

Dear Classmates,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am reaching out at this time to announce an exciting event that will take place on Saturday June 22nd of this year. As you know, when we have a class reunion we see primarily only people from the Class of '82. Yet we had relationships with members of other classes whether it be through school studies, extracurricular activities, outside teams or clubs or merely through neighbor, religious or work affiliations. Therefore in order to provide an opportunity to catch up with these other special schoolmates, I have reached out and received commitments from the Classes of '80, '81, '83, '84 and '85 to promote attendance at our event. Specifically, we will be having FM Palooza at Heritage Hill Brewhouse & Kitchen at Palladino Farms in Pompey, NY. They offer their own micro brewery featuring award winning craft beers, farm fresh food including barbeque, picturesque vistas from multiple patios and outdoor decks and a stage for a live band. Check out their website to learn about their unique central New York tied-in menu. The band Zero Point Zero has been booked and will be playing much of the music we grew up with from 5:00-8:00. Dance into the night or just sing along as they play some of your favorite "oldies". The festivities will begin at 4:00 pm and run until 10:00 pm. The evening will include a few other special activities, so I hope you will make every effort to attend this one time gathering and that you will help spread the word.

This event will take place almost two years to the day from one of our most celebrated class events - the Class of '82 flash mob. If you have not seen it yet I would invite you to go to the FM Class of '82 website and click on 2017 Reunion.

On the subject of class reunions, at the close of our 35th at the Yellow Brick Road Casino, I announced plans for a destination reunion for our 40th - a Caribbean Cruise out of Florida in February of 2022. The thought was what a truly memorable time we could spend together and with 5 years notice people could plan it as a vacation and moreover, would have ample opportunity to save up for such a special trip. Also, such a reunion would appease those who have requested a site other than the Syracuse area as we have done for our 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th and 35th and afford those who travel from throughout the country a new and unique meeting place. In addition, this would address those who have raised objections to the June scheduling. Also, the plain truth is that at our last reunion held in the confines of Syracuse, Fayetteville, Manlius and Chittenango an inordinate number of local classmates did not join us - many of whom I personally contacted. In fact, at our Poker Run we only had 27 participants and that number included spouses and children.

I have since heard various concerns raised and to all those I say - no worries. I know that a cruise does not appeal to everyone and the plan has been to have an alternate for those who can't or choose not to attend the cruise. For those non-seafarers there will be a local traditional gathering. I have asked Sara Peschel-Testa and Gwen Pearson-Noone to chair that event and they have graciously accepted. I am asking them to set the dates, place and itinerary and we will then put out the information, as we will for the cruise, through our class website, facebook, email blasts and newspaper announcements. The hope is that people will attend both - a kind of surf and turf approach. There does not need to be any negativity, angst or cynicism involving our class reunions ...there is enough of that in our world today. The intentions are to reassemble, share laughs, recall stories and forge new memories. Certainly no one is required to attend but I personally invite and welcome each and every one of you to be a part of a once in a lifetime destination reunion as well as what I'm sure will be a terrific affair later in 2022 in our old backyard.

In the meantime I would encourage you to partake this summer in our FM Palooza. Until then, be well.

Kerry