

USMA Class of 1965

Strength and Drive



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Subject: Class Letter

November 2009

To: All Members of the Class of 1965

- 1. Greetings.** Time flies by quickly and it's hard to believe another year has passed, and that our Reunion is a mere 11 months hence. Your Class Leadership (Executive) Committee greatly appreciates your support and encouragement.

Sadly this past year, Joe (Jose) Sanchez, who had served for nearly twenty years as our Class Treasurer, felt the need to step down from the committee. He will long be remembered for his leadership of the annual Army-Navy Game function, but he served diligently in many other ways, from executing and accounting for the Class Administrative Finances, to being the reliable POC and organizer for manifold class functions, and he was always on top of time-sensitive things like funerals. Joe, you will be missed, and we greatly appreciate your faithful service.

As Joe departs, we welcome Skip O'Donnell as our new/interim Class Treasurer. Many of you are well aware of the terrific job he did in leading the Class Mini-Reunion in Las Vegas last year.

I also want to highlight another very notable event of the past year. Shortly after his election, President-elect Obama contacted our classmate and former Army Chief of Staff, Ric Shinseki, and asked him once again, to return to duty serving our Nation's servicemen and women as the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. We are all quite proud of this achievement and pray for his success in this herculean assignment.

- 2. Army vs. Navy in Philadelphia 12 December 2010.** John Howell has stepped in and volunteered to manage our traditional Army-Navy game Class gathering (thanks, John) at the Renaissance Philadelphia Airport Hotel. You should have already received a flyer with instructions, information and a mail-back form. If you have not, these documents can be found on the Class web page at West-Point.ORG. Remember to get you hotel reservations, game tickets, and to register with John-- please do so ASAP.

1. Fallen Comrades and Spouses. May They Rest in Peace.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| a. John Colmar, Associate Member | 28 December 2008 |
| b. John Knowles | 26 January 2009 |
| c. Tom White | 13 February 2009 |
| d. Curtis Churchwell | 29 March 2009 |
| e. Jack Cooley | 20 July 2009 |
| f. Sherie Bedell (wife of Bob) | 21 August 2009 |
| g. Dennis Lewis | 29 August 2009 |

As mentioned in Denny Coll's Assembly articles, the Class did a great job participating in remembrances and providing support to the families, and to each other. This is at the top of the list when one counts the benefits of being an active class. Nothing is more important to us all than our relationships with each other and our families.

2. Class Activities (Past). As has been customary, the past year was filled with significant events, several that are chronicled below:

- a. Army vs. Navy gathering in Philadelphia 5/6 December 2008
- b. Class Leadership Committee meeting 14 March in Chicago for Founder's Day
- c. Arvin VFW Scholarship awards/address in Ypsilanti presented by Ric Shinseki
- d. Distinguished Grad award to Ric Shinseki 19 July 2009
- e. Arvin Wrestling Award presented at "May Week" Awards Convocation by Rollie Stichweh
- f. Golf Outings in N. Myrtle Beach (April) and Pinehurst (October) coordinated by Bob Radcliffe and Barrie Zais
- g. The USMA Graduates Alumni Glee Club is alive and strong in the DC area, much due to the leadership of Terry Ryan and others from the Class. Their performances at Founder's Days and other venues make us all proud.
- h. Numerous local meetings and social gatherings, golf groups, etc.

3. 45th Reunion 7 - 10 October 2010. Our high performing team of Ken Yoshitani and Tom Kovach continue to make great progress in arranging for our 45th Reunion next fall.

Having polled the Class and gotten a resounding vote to hold it on a Fall 2010 NON-football weekend, we have been at the mercy of the football game schedulers to nail down the precise date. And finally, DIA and the Academy have confirmed the football schedule that meshes with our planning dates so we can now finalize our reservations for lodging and other venues. The reunion committee has mailed you a letter (also available electronically) that provides an information update, and includes a mail-back flyer (with envelope) for Preliminary Registration. Please complete the form as best you can and mail it back to Tom Kovach NLT 30 November 2009.

4. Progress on the Bob Arvin Alcove in the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.

We are making good progress, in close coordination with DPE, on completing the alcove where we wish to memorialize Bob Arvin (adjacent to the gym main entrance and to the right as you enter) for the 45th Reunion. A portrait of Bob will constitute the centerpiece on the north wall between two appropriately filled display cases with artifacts and symbols. We have a concept drawing of the surrounding walls developed by the Academy's graphics experts and agreed to by DPE, from which we hope to tell the story of Bob's life and service. Most difficult has been the location of pictures, articles and artifacts—forty odd years later—that represent this rich but all too short life. Chuck Moseley is working with the Arvin family, Art Hester with Bob's Ypsilanti roots, Bob Frank with the USMA Archives and other possible sources, and Fred Grates with the Class wrestlers to find more materials. We will close out this phase shortly after Thanksgiving so we can get with an exhibit consultant to finalize the designs and create the displays. If you have ANY materials that might be used, enlarged or otherwise enhanced, please let me know as soon as possible, or better yet, send me the materials in digital format.

5. Communications

a. From Denny Coll

- Assembly Magazine and the WP-AOG – The AOG continues to struggle to have Assembly magazine carry its own weight via subscription ads. We can each do our part by making sure we re-new our annual subscriptions and encourage the roughly 50% of our Class who are not current subscribers. You can do it on-line @ www.westpointaog.com at a cost from as low as \$12 per year. Once the Assembly is gone, I fear it will be gone for good.
- Change of Address Notifications – many of you continue to send these to me; this is OK because I update my files and then send them on the AOG. Keep them coming.

- Class Notes Leading Up to the 50th – due to a spectacular effort underway by a re-locating Tom Kovach (Chicago to Sin City, Nov 2009), we will soon have a detailed analysis of every Class Note dating back to Graduation, so that we can track who was mentioned, how often and even count pix. Tom had just about every issue of Assembly from which he removed each issue's Class Notes, and he is extracting the information from them. This will enable your old Scribe to go after, with a passion, those with whom we have lost contact. To make this even more fun, I will be working with the Company Reps, via Tom and Ken Yoshitani, to highlight the happenings of ALL of our S&D folks, by cadet companies (probably 1-2 per issue starting in 2010) with the goal of locating and mentioning every single soul in the Class.
 - Memorial Articles (MA's) – we are still missing quite a few MA's, especially several from the RVN era. That is just inexcusable, guys. We need more of you to follow the example of John Alger, to step up and write some of these missing MA's. John just finished Mike Momcilovich's. It is not easy, especially when there are few, if any, next of kin, but it has to be done. It just has to be done by the 50th, so let's make that a commitment at the 45th to work with Chuck McCloskey and get these all written and published.
- b. From Chuck Nichols— The Class Website (<http://www.west-point.org/class/usma1965/>), the Class list-servers (both West-Point.org and AOG.org) and the new Class forum (usma1965-forum@west-point.org, by subscription only) provide the means for the Class to stay in contact in almost real time. The list-servers reach over 450 of the 525 classmates still with us, in addition to several former classmates and widows. These lines of communication are vital and everyone is strongly encouraged to keep their information up to date by contacting Chuck Nichols at cnichols6@verizon.net.
 - c. Our principal means of recurring communications continues to be the many informal networks that have formed around social events and caring for those in need. The Reunion Committee has taken this up a level with the Company Representatives concept. Hopefully, we as a Class will continue to use the links facilitated by this new channel well past the 45th Reunion.

6. Finances

- a. Class Admin and Checking Accounts (see update from Skip O'Donnell with assist from Joe Sanchez below)
- b. Class Gift Accounts (see update from Harry Dermody below)

- 7. Class Bylaws Update.** Over the past year, we have developed a “Working Draft” of an update to the Class Bylaws that reflects actual practices being used by the Class Leadership Committee. Our plan is to vet these changes with the Class NLT 60 days prior to 45th Reunion and then vote on them at the 45th Reunion Meeting. We will keep you fully informed.
- 8. Transition (Succession) Planning.** Our Bylaws provide that the term of office of the present Class Leadership Committee expires at end of each Reunion Meeting and that a new team be then elected. IAW our working draft of the bylaws, the most recent past president leads the effort to select a slate of candidates. Fred Laughlin has graciously accepted this challenge, and selected a nominating team and procedures that were agreed to by the Class Committee. An attachment explains these procedures and requests nominations from the Class at large. Please provide your inputs directly to Fred.
- 9. 50th Year Affiliation Program.** The march back from Lake Frederick with the New Cadets from the Class of 2015 will occur in August 2011, so it’s time to break out your combat boots, rucks and blister patches--and get in shape. This Affiliation Program has become much more of a big deal in recent years, and we will be enjoined to contribute and participate over the four years these cadets develop at West Point. Right now (even prior to the 45th Reunion), we need to start planning for our support and are seeking volunteers to work with Joel Jebb of the Class Support office in the AOG. Please advise me or any of the Class Leaders of your willingness to support this early-on planning effort.
- 10. Caring for Others.**

 - a.** Mary Kay Salomone continues her selfless efforts to provide support to our veterans and their families. Her “Wheels for Warriors” program has provided gratis 17 fully equipped handicapped-accessible vans to badly injured servicemembers of all branches, while “Support our Troops” has sent over a million and a half pounds of care packages to troopers in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Landstuhl Hospital in Germany. The Class applauds!
 - b.** A number of you are engaged in laudable efforts to support classmates in need. In the interest of not embarrassing those involved, and because we don’t know of the full extent of this, I’m not listing any specific persons here. That said, please know that we are all hugely appreciative of your devotion and caring attitudes.
- 11. Association of Graduates.** The Class currently has three classmates who serve either on the AOG Board of Directors or the Advisory Council. Joe DeFrancisco was elected as one of the twelve AOG Directors and will serve until 31 Dec 2011. Harry Dermody was elected as one of the eighteen General Advisors and serves until 31 Dec 2010. And, Ross Wollen was selected as one of the eighteen Society Advisors and serves until 31 Dec

2009. These individuals are our folks on the ground at the AOG who keep us plugged in to their activities and assist us in directing any issues or support we may need from them.

12. Closing. It has been a pleasure for all of us on the Class Leadership Committee to serve you this past year. Please make time to engage and take part in Class activities and we very much look forward to seeing you and your spouses at the 45th Reunion.

STATUS – ADMIN AND CHECKING ACCOUNTS CLASS OF '65 (10/30/09)

Class Admin

• Opening Balance 12/31/08	\$18,654.51
• Net Gains (AOG Invest., Misc.)	1,871.51
• Expenditures (Conferencing, Misc.)	(274.09)
• Closing Balance 10/30/09	\$20,251.93

Note that mailing costs for the Army/Navy event and 45th Reunion are not yet posted here. Also, costs for the Distinguished Grad reception in June were break even between the Admin and Checking accounts.

Class Checking

• Expenditures (funerals/charity don.)	800.00
• Current Balance	\$2,092.55

Note that there is one charity donation pending and one family asked that the flower money be passed to the next Classmate passing away.

STATUS - GIFT ACCOUNTS CLASS OF '65 (10/29/09)

CONTRIBUTIONS (CLASS AND CORPORATE)

RECEIVED

75,000	INITIAL FUNDS
1,315,157	THAYER
999,585	ARVIN
<u>6,340</u>	CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE 1/1/08
2,396,082	TOTAL

NOTES:

1. Gift account started with an initial amount of 75,000.
2. Amounts shown for Thayer and Arvin projects are the total amounts received through 31 Dec 07. Accounts were combined into one Gift Account as of 1 Jan 08.

3. All contributions are managed by the AOG Financial Planners in a long term diversified investment program.
4. All contributions shown include the AOG management fee.

EXPENSES

THAYER

750,000 (BASIC - WALK)
 30,180 (ENGINEERING FEE)
250,000 (FORUM)
 1,030,180 TOTAL

ARVIN

896,744 (BASIC –FLOORING, RAILING, ETC)
 15,522 (KIOSK)
 7,242 (DISPLAY CASES)
 3,189 (DESK)
 2,982 (LIMESTONE REPAIR)
 6,667 (MURAL)
 34,169 (CRESTS, LETTERING, ETC)
69 (PHOTOS)
 966,584 TOTAL

OTHER

35,000 (PREP SCHOOL ENDOWMENT)
 16,667 ('65 SHELL)
 29,412 (HISTORY DEPT)
 8,522 (FIRST CLASS REC (2005))
 4,200 (A/N VIDEOS)
 5,000 (SE ASIA MEMORIAL)
5,000 (PAVERS –ALUM CTR)
 103,801 TOTAL

TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE

2,100,565

CONTRIBUTIONS 2,396,082
 LESS EXPENSES - 2,100,565
 295,517 EXCESS FUNDS

GIFT ACCOUNT VALUATION (30 SEP 09)

406,000 (INCLUDES EXCESS FUNDS AND OVER 110,000 IN INVESTMENT RETURNS)

NOTES:

1. Major gifts are approved by the Class.
2. No funds are released without Class Officer approval.
3. Possible future expenditures (final costs not determined)

A. FORUM – Maintenance Endowment	25,000
B. ARVIN ALCOVE	50,000
C. ENGLISH DEPT (Contribution from the Class in memory of Bill Hecker’s son who died in Iraq.)	5,000

Process for Selecting a Recommend Slate for USMA '65 Class Officers for the Period 2010-2015

At the 45th Reunion, the Class will be asked to vote on a revised set of Bylaws (Proposed Bylaws). Article V of the Proposed Bylaws identifies seven class officer positions, which will be elected at the Reunion. These officers are:

President; Senior Vice President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Scribe; and Historian

The process to be used in preparing the officer slate will center on the work of a Nominating Committee, which is described as follows in Article VII of the Proposed Bylaws:

This committee will be chaired by the Immediate Past President unless he is not available to serve for personal reasons, reasons of health, or any other reason as determined by the Class Leadership Committee. Not later than two years prior to the quinquennial reunion, after consultation with the Class Leadership Committee, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall identify four additional Members of the Class to serve on the committee. Members of the Class Leadership Committee may not serve as members of the Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate a candidate for each of the offices to be filled at the Reunion Meeting. Class members will be notified of the slate of nominees not later than 60 days prior to the quinquennial reunion.

As the Past President, Fred Laughlin is chairing the Nominating Committee, which also comprises Bob Axley, Art Hester, BJ Mogan, and Bob Radcliffe. The committee has met and has established the following schedule for completing its responsibility to recommend a slate of officers for serving over the 2010-2015 timeframe (*dates below are to-be-completed dates*):

November 15, 2009 - Communication with Class on nomination process with encouragement to submit nominations by December 31, 2009.

December 31, 2009 - Receive nominations from classmates.

May 31, 2010 - Complete evaluations of candidates.

June 30, 2010 - Communicate recommend slate

The Nominating Committee will evaluate nominees based upon criteria that are considered necessary as well as those criteria that are considered desirable.

Necessary Characteristics

All officers must:

- ⇒ Be 1965 Class members in good standing
- ⇒ Have demonstrated an interest in Class activities
- ⇒ Have demonstrated leadership and listening skills
- ⇒ Have the time to devote to the job
- ⇒ Be a team player
- ⇒ Have a keen interest in serving
- ⇒ Be willing to absorb travel and related meeting expenses

Desirable Traits

President and Vice Presidents

- ⇒ Recognized leader
- ⇒ Good communication skills, oral and written
- ⇒ Strong people skills, including recruiting for special assignments
- ⇒ Good planner, organizer, and fund raiser

Treasurer

- ⇒ Proven skills in basic accounting

Secretary and Scribe

- ⇒ Strong writing skills

Historian

- ⇒ Strong writing skills
- ⇒ Strong research skills

The committee will also reflect on what in its judgment would be desirable in the Leadership Committee as a whole. In that vein, the nominating committee would like to see the Leadership Committee:

- ⇒ Cover a diverse geographic area
- ⇒ Include both career and non-career officers

- ⇒ Include classmates with diverse skills/backgrounds/experiences
- ⇒ Possess computer, Internet, and related skills

On the following page is a form that must be completed and submitted for each nomination for an officer position. Except for President, a classmate may hold two officer positions at the same time. Nominations must be submitted by the nominee (self-nomination) or another classmate and may be accompanied by material such as letters of support or other relevant documents. Although the committee prefers that nominations be sent electronically to Fred Laughlin at flaughlinaz@mac.com, they will also be accepted in hardcopy [mail to: Fred Laughlin, 1614 E Hearn Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85022.]

**Nomination for Officer, USMA Class of 1965
For the Period 2010-2015**

Nominee

Name: _____ Officer Position: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Dates of Military Service: _____

Has Nominee agreed to serve in nominated position? Yes ____ No ____

Brief History of Background and Experience:

Basis for Recommendation (with reference to necessary and desirable criteria):

Nominating Classmate (if different from Nominee)

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____