

Minutes from Class of '71 55th Reunion Planning
April 14, 2026

Participants: Bill Arbogast SuAnn Brenner Rod Chamberlain
Rex Hassinger Carl Shields

Objective: *Review and update plans for the Oct 9 gathering and identify ways to increase attendance.*

Color text: *Red indicates a decision. Blue indicates an assignment,*

- I. Welcome – and feedback on March 3 minutes.
Participants affirmed the March 3 minutes and then turned to looking at the next steps as outlined in the April 14 agenda.
- II. Follow-ups to March 3 meeting – Reunion Activities
 - a. While the Oct. 9 plan to meet at JoJos at 4 pm and then depart for the football game around 6:15 pm is set, **SuAnn is still working on having a place set aside and near a ramp as a reserved section for our class to see the band before the game at 7:00 pm.**
 - b. Saturday (10/10) morning's optional breakfast followed by a tour of the high school remains tentative. **SuAnn continues to collaborate with school contacts to set up the tour.**
 - c. Rod sent our class reunion information to the alumni association so it will now be included in the alumni newsletter, Facebook page, and alumni calendar.
 - d. Carl sent out a website teaser on March 13 to our classmates to “hold the date” for the Oct. 9-10 Reunion Activities.
- III. Options for Encouraging Participation
 - a. Invite past faculty members to attend – and share this information:
 - i. Bill has reached out to with Messrs. Runkel and Bartlebaugh via Facebook and has not received a response yet.
 - ii. The alumni association does NOT have contact info for past faculty and staff.
 - iii. Since having past faculty attend could encourage some of our classmates to attend, **each member of the planning committee will reach out to any past faculty to encourage their attendance (e.g., Mr. Deckman, Ms. Martin).**
 - b. Provide “give aways” for those who register, i.e., A raffle for a \$100 gift card; and specially designed magnet for every person who registers.
 - i. Rod and Bill have agreed to underwrite these costs since this gathering may be the last, best way to engage a larger number of our classmates.
 - ii. Bill has been led to the school store as the lead for the availability of the current M-burg Wildcat design. **He will follow up to determine how to order the magnets.**
 - c. Use some ideas generated by Grok (AI) at Carl's request.
 - i. **The planning group affirmed Carl's use of monthly/holiday digital greeting cards to regularly remind classmates of this upcoming gathering in Oct.**
 - ii. **The planning group agreed that making some personal contacts to class members might be helpful in increasing attendance.** To make this happen:
 1. **Rod will send out current class contact info members of the planning committee as well as a Google Sheet to record to whom each planning committee member is reaching out to.**
 2. **Each planning committee member will make a personal connection with 5 – 7 classmates, encouraging them to attend.**

3. **Bill will check on the viability of the past Friends Facebook for classmates.**
4. These outreach calls can start anytime now and be based upon the two holiday cards Carl has already sent.

IV. Communicating to our Class

- a. **Carl will continue to send out digital holiday card reminders – providing updates as they happen (e.g., the plans for Oct. 10.)**
- b. **Carl will design and then set out a registration form after Labor Day – which will qualify the person for the raffle and magnet.** The design will also encourage classmates to bring a friend if they wish.

V. Next Meeting

Participants agreed that the next meeting should happen in mid-August. Rod will send out a Zoom invite for the planning group's next meeting – August 18 at 7 pm (EST)