

Mac Reunion Committee Meeting

Friday, August 9, 2019

11:30 a.m. @ The Petroleum Club

Attendees:

Butch Gerfers, Jennifer Sonnen (Zimmerle), Rick Sartor, Steve Hart, Debbie Turner (Miller), Jennifer Votion (Harris), Paula Ernst, Connie Cox (Cunningham), Vandy Dinkins (Lange), Kay Brooks (Judkins), LaVerne Blaschke (Dysart), Shellie Bowman (Liles)

At 11:30, committee members convened in Suite 700 of The Petroleum Club for the lunch buffet. Upon entering, a side room was set up specifically for the group. A packet of various menu offerings for Dinner Buffet Selections, Hors d'oeuvres Packages, Banquet Hosted Bar Information, Banquet Pay As You Go Bar Information, as well as Rental Equipment Information, Preferred Vendors Listing, and possible seating charts were at each place setting. Prices were included in the information.

Butch gave each member a copy of the minutes from the last meeting for members to peruse prior to the beginning of the meeting, which began after those who partook in the buffet had finished eating.

Butch stated the goal of the meeting was to lock in our menu choices, so that Rick Sartor could present a budget at the next meeting for the reunion based on our choices. In turn we could decide on offerings of scholarships for those who would want to attend the Saturday night event, but could not afford it. We all agreed that we did not want someone not attending because money was a barrier. It was decided that a message would be posted on our website inviting those who wanted to request financial assistance in the form of a scholarship, remaining anonymous, except to Butch or Jennifer Z. We would also post a place on the website for classmates to make monetary donations.

Vandy inquired about reunion attendance statistics. Butch presented the past attendance statistics. The committee felt like the Saturday night venue would be similar to that of the 40th reunion in 2010, estimating approximately 140. LaVerne asked about other 50th reunions from previous classes. There are no current statistics on hand, but Butch will get figures from Ken Pearce from the class of '69 this fall.

While Steve and Butch were summoning the catering director, Joseph Camero, the remaining committee members had a discussion about the menu options. The overall consensus, once Butch & Steve returned, was to have heavy hors d'oeuvres in lieu of a dinner buffet. Paula proposed the reunion is about visiting with classmates, not eating. A motion was made by Jennifer Zimmerle and seconded by Jennifer Harris to go with The Derricks menu consisting of hot selections of Bistro Beef Tender with carver, rolls and condiments, artichoke dip served with parmesan French bread slices, sesame chicken strips with orange marmalade sauce, bacon wrapped scallops in BBQ sauce, Swedish meatballs, Spanakopita. Cold selections consists of miniature petit fours including chocolate covered strawberries, miniature fruit tarts and éclairs, carved watermelon basket with fresh fruits, crab dip with party breads and crackers, assorted cubed cheese with fruit and smoked sausage, with an ice tea and water station.

The cost of this selection of menu items is \$39 per person. This does not include tip, gratuity and additional costs associated with reunion. Menu changes must be made 10 days prior to the event and the final head count needs to be submitted three (3) days prior to the event. Steve stated that the menu needs to be set by the end of 2019 to insure we are not affected by possible price increases on January 1.

Once Joseph Camero was present, he answered some of the concerns the committee had surrounding the included seating charts. We all agreed that we would prefer to have different food stations, bistro tables, and chairs around the room, making more room for mingling. We would have access to the main rooms as well as the bar (which seats approximately 60 additional people at tables) and one room at the grill (which seats approximately 20 at tables). Joseph said this was doable.

The committee also decided on a pay-as-you-go cash bar. There will be two bars, one in the main room, and one in the bar room. A couple of servers will be available to circulate through the crowd.

With input from Joseph about hours, it was decided the event would begin at 7:00 p.m., food would be served from 7:30-9:30, and the function would conclude at 11 p.m.

Questions that arose:

Vandy inquired about the number of handicapped parking spaces. Joseph stated that there are 9 around the perimeter of the building.

Butch asked about an ice sculpture. Joseph said it typically costs between \$350 and \$450. Others felt this was not a needed item.

Connie asked when a deposit from the class was needed. Joseph stated that 25% is due 30 days prior to the event.

Shellie asked about the linens to be used. We all wanted blue & white. Joseph said there would be white cotton linens with blue table aprons and blue cloth napkins.

A discussion ensued about attire. Paula mentioned that although the club has a dress code, we shouldn't have to be too formal as it makes for a stuffy atmosphere. Connie motioned that we accept Business Casual as appropriate attire for the function. Steve seconded the motion.

Another discussion about entertainment began. Steve inquired about the Cone Sisters as they are MacArthur grads. Joseph said they typically charge between \$2000 and \$2500. We thought a DJ would be acceptable. Steve knows of one who charges around \$750. We decided entertainment is a discussion for another meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next meeting is set for Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at Chester's at the entrance to Hollywood Park.