

First Class Club Fund Rabble Rousers

Jack Bradshaw - November 2016

We Looked Ahead

In 2015 the Class Executive Committee looked ahead to the 60th reunion in April 2018. We wondered how we would find our Alma Mater for what is likely to be the last large gathering there. And we wondered a little about how West Point would look upon us.

We were proud and pleased still with our gift of the First Class Club, but we knew that the Club needed extensive repair and we also knew that the authorities would want to know "what have you done for us lately?"

We Acted

We resolved to do three things: One, to make an urgent plea to the Superintendent to restore the FCC to action; two, to offer to help pay for outfitting the renovated Club; and, three, to get agreement from USMA 1983 to help pay and to assume our sponsorship of the Club.

The Supe personally answered our emails and stepped up to the task. USMA '83 readily agreed. The large group of classmates attending the Austin mini in October 2015 approved a fund drive to raise at least \$300,000.

Tom Claffey organized the Fund Drive, hoping to reach the \$300K by the end of December, this month. He was overwhelmed by the support of some big donors and the remarkable support of 66% of the living Classmates.

The Result

We reached our goal. We can all be proud of that. We can parade, or march, or strut, or stroll around our Rockbound Highland Home in April of 2018, under our big white hats, knowing that we have left a mark on the Corps.

Remaining Challenge

About 125 of us have given nothing in this final fund drive. I wonder why. Every month Tom Claffey reported the status of the drive. Every month a distinguished member of our Class has tried to Rouse the Rabble. Maybe some of our mates cannot afford even \$58 for this cause. Maybe some have just forgotten to get it done. Maybe earlier gifts to create and maintain the Club are enough for some.

It is definitely not too late to donate. But don't give if you choose not to. It's OK. Only you will know. Well, maybe another one or two of us will know. No matter! We are all in this together, gripping hands, all of us. We are the Great Fifty-Eight.

To donate, go to — <https://www.westpointaog.org/giveto58>

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