

Minutes of the EXCOM Meeting, April 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dick Schonberger, at 10am at Frank Waskowicz's home. Present were Jack Bradshaw, Anne Martin, Tony Smith, Jack Gordon, Pete Kusek, and Frank Waskowicz. Attending via conference call were Paul Ruud, Pete Penczer, Paul Vanture, Karl Oelke, and Tom Claffey. There were some difficulties with echoes during the conference connection; Frank will work with Tony Bauer and our vendor to correct.

Finances. Pete Kusek reported that as of March 29, the class operating fund totaled \$61,386.88. Of this \$59,862.08 was with T. Rowe Price, and \$1,524.80 in a USAA Checking Account. In addition, \$1,165.27 was on deposit with AOG in an administrative fund for the purpose of quick-starting AOG support of future class activities. Recent expenditures included \$86.40 for printing a 2014 reunion roster, and \$100 expenditures each for Jay Tirre (memorial), Ed Dodd (memorial) and Bill Reynolds (flowers),

Dick Schonberger stated that there was a surplus of money expected from the Gulf Shores mini- on the order of \$4,000+. Pete has received nothing to date. Pete will follow up. (Action: Kusek)

Pete reported that Charlie Miller has once again prepared and submitted our tax statement.

Social Report. Jack Gordon reported that the recent luncheon, canceled because of snow, is rescheduled for 2 April. The March luncheon at LeRefuge had a modest crowd, but the food was great and the costs reasonable by comparison with A/N Club. The May luncheon will feature Linc Jones' daughter, BG Patricia Jones Frost, as speaker. She is with the Cyber Center at Fort Belvoir.

Jack indicated that the registration for the October mini in Austin is doing very well, with 200+ attendees projected.

Widows Community. Anne Martin reported that four wives have signed up for the Austin mini thus far, and that she plans to attend as well. Anne has had discussions with Sue Kernan and Claridell Shedd regarding the web site and widow lists. She discussed Sandy Roosma's interest in becoming involved, and reaching out to Paula Johnson who wants to stay active, but may need assistance with transport. There was some discussion on the committee that as the widow community grows, the task will become larger, and we should not overburden Anne in her role as Widow Liaison. All agreed that CCQs need to be the first line of communication, drawing Anne's attention to situations where she can be of assistance. One committee-member stated that the organizing group for the Gulf Shores mini was able eliminate registration fees for widows. Anne said she would follow up on that idea.

First Class Club. Tony Smith delivered disappointing news regarding the condition of the facility (poor) and the prognosis for putting it back into operation anytime soon (zero). An architecture/engineering study has been commissioned. The likely cost of repair and refurbishment could reach into several million dollars. The project's priority is reportedly low, given the constraint on funding from DA.

In an effort to call attention to this situation, Jack Bradshaw will write to the Superintendent on behalf of the class, expressing our great disappointment and urging attention to restoring the club, which has been a tremendous morale boost to prior first classes.

The committee discussed several options, but reserved further discussion pending response to a Bradshaw letter and details from the commissioned study. (Action: Bradshaw, Smith)

Class Grandchildren. Tony Smith reported the Jack Downing will make presentations to Brianna Burnstad USMA 2015 (Mike Daley's granddaughter). She is our first grandchild to graduate. Tony provided details on her cadet performance — a truly remarkable young woman.

Committee Membership/Responsibilities. Dick Schonberger announced that Tom Claffey would succeed Paul Ruud as member at Large, and Paul Vanture would succeed Karl Oelke as CCQ Coordinator. The change over will occur at the Austin mini where their names will be put up for ratification at the class meeting. The Chairman expressed appreciation to Tony Smith who has agreed to remain on the EXCOM to coordinate the FCC and Awards Program. Tony knows the responsible people and understands the issues when the program gets back on track.

Association of Graduates Advisory Council. Tony Smith pointed out that it is practice for a class to provide a member on the AOG's Advisory Council in the three years preceding the class's sixtieth reunion – which would be 2016, 2017, and 2018. Dick will work with Jack Bradshaw to gather the necessary information and identify a classmate for the position. Some personal cost will be involved; the good news is that expenses are deductible. (Action: Schonberger, Bradshaw)

Reunion Status. Dick Schonberger discussed the Austin mini, complimenting Stan Bacon and his planning group for aggressively marketing the event with apparent success in drawing a large group of classmates. Dick indicated that Jody LeTowt has provided a concept for a mini in 2016 (October 20-23). Unlike Austin, there is not a large class contingent present in Monterey, so Jody will have a larger burden. Regardless, the committee was confident that it would be pulled off very well. Dick said that Jody will be providing advanced material advertising the Monterey mini at Austin.

As agreed upon earlier, there will be no mini in the year preceding our 60th at West Point. Dick has encouraged the EXCOM to think about the post-60th timeframe.

What would the class like, given consideration of our aging, changing tastes, and cost? Jack Gordon recounted events that should be retained based on the review he and Don Williams conducted several years ago, namely: the business meeting, the memorial service, the class dinner (not necessarily including music which can interfere with conversation) and company dinners. In general, the committee expressed a preference for simpler events, easing the burden on planners and avoiding unnecessary costs. The concept of a flash mob is within the realm of possibilities. Most importantly, the EXCOM needs a better sense of just what the class would like to have included in future class events. (Action: Gordon, Schonberger)

Final Toast Planning. Paul Ruud had provided several thoughtful papers regarding the Final Toast, but it was decided to put off discussion to another date because of the horrible audio situation on the conference call that echoed conversations and prevented comprehension.

Status of Class Lists. Karl Oelke provided several lists of great utility: one a list of classmates and widows by company who are not on our email list, another (also by company) detailing outstanding memorial articles, and yet another of widows and next of kin by company drawn from John Nun's master class list. The committee was very appreciative of the work, and of the time Karl has obviously devoted to this effort.

The committee discussed the issue of memorial articles, reflecting on the fact that deaths will increase and authors decrease with time. It was generally felt the classmates needed to take greater responsibility for their memorial articles. No one is better postured to know the facts. Also there are some classmates who may not even want a memorial article, and that wish should be made known to remove the burden from those who might take up the effort. Karl indicated that he would revisit this issue with CCQs. (Action: Oelke/Vanture)

Tony Smith said that he asking AOG why Taps cannot be put on line? AOG's response to Tony has been that memorial articles are on line separately for 30 days and that should be sufficient. Tony has responded that it is far more rewarding to walk through the full set of articles that span the Corps rather than doing individual by-name searches on the database.

Class Flag. Dick Schonberger reported that Palmer McGrew had assumed responsibility for the class flag when Dale and Dodie Hruby relocated to Williamsburg. Palmer, in turn, was looking for some relief as he was frequently out of town. Dick is working on finding a classmate to share the responsibility. (Action: Schonberger)

Jack Bradshaw told of seeing class flags displayed in the Great Hall of the Herbert Alumni Center, and thought we might consider placing our flag there. Jack felt that it should be a first class rendition, embroidered on both sides. Dick wondered if

raising our flag in Herbert Hall couldn't coincide with the Last Toast. The tone of the conversation was that earlier was better, rather than waiting for a time when few would be around. (Action: Schonberger)

Restriction on Burials at West Point. Jack Bradshaw discussed the criteria under which deceased graduates qualify for burial in the ground at West Point, given the paucity of space remaining. Criteria include distinguished graduates and award of the Silver Star or higher. There are long-term opportunities as the cemetery is expanded, but that timeframe is governed by funding which comes directly from the Army, not from the Academy. Meanwhile, cremation and interment is open.

Appreciation. The Chairman discussed recognition for classmates who have performed long-term service toward class cohesion and camaraderie. (Action: Schonberger)

Next Meeting. The Chair said he would like to schedule another EXCOM meeting in September, before the Austin mini. Jack Gordon indicated that he would be pleased to host the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Waskowicz
Secretary