

Minutes, Class Meeting, April 27, 2018

The Chairman of the Executive Committee (EXCOM), Dick Schonberger, opened the meeting in the Washington Room of the Thayer Hotel at 9am. He complimented and thanked the efforts of countless classmates who have made exceptional contributions to the class. Among these are Dick Buckalew (E-Mail lists), Pete Trainor (Web Site), Stan Bacon (Prostate Cancer), Garry Roosma and others working on the reunion, and those involved in working toward a final toast celebration.

EXCOM Membership. Dick announced planned changes in EXCOM membership: Andy Andreson replacing Tony Smith and moving from Member-at-Large to Chair, Tom Claffey to move from Member at Large to Vice-Chair, Lee Miller to replace Pete Kusek as Treasurer, Palmer McGrew to replace Jack Gordon as Social Activities Coordinator, and Mike Mahler to come aboard as Member-at-Large. Dick asked that the class approve the new members: Andy, Lee, Palmer, and Mike. The voice vote was unanimous.

EXCOM “Bench” Dick discussed thoughts about plans for the future — embodied in a recent effort to identify talent willing to take leadership roles on the EXCOM. He said the value of the “EXCOM Bench” that has attracted several dozen volunteers lies in the likelihood that we will see diminished opportunity for the class to gather as a whole to select and ratify EXCOM members. The “bench” provides a responsive way to replenish leadership as circumstances evolve. It also recognizes that participation need not be limited to those in the DC area.

Class Flags. Palmer McGrew rose to discuss the availability and use of our class flags. He complimented the class by telling a story of a conversation he once had with Charlie Otstott, President of the USMA Class of 1960 who asked “How do you get classmates to do things?” Palmer responded, that when you needed a volunteer, you simply asked a classmate. Always works for USMA '58!

Palmer said that Vicki Trainor had completed a task begun long ago by Kay Lou Tomlinson — “battle streamers” commemorating every mini-reunion. Vicki was temporarily unavailable at the meeting, so Pete Trainor was asked to come forward to put the new streamers on the class flag.

Palmer discussed the huge benefit of the flag representing the class at funerals, and reiterated the need to advise Jack Downing (“Call Jack Downing!”) as the essential first step in having a flag delivered to the family for the service.

Death Notification Process. Jack Downing then spoke about notification processes, emphasizing that when a death occurs, the family should provide as much information as possible via an E-Mail to him at ejdowning@cox.net. Information should include:

- Name of the deceased classmate

- Date and time of death
- Cause of death
- Location
- Information regarding funeral arrangement or service
- Burial time and location

When Jack has a planned absence, he advises the class via E-Mail and identifies a substitute who most often has been George Lawton. Jack said that it was the class's custom to provide flowers or a \$100 donation to a favored charity. The note to him should state the family's preference. Once Jack has notification from the family, he will notify the Association of Graduates to record the death and possibly assist with a funeral at West Point, the Widows Outreach Team for support and information, and Palmer McGrew for flag arrangements.

Capelle Award. Chuck Densford recommended to the class that the award currently given in honor of our classmate Gerald Capelle — which was scheduled to be concluded when the remaining spaces on the existing plaque at the West Point Prep School were filled — be funded in perpetuity. The award is given at the end of the school year to the company with the best intramural record, and involves a pizza party and an engraved recognition of the winning company on the award plaque. Chuck and Mike Daley have been working with the AOG to determine the cost of doing this, and it is in the neighborhood of \$9-10,000. By voice vote, the class agreed to approve a fund campaign to raise that amount. Alan Salisbury rose to commit \$500, and offered to match a comparable amount by any other classmate. Several hands were raised. (Names were not taken.) We anticipate that details will be provided to the class laying out the ground rules and means for contribution.

Final Toast. Tom Claffey discussed the final toast concept and responsibilities. Modeled on a ceremony conceived by the Doolittle Raiders, he, Ed Weckel and Paul Ruud put together a concept for the ceremony which involves consuming a bottle of Armagnac, vintage 1958, at an appropriate date in the future. Their concept is discussed in full on page 21 of the White Paper. Through their efforts, three class grandchildren have accepted roles as Administrators of the Final Toast: Bud Moentmann's grandson, Tommy Moentmann '10; Dick Graves's grandson, Colin Graves '11; and Mike Daley's granddaughter, Brianna Burnstad '15.

Time Capsule. Jack Downing discussed the class time capsule buried behind the AOG's Herbert Hall. The capsule, whose contents are detailed in the White Paper, will be opened on the one-hundredth anniversary of our graduation in conjunction with a first dispersal of funds from our Perpetual Endowment Fund in coordination with USMA 2008's 50th anniversary activities. A letter of agreement has been signed with USMA '08 (again, details are in the White Paper). Our Perpetual Endowment Board — then populated with progeny of our class — has authority concerning the planned commemorative events.

[NOTE: the White Paper, often referred to during the meeting, is posted on the Class Web Site.]

Perpetual Endowment Fund . George Lawton, Chair of the Perpetual Endowment Board (PEB), reported that the fund totaled \$1,239,138 as of March 31, 2018. Over 506 classmates have contributed to the fund. It enjoyed a banner year in 2017, increasing over \$282,000. The only disbursement from the fund has been \$75,000 to assist with the Class's commitment to completing the First Class Club. The PEF will present the Academy with 25% of its value on the occasion of our 100th Anniversary in 2058. Thereafter, the fund will continue donations of 25% every 10 years. Membership of the PEB is gradually being transferred to Class offspring.

Widows Outreach Team. Dick Schonberger expressed thanks to the women that have made such positive contributions on behalf of class in supporting our widows and those wives facing life-ending circumstances. Expressions of condolence, helpful planning materials, and occasional social gatherings are important aspects of the WOT's efforts, bolstering the unity and strength of our class.

Recognition. Jack Bradshaw spoke in a humorous fashion about the many demands of office as our Class President —60 years in representing the class in a variety of situations: presenting a class cup to our class Godson, Karl E Oelke III, periodic checks to the Superintendent, helping to bury our time capsule, opening of the First Class Club, frequent turn-overs of the club to the rising First Class, etc. But it clearly was a role Jack has enjoyed on behalf of the class. Continuing in that role he presented Dick Schonberger with a memento for six years of faithful service to the class as Chairman of the EXCOM. Jack concluded with the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Tony Smith (without whom the Class Club would not be what it is today), to Pete Trainor (for many decades of keeping us connecting through the web), and to Garry Roosma (for leadership in every major reunion held at West Point since our 30th — seven in all, and all well done.

For the Class EXCOM
Frank Waskowicz
Secretary