

Minutes, EXCOM Meeting. 2 February, 2017

The Chairman, Dick Schonberger, called the meeting to order at 10:30AM at Frank Waskowicz's home. Present were Pete Kusek, Dick, Jack Bradshaw, Jack Gordon, Tony Smith, George Sibert, Frank Waskowicz, Betsy Hall, and Audrey Webb. Participating via telephone were Tom Claffey and PD Vanture.

**Treasurer's Report.** Pete Kusek provided the following information on our Class operating Fund.

USAA Checking Account	\$1,107.93
T. Rowe Price	\$74,178.49
Total	\$75,286.42

Operating Fund Expenses	
Carmel Mini Expenses	\$79.06
George Klotzsch Memorial	\$92.20
James Peck Memorial	\$100
EXCOM Telecom Cost	\$21.76
John Raymond Memorial	\$100
Kay Tomlinson present	\$69.50
Malone Trophies	\$317.25

The fund received \$1,283 from Jody LeTowt which was left over following the Carmel mini. The \$317.25 for the Malone Trophies was payback to John Herren who had footed the bill for the last three presentations.

Following a discussion he'd had with Charlie Miller (who has does our annual tax return), Pete said we might consider at some point turning management of our operating fund over to the Association of Graduates. Some other classes do this with apparent satisfaction.

**The Way Forward: Class actions and activities post 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion.** Dick Schonberger discussed on-going actions to assess potential change in all areas of class governance. He has asked a number of classmates to focus on specific issues and to draft recommended concepts/actions to insure class functions and responsibilities will be maintained going forward. For example, Tom Claffey, Paul Ruud and Ed Weckel have worked on the Final Toast concept, Jack Downing is working with the PEB and '08 on the Time Capsule and class endowment, George Sibert is working on post-60th mini-reunion planning. Frank is looking after the Constitution and bylaws. Classmates providing specific support like Pete Trainor with the Web, John Nun with class rosters and Dick Buckalew with email lists have been asked to look at if and how these services will continue, presumably with other than a classmate. Garry will prepare a similar concept for the future 5-year reunions.

Proponents have been asked to submit their drafts by the end of April in order to prepare an initial coordinating draft for the White Paper planned for the 60th."

An early concern is whether any of these assessments might require amendment of our class Constitution and ByLaws. Frank said that only one instance had arisen. At a meeting of the "Gang of Six" (Schonberger, Lawton, McGrew, Mitchel, Sibert, and Waskowicz) — a group that had met periodically to brainstorm the future— some support had been voiced to open EXCOM membership to wives and widows. A discussion paper justified consideration on the basis that (1) ladies already make measurable contributions for mini-reunions and other class activities, (2) already enjoy class-wide recognition of special status in our annual memorial services, (3) have a depth of useable skills, and most importantly (4) will as a group outlive the class members so that their more substantial involvement could provide the wherewithal to extend a viable class environment despite a shrinking male population. The EXCOM noted that the Constitution and ByLaws allow the EXCOM to establish such committees as are required for the conduct of Class business, effectively allowing wife/widow involvement. The EXCOM noted that there are numerous opportunities for wives and widows to be engaged. Audrey Webb asked if any women had expressed an interest in serving on the EXCOM. Not to anyone's knowledge. Jack Gordon felt that while there might be occasion to consider such action in the future, that there are currently sufficient classmates who can meet the need. The EXCOM was not persuaded to pursue amendment, which would have required referral to the class.

**First Class Club.** Tony Smith provided an update. The refurbishment/renovation will be complete on March 27<sup>th</sup> and opened to the Class of 2017 on that date. As has been the custom, our class will turn over the club to the new First Class on that date (though in this case to the existing First Class for their final 3 months at the Academy). As it had been our Class intent to "relinquish ownership" to the Class of 1983 when the facility was in #1 condition (an event eclipsed by the water leak and subsequent major renovation), Jack Bradshaw and Tony suggested that we use that same reopening date to accomplish a turn-over to USMA '83. That would fulfill the clean break anticipated several years ago. The EXCOM was in agreement, and details will be provided to the class, along with an invitation to participate.

None of this will prevent the class having the opportunity to savor the newly outfitted facility in the course of our 60<sup>th</sup>, and we anticipate opportunities to be available during that event.

Continuing recognition of our class' leadership in establishing the First Class Club is an important objective that Tony has been pursuing. The committee that is managing the club at West Point has in mind using the club as a major fund raiser, essentially raffling off the naming of internal components of the club, e.g., the bar, a meeting room, etc as the Class of XXX bar, and the Class of YYY meeting room. We

have very little control over this. The Academy apparently sees the club as a “cash cow”. In the midst of this, Tony is seeking two things:

- (1) Restoring that the section of the wall devoted to the Class of 1958 in time for our 60<sup>th</sup> in April of 2018, and.
- (2) Installation of a brass plaque recognizing “the contribution of the Class and its stewardship of the club for over two decades” to be mounted on an interior wall of the club. There is a plaque to the left of the entryway, but it is easily ignored. Tony is pursuing agreement from the West Point community, subsequent design, creation and mounting of the plaque.

As is reported later, our fund drive was incredibly successful. Tony has been persistent in approving release of funds held by the AOG only upon his review of progress. It does appear, however, that there will be a significant balance beyond the initial goal of \$300K. The EXCOM had earlier said it did not want any overage to go to an alternate use. So it is available, and may provide Tony some leverage in pursuing the two objectives stated above and agreed upon by the EXCOM.

**FCC Fund Drive.** Tom Claffey, our Member at Large, who has done a wonderful job in managing the fund drive over the past year, reported its successful conclusion which resulted in total of \$388,715.57 with 68.7% of the class participating. Well done, Tom.

**CCQ Coordinator’s Report.** PD Vanture provided the status of memorial article preparation and publication. To date, there have been 165 published memorial articles, 167 if ex-cadets are included. Sixteen articles are in progress. Eighteen have no writer designated. Sometimes it is difficult to get the ball rolling. For instance, 15 years have passed since the reported death of Dave Coury. His wife lives in Mexico with no know address. George Sibert has a possible lead to family, and will follow up. Dick Schonberger expressed a desire for some tool that would help us measure and judge progress in this important endeavor.

PD is encouraging classmates to write their own memorial articles.

Thirteen classmates have indicated that they wish no memorial article written.

**Social Chairman Sitrep.** Jack Gordon has published the social calendar for 2017 for the Washington Area. He is placing less reliance on the ANCC this year because of cost. The schedule is attached to these minutes.

Jack related that the Class of 1957 is planning on using a bus to transport classmates from Washington to their 60<sup>th</sup> at West Point. The bus, with a capacity of 44, is almost fully subscribed at this point. Jack will stay on this as a possibility for us next year.

**60<sup>th</sup> Reunion at West Point (April, 2018)** Dick spoke about a recent conversation he had with Garry Roosma regarding the planning for our 60<sup>th</sup>. He said that Garry is close to reaching final agreement with the Thayer Hotel. Some on the EXCOM expressed concern about costs at the Thayer, citing a \$300/day. This conflicts with the \$190/day figure mentioned at the last EXCOM meeting. Dick will be following up with Garry on the status of negotiations.

**Widow's Outreach Team.** Audrey Webb and Betsy Hall discussed their recent activities. Audrey has been active in talking to recent widows and sending "Grip Hands" cards. Betsy provided a matrix that listed recipients of the "Grip Hands..." booklet. It has been provided to recent widows (Coleen Shea, Jane Crosby, Barbara Raymond, Ellie Wilson and Ginny Klotzback). Also copies have been provided to various groups: Bill Graf and Mike Daley supporting a widow of the Class of 53, attendees at the Carmel mini and Alan and Florence Salisbury. And to families where illness was at hand: Lucy Moore and Pamela Taylor. Use of the booklet is not restricted to the class and it was felt that there was no objection to wide distribution. The booklet is copywrite by the Class of 1958.

There was agreement that every effort should be taken to invite widows to class events in the area. Jack Gordon agreed. Audrey and Betsy said they would undertake calls to all the local widows.

There was some discussion about widow lists. Their preference was for a list that John Nun can produce, and that link will be made.

Dick said he looked forward to the team working to involve all local widows, and after determining what would be helpful to them, to extend the outreach to the larger class. Paula Johnson has proposed a survey. The sense was that one-on-one discussions would be the most fruitful.

**Distinguished Graduate Award.** Frank indicated that we should be receiving notification regarding the class's nomination of Bill Tuttle for Distinguished Graduate. [Subsequently, and unfortunately, Jack Bradshaw did receive FEDEX notification later in the day that Bill was not selected.]

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Waskowicz  
Secretary

Attachment: 2017 Social Calendar

**2017 Social Calendar, DC Area**

9 February. Luncheon at Le Refuge restaurant at 127 N. Washington St, Alexandria, VA

2 March: Luncheon with USMA 1957 in the Lamplighter Room, Patton Hall (Formerly the Fort Myer Officers Open Mess)

11 March: Founder's Day, McLean/Tyson's Corner

21 May: Our Vietnam Remembrance with buffet afterwards at the Army Navy County Club in Arlington, VA

20 July: Luncheon at Ramparts in Alexandria, Details TBD

21 September: Luncheon at ANCC, Fairfax, Details TBD

19 October: Luncheon at RT's Restaurant (Seafood) in Alexandria, VA. Details TBD

Joint USMA/USNA 1958 Luncheon, ANCC. We are hosts

9 December: A/N game watch party at Alan and Florence Salisbury's home