

Summary of MIT 57 Reunion Committee Meeting, Friday, September 15, 2006

The Committee met at 10:30 AM in the Small Dining Room of the MIT Religious Activities Center, W11. Attending were:

Co-chairs: Bill Salmon and Art Bergles

Committee members: Dick Burse, Nelson Disco, Jay Hammerness, Martin Zombeck, Ron Keefe

Guest: Bruce Blanchard, for part of the meeting

Alumni Association staff: Robert Dimmick

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES:

- MIT will provide buses for all campus activities: buses from the Hyatt and near McCormick for Baker House to events, including dinner Friday at Durgin-Park.
- Hyatt Regency Cambridge rooming list: Robert circulated the current reservation list and stated that one 07 Commencement parent's reservation already had been removed. Art Bergles noted that his reservation, made via the web, was not included on the list; Robert agreed to follow up with the Hyatt.
- Hyatt will provide all signs appropriate for the 57 Hospitality Suite location (Revere Room), Post-Pops reception (Riverfront Room - first floor), and Sunday brunch (Spinnaker Room top floor).
- Pre-Pops Buffet Dinner: A menu (entrees salmon and beef) was established for the Pre-Pops Buffet Dinner at Symphony Hall (price \$72).
- Post-Pops Dessert Reception: It was confirmed that the Riverfront Room at the Hyatt would be used for the Post-Pops Dessert Reception, as it was on the first floor (no one would need to use the elevators or escalators) and the space was sufficiently large for 200 people (price \$20) (NOTE change from 2nd floor Zephyr Room.)
- Commencement Exercises: Six Alumni Association staff members will be assigned to accompany the class before and during the Commencement Exercises. Spouses/guests will be seated as a group behind the class. When the class is excused from Commencement by the MIT President, people may leave at their convenience for the Commencement Luncheon. The web site needs to make clear that each 57 attendee receives 2 tickets for the commencement, of which one is for the attendee.
- Commencement Luncheon at Lobdell Court in Stratton building: This will be a pre-plated, seated lunch, not buffet. There will be a registration table for people to have their names checked when they arrive. Robert will ensure that the menu is different from the Technology Day Luncheon. The Class Meeting will be held during or just after lunch, and the class pictures will be taken thereafter on the Kresge steps.
- The Stata Center program will begin at 3:00 PM (and end about 4:30 PM), as the Centers auditorium will be used until that time as a remote TV site of the commencement. Robert will follow up to ensure that all details are taken care of.
- The Friday night dinner is currently aimed at Durgin-Park from 7:00 - 10:30 PM, with one of 4 entrees available for selection at the table and within the price of \$67. Bus service returning to MIT will begin at 9:00 PM and the last bus will leave at 10:30 PM. Those unable to walk upstairs will need to sit on the first floor/bar area; the Reunion Committee will ensure that there are about 30 -40 people eating in that area. Robert will

report more fully on contractual issues with Durgin-Park, including minimum number, date to confirm minimum or drop commitment.

- Robert reviewed the Saturday, Technology Day, schedule. The Committee needs to inform the class about Course Open House opportunities (usually offered on Friday afternoon). If additional such sessions are desired, it will be necessary for the interested classmates to make arrangements with their faculty contacts.
- Saturday Night Dinner Dance: Dick Burse stressed the tight budget and encouraged that this event be a party. Dress will be the Red Jacket, not black tie. The menu, cash bar, and band arrangements were noted. Ninety bottles, 8 cases of wine are needed. Art called Frank Mitchell '57, who has a vineyard in Oregon, but Frank is unable to get a deal on wine for the Gala. Discussion on wines resulted in a commitment from Martin Zombeck and Bill Salmon to follow up with their respective connections to Dave Stare '62 of Dry Creek Vineyards. Failing such arrangements, Art Bergles and others will conduct a wine tasting at the Faculty Club later this year. The current wine budget is \$2100, which needs to include the \$6 per bottle corkage fee for wines from outside the Faculty Club.
- Reunion Row: Aurelio Conchoso '57, an "early responder" to the save-the-date card, and Art Bergles will work on collecting a 57 boat. The Row begins at about 8 AM for spectators. It is expected to be finished by 9 AM.
- Sunday Brunch: The Sunday Brunch will be 10 AM - 1 PM in the Spinnaker Room, top floor of the Hyatt.

OTHER ITEMS

- Status of Class Lists: Robert circulated a class directory sorted by Alumni Association electoral district, as requested by Art Bergles. Robert will circulate additional lists (deceased, lost, full class, etc.) for the reunion book. Art noted that work on the directory is still needed; each time the list is run, there is a different total number of classmates. The maximum deviation appears to be 60.
- October Letter: A draft letter, including the red jacket order form and a list of missing classmates, will be mailed in mid-October. Martin will request brochures from the Cliff House to include in a mailing. Robert will request brochures from Durgin-Park. Bill and Art will review the draft and respond to Robert.
- Additional Mailings: The full class will receive a letter in January, registration materials in mid-March, a confirmation mailing to each after they register, and e-mail communication.
- Pocket Schedule: Robert agreed to provide, a pocket-sized reunion schedule with the campus events and bus schedules. It will be in the registration packet along with name badge and sleeve.
- Class Telephone Plan: Art and George Moy will engage a telephone tree and contact all the active members of the class (who have addresses, ~600), by phone (if possible). This effort will begin at once with the recruitment of district leaders, who will then recruit additional callers. Robert, George, and Art will draft talking points for the callers.
- Special Guests: Bill Salmon will invite Paul Gray '54 to sit with the Class of 1957 at the Pops. Robert will provide the list of 1957 Professors and Scholars, to see what would be feasible for inviting some/all to a 57 reunion event, particularly the Friday luncheon.

MIT President Susan Hockfield will spend time with the class at the reception she hosts in their honor on Saturday night.

- Reunion Book: Martin circulated several different designs for the 50th reunion book cover, as well as historical content (e.g. Commencement speeches, etc.) to be included. The reunion book response form will be included in the October letter. Julian Cherubini will be printing the reunion book gratis, while Martin will create it on CD.
- Martin explained his proposed questionnaire; a voluntary, anonymous, form which would become data for a summary. Some Committee members stated they would not answer some of his proposed questions as they thought such was not anyone else's business. It was left to Martin to compose his questionnaire taking into account the views expressed and using his good judgment.
- Brass Rat Souvenir: The committee agreed that the brass rat paperweight be the reunion souvenir. This item has been for most classes the normal 25th reunion souvenir, but has not yet been used by 57.
- Reunion Hat: Several different "bucket" or fishermen's hats were shown. The gray hat with two bands of red piping was agreed, with the new MIT logo and 57 embroidered in front.
- Red Jacket: Robert circulated red jacket order forms to the committee, which will be included in the October letter. When scanned, Martin will be able to put the form on the class web site.
- Robert will loan the 57 banner for use at the Cliff House. It must be returned for the Friday morning parade.

CLIFF HOUSE RETREAT

- Jay prepared and presented, and will have at the Cliff House reception area, a double-poster map of the area on both sides of Cliff House with blow-ups of attractions and ties to their location. Brochures will be available at a reception table with sign-up sheets intended to help formation of groups for activities (boat ride, fishing, golf, etc.).
- Tuesday night dinner (Cape Neddick Lobster Pound clambake) price is \$40 and Wednesday dinner (Cliff House) is \$65
- Nametags: The Alumni Association will provide nametags and sleeves for the retreat.
- Events: The two dinner events will be on the registration form sent by the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association will then receive the final master bill from the Cliff House for payment. Classmates are responsible for reserving their rooms directly with the Cliff House. A list of those who had paid for their dinner tickets will be sent both to the Cliff House and to Martin after the cancellation deadline has passed.
- Information on rental cars, buses, and taxis will be on the class retreat web site. , as well as directions from Logan Airport via shuttles and commuter rail.

ACTION ITEMS:

Art Bergles:

- Send Robert his Hyatt confirmation
- Continue recruiting district captains and callers with George Moy

- Keep an eye on the wine for Saturday night

Bill Salmon:

- Work with Robert to find appropriate agent for hat purchase
- Contact Dave Stare '62, Dry Creek Winery, for wine for Saturday Gala dinner.

Martin Zombeck:

- Send Robert 700 Cliff House brochures for reunion mailing
- Send Robert Cape Neddick Lobster Pound contract for payment by MIT.

Dick Burse:

- Work with Robert on all aspects of the Gala, particularly contracting with a vendor to take care of the lighting.
- Revisit Gala budget
- Schedule tasting of entire menu at MIT Faculty Club for autumn

Jay Hammerness

- Contact three potential calling district captains, and report results.

Nelson Disco:

- Select class marshals for Commencement procession by March 1.
- Organize Class Meeting for Friday lunch time

Robert Dimmick:

- Correct Art Bergles' Hyatt reservation
- Find out why Martin Zombeck's addresses are getting mixed up in the database
- Confirm Spinnaker is location for Sunday brunch
- Confirm menu for Commencement Luncheon
- Scan red jacket form for web site
- Revisit all elements of reunion budget
- Circulate class directory to reunion committee, total alphabetical, not sorted.

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