

## BCCHS Class of 1965 Reunion

### A good time was had by all!

The September Battle Creek High School Class of 1965 50 Year Reunion attracted more than 100 of our classmates, many spouses and friends. And “Oh What a Night” – and several days – it was!

After the reunion, a survey was sent via the BCCHS Class of 1965 website to get feedback and advice from our classmates. The Reunion Committee thanks you sincerely for the survey responses about the three-day event. Comments from classmates will help us plan more – and even better – events in the future.

We’d like to share some significant information from the recent reunion survey – and thank all of our classmates for making this such a wonderful event!

### What did classmates like most about the reunion?

Reconnecting with classmates and spending time together after all these years was a recurring survey theme. The events of the weekend were praised by many who completed the survey for variety, planning and organization.

The Friday night mixer set the stage:

“It was a huge success getting to see old classmates and friends in an informal setting.”

“Getting to talk with everyone at the mixer on Friday night. Loved the informality of the affair.”

We all especially liked going back to school:

“Loved the tour of BC Central as it is now.”

“The tour of the new additions to BCCHS was a highlight.”

The dinner-dance at the Battle Creek Country Club garnered a lot of praise:

“This was a great selection for the venue.”

“Though I admit that at the outset I was not interested in the dinner, I am so glad I changed my mind. It was great!”

“I spent a lot of time looking at the old photos displayed at the Saturday evening event. It was a super nostalgia trip for me.

Brunch at Clara’s seemed the perfect ending to a wonderful weekend:

“Great opportunity to converse with friends to understand what happened in their lifetime. The breakfast was great as we were able to sit and converse in adequate light and quiet with the opportunity to move from table to table.”

The #1 appeal was the people!

“Reconnecting with old friends and classmates and making some new friends.”

“Everyone I connected with seemed to be genuinely having a good time.”

“Simply seeing some old faces 50 years later.”

The Website and the photographer also earned praise:

“Thought the committee did an outstanding job in making all the information about the reunion obtainable. The Website was a big help in doing that.”

“Although I was unable to attend, I have reconnected with some friends through the Website and have enjoyed the Website very much.”

“The photographer attending all the functions and saving some wonderful memories in pictures.”

### **What did classmates like least about the reunion?**

Some of us couldn't find anything to complain about:

"There was nothing I didn't like." "They don't come often enough!"

Loud venues don't seem to appeal to us these days:

"The noise level at the mixer. The acoustics were terrible; we had to shout to be heard, and it was difficult to hear what was being said. We have a lot of 'older' people who are not so good with their hearing so this was a real turn-off."

The date wasn't the best for some of us:

"What I liked least was the particular weekend – Labor Day. Holiday weekend didn't make sense to me as almost everyone is retired and it just made travel more expensive and/or crowded."

Do we need even more days?

"Not having enough time to mingle with everyone."

"It was too short. Did not get to meet everyone I once knew."

We also would like people identified better:

"Didn't like not having nametags at each event – needed reminders of who everyone was."

### **If you didn't attend this year's reunion, what would have enticed you to attend?**

It was a bad weekend for many with vacation plans and family get-togethers. Several didn't like it on a holiday weekend. And there were a few who said: "Nothing really."

### **Specifically, what makes you return to the website now that the 50-Year Reunion is over?**

Many of us just like to stay in touch:

"To see pictures and further postings from friends and classmates."

"It's fun!" "Nostalgia."

"It's just an amazing opportunity to continue following up on classmates. I let far too much time go by."

We like to be connected with those who played an important part in our lives:

"I like being able to keep up a little with classmates and friends. The whole experience has awakened memories that had faded into the background."

"Love to read the comments, see the pics, etc."

"It is a nice way for keeping in touch."

"I think since we've reconnected, it's more meaningful to keep in touch and see our journeys in life."

"To keep in touch with my classmates that I've now reunited with. Thank you for that."

And we want to make sure we don't miss out on news:

"Want to see if there's going to be another reunion in five more years."

"I enjoy seeing what happens to our classmates."

"I really enjoy this website just to see what our classmates have been up to."

"Like to see what everyone is up to, what they're doing in retirement, where they are, etc."

### **Is there anything else you would like to add concerning any aspect of the reunion, website, etc.?**

Committee members really appreciate the thanks so many classmates offered and the suggestions for what comes next!

Here are a few of the ideas:

“Is there a way we can keep this reunion website open?” (Yes! **Fees have been paid through August 2027.**)

“We should have been given our nametags with our pictures on them at the mixer and told to wear them to all events. Hand-written ones were tacky, and some were difficult to read when written by the individual.”

“I was not happy with the photographer, and now that I have seen the pictures, I’m glad I didn’t buy the memory book. How do you know who is who? She took a lot of candid shots, but none of the people are named.”

“I would like to have newsletter on the website and/or emailed out each month. Maybe we could do some ‘classmates of the month’ interviews and some feature articles.”

“Believe we should have reunions fairly frequently now that most all are retired, and age will begin to limit many.”

“If we don’t have another reunion for 10 more years, that will put all of us around the age of 78. Maybe we should schedule a “football game” – allowing “walkers,” of course.”

“The afternoon car show/get-together was fun but not well attended. Too bad” Expand on that idea – add dinner, pipe in some oldies, see what happens.”

“How about having a Southeastern reunion?” Or any junior high reunions for that matter.

“Think the idea of state or regional reunions has been mentioned – great idea for those who might not want to travel so far.”

Again, thanks so much for your feedback. Going forward your ideas will be important as to what happens next.

One person who responded summed up the reunion experience succinctly: “Thank you for letting us feel ‘18’ again!”

And we can’t end without a classmate’s comment that really sums up how so many viewed our 50-year reunion: “I want to thank everyone who had a hand in the planning and execution of this great event. It was one of the highlights of the year – no, my life!!! Such great memories!”