

## **USMA Class of 1958 Executive Committee Meeting, 25 March 2025**

Andy Andreson hosted a virtual EXCOM this date, with Jack Bradshaw, Tony Bauer, Terry Connell, Bob Hayden, Mike Daley, and Church Hutton attending.

### **1. Prospective Endowment to Assist USMA (Andy Andreson)**

Our straw vote at the December EXCOM meeting favored our endowing Rabble Rousers. To update us on that potential, Andy brought in Lyle Kellman, '82, AOG Lead for Sports-Specific Giving, to explain emerging importance of the RR.

### **2. Status of Cheerleading and the Rabble Rousers (Lyle Kellman)**

Lyle said that after NCAA designated Cheerleading as a Division-1 sport, the RR changed from the informal club of our day to an intercollegiate team under USMA Directorate of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA is now the Army West Point Athletic Assoc., AWPAA). The RR compete in it with 1700 other teams in national meets covered by *Varsity Network*, which carries Army football and other major sports. Cheerleading this year has generated more fan mail than any other USMA sport. It is a major arena for WP outreach and marketing, fully justifying our support.

This new sport combines aerial gymnastics, pyramids, and other dynamics with music in intense 4-5 minute routines that can be spectacular and that require daily three-hour practices, endurance, and superb conditioning. He said RR female Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) scores can be higher than those of males. Well organized and crisp, Army's 42-person team generated praise at US nationals this year, came 7<sup>th</sup> among 100+ teams, and beat Air Force (Navy did not come). West Point's recent purge of DEI clubs did not affect the intercollegiate Rabble Rousers.

### **3. Funding of the Rabble Rousers (Lyle Kellman)**

Lyle said the RR raised seed funds from friends to start this sport but need a steady \$50K/year to get to the nationals – which USMA wants because the RR now have a coach and are very good. Our \$1M+ endowment would cover most of that need, yielding \$40K/year and generating much appreciation and 1958 name recognition.

Separately, the RR will try to raise up to \$2M over 5 years in fund drives to assure continued operations and to be able to attend regional meets. They will publish a newsletter to inform donors and fans. The AOG manages RR funds and uniform contracts and is creating a committee to assist AWPAA with sport-specific funding.

#### **4. Final Vote to Endow the Rabble Rousers (Andy Andreson)**

After discussion, Andy called for a vote to confirm our decision to endow the RR with about \$1.1M from our Gift Fund; specifics to be determined in discussions later with USMA. The EXCOM voted in favor of endowing the Rabble Rousers.

#### **5. Memorial Articles (MAs) (Bob Hayden).**

Bob said a recent AOG webinar seemed to give more leeway to approve publishing MAs than expected, but if NOK are available we will continue to defer to their wishes on MAs. Jack asked if we could thus publish Neil Williamson's MA. Bob said we cannot without the widow's (NOK) consent, which she has refused. We still have many MAs to write, can do better, and he is continuing to encourage all.

#### **6. Treasurer Report (Tony Bauer)**

Tony said the Admin Fund is at \$52,011, and the Gift Fund at \$1,122,560. As there were no significant costs, there will be no separate report beyond this minute entry.

#### **7. Proposal for Backup EXCOM Members (Church Hutton)**

Church said EXCOM member ages, health, and wish to continue operations until 2028 suggest it might be wise for us to have backups to step into our roles in an emergency. He will circulate a message on this soliciting further ideas and input.

#### **8. Other Comments**

- a. Mike will attend the AOG committee that will assist the AWPAA with sport-specific funding when it meets 24-26 April.
- b. Mike hosts a tailgate for every home football game on Stewart Road (across the walkway on top of the Lusk Reservoir Dam). He would welcome any of us there (tel: 717-254-6299).
- c. Church said as we had expected to focus this EXCOM on the RR endowment, some normal reports were deferred. We will catch those up at the next EXCOM.

There being no other business, we concluded at 1200 -- Church Hutton, Secretary.

