

Dan Rullo

From: Dan Rullo <rullo.dan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2016 12:26 PM
To: Dan Rullo
Subject: EA1996 - 20-Year Reunion Location Is Official!!!

Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope everybody had a fantastic holiday season and that Santa brought you everything that you wanted. I wish you all a happy & healthy 2016 and look forward to seeing you in a few months. What are your New Year's resolutions? I hope that one of them is to reconnect with your old classmates.

This is it... it's crunch time for reunion planning. We have sufficient momentum and we are transitioning from a data collection role (gauging interest and gathering ideas), to a full-speed-ahead planning role. The new 2016 mission for the planning committee will be to solidify plans based on your input and put it all together for the big day. The reunion location survey is now closed. We'd like to thank everybody for their participation and recommendations. We got a lot of very valuable information from you and we are happy to have a plan that represents the desires of the class. As mentioned in earlier communications, we really felt that this approach would be a critical distinction from the way that others have attempted it in the past. I am not aware of any other class (and I've researched plenty) that has sought the full engagement of every classmate in the planning process. It is our hope that this distinction translates directly to a well-attended reunion and serves as a model of success for other classes to follow.

I know that it seems like we've really dragged out this process for longer than expected. We started early and we've been pushing hard for participation. Hell... I think we even started this earlier than the 2016 Presidential campaign season, and that's been going on FOREVER. So thanks for hanging in there with us and for continuing to help by tracking down missing classmates, etc. I promise, it will be worth it.

Cut to the chase!

OK, enough chatter, who wants to hear the final vote? Well, the results were crystal clear. And I'm glad. I really didn't care where we have it. I just didn't want us to have to toss a coin and choose between multiple competing ideas. Thankfully, you spared us that awkwardness by speaking loud & clear about what we should do. The class has overwhelmingly elected to go with the **Gateway Clipper** option. That option got more votes than all of the other votes combined and has more than double the votes of the second-place option. It won by a landslide! So barring any complications with the venue, we WILL be partying on a boat this time around.

Here's the final vote breakdown:

Option	Votes
Gateway Clipper in downtown Pittsburgh	24
Stratigos Banquet Centre in North Huntingdon	11
Dave & Busters at the Waterfront in Homestead	7
Kingston Banquet Hall in Wilkins Township / Monroeville	2

Please note that although 44 people voted, we are expecting a higher attendance, as indicated by direct conversations with classmates. Several people have informed us that they will be attending, but chose not to vote because they didn't have a strong preference for a location. There are 14 people who we've been in contact with and have logged into the website, but have not voted. At this time, we are expecting their participation in the reunion. And there's an additional 43 people who we believe we are reaching via email (I guess?), but have not responded in any way yet.

What's next?

Our next meeting will be on **Friday, January 8th** at **Primanti's** in North Versailles. As always, anyone and everyone is welcome to join us. The planning committee is open to anybody who wants to participate at any time. We've got a few core members that have been present throughout the entire effort and will continue to drive the boat (wink, wink). But we're always looking for help from others. Following the meeting, our *de facto* facility communication liaison, Kristen Goyke, will contact the Gateway Clipper Fleet office and lock in a date. Some people informed us of blackout dates that would be conflicts for them. So we will work around those would-be conflicts to select an open date. And as soon as we know what that date is, we'll get it to you ASAP so that you can plan accordingly.

Communications for 2016 will reflect the current phase of the mission, we will continue to try to keep you well informed of the status. **We STILL need everybody to help us track down missing classmates and kick your friends in the butt to get onboard (pun intended).** We had a surge of success with contacting classmates late in 2015 and we made significant progress with our "missing classmates" list. But there are still 56 people that we need to get ahold of. I'm begging you to [look at that list](#) and help us out.

In other news...

- I'm happy to report that Jessica (Dobos) Marsh is making great progress with her chemo treatments and is doing very well. Her spirits remain high and she is making upward progress with her fight. My apologies for dropping the ball and not keeping everybody in the loop with her progress. Rest assured, it's been good. As always, Jessi and her family are receptive to support if you'd like to [contact her](#) and see what they might need.
- Our class hosted an all-classes gathering at Rivertowne Pour House in December. The turnout was smaller than expected, but we had a blast. We will continue to initiate similar social events to try to keep the EA family ties strong. You can expect another December event in 2016 and other mid-year events in non-reunion years.
- The school is aware of our reunion effort and has been kind enough to list it on their [Alumni Page of the district website](#).
- We are attempting to make contact with former teachers from our time at EA. If you can put us in touch with any of them, let us know.

We'll be in touch...



