

## **OLD SCHOOL LORAIN GROOVE**

### ***Our Story***

Old School Lorain Groove (OLSG) originated in May 2006 during a phone conversation between Larry Jones and Raymond Jackson. The first meeting was scheduled and a committee was formed. That committee consisted of Diane Austin (Quinn), Raymond Jackson and Pamela Kidd (Stewart). With the commitment and enthusiasm of:

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Marlene Jackson ( )       | 12. MaryAnn Grayson ( )    |
| 2. Darlene Quinn             | 13. Donna Mitchell (Dean)  |
| 3. Sharon Ann Land (Jackson) | 14. Ed Mitchell            |
| 4. Kenneth Redd              | 15. Pamela Gilbert (Smith) |
| 5. Eugene Ricky Thomas       | 16. Vanessa Jones          |
| 6. Donzier Tillman           | 17. Benette Thomas (Payne) |
| 7. Barbara Aldridge (Quinn)  | 18. Jeff Pye               |
| 8. Joe Hawkins               | 19. Al Wiggins             |
| 9. Donald Church             | 20. Joe Payne              |
| 10. Linda Jefferies (Hisle)  | 21. Larry Jones            |
| 11. Diane Jackson (Blanton)  | 22. Sallie Rowe ( )        |

Old School Lorain Groove became a non-profit organization.

*"Without organization black folk will never be able to take, keep or hold onto anything, much-less the hard fought gains that we have struggled to achieve." Tavis Smiley, The Covert with Black America*

Our original goal was simple. We wanted to host a week-end long event similar to a family reunion for all past and present residents of Lorain County that considered themselves "old school."

Cleo Tucker encouraged and supported us by donating his facility for meetings and functions and we began fundraising with 50/50 raffles and hosting casino bus trips. The response was fantastic! The old school community of Lorain County gave us the support to lay our foundation and so we began to build our house.

We worked hard. Meetings were held 2 times a month, every month with special call meetings in-between. There were rules and regulations, dues and speculations, disagreements and a hole lot of fun. We decided to have a member appreciation get-together on New Years Eve 2006. That get-together became a very successful event and our very first as an organization. The clock struck 12:00 and we entered 2007 stronger and even more determined.

Our members are great. Each person has their own unique gift, unfortunately a few members have left. Diane Jackson and Al Wiggins had health issues and family obligations and Vanessa Jones began a new business venture. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diane and Al and we congratulate Vanessa and wish her continued success.

On July 28, 2007, we lost our Recording Secretary, Darlene Marie Quinn. Darlene was committed to OLSG and her secretarial duties. She went above and beyond what was necessary to make sure that our bi-weekly meetings ran along a straight, steady, organized path. Her contributions to OSLG are irreplaceable. RIP Darlene, we miss you!

The first annual OSLG, 3 day Old School Reunion was held on Labor Day Weekend 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Elyria, OH. That weekend, our dream became a reality. Family and friends from Lorain, Elyria, Oberlin and Cleveland came out and came home from various states across the US and Germany, to socialize old school style. We celebrated food, fun and friendship on Friday night, all day and night on Saturday and on Sunday morning we thanked God for his blessings and prayed for safe journey's home. An old fashioned Sunday afternoon picnic at Oakwood Park in Lorain, OH closed out the weekend and then we did it...the members of OSLG EXHALED!! It was over, it was great and it was all we expected and more. It was only the beginning. Fundraising resumed with casino bus trips and 50/50 raffles. We added an Annual Marti Gras celebration in February of 2008 and in June of 2008 we held our first OSLG Luau. Both events were successful and we thank all the old school community for the support, encouragement and well wishes that has been given to us for the past 3 years. Our commitment is strong and we have big ideas and big plans!

We are also involved in the community. A family skate party was given in December of 2007. Canned goods were accepted as admission and all the food collected was donated to a local food bank. Monetary donations have been given to an Admiral King High School student attending a Leadership camp in Washington, DC, Mary Lee Tucker, Lorain City Schools and Friendship Baptist Church fun day event. A presentation of the first OSLG Scholarship is planned for the 2008 Reunion.

Memories are priceless. Preserving them and making new memories is a vital part of OSLG. Restoring old school values and traditions into our lives, the lives of our youth and into our community is very important to us.

Our past began with a dream, a dream that we are presently living. Our future will continue with that same dream. OLSG is so much more than what you may see. Don't judge us or label us. Check us out!

Peace!