



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1967

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Classmates --

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HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all! The start of a new year is traditionally a time when we tend to reflect on the year just ending and do some thinking and planning for the new year starting. I have heard from a few classmates recently with some updates and scoured Facebook for some others. Here is what some of our classmates are up to.

From **Philip Pearson**. This was quite a year for traveling as I went on four major trips and three minor ones. I got to 3 continents, 25 countries, and 27 states along with 18.5 national parks and much of Route 66. The trip to Antarctica in February was full of penguins, whales, seals, and the most amazing scenery ever. Then I was able to see three national parks in Argentina and Chile on the way back. The drive along Route 66 in the spring was great, along with detours to see 15.5 US national parks. I went to the west rim of the Grand Canyon which is tribal land and not part of the national park. It is however part of the Grand Canyon so that is why I count that as half of a national park. The others were: Crater Lake, Redwoods, Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Capital Reef, Arches, Canton Lands, Guadalupe Mountains, White Sands, Carlsbad Caverns, Gateway Arch, Bad Lands, and Theodore Roosevelt National parks. In August I went to my ninth and tenth Canadian Provinces – Quebec and Newfoundland/Labrador. The fourth big trip was a 28-day cruise in the Caribbean in November. The little islands in the Caribbean were more interesting than I thought they might be. Plus, the cruise line (Windstar) was outstanding. It was a small ship with a maximum of only 312 passengers. We started at St. Maarten and finished in Aruba during the 28 days. As for the small trips, I was in Oregon for ten days at summer encampment for Civil Air Patrol, went to see friends in Reno for a week, and had the privilege of going on an Honor Flight to Washington, DC in October. There were Korean vets and 41 Vietnam vets on the Honor Flight. And yes, I have four big trips planned for 2024: South America (Galapagos, Machu Pichu), Europe (Portugal, Sweden, Finland),



southern Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia), and Australia.

From **Rick Helm**. I am officially and actually retired, after fifty years, as of New Year's Day! I continue as a field editor for Muskie Magazine but have retired from active pursuit of muskies - too strenuous at my age. Other fish are still fair game. I have fishing trips booked for June (Michigan) and August (back to Minnesota for the 27th year on Lake Vermilion. I remain active in my Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge, and Shrine Club. I got lucky and arranged for Eric Statler (major gift officer at Wabash) to give a program for my Kiwanis Club 7 weeks ago. He enlightened them as to the state of higher education in the country, in Indiana, and how Wabash fits in all of it. We compare nicely to Earlham and DePauw in Indiana. And hold up well in a challenging environment generally. My older grandson is a junior at Wabash, younger grandson a freshman at Butler, oldest granddaughter will attend Trine next year; other two granddaughters are still deciding their future education in a few more years.

(From a FB post) **Ron Sheese**. I took a short road trip. My first stop was in Welland followed by a drive along Lake Erie's southern shore. Today I stopped by the History of Psychology Museum in Akron, only to discover it closed. But I did spend a few minutes at the University of Akron's Student Centre. I extended my road trip to Crawfordsville, Indiana, I met up with a former house mate (Bill Cook '66) from our student days and a current Wabash professor.



"Jane Hardy and I are here in the Wabash library. I met Jane in Shanghai when she and her husband were both teaching in the same summer program as I was. She is a Professor of Spanish at Wabash."

From **John Sturman**. We have put deeper roots in Claremont CA since relocating in 2020, joining Claremont Heritage and Lewis Claremont Museum of Art. We celebrate our third Christmas here. We are discovering the rich artistic history of Claremont in modern art in the 1940-50's. We continue to attend the LA Philharmonic and A Noise Within (a Pasadena theater). We maintained our annual streak in Canada at the Stratford Theatre Festival. We traveled there via Indianapolis outbound, and Culver inbound, to visit friends and family. We saw wonderful productions of *Rent* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. The best production was *Frankenstein Revisited*, done wordlessly in mime and music to tell the story of the Monster. We were challenged by a production of *Richard II* placed in New York in the 1970's with King Richard modeled on Little

Richard! John attended his 60th North Central High School Reunion in October—a sizable number of Stage Crew and Drama folks returned. Other travels inside California include wine tasting in Anderson Valley of Mendocino County in April and in Paso Robles in October. John continues working part-time at Total Wine & More in Pasadena with growing expertise in wine and spirits. He has completed level 2 Service Training and conducts Friday wine tastings. He continues as a lay eucharistic minister and has been elected to the church vestry of St. Ambrose.



John is constructing his garden model railroad in F3 scale, 1:20.3. Track extends along the south and west sides of the house, loosely based on the Pacific Coast Railroad which served the California Central Coast 1880-1930. Track extends through the fence into the front yard, makes a loop and returns to the back yard for another loop. A locomotive and a few cars are already to go. It has been very satisfying to construct a model railroad on my own. after years of wishing and planning. Professional practice and family life did not leave much time for model railroading before. Now this bucket list item is being checked off.

Phil Coons posted a picture on Facebook that went back to our freshman years. Here is the Beta Theta Pi pledge class from that era. Check out all those well-dressed young guys!



From **Ed Cook**. All is well in SW Indiana. No news is good news, right? Our only plan is to get back out to Napa for our 25th anniversary celebration in March. I've heard that flying is an adventure again so we have that to look forward to. We took Amtrak out and back in 2014 with mixed reviews. The scenery in the Rockies and Sierra Nevadas was spectacular but the rest of the trip was flat earth for miles and miles. Once was enough.

A quick note from **Bill Fye**. "I will be leaving Cincinnati after Christmas and heading to Florida for a few months. If you're in the Sarasota area, please let me know."

(That makes me wonder if there are any other snowbirds down in Florida for the winter? Might be a possible meeting place to catch up with old friends?)

Also a quick note from **Gene Snipes**.

We're mostly well here, occasional cold or other doctor visit. Marsha's step-mom passed about a year ago so we inherited 24 acres next door. We now have 40 acres, all trees except where small yard and garden are cleared. With the trees there is no mowing or other work involved, just watching the deer, turkeys, coyotes, foxes and other wildlife. We've traveled some, ski trip to West Virginia, Colorado to visit grand daughters, Minnesota on a fishing trip, Mexico over Thanksgiving. Hope to repeat in 2024.

On my homefront, we are about halfway through the construction of our new house in Holly Ridge NC, hoping to move in early summer. In the meantime we are continuing to foster dogs for Caring Hearts for Canines. Given that we are now about 175 miles from the rescue facility, we have changed our efforts from individual dogs to fostering momma dogs with litters. That way we have them for 6-8 weeks until the puppies are weaned and can be made available for adoption. Since moving to our current rental house, we have had two sets of fosters. The first was a momma and eleven puppies! That was a challenge. The most recent was a momma and six puppies. Happily, the owner of the house we are renting is a dog lover and has allowed us to set up pens in the garage to accommodate the dogs. Fostering litters rapidly increases our total number of dogs fostered - now standing at 162!

As you can see from the above, there are several recurring themes in classmate activities as we all move into our late seventies – travel, family, reconnecting with friends, hobbies, community involvement, Wabash connections, and bucket lists. So – what are some of the rest of you doing these days and what are you focusing on? We would really like to hear from you. As an aside, for you Wordle fans out there, there is also a New York Times daily game called "connections" – check it out for a daily mental challenge.

Let us hear from you. And may 2024 be a great year for you!

WAF,
Earl