

# **NEWS OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 1, 2017**



## **MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1959 EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN**



Dear Classmates,

As you know, the 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Committee met on Friday, July 14, 2017, at the Mill Ridge Condo Community Center to discuss plans for the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion, which will take place at The Lismore in downtown Eau Claire on September 13, 14, and 15, 2019. Those people who were able to be at the meeting were: Karilyn Sorenson Allen, Patricia Severson Jensen, Kathy Turney Schellfeffer, Laurel Olson Schilling, Phil Melby, Jean Hanson Parr, Steve Loken, Diane Blakely Boetcher, and me. I had put the information about the meeting on our website, and I had sent about 40 reminder letters to people who had been on the committee in other years – asking classmates to tell/remind others about the meeting. As it turned out, however, we had a small but enthusiastic, hard-working group of classmates who showed up that day. And we got quite a bit done during the time we were together.

It was decided that our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be our last reunion that takes place over several days, and following the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion, we will no longer have a class website. However, we will have some great things happening for the ECMHS CLASS OF 1959 instead. Starting in 2020, WE WILL HAVE A ONE DAY CLASS REUNION EVERY YEAR DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, and we will have a snail mail letter that goes out to all classmates during the spring to give everyone some information about other classmates and the ONE DAY REUNION coming up in the fall, so that we can all plan for it and be able to be there for the celebration. The one day reunion will include golf during the day...with some other possible get-togethers for lunch, tours of the city, and interesting activities in the area. The success of the plan, it seems to me, will be for everyone to remember to keep in touch with us through your updated addresses and telephone numbers, so John Schaaf, Steve Loken, and I will know where you are. If you have any suggestions, concerns, or reactions to these ideas, please let me know, so the committee members can discuss them and get back to you. Since this is just in the planning stage right now, it would be a good time to offer your ideas and reactions. The more help we get from classmates, the better the plan will be.

During our first years in high school, our Class of 1959 had at least 528 students in it. Over the years, our numbers have changed, and, at this point, as far as I know, we have 351 classmates now. Recently, we lost two more of our friends and the sister/sister-in-law of another. Our classmate, Mary Olson Hoard emailed me recently with the news that Carolyn Books Hoard (Mrs. Jack D. Hoard) died on July 8, 2017, after a long and difficult struggle with Alzheimer's disease. And Roger Little, who grew-up in Eau Claire and, more recently, lived in Thorp, died on July 12, 2017, at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis. In addition to our classmates' deaths, the sister of our classmate, Kay (Gilgan) Broten, and sister-in-law of Kay's husband and our classmate, Darryl Broten, Sharon M. Heller, passed away on July 23, 2017, in Eau Claire. We send our sympathy and hugs to all of you at this sad time.

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