



**News of the Month – October 2014**  
**Class of 1959 – Memorial High School**  
**Eau Claire, Wisconsin**



October 1, 2014

Dear Classmates,

As a result of all the comments I've heard and the lovely notes that the Reunion Committee has received, it appears to me that our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion was a great success! From the delicious buffet lunch on Thursday noon at The Farm Restaurant at the Chippewa Valley Airport to the lovely breakfast on Sunday morning at the Holiday Inn South, everyone who attended any of the events seemed to have a good time. It was fun to be together and to catch-up with classmates from all over the world. All the get-togethers featured good food, good drinks, lots of hugs and conversation, and a wonderful mixture of classmates and guests. It really did seem as though we were together to enjoy each event and to celebrate our friendships over a lifetime.

Those of you who were here for the reunion will remember that we asked for donations for our treasury on Friday and Saturday evenings, so we would have enough money to be able to keep sending everyone our annual class letter each year and to keep our class website going in the future. John Schaaf and I were overwhelmed when we counted your gifts. Between the two nights, we collected \$892.00. That's amazing! Thanks to all of you who were so generous, we now have money in our treasury, and we will be able to pay the expenses ahead.

As John Schaaf and I discussed the money that had been collected for our treasury, the fun we'd had seeing classmates, and how much everyone seemed to enjoy and appreciate the Reunion Weekend, we talked it over and mutually agreed to continue our "jobs" as treasurer and chairperson of our class – forever, which means we'll be working on the 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion – starting now. We hope that's okay with all of you, and we hope that, with all the other members of the committee and the two of us, we can organize a really wonderful weekend for our 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion in 2019. (Do you realize we'll be close to eighty years old by then?)

During the different events at the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion, everyone was given a one-page handout at the first event for which he/she registered. The handout explained where and what was going on during the reunion. On the other side of it was an updated list of classmates who have died. As a result of distributing that information, we learned that our classmate, Veronica Stafsholt Card (Mrs. John Card), did NOT die, so her name should be removed from the list. (Sadly, her daughter died, so the information got mixed-up.) I apologize for the incorrect information and am sorry for any confusion as a result. Unfortunately, however, there was a name of a classmate who was added to the list in September. Our classmate, Opal Stage Luhman, died on September 1, 2014, in Bloomer, Wisconsin. She is survived by five children and eight grandchildren, with whom she enjoyed fishing and playing. Opal's funeral service was held on September 9, 2014. Her obituary is on this website. You can find it by going to "What's New?" We send our sincere sympathy to her family at this sad time.

As I told you at the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion, you will be receiving a letter from me and information about the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation (ECPSF) soon. It is being mailed to you from the ECPSF in hopes that, if you can, you might consider donating to this worthy cause. It does a lot of good for the students in the Eau Claire School System, and I feel confident that it is a worthwhile cause for us who went through the Eau Claire School System and have benefitted from the great education we received. The members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee support the ECPSF. We hope you will read the letter and that you will choose to donate to it.

Thank you all for your support through the years, the warm and caring messages you've sent, and the beautiful purple and white bouquet you gave me at the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. You are such special people, and I am so glad to be part of the Class of 1959.

Carolyn Gabrielsen Barstad

4292 Mill Ridge Circle  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

715-835-5080  
cjbarstad@charter.net

