

**BYLAWS**  
**of The Class of 1965 of the United States Military Academy**  
(As Approved 18 May 2015)

**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME**

The Name of this organization shall be The USMA Class of 1965.

**ARTICLE II**  
**PURPOSES**

The Purposes of the Class shall be:

- To continue the association of the Members begun as Cadets,
- To further the ideals of the United States Military Academy (USMA), and
- To provide an interface with the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG).

The Class as organized herein provides a means for defining membership and administering Class affairs. The Class shall be a members' association supported by the volunteer efforts of its members and as needed by contributions or fund raising activities. No class activities will be carried on for profit.

**ARTICLE III**  
**OFFICE**

The office of the Class shall be at West Point, New York, or such other location as the Class Leadership Committee may designate.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**MEMBERS**

Section 1. Composition. The Class shall comprise Members, Associate Members, and Honorary Members.

Section 2. Members. Individuals who graduated from the USMA in 1965.

Section 3. Associate Members. Individuals who were classmates, but did not graduate with the USMA Class of 1965 and who applied for Associate Membership in the WPAOG. Widows of deceased Members and Associate Members automatically become Associate Members of the Class; next of kin may also be invited to become Associate Members.

Section 4. Honorary Members. The Class Leadership Committee may designate individuals not otherwise eligible for membership as Honorary Members. Honorary Members are not formal members of the Class but may be extended invitations to participate in Class functions.

Section 5. Voting. Only Members may vote. Voting shall occur in person at each Reunion Meeting or by regular mail or email in response to a notification from the Class Leadership Committee, so long as the mail is received ten calendar days prior to the Reunion Meeting. Proxy votes are allowed based on a signed statement by a Member. A majority of the votes cast shall constitute a decision by the Members.

Section 6. WPAOG Membership. All Members and Associate Members are strongly urged to participate actively in the WPAOG.

## **ARTICLE V** **OFFICERS**

Section 1. Officers. The Officers of the Class shall be a President, a Senior Vice President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Scribe, a Treasurer, and an Historian. Except for the office of President, a Member may hold two offices at the same time. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws.

Section 2. Election. The Officers shall be Members. They shall be elected by the Members in accordance with Article IV, Section 5 to serve for five years or until their successors are elected, unless they should sooner die, resign, or be removed. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the Reunion Meeting at which they are elected.

Section 3. Vacancies. Vacancies resulting from the resignation, removal, or death of an officer may be filled by a majority vote of the Class Leadership Committee, and the officer so chosen shall hold office until the next Reunion Meeting, at which meeting an individual shall be elected to fill the vacancy. Where the Presidency shall become vacant, the Senior Vice President shall assume the position of President and the vacancy shall exist in the office of Senior Vice President. The Class Leadership Committee may then fill that vacancy.

Section 4. President. The Officer serving as President shall coordinate the activities of the Class Leadership Committee and chair meetings of the Class. The President shall be an ex officio member of all Class committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 5. Vice Presidents. The Officers serving as Senior Vice President and Vice President shall perform duties defined by the Class Leadership Committee. In the absence of the President, the Senior Vice President shall chair meetings of the Class.

Section 6. Scribe. The officer serving as Scribe shall be responsible for maintaining continuous communication with all members to keep them informed of Class activities and events, maintaining a current address roster of members and for developing other communications as necessary.

Section 7. Secretary. The Officer serving as Secretary shall develop and maintain written records of all Class Leadership Committee meetings, with particular attention to the documentation of decisions made therein. The Secretary shall work with the Scribe and the Historian to ensure that records of significance are preserved for use by future leaders of the class.

Section 8. Treasurer. The Officer serving as Treasurer shall maintain the Class Administrative Fund, conduct transactions as directed by the Class Leadership Committee, and interface as needed with the fund raising Chairman chartered by the Class Leadership Committee.

Section 9. Historian. The Officer serving as Historian shall maintain Class records as directed by the Class Leadership Committee. The Historian will work closely with the Secretary and Scribe to preserve data and information that has enduring value.

Section 10. Removal. An Officer may be removed from office based on a recall petition signed by at least twenty Members and a two-thirds majority of those Members voting. The vote on any proposed removal shall take place within sixty days of the receipt of the recall petition by the Class Leadership Committee.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**CLASS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Section 1. Membership. The Class Officers shall constitute the Class Leadership Committee.

Section 2. Voting. Four members of the Class Leadership Committee constitute a quorum. Decisions of the Class Leadership Committee shall be by majority vote. Votes may be made in person, in writing, or by telephonic or electronic means. In the event of a tie vote, the President will be responsible for making a decision.

Section 3. Responsibilities and Authorities. The Class Leadership Committee shall provide general supervision of the affairs of the Class. The Class Leadership Committee has responsibility for organizing Class Activities and overseeing use of the Class Funds. The Class Leadership Committee shall make a formal report of its activities by means of a letter to the Class from the President, or other means, at least once a year. The Class Leadership Committee may form committees and working groups as necessary to carry out the affairs of the Class. These include, but are not limited to: reunion committees, nominating committees and fund raising committees. The Class Leadership Committee may provide guidelines and approaches to these committees, as judged necessary, to provide effective governance. All actions by the Class Leadership Committee shall be consistent with these Bylaws. In addition, as time permits, the Class Leadership Committee shall seek feedback and guidance from the Class on all major issues and decisions.

Section 4. Meetings. The Class Leadership Committee will meet from time to time during the year to attend to the affairs of the class. Reunion meetings of the Class Leadership Committee shall be held on the first full day of each quinquennial reunion to facilitate maximum participation by Class Members and Associate Members.

Section 5. Liaison Officer(s). The Class Leadership Committee may from time to time appoint a Member or Associate Member to serve a defined term as a liaison with the WPAOG, with the Class or Class committees, or with the Academy leadership. Authorities will be provided as needed to support the purpose of the liaison mission.

## **ARTICLE VII** **OTHER COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Nominating Committee. This committee will be chaired by the Immediate Past President unless he is not available to serve for personal reasons, reasons of health, or any other reason as determined by the Class Leadership Committee. Not later than two years prior to each quinquennial reunion, after consultation with the Class Leadership Committee, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall identify four additional Members of the Class to serve on the committee. Members of the Class Leadership Committee may not serve as members of the Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate a candidate for each of the offices to be filled at the Reunion Meeting. Members will be notified of the slate of nominees not later than sixty days prior to the quinquennial reunion.

Section 2. Reunion Committee. At least two years prior to each quinquennial reunion, the Class Leadership Committee shall designate a Member of the Class to serve as the Reunion Committee Chairman. The Reunion Committee Chairman, after consultation with the Class Officers, will form a committee that will be responsible to the Class Leadership Committee for the planning and conduct of the quinquennial reunion.

Section 3. Other Committees. Other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the Class Leadership Committee from time to time as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Class.

## **ARTICLE VIII** **MEETINGS**

Section 1. Reunion Meeting. The Reunion Meeting of the Class shall be held on the first full day of each quinquennial reunion weekend unless otherwise ordered by the Class Leadership Committee. This meeting shall be known as the Reunion Meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 2. Quorum. Those members present at the Reunion Meeting, regardless of number, shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE IX** **FUNDS**

Section 1. Class Funds. The Class shall administer funds through the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG).

Section 2. Administration Fund. The Class Administration Fund includes monies that have been deposited with the WPAOG for Class activities. Authorized uses of the Administrative Fund include, but are not limited to: the normal conduct of Class business, Class mailings, purchasing flowers, and sending and returning Class flags for deceased members' ceremonies as well as reunion expenditures. Upon dissolution of the Class, the Class Administration Fund reverts to unrestricted use apportioned equally in the West Point Fund and the Long Gray Line Endowment.

Section 3. Gift Fund. The Gift Fund included monies for Class-approved projects that supported the mission of USMA. Since the 50th reunion gift is the last formal Class gift, the Gift Fund, at the vote of the Class Leadership Team, can be closed and any funds remaining be apportioned to the WPAOG as approved by the Leadership Team. Individual classmates can still donate through the WPAOG to the West Point Fund, The Long Gray Line Endowment or another USMA activity sanctioned by the WPAOG. These donations are normally tax deductible.

Section 4. Financial Reports. The Class Treasurer will provide an annual administrative report that includes monies received, interest earned, capital gains and expenditures to the Class Leadership Committee. The report shall list all Class Fund transactions for the calendar year just ended. (The WPAOG provides the Class Treasurer with their income, balance and project activity reports for preparing the Administrative Fund annual report). A condensed report of the Class Administrative Report may be included as part of annual communications to the Class.

Section 5. Expenditure Authority. The Class Leadership Committee has the authority to approve expenditures from the Administrative Fund. Normally, this approval is transmitted to the WPAOG by the Class Treasurer, Class President or any other Class Officer after full disclosure with the Class Leadership Committee.

## **ARTICLE X** **ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws will become effective once they have been approved by two-thirds of the Members voting at a Reunion Meeting of the Class.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**AMMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may be amended at any Reunion Meeting of the Class by a two-thirds vote of the Members in attendance.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**DISSOLUTION**

When there are insufficient Members to constitute a Class Leadership Committee capable of administering the affairs of the Class, the Class shall be dissolved, and all funds remaining in the General Fund shall become the unrestricted property of the AOG.