

BGW Family Reunion

Steering Committee Report Out



“A family that prays together, stays together”

Committee Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to develop new ideas and recommendations for the Reunion, to be voted on at the next family reunion.

Committee

Committee Members

Hank III Benita Shannon Kelli
Jennifer Allen Isaac Jr.

Committee Progress and Participation

Since the family Reunion in late June the committee has met a total of 7 times via conference call. We communicate and shared notes via the "GroupMe" app and via text.

Only 3 of the committee members have participated in most of the calls so far, (Hank, Shannon & Jennifer).

Committee Focus

The committee concentrated on 4 areas of the Reunion:

- Date
- Assessment
- Leadership structure
- Planning/Hosting city responsibilities

Note:

As you hear our recommendations, please remember that they will be discussed and voted on by the entire family.

Annual Reunion Dates

- Recommended annual Reunion dates: Weekend in **Late June or late July**. The rationale was to avoid school graduations, start of school in the fall and family vacations.
- When the weekend is selected and voted on, this weekend will remain our annual weekend until a new date is recommended and voted on by entire family (for family planning purposes).
- We considered every other year, but we feared there could be a lack of focus that could hurt attendance.

Reunion Assessment

- Currently assessment: \$200 per family.
- Suggested assessment: The committee looked at the current assessment and are satisfied with the current assessment.

Leadership

BGW Family Reunion Office holders and Committee structure

Currently the office holders of the committee: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer have unlimited terms of service.

We recommend instituting by-laws:

- Office holders serve 2-year terms but can serve multiple terms consecutively.
- Office holders of the committee are voted on at the family meeting during the family reunion.
- Office holders should be from various regions of the country and not just located in STL.

Reunion Planning

Family reunion meetings should be more accessible to people who don't live in Stl to increase participation and to make those who don't live in the area feel included and invested. This can easily be accomplished by always including a conference call number in the email communications pre-meeting.

The website should be updated so it can be utilized as a central source of information. Those who do not receive the family reunion letters should be able to go to the website to see all pertinent information, like the location, the Host Family, registration information, and where/when to make payments.

Reunion Planning

Committee should continue to set the parameters as far as the overall budget for each reunion and should share that information with the Host city.

The Host City should take on the responsibility of determining what events occur at the reunion and should be the decision makers for logistics from event venues to food served as long as it stays within the allotted budget. If the Host Family want to go over the allotted budget, they must go into their own pocket or get approval from the family reunion committee/office holders.

Reunion Planning

The Host City is still responsible for submitting their receipts to the Family Reunion Committee/office holders. The expenses must be accounted for and communicated to the family Reunion committee. Recognizing that not everyone has the same event planning experience and that we want to make sure the Reunion meets a certain level of standards, we thought we could create a “Family Reunion Tool Kit” for the Host Families.

Reunion Planning

The Family Reunion Tool Kit will include a checklist, timeline, and guidelines for the Host Family to use as they plan throughout the year. The Fam Reunion Committee should continue to send the save the date and the invites.

We think this small committee should stay alive post this year's family reunion to continue to make improvements as we try out these new ideas. This committee will meet at least 4 times a year.

Summary

- Recommended annual Reunion dates: Weekend in **Late June or late July**. The weekend selected will be the annual date until a new weekend is voted on by the entire family.
- Suggested assessment: The committee looked at the current assessment and are satisfied with the current assessment.
- Office holders serve 2-year terms but can serve multiple terms consecutively. Office holders of the committee are voted on at the family meeting during the family reunion.

Summary

- Host cities of the Family Reunion shall have complete autonomy to plan the Reunion including activities, hotel, venues and etc., as long as they stay within the budget set by the Top committee, unless they have approval from the Committee. There will be a family meeting at each Reunion. Host city will use the “Tool Kit” as a guideline for Reunion Planning for consistency.

