

Classmates, June 26, 2018

The basic contours of the 54th reunion are coming into view. The organizing committee provided the following information for you to use as you think about November.

There are about fifty or so total who have signed up. Jim Maloney is keeping a tally on the WHS 64 website. If you don't see your name there and you are coming, please contact him to make sure it's added. This is the official list that the committee uses for planning.

We have organized evening activities with lots of open time during the days for visiting the various attractions in DC as well as shopping and just hanging out. We chose the Marriott at Key Bridge due to location and cost. As you know, DC is a fairly expensive urban area and we have tried to minimize expenses. Don Rakestraw with the able help of John Andrews has negotiated a special rate of \$159 plus tax for the three nights that we will be in the hotel. The hotel is located on the Potomac river in Rosslyn, Virginia, about 5-10 minutes' walk to Georgetown in DC where both Friday and Saturday nights' activities are located. There are numerous restaurants and shops in Georgetown both along M Street NW and Wisconsin Avenue. The hotel is located literally five minutes' walk from the Rosslyn metro station where you can get to anywhere in the city. We currently have 20 rooms reserved and we can increase that number if we need to. Your reservations can be made on line or by calling the hotel directly at: 800-228-9290. The cutoff date for reservations using the group rate is on or before 11 October 2018. If you have a car and park at the hotel, we have a reduced parking fee of only \$10 a night.

Here is the rough plan:

Thursday Nov 1:

- Afternoon. Arrive DC and check into the hotel located right on the Potomac River overlooking both Georgetown and the rest of the Washington DC. If you arrive earlier in the day and are feeling a little more ambitious, walk across the Key Bridge and turn to the right to explore Georgetown a little. Otherwise, hang at the hotel and gab with the other attendees.

- About 6:30 pm: Opening Reception at the Key Bridge Marriott. It will be held in a large room on the top floor overlooking the entire city. You will be able to see not only Georgetown University, but the Washington Monument, the Kennedy Center, and the Capitol in the distance. We will have adult beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres that you can make a light dinner out of. If you are still hungry there are lots of restaurants nearby as well as restaurants in the hotel.

Friday, Nov 2

- Daytime: The day is open, and we are assembling an extensive list of options that we will send along in August. We are investigating some group tours, perhaps to the Arlington Cemetery, the White House and the Capitol, but we are sensitive to over scheduling the reunion since there are so many things to see and do in DC that almost any interest can be accommodated. Museums (the Phillips and the Newseum are Rich Wilhelm's favorites), monuments (WWII, Korean War and Vietnam are the most popular), Georgetown University, the library of Congress are very interesting, and Washington/Georgetown has some really cool restaurants for lunch. Watch for more info in August.

- Evening: about 6:30 pm. Rich Wilhelm is hosting us at his Georgetown home at 1617 35th Street NW, about two blocks from Georgetown University. We will have a selection of adult beverages (beer and wine) and a buffet. He is planning to tent his back patio, so we will have the run of the house plus the patio. Probably not seating for 50, but we can take shifts sitting down and there is plenty of room for chatting and more catching up. His home is in one of the oldest and most charming sections of the city. It is walkable, weather permitting and for those who would like to so, about 15 minutes, from the hotel, otherwise a 5-minute taxi or Uber ride (more on that later). Here again, we think you'll be able to make dinner out of this, but should you be hungry, there are 30 restaurants within walking distance, but we don't think you'll need to do so.

Saturday, Nov 4

-Daytime: Open and, as we said earlier, in August we will send a detailed list of options. For those who are interested in shopping at the famous Tysons Corner Mall, it is about six metro stops from the Rosslyn metro stop very close to where you'll be staying.

- Evening, about 6:30 pm. Closing dinner. Gather at the L2 cavern at Kafe Leopold, a charming European and German restaurant in the center of Georgetown. The L2 has kind of a Ratskeller feel to it. We will have an open bar (beer and wine, cocktails optional at your expense) for about an hour, followed by dinner (there are German options) and dessert. The place opens up at 10 pm to the public with a DJ and anyone who is game is welcome to stay and join. About an 8-minute walk across the bridge from the hotel, a shorter taxi or Uber ride. We will send along the menu options in August via the website.

Sunday, Nov 5

Breakfast in the hotel and depart on your own: For those departing later in the day, there is a beautiful place for brunch in Georgetown's Washington Harbor on Canal Street called Sequoia that looks out on the river.

Other Info

The distances for the evening activities are quite short and walkable for those who are still spry. Uber and taxis are plentiful and quite cheap (taxis all take credit cards). The metro gets you almost anywhere you would want to go and is easy to use. The weather will likely be cool but not freezing cold. We recommend that you download the Uber app on your phones.

What do you need to do now:

- ✓ **Make arrangements to get to DC**
- ✓ **Make your hotel reservations now. Again, the cutoff date is **11 October 2018** but it is always better to make it early if possible.**
- ✓ **Prior to 1 September but not earlier than 1 August, please send \$100 per person to help defray the costs of the opening reception and the closing dinner. Send to Don at his home address of [219 Apple Blossom Court, Vienna, VA 22181](#). Make the check out to Don Rakestraw. Don and Connie are opening a joint reunion account at Bank of America. If you are only attending one of the events on either Thursday night the 1st of November or Saturday night the 3rd of November, then the amount will be \$50 per person. If this is the case, please write a small note to tell us which night you will be attending and how many people will be attending in your party.**
- ✓ **Watch for further information in August via the website on options for day time activities and other info. The list of possible activities will include lots of options as we have heard that some attendees may want to extend their time in DC beyond the formal outlines of the reunion.**

Your Organizing Committee (Connie Watts, Catherine Brousseau, Don Rakestraw and Rich Wilhelm)