to consider whether a change in the name was appropriate and necessary. After consultation with specialists in marketing and surveys, and with the approval of the Council, the Survey was issued so that the responses were anonymous, but could be tracked for current versus future members. We received almost 1,500 responses, representing 13.3% of current OG members and 22.6% of future OG members.

The responses to the Survey, both the quantitative results and the many comments regarding the OG and its name, were reviewed in detail by the OG Council members. In summary, 61% of current OG members and 64% of future OG members responding were opposed to changing the name. Following a full discussion of the Survey results and feedback, the OG Council voted on October 1 to support the majority opinion to retain the name of the Olde Guarde. The Council also reviewed plans for additional communications about the purpose and activities of the OG, as well as ways in which the OG population can get and stay involved in the life of the organization and the university. Thank you for participating in the Survey, and especially for your comments and suggestions!

Important 2019 Dates for your Calendar

February 8-10 – Charter Day Weekend

April 16 – One Tribe One Day

April 5-7 – Traditions Weekend, celebrating the Class of '69 50th Reunion, the Olde Guarde, and the Robert Boyle Legacy Society

If you've read this extended letter to this point ... many thanks! Your Olde Guarde membership and support is a vital part of W&M's present and future, and we're glad you're a part of the Tribe!