



# NEWS OF THE MONTH – MARCH 2014

## MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL – CLASS OF 1959

### EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN



March 1, 2014

Dear Classmates,

The votes are in, and our class has chosen to have a three-day reunion weekend on September 12, 13, & 14, 2014. Most of you indicated that you want to have informal events, so the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee has decided to have two informal evenings – one on Friday and one on Saturday with breakfast on Sunday for those who wish to attend. The Friday evening get-together and breakfast on Sunday will be at the NEW Holiday Inn South, which is just off Highway 94, near Oakwood Mall in Eau Claire. It's a lovely hotel with a very large banquet room, which will accommodate our group beautifully. We will have our own bar in the room plus round tables with lots of chairs and substantial hors d'oeuvres – much like we had for our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. There will be a short “welcome” by John Glenz and a chance to have your photo taken with your elementary school friends during the evening, but the rest of the night will be for visiting and just enjoying being together.

Not many people indicated that they want to tour the City of Eau Claire or Memorial High School, so it was decided that we will get current maps of the area and distribute them to people who want them on Friday night. (The maps are available through the “Visit Eau Claire” tourism office and are well done and easy to follow.) That way, classmates can take their own tours on Saturday if they wish to do so.

Golf will be offered at Lake Hallie Golf Club on Saturday for those who wish to play. It will be followed by a late-afternoon get-together for our whole class at Hallie Golf Club and a buffet dinner in their pavilion for everyone during the evening. We will be able to enjoy the beauty of the area and be inside or outside as we wish. There will be a short “welcome” by Joy Borum and a chance to have your photo taken with groups of classmates during the event, but, mostly, it will be an informal evening for all of us to enjoy “catching up” with others amid the beauty of Wisconsin.

Sunday breakfast will be offered at the Holiday Inn South for all members of our class. Many who attended the Sunday breakfast at our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion loved it and want to have that option, so it will be part of the weekend. We hope to see many of you there!

**A Reservation Letter about the 55<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion will be mailed to all classmates during March – probably “mid” to “late” March. So, please look for your letter with all the final details – soon!**

The past few weeks have been very difficult and sad for many of the members of our Class of 1959 families. On January 24, 2014, Gerald Johnson, the brother of our classmate, Sonja Johnson Backstrom, passed away peacefully at home. He worked at Uniroyal for many years and enjoyed gardening. Patti Finn Holmes died on February 5, 2014. Most of you remember her sister and our classmate, Judy Finn Schmidt, who died several years ago. Patti was married to Jim Holmes, her high school sweetheart, and they had four daughters. On February 15, 2014, James M. Hoard, the husband of our classmate, Mary Olson Hoard, died in Bloomington, Minnesota. Jim and Mary enjoyed traveling together through the years and, especially, loved spending time with their grandchildren. Many of you will remember our classmate, Janet Targart Lorentz, who died in January 1991, and her husband, Robert Lorentz. Bob died on February 22, 2014. He graduated from Eau Claire Senior High School some years ahead of our class. We send our condolences and caring thoughts to all of the families at this sad time.

And on Monday, February 24, 2014, our good friend and classmate, Gary R. Gaard, passed away at his home after a long battle with Melanoma. Just a month before, Gary had emailed me to say that he was on Hospice, so he would not be at our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Since we sat next to each other in homerooms through the years, we were friends then, and it seemed as if the years between just disappeared as we exchanged emails now. We will miss him. He was a truly good guy. Our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife, Sally, and their children and grandchildren. Gary's obituary and those of the others listed above can be found on this website by going to “What's New?”

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