

Minutes, USMA '58 EXCOM, December 11, 2018

The EXCOM met at Andy Andreson's home. Present were Andy, Margi Downing, Audrey Webb, Lee Miller, Palmer McGrew, Frank Waskowicz, and George Lawton (representing the Perpetual Endowment Board). Participating via telephone were Jack Bradshaw, Tom Claffey, Mike Mahler, and Pete Trainor. PD Vanture had provided written reports regarding the status of memorial articles.

Proper Use of Mailing Lists. At the outset, our Chairman, Andy observed that some class members are violating the use of Class e-mail lists, specifically the class list usma1958@west-point.org that is intended for Class of 1958 subject matter only and nothing else.

Pete Trainor describes the intended use of our various lists on our Class Web Site, with specific rules and guidance governing their use. The "forum list" is available for general posting on subjects of choice.

Andy is using reunion58@west-point.org for all matters related to the upcoming mini in Las Vegas.

Finances. Lee Miller reported that our Class Admin Fund contained a little over \$88K at the end of October. The Class Gift Fund has a residual value of a little more than \$80K. And, in the course of discussions, George Lawton reported the current value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund as \$1,190,530.75 — down from the \$1.3-million reported at our August meeting.

LasVegas Mini. Andy reported on the status of this event planned for March 26-29, 2019 at the Park MGM Hotel. Originally 50 rooms had been set aside. That number has risen to 60, with attendance projected to be 110-120. Andy will make a recon of the facilities in January to clarify the size of the Benny Havens room, signage, check-in procedures, and options for eating and a class meeting. Unlike major reunions, there is almost no registration fee, with costs for most events being on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Future Minis. Andy suggested we give consideration to the Gettysburg/Carlisle area for a future mini. A number of classmates have settled there, and Larry Bullis has volunteered a free guided tour of the battleground.

Social Calendar. Social options were discussed.

Following the EXCOM meeting, Palmer posted the following schedule for 2019:

- Jan17: Ramparts Restaurant Alexandria
- Feb 7: 57/58 luncheon Patton Hall
- Mar 26-29: Mini reunion Las Vegas
- May 19: Viet Nam Wall and luncheon
- Jul 18: Luncheon ANCC Arlington
- Sep 26: Class Picnic

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- Oct 17 Luncheon ANCC Fairfax
- Dec 5: Army Navy Luncheon ANCC Arlington
- Dec 14 Navy game party

Distinguished Graduate Nominations. Bill Tuttle's nomination will be assessed by the AOG for the final time in late January, 2019.

Based on a recommendation by Tony Smith, the EXCOM determined to pursue a nomination for Alan Salisbury, to be put before the selection committee in January 2020. Mike Mahler has agreed to take on that task. There was discussion regarding the politics involved. Jack Bradshaw advised that Tony Smith is an excellent resource as he has served on the selection committee in past years. Alan has been advised of our intent and has agreed have his name put forth. He was previously nominated and not selected, but his activities have not ossified and his list of accomplishments has continued to grow, so there is every reasonable chance that it will succeed this time.

Contribution to the Code of Support. It was recommended and agreed to by the EXCOM to contribute \$1,000 to the Code of Support Foundation, one of Alan Salisbury's initiatives focused on assisting military families in need. Lee Miller, who continues to lead the Wounded Warrior Mentor program, said that his organization frequently receives financial contributions, and as his focus is mentoring (and hence not capital-intensive) that they have passed on such contributions to Alan's program.

Senator McCain's Funeral. Andy described our class participation at John McCain's funeral at Annapolis. We matched USNA 58's floral arrangement. Their arrangement and ours were the only two arrangements, prominently displayed left and right at the front of the assemblage. The ribbon on the floral arrangement read "Well done fellow warrior — West Point Class of 1958". Andy and Artie Andreson, Lee and Betty Miller, and Frank and Linda Waskowicz represented the class, sitting on the right side, up-front, with dignitaries, friends, and classmates. Gen Petraeus, Sen Graham, and Lt John S. McCain IV spoke. Many, many dignitaries were present. The cortege to the burial site was limited to select family only. A single USNA classmate was included. Following the service, we met and mingled with Sen McCain's classmates and others at the Navy Club, the residual of their officers' club. Our involvement was a very worthwhile and memorable gesture.

Funds. George Lawton, speaking as Chair of the Perpetual Endowment Board that manages the PEF, discussed two items.

The first was the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed by George for the PEB, Jack Bradshaw for the class, and by the President of the Association of Graduates for the AOG, which makes clear that at whatever time in the future the EXCOM ceases to exist, that the **Class Admin Fund** which is managed by the AOG for the EXCOM, passes to the control of the PEB. The intent of this action is to ensure that the Perpetual Endowment Board has monies to cover its expenses, and makes certain that there is no mis-conception that these monies somehow revert to the AOG.

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By design, the PEB has no funds to cover its routine expenses. It relies on the Class Admin Fund as required. So it is essential that with the eventual demise of the EXCOM, that the PEB have a source of funds for the many activities that will occur in the future, such as expenses involved at the unearthing of the time capsule, expenses involved in ceremonies when PEB funds are donated to the Academy, expenses involved in the “final toast” event, and other.

There is no issue in this regard. The Admin Fund will revert to control of the PEB at some date in the future.

The second item that George raised was what the nature of the gift should be when the first gift of 25-percent from the **Perpetual Endowment Fund (PEF)** is presented to the Academy forty years hence. There was very strong support to giving the money from the PEF to the Academy with no strings attached.

The discussion then turned to the residual of the **Class Gift Fund**, approximately \$85,000 at present. The two options are to: (1) Identify a specific purpose, or (2) give the fund to the Superintendent’s Fund to be used as best suits the Academy. Andy recounted that based on discussions at the Leadership Conference at West Point, that we are unique — the only class that is not giving to the Superintendent’s Fund, selecting instead, to make our major donations via the PEF. There were proponents for each option. Andy observed that there is no rush to a decision, and that we could seek counsel from the AOG about possibilities.

[Editor: Following the meeting, the Andy spoke with Ms. Elena Ivanova who manages/oversees Class Gift Funds. Andy wrote: “A suggestion from her was to wait until our 65th reunion in 2023 to make final distribution, and at that time possibly split the proceeds between the Supe’s fund and the Long Gray Line fund. She will send me detailed information on both funds. In the interim, before the 65th, there may be other causes/events occurring that we would like to support with some/all of the Gift Fund.” The issue will be on the agenda for the next EXCOM meeting]

Memorial Articles. PD Vanture continues his excellent work in prodding the class regarding memorial articles. He provided a full report on the status of these efforts.

- List of 60 classmates who have committed to writing their own memorials. Of these 31 have already submitted their articles to the AOG
- List of thirteen memorial articles in progress where an author has been identified
- List by company of 20 classmates where authorship has yet to be defined
- List of 16 classmates who have indicated they desire no memorial articles
- List of five classmates with no memorial articles and no points of contact with their family/next of kin to initiate an article (Floyd Likens, Bob Bier, Tony Munger, Joe Brandl, and Dick Simmers)
- List of 10 memorial articles recently sent to AOG

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There was discussion about how to prod/replace CCQs not living up to our expectations. The Chair noted that there is not a long waiting list of applicants for those jobs. PD continues to make the case with the class that as the pool of writers diminishes, it is vital that we individually take an active role in writing our own memorial articles, or at a minimum collecting information to assist others in writing an article.

Widows Outreach Team. Audrey Webb reported on the many activities of the WOT over the past few months, which included:

- A luncheon at the Tyson's Olive Garden where 12 attended, include Paula Johnson's daughter
- Continued distribution of the special pins recognizing the class ladies that were first given at our 60th
- Barbara Raymond joining the WOT will take an active role in sending initial notes of sympathy to new widows
- Telephone calls and notes to the widows of John George, Wes Loffert and Charlie Bond
- Betsy Hall is planning to update the "Grip Hand..." booklet in the coming months.

Recognition of Deceased Wives/Widows. Lee Miller suggested that the class re-institute the practice of providing a stipend of \$100 as a gesture to the family of deceased wives and widows. The current practice covers only the classmate, with the stipend used for flowers or as a donation to charities selected by surviving family members. Based on the current number of living classmates (334) and living wives/widows (156), this initiative when extended to our women would place an anticipated future cost of \$49,000 on our Class Admin Fund, leaving a balance of appromatesly \$40,000 for other expenditures. The Chair asked that the topic be tabled for discussion at the next EXCOM meeting. At that time we anticipate that Lee (for the EXCOM) and George Lawton (for the PEB) lay out anticipated future expenses so that the reasonableness of Lee's proposal is clear.

Respectfully submitted



Frank Waskowicz
Secretary