

THS Class of 1969
55-Year Reunion Planning Group

Meeting Notes
March 12, 2024
11:30 am-1:00 pm

The group met at Skinny's Sports Bar & Grill in Topeka. Classmates in attendance: Ron Balsters, David Blakely, Don Booth, Ruth Burgat Akins, Steve Dyer, Linda Evans Canady, Rick Friedstrom, Lynn Holt, Robin Hoover, Susan Kendall, Mark Neis, Jenith Paris Hoover, Martha Spees Gray, Gayle Reichman Stine, Dale Warren. Guests: Ruth Dyer, Andrea Holt, Jill Micheaux.

Jenith showed a copy of classmate Fred Stawitz's book "Why Dorothy Never Returned to Oz." She explained that Fred had contacted her in December, requesting an email be sent to classmates via our website announcing his book and inviting them to purchase and read it. Jenith said she read it and recommends it as a fun read; Rick said he has read it also. Classmate Richard Fleming's blog, "Older But Wiser," was also mentioned; several people present have subscribed to it and appreciate its perspectives and humor.

Name Tags -- For this year's reunion it was agreed we will use generic peel-and-stick name tags rather than our pin-on buttons with senior yearbook pictures. Those have been fun and helpful in the past but are a hassle to deal with.

Publicity – Our reunion is now listed on the THS Historical Society's website along with several other reunions happening this year. It gives the date and Jenith's email address to contact for more info. Unfortunately, other methods of publicity used in the past such as Community Calendars in the newspaper and on TV are no longer available, so we will be relying on emails via our class website and word-of-mouth communication.

Registration – Jenith will send out an email blast from the website around the first of April, announcing we are now accepting "registrations" by sending an email to Gayle. The announcement will request that the Subject line indicates "Reunion" and that ladies include both their maiden name and married name.

Food and Facility Update -- Mark reported food prices are generally similar to his original estimates and that \$1,000 should cover the basics. Since the main buffet won't be open until 4:00 pm, he suggested setting up a taco bar or something similar to begin serving at 1:00 pm. Gayle asked about what we need to provide in the way of setup and cleanup. Martha will coordinate setting up (beginning at 10:00 am) and decorating. Rick agreed to contact Joan Barker to use some of the Historical Society's decorations and memorabilia. Official start time is 1:00 pm, ending at 9:00 pm; we need to clean up, return tables and chairs to their places, and be out by 10:30.

Music Update -- Steve said he has heard from several musician classmates who agreed to participate in a jam session at the reunion. Tom Marten will put together a set list. Steve will continue to work on this. Lynn volunteered to provide background music (at a low level) between the live music set(s) with a playlist of classic hits as we have used for previous reunions.

The next meeting of the Planning Group was scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024, again at Skinny's.

Respectfully submitted by

Jenith Paris Hoover