



News of the Month – November 2008 Memorial High School Class of 1959

Dear MHS Classmates,

It was great to get together with the members of the 50th Class Reunion Committee on Thursday, October 30th! Everyone is enthusiastic and ready to work hard to make this the best reunion ever. With lots of discussion and thoughtful consideration, we reviewed the decisions that had already been made about September 11, 12, and 13, 2009, and made some others about the big event.

Decisions that had already been made include the following. (1) The dates for our 50th Reunion are set (as indicated above). (2) We are having the reunion at the Ramada Inn on the corner of Grand Avenue and Barstow Street in downtown Eau Claire – both nights. (3) Anyone planning to stay at the Ramada Inn should make room reservations as soon as possible. (4) An *Old Abe Reunion Video*, featuring widespread video coverage of the event, will be for sale for \$34.95. (5) We'll use nametags both nights, and they will have the high school photos on them. (6) Tee shirts for the 50th Reunion, designed especially for us, will be sold. (7) Any class member who would like to do so is encouraged to contribute a door prize from the different areas of the country.

Additional decisions were made at the meeting Thursday. (1) The committee members feel it is very important to get all the news out to all class members, so a newsletter will be mailed to everyone in mid-January 2009, with all of the information about the reunion. (2) Another newsletter will go out to all class members in early May 2009, with the registration materials in it. At that point, we'll ask everyone who plans to attend to get the registrations back quickly. (3) Based on the questionnaire that went out after the 45th Reunion and with much discussion by committee members, it was decided that there would be no music at the 50th Reunion unless it is part of the actual program presentation on Saturday night. Many class members have some hearing problems, and any background sound interferes with conversation. Since our purpose is to see and to talk with friends from the Class of 1959, even soft music in the background would be a problem for many. (4) The Friday night party will be held from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. There will be snacks and a cash bar. (5) The Saturday evening dinner will start with cocktails from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Dinner will be at 7 p.m. The MC for the program following dinner will be Gail Dean Halmstad. (6) We'll wait to see how many are interested in a continental breakfast at the Ramada on Sunday morning (when we send out the newsletters in the spring) and will make a decision about it after that.

The Reunion Committee members decided to meet again at 1 p.m., on January 13, 2009. At that time, the main topic of discussion will be activities for during the day on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Committees for the various events will also be decided.

We concluded the meeting with some comments from committee members about what a great website we have. We want to encourage our class members to keep sending things in to be put on the site to keep it current and interesting. So, if you have anything you'd like to contribute, please do!

Carolyn Gabrielsen Barstad
4292 Mill Ridge Circle
Eau Claire, WI 54703

715-835-5080
cjbarstad@charter.net

