



USMA Class of 1961

"Second to None"



CLASS COMMITTEE MEETING

17 June 2015

MINUTES

Class Committee

President
Bob Glass

Vice President
Bruce Shroyer

Treasurer
Dick Buckner

Secretary
Ed Brown

Scribe
Marty Ganderson

Ex-Officio
Lucy Paone

1. The class committee met by conference call at 1000, 17 June. Members participating were Bob Glass, Bruce Shroyer, Dick Buckner, Ed Brown, Marty Ganderson, and Lucy Paone. Gary Hyde was invited to update the committee on the status of 55th Reunion planning. A synopsis of the committee's discussions follows.
2. 55th Reunion:
 - a. Next survey will go out by e-mail in early July. Ed will mail the survey to the 54 classmates without e-mail addresses.
 - i. The survey will collect almost all data needed to finish planning the reunion, including RSVPs, hotel reservation data, preferences for all events, transportation preferences for all events, volunteers for various functions, etc.
 - ii. It will also include all the reference material for events, attractions, FAQ, featured activities, and tour guides.
 - b. Reference Committee questions below:
 - i. Gary will lead the Reunion Finance Team.
 1. To facilitate funds deposits and transfers, he proposes a local (Florida) bank account here that can be used to deposit checks and then do electronic transfers to the AOG or single check deposits. It avoids sending checks all around.
 2. The Committee concurs.
 - ii. Next survey includes the sign up for rooms.
 1. Survey collects all data needed for reservations; including arrival date, departure date, address, number of guests, room preferences, and Marriott rewards number.
 2. All reservations will be done thru central list – no one will have to (or should) call the hotel.
 3. Reservations will be handled by the Reunion Hotel Reservations Team.
 - iii. Marriott Points.
 1. You can get points for stay – rewards numbers will be part of survey input.
 2. Using points for the stay may be a problem.
 - (a) Class is taking approximately 200 of 289 rooms, so the hotel may not open rooms for award points.
 - (b) Rates will likely be high if award rooms are available because of limited number of free rooms.

- (c) Reservations by points will not be part of 55th Reunion block, so breakfasts and wifi will not be included.
 - (d) Current rate is 80,000 points per night.
 - iv. Transportation.
 - 1. Everyone has transportation choice for every event – Bus or POV.
 - 2. If you want the bus you pay for the bus – if you do not want the bus you do not pay for the bus.
 - 3. All will be advised of parking problems (limitations) at West Point in the survey, especially for the two days we have scheduled for West Point activities.
 - 4. Survey will collect these transportation choices.
 - v. Class Meeting.
 - 1. Monday (First day for West Point scheduled activities) may not be best day for class meeting.
 - 2. Currently looking at Tuesday for class meeting.
 - 3. Early Monday is a possibility.
 - 4. Subject to change based on survey inputs showing when people will be at the reunion and preferences for different events.
 - c. Lucy asked that time be allotted for a Golden Girls meeting. One thought was that it could be concurrent with the class meeting. Lucy desires that it be early in the “full activity” portion of the reunion.
3. Treasurer’s Update: Current balances are:
- a. Admin – \$56,595.05
 - b. Gift – \$340,033.71
4. Secretary’s Report:
- a. Living Graduates: 394 of 534 (73.8%)
 - b. Deceased Classmates: Grads – 140 (26.2%)
 - c. Living Grads with Addresses: 393 (Jimmy Connors is only “lost” grad)
 - d. Living Non-Grads with Addresses: 51
 - e. Deceased Non-Grads – 50 including 23 determined by comparing names and dates of birth with the Social Security Death Index
 - f. Classmates with Mailing Addresses – 546, includes widows and non-grads (54 do not have e-mail addresses)
 - g. Widows with Mailing Addresses – 102
 - h. E-Mail Addresses – 492
 - i. E-Mail Addresses at the AOG – 439
 - j. Widowers – 37
5. Class Widows: (see Reunion question 1.c above).
6. Reconciliation Plaza:
- a. Financial status of invoices – none at this stage of the year.
 - b. Alternative to flowers (grass, stones, perennials?).
 - c. Complementing flowers too skimpy.

- d. More frequent maintenance visits.
 - e. Unofficial smoking area is a bummer with cigarette butts.
 - f. Hazardous walkways.
 - g. **Action:** Bruce will draft a letter for Bob to send to the Superintendent expressing the need to repair the sidewalk and relocate the smoking area at the north end of the plaza.
 - h. **Action:** Bruce will contact Rock of Ages to investigate cleaning of monuments.
 - i. **Action:** Bruce recheck with Jim Presutti regarding periodic invoices during the year.
7. Army Sports Hall of Fame:
- a. Bob noted that Bob Kewley's nomination should still be valid and the committee hopes he is selected in 2015. (Subsequently, the committee learned that Bob Kewley was not selected with the class of 2015.)
 - b. **Action:** Bob will check with Al Vanderbush to see if he can determine why Bob Kewley has not been selected. If necessary, the committee will resubmit the nomination for consideration in 2016.
8. WPAOG Leaders Conference:
- a. See attached minutes published by the AOG for the June conference at Fort Myer.
 - b. **Action:** Bob will attend the 12-15 August Leaders Conference at West Point.
9. WPAOG "Be Thou at Peace" Submissions:
- a. As he did during the 15 February 2014 committee meeting, Dick suggested that the memorial article page for deceased classmates on the AOG web site should include information comparable to what is in the Last Roll Call section of our class web site.
 - b. On 1 March 2014, Dick asked Bob McClure, AOG president, about the disparity. Bob's response stated, "The disparity you call attention to is the format that all grad obits have appeared in over time. AOG has been printing obits in Assembly since the 40s, before that grad deaths were listed in the annual reports that date back to the early 1900s. It has been my vision to have us have all these amazing stories in some central location online, for historical reference. The problem is, for obits in Assembly from the 40s to about 2000, we only have paper copies that have to be scanned, the transformed into digital form (after much editing). There's just so much one can do with the old formats. We want to honor your class, and indeed the entire Long Gray Line, to the highest of standards. But with some things I'm constrained by the limits of technology. Give me or the staff a call, we'll try to help, but the fact that they're all now online is a minor miracle"
 - c. **Action:** Dick will follow-up.
10. Class Website
- a. Bob noted that the class continues to be indebted to Sam Weiss for his management of the class website.
 - b. There continues to be the need for a contingency plan in case Sam is no longer able to perform as web master.
11. Center for Oral History
- a. Check on recognition for the Class on the COH website at www.westpointcoh.org

b. Check on COH pitch for the reunion.

The meeting ended at 1145.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Brown", written in a cursive style.

Ed Brown