

Minutes, EXCOM Meeting. 11 January, 2018

The Chairman, Dick Schonberger, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM at his home in Springfield. Present were Pete Kusek, Jack Gordon, George Sibert, Frank Waskowicz, Audrey Webb, Margie Downing, Andy Andreson, and Dick. Participating via telephone were Tom Claffey, PD Vanture, and Garry Roosma. Jack Downing joined to discuss the disposition of class coins in his possession.

60th Reunion. Garry Roosma meets with our AOG coordinator, Nicole, several times each day. The agenda is nearly complete. Registration will be posted to the class website on January 21, along with answers to frequently asked questions. Currently, 342 classmates, wives, widows, and friends are anticipated to attend.

Having the class fund pick up the tab for breakfast at the FCC was discussed. Based on cost of \$20/person, the EXCOM decided not to do so. Classmates can sign on for that at registration. Garry cautioned that the costs for the various events will be high, but they reflect the real world.

There is a process to ensure that as rooms at the Thayer become available due to changed plans, they are assigned to classmates on a waiting list. Jack Downing said he had been contacted recently about a vacancy. He turned it down, but this illustrates that the process is working. The bottom line is that there are likely to be added rooms available at the Thayer — due to changed plans, perhaps as a result of considerations involving the total costs associated with attendance.

It was agreed that business casual was appropriate for all events, except for the class dinner and parade which merit coat and tie (with white hat for the parade).

The traditional plate will be presented to Jim Bishop's grandson, who will graduate this year. The thought is that it would be nice to make the presentation in the course of our reunion, possibly at the FCC. Jack Downing will work with Tony Smith and Garry Roosma to identify an appropriate time and place for the presentation.

Through personal acquaintance, Jude Theibert contracted for an oil painting of Dwight Eisenhower and offered it as an item that the class might want to raffle at the reunion. The sense was that most all of us are in the stage of shedding possessions, and we should decline Jude's offer.

Dick thanked Garry for his tremendous service to the class in managing the multitude of activities involved in preparing for the reunion.

Treasurer's financial report. Pete Kusek said that the transfer of the class fund to AOG management is complete. His report follows:

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On deposit with AOG	\$84,610.99
USAA Checking Account	\$919.16
Total	\$85,530.15

Recent expenses

Brintnall memorial	\$100
Moentmann memorial	\$100
EXCOM Commo	\$22.84
DeBoeser memorial	\$100
Orr Memorial	\$100

There was discussion of the adequacy of the fund to meet future needs. Pete said that he and Frank Waskowicz had done some back of the envelope analysis in response to a query by Butch Saint on this subject. They concluded that considering all known and likely future expenses (memorials, support of the WOT initiatives, plates for class grandsons/daughters, reunion startup costs, flowers for the VN Wall memorial service, printing of memorial booklets, and the final toast event) that there would be about \$31,000 in the fund when responsibility is eventually passed on to the Perpetual Endowment Board. Pete said that we would also benefit from AOG investments — a feature of fund management by the AOG

EXCOM Membership. Dick Schonberger discussed the need to replace anticipated EXCOM losses. Dick will be leaving following the 60th, as will Jack Gordon who has so ably fulfilled the social chairman's task of keeping us all involved in the DC area. Pete Kusek's term will also be coming to an end.

Dick suggested that we solicit interest from the class as a whole, seeking to identify classmates who would be willing to serve on the EXCOM. The current service of Tom Claffey and PD Vanture who are outside the DC area makes clear that local residence is not essential. Probably the Chair and the Secretary should remain local. Dick will draft a note to the class soliciting interest, for the purpose of identifying a "bench" of talent that can be called to serve. At the same time, Andy Andreson and Frank Waskowicz will be making direct calls to select local classmates.

The objective is that we will identify replacements for known losses and a list of stand-by folks who have the ability and interest to be involved in the future. There was discussion about "terms". Currently, EXCOM guidelines have specified 3-5 year commitments. The sense of the EXCOM is that that is unrealistic, and the terms will be flexible.

60+Ten Paper. Frank Waskowicz said that v17 of the paper describing class activities and governance is completed. There were several late changes and edits — the latter thanks to the valued perseverance of Betsy Hall. The paper will be further

amended to reflect the above discussion on EXCOM membership and then uploaded to the web, as planned.

Dick said that several USMA classes and the AOG are interested in what we have done in thinking about the future, and he will provide copies to them.

There was brief discussion as to whether the paper represents a point in time, or if it is to be upgraded with the passage of time as a “living document”. No consensus on this, but Andy Andreson did ask that the Secretary revise the EXCOM’s SOP to reflect the paper. The SOP was last revised in 2015.

Social Chairman Sitrep. Jack Gordon provided a working draft of a social schedule for 2018. The intent is to split locations at the ANCC between Arlington and Fairfax locations — and add in several local restaurant locations.

Jack expressed consternation at his attempts to fine-tune costs, having been burned on at least one occasion. The fact is that \$35-40 is a realistic figure for group events. The sense of the EXCOM is to give a figure, e.g. \$40, and let individuals make their decision rather than struggle unnecessarily to achieve a “best value.”

Widows Outreach Team (WOT). Audrey Webb reported that the group has reached out to the families of six recently deceased classmates — initial calls and providing them the “Grip Hands” booklet. Margie Downing said that with the press of the holidays, the plan to revisit widows after a four-month interregnum, as fallen a little behind schedule, but they anticipate getting to work on this. Invitations were sent to all local widows for a luncheon in Tysons Corner. Turnout was modest, but the group had fun and they believe interest will grow.

They have been in contact with Sue Kernan to produce a booklet of memories for the 60th similar to that which was done at the Austin Mini in October, 2015.

Dick Schonberger expressed appreciation for the efforts of the WOT, and urged that they not become individually overloaded, but seek additional members to ease the burden.

Audrey said she had hoped that there would have been a meeting following completion of the EXCOM session regarding the pin/pendant project for widows and wives, specifically the choice of design, and confirmation of who exactly is to be included as recipients. That the meeting did not occur as planned was due to some misunderstanding all around. But the discussion did take place after Audrey huddled with Alan Salisbury telephonically, and his joining the teleconference.

Initially, the WOT’s concept had been for to provide pins only to widows attending the reunion. Then it was expanded to include all widows and wives. Alan, who has

been working with Audrey on the project, expressed a preference for extending the gift to all wives and widows, in attendance or not. He stated that the cost per pin would not exceed \$4, and would require less than 30 days from decision to completion. He also volunteered that he would cover all costs that exceeded \$1,000. Based on this discussion, the EXCOM approved \$1,000 and asked Frank Waskowicz and George Sibert to work with Audrey and Alan to “make it happen”. The planning figure that was in the mind of the EXCOM was approximately 150, based on known estimates of the class to be at the 60th. Most felt we could raise this to 200 as a planning figure.

CCQ Coordinator. PD Vanture gave a very upbeat and detailed report on the status of memorial articles. He has correlated his status lists with the AOG. Some details follow.

To date we have published 173 memorial articles. Eleven classmates have indicated that they do not wish to have memorial articles. There are an additional five classmates with whom we have no contact. Two memorial articles have been written for ex-cadets. Memorial articles are lacking for 14 others.

53 classmates are authoring living memorials. Of these 23 have been sent to the AOG.

At this time, there are 17 memorial articles in progress. Authors are lacking for 46 classmates.

Ex Officio Members. Ed Weckel had suggested that in light of the eventual transfer of residual fiduciary responsibilities, and the planned time capsule event, that the Chairman of the PEB be made an Ex Officio member of the EXCOM. While acknowledging the planned transfer of responsibilities at some time in the future, the EXCOM did not feel it was necessary to amend the class constitution to confer voting rights to the Chair of the PEB. All EXCOM meetings are advertised and open, and the minutes of these meetings made available to the class. We anticipate and welcome a close working relationship.

USMA Incidents. Over the past months, incidents have occurred with derogatory implications for West Point and its reputation. Both our Class President and the Chair have received recommendations to express our concern, and our interest in being better informed by the leadership at the Academy. There was an initial reluctance to “pile on” which we resisted as the Superintendent was already assuredly aware of graduate interest. Via the AOG, we did receive a compilation from the Superintendent of the tremendous success being registered by the Academy in many fields. What was not provided was a response to the veracity of charges related to cadet and institutional misbehavior. Dick will work with Jack to convey class concerns, suggesting that we would be appreciative of information

regarding these incidents at our 60th reunion. As graduates, we are ambassadors of the academy wherever we go and would like to be equipped to respond.

Class Coins. Jack Downing showed the EXCOM a beautifully framed presentation of a USMA '58 coin paired with that of the class of 2008, and asked if could present it to USMA '08 on behalf of the class. The EXCOM readily approved Jack's suggestion and approved reimbursement of \$140.40. It was also affirmed that three of the class coins would accompany the certificates to be presented at our 60th

Class Grandchildren. Jack Downing has tentatively accepted responsibility to shepherd the effort to present pewter plates to grandsons and daughters. He will work with Tony Smith to transition our class activities in this vein.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Waskowicz
Secretary