



## D.C. Area Leaders Conference

11 June 2015

★ **Classes Present:**

30 graduates attended this year! Of those graduates, the following classes were represented:

<b>1943</b>	1952	1958	1980	1993
1946	1953	1961	1980	1994
1950	1954	1964	1986	1999
1951	1956	1966	1987	<b>2004</b>

### Topics of Discussion Included:

★ **Thayer Award Recipient:**

The West Point Association of Graduates is pleased to announce that actor and humanitarian, Gary Sinise, will be presented with the Sylvanus Thayer Award for 2015. The award will be presented on October 22, 2015 during ceremonies hosted by Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Class of 1975, Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

To read more, visit: <https://www.westpointaog.org/thayerawardgarysinise2015>

★ **Class Events/Reunions**

• **Virtual Reunions:**

Item brought up at the meeting last year regarding having an internet link to reunion activities so that the 2/3 of the class who do not come to the 5 year reunions can observe the activities. More or less like the internet “fashion show” the Supe and AAA put on to show off the new logo and uniforms.

- ★ *USMA cannot support live stream for reunions. We can tape the Supt’s brief and the Cadet Review for WPAOG to copy/post on the web. – DAA*
- ★ *Currently, it is up to the individual Class if they’d like to have any type of “virtual reunion” when it comes to support outside of the Academy (i.e. at the hotel – mixers, dinners, meetings, etc.). The Class would have to pay the costs and either rent equipment or bring their own. – Alumni Events*
- ★ Questions regarding your Class Event? Contact Alumni Events at [reunions@wpaog.org](mailto:reunions@wpaog.org).

★ Things to think about:

- ★ Connecting to one another is in the palm of our hands (i.e. phones, apps, tablets). Grads/classmates at the reunion can connect with one another that aren’t present to connect them to their reunion on their mobile devices!
- ★ Post updates to your Class Facebook page
- ★ Possibly set up a Flickr gallery for the event and encourage attendees to take photos and upload them.



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- **Movement & Transportation**

Biggest problem for older classes when attending Reunion events at West Point is mobility. Is it possible to work with the Academy/Class Aids/WPAOG to better move Grads from one location to another? (i.e. Parade Field to Mess Hall)

- ★ The Academy and AOG prepare to support those needing assistance based off the information provided upon registration. Class Aids are prepared to shuttle Graduates with their Gov't Van and WPAOG's Alumni Event team works closely with the Class on other bus/shuttle needs when planning the events scheduled on/around post.
- ★ The more events a Class schedules on their calendar/agenda, the more difficult it can be for the Class Aides and WPAOG Staff to provide and assist graduates with movement.
  - ★ Suggestion – Classmates return to West Point to visit one another and time can get away with everyone. Possibly plan to do less to provide more time to mingle.

- **Parade& Bleachers/Review Stands**

For the older classes, it is very difficult to climb the bleacher stairs (especially without a railing). Is it possible to work with the Academy to provide chairs or an alternate location of seating?

- **West Point Cemetery:**

Bob Segal '53 provided history on the West Point Cemetery. His goal is to learn the status and future plans regarding the current (and attached West Point Cemetery Policy) to the Class of 1953 at their 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

**Discussion Points:**

- ★ The trajectory leads it to filling up – if the current policy is lifted without limitations, West Point will be like Arlington. There just isn't room!
  - West Point is not Arlington – it is a Federal institution.
- ★ There's plenty of land – Outside of the Golf Course, near Lake Popolopen, etc. Years ago the PX was to be cemetery expansion - # spaces that would be available from this area is 300.
- ★ The Columbarium is open to all grads, but there should be a choice of how you want to be buried.
- ★ **Will the Academy please discuss this at the August Leaders Conference?  
What are the plans? What needs to be done? When will it occur?  
What % of people from each class is currently buried at West Point?**

Exceptions to the policy are sent to the Superintendent.

Questions regarding the USMA Cemetery can be sent to [USMACemetery@usma.edu](mailto:USMACemetery@usma.edu).

- ★ **Traveling Vietnam Wall to West Point:**

The Class of 1964 is working with the Academy, with the support from the SUPT, to bring the traveling Vietnam Wall to West Point. It will be located in the Cadet Area with plans to be displayed on Daily Field from 22-24 October. There are 301 West Pointers on the wall – ranging from CL June '43 to CL 1970. They'd like to work with the Vietnam era Classes to represent their fallen brothers, like that of the Yearling Cemetery Tour.

- ★ **Discussion Points:**

- ★ This is Superintendent and WPAOG supported, but with this taking place this same weekend as the Thayer Award, who in the Academy Supports?
  - ★ PMEE?
  - ★ Office of the DEAN (i.e. through a PSA to the Department XOs?)



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★ **Memory Book:**

Please share information regarding updating of the Memory Book. Classes have donated in memory; however, pages have not been opened for the individuals.

★ **Memorial Articles:**

- **How can classes work better with Communications & Marketing to complete Memorial Articles when NOK may not be receptive to signing the Inventory Sheet?**
- What are some best practices to obtain/complete Memorial Articles on classmates?
  - ★ Assign/work within your Regiment/Battalion/Company to designate friends/roommates/etc. to help NOK complete an article for submission.
- **Can WPAOG share information from Cullum Files and information to help build Memorial Articles with and/or without Next of Kin?**

Follow this link to learn more about Memorial Articles: <https://www.westpointaog.org/TAPS>

★ **50-Year Affiliation Program**

This program is a very successful program. The relationships built, for those who establish them, do last a lifetime. Example: '43 and '93! '93 is taking over the responsibilities of maintaining Thayer Gate and Lusk Reservoir per the 50-Year Affiliation Memorandum of Understanding

**Discussion Points:**

- ★ Is it possible to transfer Class Gift Funds to your 50-Year Affiliate Class to keep the legacy going? What is the policy if there is one? If there isn't one, may Classes work together to build Memorandums of Understanding to work together if they so choose (i.e. CL 1958 transferring funding to CL 2008 in the future in support of the First Class Club?)

★ **Preparing for the Future: Class Gifts**

Older classes should begin planning ahead for the future legacy upon the last classmate's passing.

**Discussion Points:**

- ★ Plan to have "youngsters" set up a protocol to help establish and later maintain class duties upon the passing of the Class Leaders (i.e. Who takes on the roles of President, VP, Sec. Treasurer, Historian, etc.?)
- ★ It is not clear what happens with funds and gifts when the "Class" life ends.
- ★ Can classes establish an endowment of sorts to have funds last?
- ★ What does the Academy/WPAOG consider "active" for a class? Do NOK who hold roles as Class Leaders keep the legacy going?
- ★ Where does the funding go? Who makes the financial decision(s)?
- ★ **Please have Development and Finance discuss this topic at the August Leaders Conference!**

★ **Development & Giving**

- **Please have Development and Finance discuss the different funding/gift options at the August Leaders Conference.**
  - ★ i.e. Long Gray Line Fund vs. SUPT's Fund
- How can Grads opt in/out of learning about their choices and receiving information and/or reminders?
  - ★ How is information sent out now?