

Minutes, EXCOM Meeting. 5 October, 2016

The Chairman, Dick Schonberger, called the meeting to order at 1030. Present were Pete Kusek, Dick, Frank Waskowicz, Tony Smith, Betsy Hall and Audrey Webb. Participating via telephone were Pete Penczer, Tom Claffey, Paul Vanture, Garry Roosma, and Jack Bradshaw.

**Plans for the 2018 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion at West Point (Garry Roosma).** Garry is planning for our reunion to occur from Wednesday, April 25 to Sunday April 29. (Based on the class vote after the 55<sup>th</sup> reunion, the EXCOM approved having the 60<sup>th</sup> at a time other than the Alumni Week.) The Thayer Hotel has booked 120 rooms for our class and we can have more if needed. He will also reserve rooms at the nearby Holiday Inn Express in Fort Montgomery as an overflow hotel if needed. The Thayer room rate, while not yet negotiated, will be around \$190/night. Suites will be a little higher.

AOG statistics project that we will have 51% of the class living and 42% of those will attend. This gives us a figure of 123 classmates attending. Garry is planning on 125 to 149 classmates and widows, for a total of some 252 in attendance.

He is planning on buses, but as we will already be on the grounds, they will be used like shuttles.

The Thayer does not give comp rooms and previous classes were not permitted to bring in outside alcohol. After explaining our Benny Havens room being an important part of the reunion, the General Manager, Carlys Lemier (USMA '01) said she would work with us. Together with Lexie Davis, our WPAOG reunion coordinator, Garry has successfully negotiated with Jose Tejdor, the Director of Sales and Marketing, to allow us to bring in our 100 cases of beer from Sam Adams to the hospitality room at no charge. In exchange, we will guarantee to spend \$35,000 on food and beverage. This sum would derive from 4 major events we will hold in the hotel: a welcome reception, BBQ, Class breakfast and meeting, and a seated dinner Saturday night. Garry and Lexie will crunch numbers in November to make sure we can make the expenditure before signing a contract.

As before, we will use the AOG for planning, arranging events and registration — a situation very much appreciated by Garry.

**Treasurer's Report (Pete Kusek).** The class has the following funds:

USAA Checking:	\$ 604.68
T. Rowe Price	\$ 70,171. 24
Total	\$ 70, 775.92

In addition, \$1,180.19 exists in an administrative fund with the AOG.

Expenses during the month were \$308.95 for the Cappelle Award, \$9.40 on postage, \$94.11 for flowers for Walt Plaue's funeral, and \$100 as a memorial for Hugh Morgan.

**60+Ten (Frank Waskowicz).** Frank described the ongoing effort to assess how governance of the class might change in the decade following our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. The process began with an outline suggested by Jack Bradshaw that underwent several iterations, and formed the basis for a working group discussion on August 30 that involved George Sibert, George Lawton, Jerry Mitchell, Palmer McGrew, Dick Schonberger and Frank Waskowicz. Tony Smith is also involved, but not present this time because of preoccupation with progress on the First Class Club. Frank provided a working paper that incorporated the thoughts of this group, together with an expanded menu of topics to be discussed at a follow-on session, most likely in late November. The objective is to refine ideas and define recommendations that could be put before the class in a white paper prior our 60<sup>th</sup>, for ratification during the class meeting in April, 2018.

**First Class Club.** Tony Smith continues his effort to complete the First Class Club renovation and transfer “ownership” to the Class of 1983. Construction is approximately 25% complete. It is anticipated that construction will end in January 2017, allowing the interior work to proceed (bar, booths, bathrooms, fixtures and wall hangings) under the coordination of the Director of Cadet Activities. The projection is that the club will be ready for official turnover on March 27. Tony has already advised Jack Bradshaw to pack his bags.

But as we all know, schedules slip, and many decisions in which we play only a minor role have yet to be made. So Tony advises: Stay loose.

Dale Hruby, Munge Moore and Brad Johnson traveled with Tony to West Point last month to examine and evaluate the entire framed photo collection from the “old” Firstie Club to select those suitable for reuse in the rehabbed Club. In addition, they toured the construction site, coordinated with the Corps of Engineers, the construction contractor, and DCA officials. They also met with representatives of the classes of '83 and '08 to discuss their classes' roles both in funding the refurnishing of the Club and in assuming graduate responsibility for the Club.

**Fund Raising (Tom Claffey).** Tom reported that at this time \$363,169 has been raised with 64.1% of the class participating. Tom said that the AOG has been very helpful. The fund drive continues to 31 December. He is exploring ways by which we can convince classmates who have not yet made a contribution, to do so. Tony reminded the group that the initial estimate for our share of the renovation was about \$317,000. This figure was based on preliminary estimates and did not include the cost of framing new photos representing new sports since 1993 and women's sports. Revised and more accurate estimates are forthcoming.

**CCQ Coordinator.** PD Vanture reported that the class has an 81.5% completion of memorial articles for deceased classmates, which is really good compared to other classes. He said that at the present time, there are 33 deceased classmates needing memorial articles. This does not include 12 classmates who have indicated that they do not desire memorial articles. There have been 16 ex-cadets deceased, with memorial articles written for three of them. PD is working hard to push CCQs in this area, as well as seeking volunteers to author articles. There was a discussion of the class history files held by westpoint.org that could be a valuable source in addition to the Howitzer and 10, 30, and 50 year books.

**Widow's Outreach Team (WOT).** Betsy Hall and Audrey Webb, members of the newly established team, discussed ideas for creating a compelling environment for widows, including early contact upon death of the husband, follow-on outreach offering assistance, encouragement to attend class functions, periodic luncheons for widows' groups, and advice and assistance when requested. An early effort is the booklet "Grip Hands..." which is based on Betsy's recollection of her activities leading up to and following Jim's death. Her thoughts have been augmented in the booklet with advice regarding funeral arrangements at Arlington, West Point, and any of the 134 National Cemeteries maintained by the VA. It includes, at Bill Serchak's recommendation, helpful advice regarding inherited IRA's and collected wisdom of Charlie Miller based on his 3+ years of care-giving and 2 years as a widower — especially in the financial arena. The booklet has already proven useful in two instances — sent by the team to Coleen Shea following the death of Joe Shea, and to Bill Graf and Mike Daley who made it available to a widow from the class of 1954. Paula Johnson is the third member of the WOT.

There will be no class meeting at the Carmel mini. The minutes will be posted and the class alerted to raise questions and concerns with EXCOM members at the reunion.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Waskowicz  
Secretary