

Minutes, EXCOM Meeting. 4 May, 2017

The Chairman, Dick Schonberger, called the meeting to order at 10:30AM at the Schonberger home. Present were Pete Kusek, Jack Gordon, Tony Smith, George Sibert, Frank Waskowicz, Betsy Hall, and Audrey Webb. Participating via telephone were Jack Bradshaw, Tom Claffey, PD Vanture, and Garry Roosma (to update the EXCOM on planning for our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion.)

**Treasurer's Report.** Pete Kusek reported on our operating Fund.

USAA Checking Account	\$640.40
T. Rowe Price	\$78,180.18
Total	\$78,820.58

Operating Fund Expenses	
Roses for placement at VN Wall Memorial Service	\$168
New flag pole (Palmer McGrew)	\$83.77
Dick Garlick Funeral Flowers	\$100.00
Charge for telecom services	\$14.08
Bob Lindquist memorial	\$100
UPS Charge (Frank Waskowicz)	\$18.06
Bill Mathews memorial	\$100

Admin fund (deposited with AOG)    \$2,017.37

(The last is money to kick-start reunion activities and is drawn on by Garry Roosma as needed.)

**60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Planning.** Garry Roosma provided working papers to the EXCOM about his planning and a recommended schedule. (Both drafts are attached) Garry talked the committee through his material. Highlights are:

- We have 148 rooms @ \$209/night and 23 more costly suites. While expensive, this is a better deal than other classes have experienced, i.e., USMA 52 and USMA 82 paid \$259/night
- AOG has been very helpful in working with Garry. They will handle the bulk of the work in the course of the reunion.
- Our traditional Benny Havens Room will be a first for the Thayer. They have never before allowed "spirits" to be imported by guests. In trade, we guarantee \$35,000 in purchased services, which Garry and our AOG rep believe is very feasible.
- No memorabilia. If items are desired from the AOG gift shop they can be ordered ahead of time and will be delivered at check-in.
- Garry recommends that we avoid the use of private automobiles for the various events. Parking will be at a premium. Instead we will contract for bus

transportation. He was asked to provide costs for that service. [Afterward, Garry responded that the cost per bus is \$1,000/day. We'll need 5, so the estimated cost would be \$10,000. This is comparable to what USMA '57 experienced.]

- AOG — based on experience with earlier classes — strongly recommends we minimize physical demands on the class.
- Question arose about headgear: do we want to continue to use our white felt hats? EXCOM members affirmed that they were distinctive and we should continue to use them. However, there may be classmates that have lost/misplaced theirs. Betsy Hall indicated she has two hats that she'd make available. Frank Waskowicz will get prices from a manufacturer in Pennsylvania that we used for our 55<sup>th</sup>, and will work through PD Vanture to determine the need.
- Garry wanted everyone to understand that this would probably be our last big reunion. We're expecting 140 classmates with family and guests. Based on AOG history, that number will decrease to 70 for our 65<sup>th</sup>, and 12 to 18 for our 70<sup>th</sup>.
- Garry said that there might not be a single room large enough to accommodate 300-people; so that our class dinner might have to be split into two rooms. Seating by company would still occur. [Later, Garry reported that if we do not have a dance floor or major entertainment, Washington Ball Room can accommodate 330.]
- [Later, Garry wrote that Lexie of AOG has sent a survey to USMA '57 and will share the results with you when done.]

**The Way Forward: Class actions and activities post 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion.** Frank Waskowicz discussed the draft of a White Paper that will be provided to the class prior to our 60<sup>th</sup>. The paper describes the status of our many class activities and plans to accommodate change in the decade following that reunion. Following further review by individuals having specific class responsibilities, the EXCOM plans to send the paper to the entire class prior to our 60<sup>th</sup> for information and discussion. A finalized version will be made available at the reunion.

The paper will discuss EXCOM membership, and plans for succession of positions, the final toast, the time capsule at our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, memorial articles, etc.

In the course of the discussion, the EXCOM reacted favorably to a suggestion by the Treasurer, Pete Kusek to turn administration of our class operating fund over to the AOG. While there would be an admin charge, Pete's experience is that our funds will benefit from return on AOG investments. USMA '61 uses AOG to manage their funds, and are pleased. When funds are needed for something such as a memorial or funeral flowers, an authorized class representative (our Treasurer or Chairman) tells the rep from AOG how much and to whom the reimbursement should go. When the class reaches the point where the operating fund is no longer needed, the

EXCOM (or what remains of the EXCOM) will instruct WPAOG to transfer the remainder to the Perpetual Endowment Fund, an action already approved by the class in the course of establishing the PEF. This approach appears superior to other planning suggestions, such as creating focused CD's to cover future needs such as the last man toast. Pete will provide the EXCOM with additional information (fees, returns to the fund from AOG investments, taxes, etc) before undertaking the transfer of administration of class funds to the AOG.

**First Class Club.** Tony Smith reviewed the “showcase opening” of the First Class Club attended by Jack and Lynne Bradshaw, Dale and Dodie Hruby , Brad Johnson, and Tony’s wife Bonnie. Much of what he said had already been provided to the class in his E-Mail of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. (That note is attached.) The lengthened bar is a major improvement to minimize queuing for drinks. TVs are everywhere. The menu offerings are great.

The memorial committee that governs size, composition and location of plaques has approved replacing the current plaque that exists to the left of the main entrance with a similarly sized plaque that gives full recognition to our Class’s 25 years of stewardship. To date, we have authorized the release of \$295-thousand to cover furnishings and furnishment. Tony has advised the powers that be that we have additional funds (approximately \$120-thousand) that we would be willing to provide for something that the planners were not able to put into the renovation/rebuild because of funding limitations. That seems to have interest. Tony has included in this offer our class desire to provide suitable lighting for the plaque on the exterior of the building — which today is too easily overlooked in the shadows and darkness.

While the appointments in the new club are far different from those which we initiated 25-years ago (i.e., “every cadet an athlete), Tony indicates that they have done a really attractive job that we will find very satisfactory. He has asked that the club provide space for us in the course of our 60<sup>th</sup> to display mementos of particular significance from that earlier time. Items that come to mind of special importance are the rubbing of classmate names from the Vietnam Wall, the photo of our 1958 National Champions lacrosse team, the photo of our 1958 150-pound team that defeated Navy in the presence of President Eisenhower, and others still to be nominated.

Two events are planned in the First Class Club during our 60th: light breakfast (coffee and doughnuts) prior to the parade Saturday morning, and a pay-as-you go bar on Friday evening preceding the BBQ dinner at the Thayer.

**FCC Fund Drive.** Tom Claffey reported the final tally of \$391,451 with 71.6% of the class participating. He is following up on two pledges not yet fulfilled. [Tom followed up on the two pledges. There was some confusion; the intent in some cases had

been to contribute to the Supe's Fund, not the gift fund. Net result: final tally is \$491,051]

**CCQ Coordinator's Report.** PD Vanture provided the status of memorial article preparation and publication. He said that we're doing well, but statistically the situation is not improving as names are being continuously added, offsetting completed memorial articles. He said that 29 classmates have written their own memorial articles, of which 14 have been sent on to AOG. PD again emphasized that self-authoring is really important.

**Social Chairman Sitrep.** Jack Gordon reported that he is receiving reservations for the memorial service at the Vietnam Wall. He will advise attendees about the dress code for the ANCC brunch that follows. Parking at the Vietnam Memorial is a continuing problem. Some members of the EXCOM related that last year they were unable to park, and skipped the event, and just moved on to the brunch. Someone suggested Uber as an attractive alternative.

That brought up a discussion initiated by Audrey Webb about the transportation needs of some widows who are not up to the task of driving separately to West Point for our 60th. This resurrected a discussion from an earlier EXCOM meeting about the possibility of arranging for a bus to serve the local DC crowd – to include (as suggested by George Sibert) folks from out of the area who might commute in to take advantage of such an arrangement. Jack said he would follow up on the experience of USMA '57 and determine the feasibility and costs of bus.

**Widow's Outreach Team.** Audrey Webb discussed the survey of 18 widows in the DC area, and Betsy Hall provided details on the distribution of the "Grip Hands" booklet. Ten women responded to the survey. Betsy and Audrey made an effort to call those who did not respond. They were heartened that at least nine, including Betsy and Audrey, are interested in class social gatherings and widows' events. Betsy and Audrey are planning a WIDOWS ONLY event in the fall. Two of their discussion items are discussed above: transportation to the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion and parking for the Memorial Service. Other issues raised included a hope that class rosters should include the classmate's name in addition to the widow's, and that E-Mail invitations to upcoming events include a phrase to the effect that "ladies are included" (Or marked "Guys Only" if that is the intent).

Betsy provided a detailed listing people that she has provided copies of our "Grip Hands" brochure. Over 20 have been provided in addition to copies that were provided to each attendee at the Carmel mini.

Audrey asked what kind of outreach the widow group should provide to widows of ex-classmates. It was pointed out that in our 50-year book, we list in addition to classmates, those who came in with us but graduated with another class, and those

who came in with us, but did not graduate with us but have maintained a relationship. There was a fourth category: those who came in with us, but did not graduate and of whom we know nothing. The suggestion is that it would be appropriate to the second and third categories where a specific need was identified.

**“To Do” List**

- Pete – follow-up assessment of moving account to AOG
- Frank – source and prices for reunion hats
- PD – poll CCQ for # of hats needed
- Jack Gordon – Costs/Feasibility of DC Bus for Reunion
- Frank – send 60+10 draft out to individuals for check prior to class mailing
- Tony – Extra funds for FCC, Light on plaque, wall display for 60th

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Waskowicz  
Secretary

**Attachments:**

- Tony’s note to class on the Showcase opening of the FCC
- 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion memo from Garry Roosma
- Draft Schedule for the 60<sup>th</sup>

## **Showcase Opening of the First Class Club**

Classmates,

At long last the First Class Club restoration has been completed!

Jack and Lynne Bradshaw, Dale and Dodie Hruby, Brad Johnson, and Bonnie and I attended what was billed as an invitation-only Showcase Event on Friday evening, 21 April. The Supe spoke, heaping deserved praise on the Class of 1958 for our role in supporting the Club over the last quarter century. Jack was invited to speak for the class and offered some well-chosen words on the history of the FCC and how our 25 years of supporting the Club not only brought our class closer to cadets but also served to reinforce the bonds among our own classmates. There were only a handful of cadets present, including the First Captain, some members of his staff, and a few others. Coach Monken and his wife attended and stayed well into the evening.

The Club looks good. The layout is functional and well thought-out. The bar, 80' long (the class of '83 rep claims it's 83' long), snakes through half the Club, which should greatly reduce wait times on busy evenings. They have carved out a section for a meeting room, with sliding barn doors that close it off. TV sets abound - there must be about 40. They are proud of their modern kitchen, state-of-the-art beer cooler, displays of liquor and wine that can be purchased, and wide variety of beers on tap (at least a dozen).

The refurbished Club is tastefully decorated. However, it has a brand new look; you will hardly recognize the place when you come to see it at our 60th Reunion. Our concept was to dedicate the FCC to Army sports at all levels (varsity, club, intramural) and the theme was "Every cadet an athlete". To that end, Dale Hruby, Butch Ordway and others painstakingly selected, framed, and hung a representative set of a couple of hundred action photos depicting Army sports. I always thought the impact of those hundreds of photos covering every square inch of wall space in the old Club was way cool! None of those photos hang in the renovated Club, although they tell me that the decorations are not finished and they intend to use some of our photos before they complete decorating the Club.

The class is not neglected in the new Club. Immediately after entering, there are three items of class of '58 memorabilia that catch the eye: the framed rubbing that we made of the classmates who fell in the Vietnam War, the poster that commemorates the leading role that Dale Hruby and Butch Ordway played in fitting out the FCC in the early 90s when it was first established in its present form, and, (Brad Eliot take note), the team photo of our 1958 national champion lacrosse team.

A videographer wandered around the Club during much of the evening. He told me that they would post a video of the event on YouTube. I'll try to find out when and send out the link.

The FCC will open to the class of 2017 beginning with a Grand Opening event on 3 May. The Supe is very proud of having kept his promise to the class to have the Club open before they graduate. LTG Caslen deserves the lion's share of the credit for pushing through the rebuilding of the FCC. As he told the story Friday nite, his Chief of Staff got every department head across the entire West Point facility together in a room and "solicited" reductions in their respective department budgets until he had reached the \$3.5 Million, give or take, required to rebuild and refurbish the structure.

As we end our relationship with the First Class Club, I think we may all take great pride in having presented to West Point the gift that the cadets most appreciate and that graduating classes for the past 25 years have enjoyed to the fullest.

Best regards to all,

Tony

April 21, 2017

The purpose of this memo is to give you an up date of the plans for the 60th Reunion. The contract for the Thayer Hotel has been finalized after several changes had been made. The hotel is booked from Wednesday, April 25 through Sunday, April 29, 2018. In order to keep expenses down Wednesday is designated as an optional day. The Benny Havens Room will be open that day for those who choose to come on Wednesday.

We have 148 rooms, 125 of which are \$209 per night and 23 suites ranging in price from \$261 to \$359. There are room taxes of 8.13% NY State Sales and 5% Orange County Occupancy Tax. In addition there is a \$13.99 per room per night Facility Fee which includes Wi Fi, a cup of coffee per guest per day at the Bistro, valet parking, local and long distance calls and full use of the exercise facility.

We will have four major functions at the hotel, 3 dinners and the class breakfast. The hotel will allow the class to bring in the Sam Adams beer at no charge. This is a first for the hotel as they do not allow outside alcohol in the public rooms. In order to have this we need to spend \$35,000. Lexie Davis and I have crunched the numbers and based on our past history at reunions we feel that amount will be reached.

I have engaged the WPAOG to do the bulk of the work for the reunion so we as a class will be able to have the maximum time to enjoy the reunion. For the past two five year reunions we have used the WPAOG for some of the tasks and they have done a great job for us. This will facilitate the planning and coordination of the 65th reunion as the WPAOG can do everything if we want them to.

I see no need for memorabilia. Most of us have tote bags, wine glasses and other items. The WPAOG will, as we did for the 55th Reunion, have items with the class crest that can be ordered ahead of time or purchased at the reunion.

We will use shuttle buses on Friday and Saturday to get us to the memorial service, Ike Hall, the First Class Club and the parade.

For the memorial service suggest we use the amphitheater as we did several reunions ago and have the chapel as a inclement weather back up. We have not been able to use the amphitheater for the May reunions as the benches are moved to Miche Stadium for the graduation exercises. Events at the First Class Club have been scheduled keeping in mind that the club cannot accommodate a large group for dinners or lunches. Beer Call and coffee and Danish will give us a chance to use the club.



Our parade uniform as we established many reunions AGO is Black or Blue blazer, gray trousers, white shirt and shoes and tie of your choosing. We have the white hat but I feel the hats may be a little tired looking or in some cases lost. I will leave the hat decision up to the EC. My hat is OK so I can go one way or the other. If we have ,hopefully, a sunny day we will need a hat of some sort.

There are several miscellaneous costs associated with the reunion that I would like you to consider that the class pick up the tab. This would help keep the cost to those attending lower and facilitate control. I want to encourage all to take the shuttle bus on Friday and Saturday. We will be at the Point Saturday during Retirees Appreciation Day so there will be crowds and parking will be very limited and Friday is a work day at WP and those working take up almost all the campus area parking. Trying to keep track of who paid and who did not is all but impossible. For previous reunions I put the cost of the buses in the registration fee but again I would like to keep that cost at a minimum.

For the two activities at the FCC, again it would facilitate things to cover the cost. We want all to see and enjoy our wonderful gift to the Corps. This is our last large reunion, the 65th Reunion will only have 70 to 80 attending according to statistics so let's make the most of this reunion.

I do not have the cost figures on either of these events and the buses but we have enough money to cover a few thousand dollars. I would like to remind you that we had a \$10,000 profit from the 55th Reunion. Granted that money was rolled over into the class funds but it is still there.

There are several items that the class needs to do one is the memorial service. The WPAOG will help in arranging the site and the bugler but we need to do the necrology. Printing of the program can be done by WPAOG or we can do it. We have done the class roster and again WPAOG can print it for us. Chuck Toftoy does a great job with the beer but I would suggest that we do not need 100 cases. Probably 50 to 60 would do.

We made the decision some time ago not to do dinner dances and have bands and such. Again in order to keep costs down, we can stay with that. The Gonzos are always welcome but that is Stan Bacon and troupes decision.

Our West Point reunions have always been memorable. We have covered many venues including Camp Buckner, New York Harbor cruise, tours to nearby historic sites, golf, meals at the West Point Club, Miche Stadium and many others. Weather has always been a factor and for the most part good weather made the reunion more enjoyable. Late April should be a good time weather wise. Hope all of you can be there.

Garry Roosma, Reunion Chairman

60th Reunion Schedule USMA Class of 1958 **DRAFT**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 (Optional)

Benny Havens Room Open - Afternoon and Evening  
Meals are on your own (Company Dinners perhaps)

Thursday, April 26

Registration - WPAOG Personnel - on going during reunion  
Golf or tour on your own  
Benny Havens Room Open  
Welcome Reception and Buffet Dinner Thayer Hotel  
Benny Havens Room Open

Friday, April 27

Class Breakfast and Class Meeting  
Shuttle Bus to Memorial Service ( Cadet Chapel or Amphitheater)  
Lunch Ike Hall  
Supe's Briefing (with Class of 1968)  
Hellcats Performance  
Tour around West Point - Shuttle Bus  
Retreat Ceremony- Trophy Point  
Beer Call - First Class Club  
BBQ Dinner Thayer Hotel  
Benny Havens Room Open

Saturday, April 28

Shuttle Bus to First Class Club - Coffee and Danish  
Assemble for Parade - Spouses/Guests sit in stands  
Review Parade with Class of 1968  
Lunch - Washington Hall  
Tour West Point on own  
Shuttle Bus to Hotel  
Cocktail Reception  
Buffet Dinner Thayer Hotel  
Benny Havens Room Open

Sunday, April 29

Departure Breakfast