



## **Class of 1976**

Classmates,

Well...

Just when we thought we'd lived long enough to see everything... along comes a global pandemic that puts our 45th reunion AND OUR LIVES at risk! Life just keeps getting more interesting, doesn't it?

With all the new things we encounter as we grow older, sometimes it's fun and even reassuring to look backwards. There's something about connecting with the people we grew up with that stirs memories and gives us perspective. Indeed, many of us cherish the opportunity to see each other in person and to share memories and stories of our lives, both old and new.

And by the way, we do this in spite of our differences! Because we certainly have them... all you have to do is spend a few minutes on Facebook to know that our personal/political disagreements are being magnified and even exploited as we broadcast them to the world. The fact is that we have all kinds of people in the class of '76... and in the spirit of the late, great George Carlin (and at the risk of offending just about everyone)... let's take a minute to list some of them!

Yep, the class of '76 has laborers, professionals, business owners, retirees and politicians. We have gay, straight, bi and trans. We have single, married, divorced, remarried (some several times), cohabitating, widowed and team-switched! We have hypocritical, not-so-hypocritical and way-too-fundamental fundamentalists, practicing and non-practicing catholics, devout and culturally-converted muslims, wicked and not-so-wicked wiccans, agnostics and yes, Ron-Reagan-loving atheists! We have carnivores, vegetarians, pescatarians (what in the hell is that anyway?) and vegans! We have gun-toting, Capitol-insurgency, right-wing neo-fascists and left-leaning, Sweden-loving, socially-socialized socialists! We have conservative nationalists, liberal globalists and classmates who don't know and/or care what either of those mean! We have Trump-Haters, Trump-Lovers, Never-Trumpers and Ever-Trumpers! Mon Dieu! Who knew we were so different?!

BUT... We all have something in common. We are all CLASSMATES! And, at least for one night every five years... we put our differences aside and share our love of having grown up and come of age together. We look to connect with old friends, and even some we weren't close to in school. Yep, that guy you thought was a scary jackass (warning... he might still be) or that girl you couldn't bring yourself to talk to because she was gorgeous (warning... she might not still be) or that stud/studette you thought was your future husband/wife (might just be gay now...) Yep, all of them just might be there. And thank God.

For the truth is, at least for the last few reunions, we've learned that we all have some things in common that make it easier to connect... you know like kids that drive us nuts, wrinkles, weight-gain, gray or absolutely no hair... that's check, check, check, check and check for me. And! The truth is that we don't care what anyone looks like anymore.

Wait, that's not entirely true. Anybody know why Tammie McKenzie still looks like she did in high school? Or, how did Tony Carelli grow up to be such a stud? And how is it possible that after 30 years as a politician and even more as a lawyer does Craig Chessler still have hair and it's not gray? (Yeah Craig, we want to know.) So ok, some of these mysteries do enter the mind. But I digress...

For the most part... we focus more on talking, sharing and laughing about our lives, both past and present. We remember classes, teachers, sports, dances and even fights. We remember the jocks, the theatre people, the speech people, the secretarial block (hotties...), the cheerleaders, the wigs and the burnouts. (Should wigs/burnouts be one category?) Yep, some of us wish we hadn't smoked pot back then and some of us wish we had smoked more! But again, I digress...

At the end of the night, some of us hug like it's our first 7th grade slow dance. And yes, that may cause our spouses/partners to interrogate us on the way home. Why do you think we only do this once every five years?

But one feeling is typically universal. At the end of each get-together, it feels like there just wasn't enough time... And for some of us, sadly time does run out before the next reunion. Yes, we seem to lose a few more classmates every year, and unfortunately, the pace isn't likely to slow going forward.

So... members of the class of '76... it's time once again to dust off the treadmill, invest wisely in the latest fad diet, cinch up those tight pants, shine up your face and rally the troops for yet another reunion before it's all over! And for those of you who might not be feeling it... I leave you with the immortal words of Bluto from Animal House...

*What? Over? Did you say over? Nothing is over until we decide it is! Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor?! Hell no! Who's with me? Let's goooooo!*

What: 45th Class Reunion  
When: August 28, 2021  
Time: 6:30 - 11:30  
Where: Bison Street Burgers & Brews  
1409 Bison Ave NW, Massillon 44647 [Map](#)  
  
Cost: Order from Menu, Optional Pasta Bar \$15  
  
RSVP: [Click This Link!](#)  
  
VISIT: Our Class Website at [www.phs1976.com](http://www.phs1976.com).  
VIEW: Information on living and deceased classmates, events, etc.  
UPDATE: Your contact information  
SHARE: As much or as little as you like (non-commercial site)

We are also planning a casual get-together in the new [Centennial Plaza](#) area of downtown Canton Friday evening the 27th. For venue pics and up-to-date information, please check our new class website at [www.phs1976.com](http://www.phs1976.com).