

Class of 1958 White Paper September 2015

This paper will lay out considerations and options on two issues that the class needs to decide. They are related.

- Does the class wish to make a 60th Reunion gift to USMA?
- What role does the class wish to play in the rehabilitation of the First Class Club (FCC)?

60th Reunion Gift

It has been customary in recent years for USMA classes to make a gift on the occasion of their five-year reunions. The WPAOG suggests a gift range of \$250,000 to \$750,000.

We renovated the FCC prior to our 50th Reunion in May 2008, costing about \$217,000. In July 2008, at the request of our class president, Jack Bradshaw, the WPAOG formally accepted the Perpetual Endowment Fund (PEF) as a deferred, revocable class gift. Subsequently, the Supe acknowledged the PEF in a letter of appreciation to Jack. For our 55th Reunion, our class gift was the addition of the retractable enclosure to the FCC, costing about \$250,000.

The five classes that most recently came together for their 60th Reunions (classes of 1950-1954) made gifts, ranging from \$6,650 (class of '54) to \$1,250,000 (class of '52). The average gift for these five 60th Reunion classes was \$453,330.

As of 10 August 2015, there is \$72,443 unallocated in our Class Gift Fund at the WPAOG.

There are at least three options for the class:

- Ignore the custom – we've given enough.
- Remind the WPAOG and the Supe of the PEF– which promises a distribution of 25% of its value on our 100th Anniversary – and state that it fulfills any perceived obligation. (As the PEF has previously been recognized as a class gift, it would not truly qualify as a 60th Reunion gift.)
- Make a contribution to the restoration of the First Class Club.

Restoration of the First Class Club (FCC)

Status of planning for FCC restoration

The full extent of the damage caused by the deterioration of the kitchen plumbing was discovered in May 2014. The WPAOG awarded a contract for an A/E Design and Develop Study in January 2015. The Supe authorized the use of his Superintendent's Fund to pay for the study. The study was 90% complete as of 10 August 2015 and is expected to be 100% complete by 30 September. The cost estimated in the study for the FCC rehabilitation is \$2,600,000.

The high cost results from the approach taken and the requirement to meet modern building codes. The class encouraged the WPAOG to consider the rehab as an opportunity to correct long-standing problems in the Club's configuration. As the building was more or less totally gutted, the designers were instructed to optimize the building layout to provide for a more efficient and customer-friendly operation. This resulted in decisions to reposition the kitchen, cooler, and loading dock and to reconfigure the bar and bathrooms. The requirement to bring the FCC up to code and modern standards included ADA facilities in the bathrooms, a new HVAC system, fire protection in the enclosed patio, new interior walls, a new ceiling and numerous other additions.

In advising the design architects, the Cadet Activities Directorate (DCA) that manages the FCC consulted extensively with cadets and visited other successful sports bar operations. We think they have done a good job in designing a new and better FCC that will serve the cadets well.

The cost estimate of \$2.6 M covers only the cost of the building rehab; it does not include the cost of furniture and furnishings (e.g., kitchen equipment, bar, booths, tables and chairs). There is no firm cost estimate for this. Soft estimates range from \$300 K to \$500 K, depending on how much is purchased and how much old furniture can be re-used.

Thanks in part to the prodding of our class president, who has been in correspondence with the Supe over the spring and summer, the Supe has decided to take the unprecedented step of using FY 16 OMA funds to pay for the FCC rehab. Moreover, he is giving a high priority to the project. The current plan is to solicit bids for construction early in the new FY.

The construction contract to be awarded will cover only the building itself. There are no plans, and no funds currently available, to purchase furniture and furnishings.

There is a slim possibility that the FCC could reopen for operation in August 2016 for the use of the class of 2017. A more realistic reopening date would be the summer of 2017.

Handing Over Our Responsibilities for the FCC

The EXCOM had anticipated a hand-off of responsibility for the club to the Class of 1983 in August 2014. (Initially, we had wanted to hand off to the 50-year class, but it became clear that the class of 2008 was not ready organizationally or financially to the task.) We believed that the club would be in first class condition following our addition of the covered patio and furnishings and we could proudly relinquish oversight. Plans were made to effect this change-over at a grand handover event, with the presidents of both classes and Academy luminaries in attendance. The closing of the FCC for repairs caused the cancellation of the handover event.

The delay in the handover has not diminished the enthusiasm of USMA '83 to take on our role as graduate overseers of the FCC. In fact, the class of '83 leadership has indicated that they wish the FCC to be the focus of all their future class gifts to USMA. Our class president, Jack Bradshaw, requested '83 to defer detailed planning pending clarification of USMA's plans for rehabilitating the FCC. As the class of '83 phases into, and '58 withdraws from, our oversight role, Jack also made clear that we want to insure that the 20+ years of '58's leadership of the FCC is appropriately recognized and commemorated.

After extensive discussion at our meeting on 1 September, the EXCOM reached agreement on the following – all conditioned by the need to explore with and be guided by the wishes of the class as a whole:

- The First Class Club is our most important class initiative and our most visible legacy.
- A contribution to restoring the FCC would be a worthy 60th Reunion gift (far preferable to either doing nothing or attempting to claim credit for the PEF, which the WPAOG already previously recognized as a class gift).
- The class should develop a shared approach with the Class of 1983 (and perhaps with the Class of 2008) to fund the purchase of furniture and furnishings for the restored FCC.
- The class should commit to a contribution of as much as \$300K as our stake in joint venture with USMA '83 toward this purpose.
- Explore with the class the means to raise \$200K+ (to add to the funds currently available at the WPAOG). A renewed fund-raising campaign? The PEF? Other?