

## **Minutes, EXCOM Meeting, May 8, 2018**

The Chairman of the Executive Committee (EXCOM), Andy Andreson, opened the meeting in his home at 10am. Present were Palmer McGrew, Dick Schonberger, George Sibert, Lee Miller, Audrey Webb, Frank Waskowicz, Jack Downing, George Lawton and Betsy Hall. Participating via telephone were Mike Mahler, Mike Daley, Garry Roosma, Jack Bradshaw and Tom Claffey.

**Minutes.** The minutes of our Class Meeting at West Point on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April were approved as amended.

**60<sup>th</sup> Reunion.** There was discussion of the reunion report prepared by the Superintendent's Alumni Affairs Office (chaired by Vince McDermott — works for the Superintendent, housed with the AOG.) The report was provided beforehand to the EXCOM and is attached to these minutes. Garry said final cost of the reunion is not yet established. For example, after the fact, we received a 50% rebate on the continental breakfast at the FCC. Excess funds, if any, will go into our Admin Fund.

Comments received from multiple sources were that the meals in general were pricey and not very tasty.

Garry said that aging is going to be an increasing challenge in planning future reunions. He indicated that all else being equal, he'll be happy to repeat as the planner for our 65<sup>th</sup>. He said the assistance of the AOG is indispensable.

Mike Mahler repeated a comment heard at the reunion, that the Superintendent's talk was excellent, but the slides of all three presenters were too busy and virtually illegible. Garry said that he has arranged for the slides to be given to the class — and indeed, they are now posted on our class web site.

There were some comments regarding the availability of the Benny Havens room for informal class gathering. The EXCOM was really pleased to hear that Chuck Toftoy had given left over beer to the FCC with the likely result being a free beer call for cadets.

**Capelle Award Discussion.** Mike Daley and Elena Ivanova of the AOG led an extended discussion of factors related to the class decision to endow the Capelle Award given annually at USMAPS. The discussion involved a great many inter-related issues, resulting in the Chair asking Lee Miller to be the POC with the AOG for all related issues.

- (1) There is approximately \$70K in the Class Gift Fund. In keeping with a view that the FCC was our last major gift to the Academy, the class made an offer to the Director of Cadet Activities (DCA) to use these monies to fund improvements to the FCC that were not in the budget for the rehab program. The EXCOM has assumed that these funds were fully committed. Tony Smith was told at the reunion by the DCA that they intend to use these monies to buy the furniture for the patio extension. But the furniture is

already arriving on site, and we have not been asked to release funds for it, nor has a proffer been made to the Supe. In Tony's view, furnishing the patio will not cost anything close to the \$70K remaining in the Class Gift Fund. So there is a decision to be made regarding the future use of these monies.

- (2) Elena discussed the Class of 1983's commitment to raise \$5-million for the life-long maintenance of the FCC. Their fund raising will occur over a 5-year period. There was a hint in her presentation that the balance of monies in our Class Gift Fund could be put to use as seed money for this fund. Andy spoke up clearly to put this idea to rest. As the distant predecessor to Tony in our class effort to realize the FCC, he recalled very early-on agreement between our class and the Academy that maintenance of the facility was an Academy responsibility. He opposed the idea of melding our remaining funds into USMA '83's maintenance project.
- (3) Elena said she would provide us information regarding unfunded Academy projects that we might find interesting.
- (4) The AOG currently manages a second fund, our class administrative or operating fund, which totals approximately \$80K. When the EXCOM ceases to exist, the balance of monies in this account will be transferred to the Perpetual Endowment Board for administration of the Perpetual Endowment Fund and residual class expenses. (Discussed in the White Paper).
- (5) As a result of the class decision at our 60<sup>th</sup> to underwrite \$9K — the projected cost of endowing the Capelle Award — donations have already begun to arrive at the AOG. As there is strong likelihood that contributions will exceed \$9K, the question arose as to what to do with excess funds. Because donations are tax deductible, overages cannot simply spill over into our admin fund, which from the AOG's perspective does not share that tax advantage. The agreed-upon solution is that Elena will track incoming donations on a daily basis, and at that time when checks received exceed the goal, she will contact the donor for a decision — to revise the amount of the donation, or to accept only partial credit for the donation if the excess amount is funneled into the admin account. \$1,200 has already been received. Donation cards being provided to the class will make allowance for this consideration.
- (6) There is a significant unsettled issue regarding the fungibility of monies in the several accounts. One view, espoused with evidence by George Lawton, is that monies can be transferred from the gift account (or from the Capelle Account) into our admin account because our admin account was established as a 501(c)19 entity which received an IRS ruling that makes contribution to the admin account tax deductible. Elena asked George for supporting materials so she could research the issue. The operative portion of the IRS ruling states: "Based on your representation that at least 90 percent of your members are war veterans and that you are organized and operated primarily for purposes consistent with your current status as a war veterans organization, donors can deduct contributions made to or for the use of your organization."

The Chair asked that Elena deal directly with Lee Miller [mlMiller58@verizon.net](mailto:mlMiller58@verizon.net) as the single point of contact for the EXCOM on all matters related to these funding issues. *[Sorry for the length of this discussion, but it was complex but in my view worthwhile capturing.]*

**Death Notification.** At the 60<sup>th</sup> Dick Schonberger took note of the presentations made by Jack Downing and Palmer McGrew, and suggested that the message to the class should be condensed into a single page for easy reference and use. Together, they developed a one-pager that admirably accomplished this mission. It was presented to the class, and with some changes suggested by Mike Mahler, was adopted. Subsequently, it was posted on the Class web site. Copy is attached.

Jack asked the committee to help him to identify backup. Frank will provide him the list of classmates who volunteered to be on the “bench”.

**WOT.** Betsy Hall described the many positive comments received from wives and widows for WOT initiatives — “Grip Hands...” booklet and the pin created by Audrey Webb and Alan and Florence Salisbury. Betsy provided a listing of 50 occasions/persons who have received the “Grip Hands...” booklet.

Audrey Webb provided a full report on the widows luncheon during our 60<sup>th</sup>, publication of the “Wives and Widows Memories” booklet, the pin/pendant, and a booklet designed and printed for the Widows Luncheon (with special verses of “Army Blue” written by Florence Salisbury.) Audrey said they still had the task of mailing the rest of the pin/pendants to wives and widows who did not receive theirs at the Reunion.

Dick Schonberger expressed thanks for the great work the WOT has accomplished, expressing the view that the effort necessitates a “team” effort so those involved do not get “burned out.” Audrey said we could all help by not dying as much in the future.

**Reunions and minis.** Andy and Palmer discussed the potential for future minis, each acknowledging the need for simpler, less costly, perhaps shorter venues. New Orleans and San Antonio were mentioned as possibilities. Mike Daley told a story about his having attended his dad’s 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion, and the significance it had to the dozen or so of USMA ’31 that attended. It became clear that there was some misunderstanding about future reunions — some interpreting a statement that the 60<sup>th</sup> was probably our last large reunion to mean it was out last reunion. Of course that is not true: 5-year reunions will be carried on as long as possible. Palmer also expressed confidence that we would continue to have mini-reunions, and will be presenting his ideas on this in the near future.

**Class Flag.** Palmer said that Orlie Hill had expressed concern that our class flag(s) were looking a little worn, and that perhaps we should purchase a new one that will stand the test of time — representing us proudly at future events such as the unearthing of the time capsule, or our final toast. Further, when/if such an improved model is available, is there a place where it can be displayed. Three options were suggested: (1) the First Class Club, (2) the George Walker Debate Room, or (3) the Groves Golf Center.

For the Class EXCOM  
Frank Waskowicz  
Secretary

Attachments: Reunion After Action Report (Draft)  
Death Notification Steps  
WOT Notes

**AFTER ACTION REPORT**  
**60TH REUNION USMA CLASS OF 1958**  
**APRIL 25 THROUGH APRIL 29, 2018**  
**60th Reunion Committee**

I. 60th Reunion

A. The reunion was very successful. Attending during the Retirees Appreciation Day avoided long waits, large crowds and cooler weather. The WPAOG coordinator did a fine job in the planning and execution of the reunion activities. The use of the WPAOG is highly recommended for future reunions. The class had in attendance 160 classmates and 17 widows. Total attendance was 417 which included spouses and family members. This report will cover four main areas of the reunion; Aging of the class, Transportation, Hotel and the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG).

B. Aging of the class was taken in to account in the planning process. A goodly number were either in wheelchairs, using walkers or using canes all of which tended to slow down movement to and from events. Many of the spouses were also using these devices. The numbers of classmates, widows and spouses in this category will only increase and needs to be strongly considered for future class events. The class aides and WPAOG staff were very helpful in directing and assisting as necessary which helped to move things along or made people more comfortable.

C. Buses were used to transport those in attendance to the main events on Friday and Saturday. One bus was equipped with a lift to load wheelchairs which was very helpful. This again is recommended for future events. West Point Tours did a good job in loading the buses both in going and returning. They are well acquainted with West Point and know how to function in tight places such as the Cadet Chapel.

D. By scheduling the 60th Reunion on the RAD weekend, the class was able to book 148 of the 151 rooms in the Thayer Hotel but had to use additional hotels in the area as the attendance was higher than expected. Estimates based on statistics were 123 classmates would attend the reunion. We exceeded this as 160 attended along with 17 widows. Many graduates and widows had family members attend which further increased the demand for rooms. Some of the family members were there to assist their parent(s).

The Thayer Hotel staff were very cooperative and did everything to make the reunion successful and a memorable event. Dietary considerations were given to those who indicated they needed special food. When we had a problem with seating at one of the dinners they responded quickly to remedy the situation.

C. WPAOG. I can not say enough how much the Coordinator did to make the reunion a success. Once the date, hotel and general agenda were established the Coordinator negotiated the contract for the hotel, booked additional hotel space, assisted in menu selection, booked the bus company, coordinated with the Cadet Chapel, with the Director of Cadet Activities and worked closely with the Directorate of Academy Advancement.

D. General comments. Arrangements at the parade were greatly improved as the graduates were able to sit before the Review and not stand for a long period of time. Water and chairs were also provided. At the appropriate time the graduates left the stands and stood on the parade grounds for the Review.

Following the parade the class moved to the Cadet mess, Washington Hall for lunch. The lunch received compliments from all. The arrangement of the tables and chairs were tight and made it difficult for those in wheelchairs and walkers.

The Superintendent's briefing was informative, however the briefing slides were difficult to read as they were blurry and too busy. A copy of the briefing slides were sent to the class and published on the class website.

## II. 65th Reunion

While the 60th Reunion was the last big reunion for the Class of 1958, many classmates indicated that they would be looking forward to the 65th Reunion. The use of the WPAOG is highly recommended to do the major planning, coordinating and execution of the reunion. The reunion chair should contact the WPAOG well in advance and discuss the best date for the reunion, the hotel and then proceed in the planning process with the coordinator. The principal concern will be the aging of the class and the reduced mobility. Estimated attendance based on statistics is 46% or 264 of the class will be living and 27% or 71 will attend. Based on the attendance at the 60th reunion which exceeded the estimate assume that 86 will attend along with 20 to 30 widows. There will be spouses and family members assisting their parent(s) as well. Total attendance at the 65th could be 200 persons.

## One-Page Information Regarding Notification of Classmate Death

Your Classmates want to have the opportunity to honor your life upon your death. In order to do that, we need to be apprised of your death promptly so that we can find a classmate or classmates to attend whatever service your family decides on. If a classmate can attend the service, we want to ship to him a class flag for display at the service representing the Class of 1958. To do this we will need prompt notification as it takes time to make the arrangements.

Therefore, we are urging you to talk with your family about this subject, informing them of what to do and how to do it (below). We know that upon any family member's demise many things have to be arranged and this is just one of many, but we, your classmates, would appreciate the opportunity to honor your memory on behalf of your Class, which we will do if we have the information in time.

Here's what someone in your family should do promptly:

Email Jack Downing ([ejdowning@cox.net](mailto:ejdowning@cox.net)). He will notify the Class, the Association of Graduates, Palmer (flag), and the Widows Outreach Team (WOT), Lee Miller (treasurer) and your CCQ. In order to have a flagbearer, classmates planning to attend the ceremony should notify Palmer who will arrange for shipment of the flag.

The person informing Jack of the death should have as much of the following information as readily available.

- . Name of deceased
- . Name and contact information of next of kin (NOK)
- . Date, time of death
- . Cause of death
- . Location of death
- . Memorial service, information
- . Burial, time. Location
- . Choice of flowers or donation to charity
- . Classmates attending service

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM THE WIDOWS OUTREACH TEAM  
MAY 8, 2018

Until today, the last death in the Class of '58 was Art Mace, Feb. 19, 2018. But now I will have the sad task of calling Butch Saint's widow in the next few days to offer her our sympathy at his passing yesterday morning.

A few numbers from the reunion: As best as we could count there were approx. 19 widows who attended the reunion. At the Widows Luncheon there were approx. 12 widows attending, plus Margie Downing and two other guests. The event seemed to be enjoyed by all.

The past few months the Widows Outreach Team was very busy working on projects to make this a very special reunion for the widows, wives, classmates and all attending. But we were not without help.

I first want to mention Frank Wascowicz and Sue Kernan. Sue is not on the widows team, but she was asked to put together a book on "WIVES AND WIDOWS MEMORIES", similar to the "HEARTS OF '58" that she did for the Austin Mini. So Frank and Sue worked together on the compiling and publication of this book.

In addition, Frank and Betsy Hall worked on the printing of the "Grip Hands" booklet. Both of these publications went into every Registration Packet at the Reunion. Frank worked hard on the printing of other publications as well.

Almost a year ago, I came up with the idea of linking a famous line from a poem by John Milton with the life of a military wife....

"They also serve who only stand and wait" from "On His Blindness". I was thinking that those words apply so well to military wives whose husbands have been called by duty to a time of separation. Also it might be nice to craft a piece of jewelry with that sentiment for the widows coming to the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

I presented my idea to the Alan and Florence Salisbury, who immediately leapt upon the idea and said it should be done for all of the wives and widows in the class. So we worked together as a team, and this pin/pendant attached to a replica of a "hop card" is the result. I cannot tell you how many women came up to me to tell me thanks for the pins. Some were very touched that the ladies, too, were recognized. I explained that the pins were from the class to the ladies.

Alan also designed and printed the booklet for the Widows Luncheon. I gave him all of the poems to be printed with one exception---the additional verses to "Army Blue". They were composed by Florence Salisbury, who woke up in the middle of the night with the inspiration for these verses! She understands the hearts of our widows, who are experiencing the long separations in this life from their loved ones.

Another item is a lovely pin designed for the widows of spouses who are now deceased and who served in the Vietnam War. The gift is from the Salisburys, and Florence presented them to the widows at our luncheon.

In appreciation for all that they had done, I did a little presentation ceremony of several gifts to Sue and Florence, which included four books that I had purchased from Barnes and Noble.

We still have the task before us to mail the rest of the pin/pendants to the wives and widows who did not receive theirs at the Reunion.

It has been a pleasure for me and the WOT to serve and work with such an outstanding group of people, dedicated to Duty, Honor, and Country. Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Submitted by Audrey Webb

ARMY BLUE (Special verses by Florence Salisbury)

For husbands gone to God too soon,  
Our thoughts and love to you.  
So strong your bonds of family,  
And e'er to Army true.

Companions met along life's way,  
We fell in love with you.  
Women strong when duty called,  
We served our country, too.

Army Blue, Army Blue,  
Hurrah for the Army Blue.  
We'll bid farewell to Kaydette Gray,  
And don the Army Blue.