

# Transition out of the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Year

## A Guide for College Class Volunteers

Congratulations on completing your first reunion year! We hope you enjoyed the opportunities to connect with your classmates. While you will see increased class engagement during your reunion year, it doesn't need to stop when the reunion year ends! Programming from your reunion year might inspire your class to create new traditions or continue holding certain types of events.

While your HAA staff liaison will support your class volunteers and your class in different ways from your time in a reunion year, please know that you will still be supported, and your staff liaison will be a resource for any questions. Our separate non-reunion event support document outlines all the ways the HAA can help you with your class engagement.

This document includes helpful information as your class transitions out of a reunion year and into a non-reunion year. This will often be shared directly with the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Program Chairs and Class Committee leadership following the conclusion of the reunion.

### **Wrapping up 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

Your HAA staff liaison will hold a debrief conversation with the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Program Chairs after the reunion year concludes. These notes will be added to a class file that will be referenced when planning for your 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Any learnings or best practices will also be shared with the following year's 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion, so all feedback is welcome!

If any of your class communications platforms (class website, social media accounts, etc.) were updated for your reunion, be sure to update them to state that the reunion has already happened or archive the content before updating with new non-reunion content.

### **Reunion Committee, Class Committee, and Activities Chairs**

Following the conclusion of your reunion year, the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee will be dissolved, and your Class Committee will once again be the primary volunteer leadership group for the class. A Class Committee meeting in the fall might provide an opportunity to think about the goals and priorities of the class coming out of the reunion and heading into the next stage of recent graduate alumni life.

Now that you are in a non-reunion year, activities chairs will once again be recruited centrally by the HAA in partnership with Class Committee leaders. In addition to marketing the activities chair volunteer role to past activities chairs (or the class broadly), it might also be helpful to send specific messaging to the reunion committee members to continue to engage them, especially if your reunion brought first-time volunteers on board.

The First Marshal, Second Marshal, Secretary, and Treasurer (as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Program Committee Chairs now, if different individuals) will still be invited to meetings of the HAA Recent Graduate Engagement Committee. The committee was specifically designed to include members up to nine years out from graduation in order to include the experiences and feedback of those who have held a 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion. In addition to sharing best practices with the younger classes in order to help them strengthen their engagement leading up to the reunion, members from your class may learn new best practices and ideas for non-reunion engagement that might be helpful as you exit your 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion year.

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### General Recent Grad Programming

Your class will continue to be invited to and asked to volunteer to help plan and market traditional recent graduate programming, including the Welcome to Your City events, the recent grad Harvard-Yale or Fall Fest tailgates, Real World for Recent Grads events, and events open to all alums, including Harvard Moves and Global Networking Night. The occurrences of these events right after the conclusion of your 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion year might provide a great opportunity to continue the momentum from your reunion.

### Looking Ahead to the 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Your 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion year will kick off much like your 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion year did. Your reunion year begins in July preceding your May/June in-person capstone programming, and your staff liaison will be in touch with the appropriate class leaders (often Class Committee leadership and 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Chairs) over the summer when it's time to begin planning for the year and recruiting the committee. This will include a conversation reviewing the experiences of your class during and since your 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

Much as the 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee will be distinct from the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee, the Chairs from the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee need not be the Chairs for the 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee, although they certainly may raise their hands again if they are interested. Some may decide to step aside and serve as a committee member in order to give another classmate the opportunity for the leadership role. Depending on the interest in serving as a Chair, your HAA staff liaison can best advise you on what process might work.

To recruit for the committee broadly, your staff liaison can help you with messaging to your Class Committee, the 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee, and activities chairs, in addition to class-wide messaging to bring in new volunteers.

Thank you for volunteering for Harvard and for your Class. We on the CAP team are excited to continue our partnership with you and your classmates as you move beyond your 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion, and we are continually grateful for your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication.