

Another Link in the Chain
Induction Day Gouge for the Class of 1973
June 27th, 2019
(current as of March 2019)

Hello again, Classmates.

For your planning purposes and general information, here is the latest on our I-Day engagement with the families of the Class of '23 and the Class itself.

I respectfully request your participation in the day's events. Whether you are local to the Annapolis area or making a long pilgrimage back to The Yard, your engagement with the families of '23 and the new Class itself will be the first opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment as the senior Class to our Alma Mater, the Plebes, and each other.

Also, our spouses are part of all this. As much as they are willing and able, they too are especially welcomed.

A heads-up ... I-Day is very different from our experience 50 years ago.

We are also planning time for us to gather at the conclusion of I-Day's official events. June 27th offers us a distinctive occasion to enjoy our half century of Brotherhood and to recall the first commitment we made as a class on June 30th, 1969. We'll only get to do this once.

Here is the Plan of the Day for I-Day, June 27th, 2019:

Event 1 – Expo and Picnic at Hospital Point

Families of the Class of 2023 gather at Hospital Point (or Dahlgren Hall if there is foul weather) as their soon-to-be Plebes process in throughout the day. This is a large event, with over a thousand people. The Expo goes from 0930 to 1400. We will have a station available for us (two 6 foot tables) at the Expo. **Will need volunteers to help set-up our station and be ready for business NLT 0900.**

Our tasks at the Expo and Picnic:

- **Engagement:** The primary task of the day is to interact with the families of the Class of '23. Mix and mingle and tell them everything will be ok for their sons and daughters. **If you have ball caps, polo shirts, et cetera with our Class logo, please wear them.**
- **Man the station:** As mentioned, we will have a station set up for our Class at the Expo. We can set up a display of memorabilia from our time as Mids – pictures, Lucky Bags, the '73 flag, Logs, ... whatever draws people to our station and generates their interest and engagement with us. **Volunteers are needed to bring their memorabilia and decorate**

the table with our stuff, and to man a shift at the station throughout the event.

- **Enjoy the I-Day Picnic:** The Picnic goes from 1100 to 1400. Our Class has made a generous contribution to help sponsor this event, so there is no charge for us and our guests to enjoy the chow line. We'll need a headcount. Wrist bands are supposed to be issued. **Let me know if you will be attending and how many will be with you.**
- **Address to families of '23:** During welcoming remarks by the Alumni Association, we have a three minute slot to welcome parents and talk about ourselves and our commitment to the Class of '23. **Our Class President will represent us.**

Event 2 – the Swearing In Ceremony

The Swearing In Ceremony is at 1800 in T-Court. While the essentials are the same, it is very different from our relatively simple induction. It's quite impressive for its pomp and ceremony.

Our tasks at the Swearing In Ceremony:

- **Witness the Induction of the Class of '23:** All of us are invited and encouraged to witness the Induction at T-Court. We do have some seats reserved along the curved walkways leading up to the entrance of Bancroft. There are 10 seats (or up to five couples since our spouses are invited to sit

with us) on the Supe's side, and 50 seats (or 25 couples) on the Dant's side. These seats will be reserved for those who have volunteered to support the Expo and to those who have been serving on the Honor Coin Committee. In the event we have more volunteers than reserved seating can accommodate, we'll prioritize according to those "first to respond to the call" to volunteer.

- **Meet with unaccompanied Plebes:** Following the Swearing In, the new Plebes have a brief period to spend with their families along Stribling before they march into Bancroft and the doors slam shut. For those Plebes whose families were not able to be with them, they muster by the Mexican War Monument at the center of Stribling. We'll muster there also to congratulate and support them, and offer them the use of our cell phones to call home.

Event 3 – Class of '73 Happy Hour

After all the official I-Day events conclude, we are planning time for us all to gather locally and renew friendships and our bonds as the 50th Anniversary of our own I-Day approaches. Our Classmate Bruce Hargus has graciously taken on the planning for this. More details to follow later this spring.

Other important gouge:

Parking: Recommend parking at the stadium and taking the shuttle bus over. If you have a military ID, you can drive onto The Yard, but it will be a zoo unless you get there early enough to help set up for the EXPO. If you do not have a military ID and believe you will need regular access to The Yard, please call the Membership Coordinator at the Alumni Association at (410) 295-4000 and ask for either Cynthia or Carrie. Inform them that that you would like to apply for a "Yard access pass" and they will walk you through the process. Please be aware that this process takes some time to complete.

Uniforms of the Day:

- For the Expo and Picnic, dress for comfort. It will likely be warm and the "WBGT" high.
- For those in reserved seating for the Swearing In Ceremony, sports coat and tie is appropriate.

Registration: In order to get a good count of who will be here for the Expo and Picnic, the Swearing In Ceremony, and the Happy Hour, request you provide the following information to me and Classmate Rick Elliott (our contact info is below):

- your rank/title
- your first name
- your last name
- your service
- your spouse's name if attending
- your email address
- your cell phone number

This is a lot of info to ask, but for those who will eventually be identified for the reserved seating at the Swearing In Ceremony, the Protocol Office requires this.

Rick has graciously taken on the task of maintaining a spreadsheet of this information.

Our email addresses are:

- for Rick Elliott: richardaelliott73@gmail.com
- for Joe Stewart: jdsusn@comcast.net

Deadline: If you will be here for I-day, please RSVP NLT Monday, June 3rd, 2019 and include the requested information.

My thanks for wading through all this.

Looking forward to seeing you on I-Day.

Very respectfully and *Non Sibi*,
Joe Stewart