

**NEWS FROM THE GROSSE POINTE NORTH CLASS OF 1971
REUNION COMMITTEE**

*** For Immediate Release ***

February 26, 2009 – Plans are being formalized for a GPN Class of '71 **40-year reunion**.

On February 19, former class president Jack Barbier (now a resident of Minnesota) convened a meeting of interested classmates for the purpose of formally launch planning efforts for the first official class reunion in 20 years. The meeting was held at Gilbert's Lodge, on Harper Road near the Pointes.

In attendance were Gary and Dawn Hill, Don DeLaura, Nancy Burk (Leroy), and Bob and Leslie Reaser. More were invited, but were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. Thankfully, however, many of those unable to attend have voiced willingness to assist in planning activities.

Barbier had initiated preliminary discussions with several classmates a year ago to determine interest in holding a 40-year reunion, and sentiment quickly gelled around the idea. The purpose of the meeting on 2/19 was to gain consensus on issues such as venue, time schedule, food and beverage service, entertainment, ticket prices, etc.

At this time we can report that the Reunion is a "go" for spring 2011. There was unanimous agreement to hold the event at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, which offers their best booking rates to community groups such as GPN. We have tentatively reserved the Ballroom for Saturday, May 28. The scheduling over Memorial Day weekend will allow out-of-town classmates some needed time for travel. (Note, these dates are still 'tentative' until formal contracts are signed with the War Memorial).

Ticket prices have not yet been determined, pending review and evaluation of the War Memorial's food and liquor policies. It was unanimously agreed that "islands" of light food spread throughout the room would be preferable to a formal sit-down dinner. This concept, which allows a lot of "mingling," served us very well at the 20-year reunion in 1991.

Classmate Nancy Burk (Leroy) has agreed to be our "webmaster." She has developed an official reunion website to aid in contacting classmates, communicating reunion plans, and handling advance ticket sales. The web address is www.gpn1971.org. The website is still a "work in progress," but we are taking steps to let classmates secure tickets online via "Paypal." We are also excited about the ability to use this on-line tool to spread the word and generate excitement for our upcoming event!

Bob Reaser, who most capably handled financial matters for our past reunions, has again volunteered to be the official Treasurer for the event. Bob is now taking steps to register the reunion committee as a non-profit entity, and to open a bank account for our needs.

Gary and Dawn Hill, much loved 'class stalwarts' who also put forth a lot of effort to ensure success of prior reunions, have again come through to assist in communications and outreach efforts. As time goes on, we will start to see the fruits of these efforts.

On the subject of entertainment, it was the consensus of the group that, while a live band would make for a great party, this would turn the reunion into a loud "concert," making it vastly more difficult to converse throughout the evening. Plus, the band would inevitably take up a lot of space that will likely be in short supply if we get the participation we anticipate. The proverbial "DJ" was also discussed. Don DeLaura had some intriguing ideas on setting up an inter-active, computer-aided music and entertainment console to provide background music and dancing. These ideas will be examined further as discussions move along.

Jack turned over War Memorial food, beverage, and pricing information to the committee for review. He will seek input from former reunion managers in an effort to obtain estimates of potential participation. All agreed that steps should be taken to keep ticket prices within a reasonable range, in order to encourage participation. Ticket prices will ultimately take a variety of these factors into account.

Jack, who has lived in Minnesota now for nearly 30 years, gave the committee members present his blessing to 'run with the ball' to get things going. A follow-up meeting of those present was set for May 2009 to evaluate progress.

Initial reaction to the concept of a 40-year reunion has been very strong among all classmates contacted thus far, and with the help and support of a strong team of comrades, it looks like the Class of '71 can look forward to a stellar event.

All class of 1971 graduates are encouraged to visit our website, check in with their personal information, and start passing along information to other classmates in their personal sphere!. And, be sure to watch the website for news, updates, and classmate registrations as we move along!

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Barbier
Minnetonka, MN