

Classmates and Ladies of the Class:

I am pleased to report to you the results from our recent survey of your interest in the location and timing of our 60th reunion in 2017. In it, we explained our thinking that you may be sufficiently interested in a reunion hosted at the Thayer hotel that you would want to forego the traditional graduation week reunion and its particular activities. You will recall that we asked you to make selections from five possibilities: 1) the traditional graduation week, 2) an early Spring weekend, 3) midweek in the Spring, 4) a Fall weekend when there was no home football game, and 5) midweek in the Fall. We explained that the graduation week choice would most likely entail engaging, as in the past, a New Jersey or New York hotel as reunion central, while for the other options we would use the Thayer.

One hundred eighty four of you responded, with 139 indicating you planned to attend, which allowed you to record your preferences and present your comments. Those comments were very helpful; they were uniformly well-thought out, they were serious, and they gave the Board a good appreciation of your sentiments.

The votes were fairly well distributed and there was no overwhelming support for any option. However, our analysis revealed a certain consensus that encouraged the Board to reach a decision. Here are some highlights of the numbers. In expressing your first choices, 32% of you picked graduation week, while early Spring and mid-week Spring were second and third at 21% and 19% respectively (a total of 40% for some time in the Spring). The two Fall options were well behind as first choices. Interestingly, while graduation week scored reasonably high as the first choice, it also garnered by far the greatest number of last place choices (a full 45%). The Board interpreted this finding as further evidence of interest in a reunion at the Thayer.

We then reviewed your comments, and your words supported the voting stats; you wanted to stay at the Thayer in the springtime. You also showed interest in being able to see one more cadet parade. Consequently, we concluded that the best choice was the weekend that overlaps the Academy's Retiree Open House event (which includes the only springtime parade). It is currently on the long range calendar for April 29th. While it may be subject to change, the event has been historically held on the last Saturday in April or the first in May.

We are not breaking new ground here. The Classes of '53 and '54 have both scheduled the retiree event weekend for their 60th reunions, and both will use the Thayer. As we explained in our initial letter, our plan is contingent on making suitable arrangements with the Thayer. Should we fail, however, we will revert to the traditional graduation week. We are cautiously optimistic; the hotel has begun advertising for class reunions, and '53 and '54 are pleased with their contracts.

Thank you for your help; we look forward to commencing our planning.

On to 2017!

Paul