



USMA Class of 1961

“Second to None”



CLASS COMMITTEE MEETING

23 January 2021

MINUTES

Class Committee

President
Bob Glass

Vice President
Vacant

Acting Treasurer
Todd Counts

Secretary
Ed Brown

Scribe
Marty Ganderson

Ex-Officio
Lucy Paone

1. The class committee conducted a Zoom meeting at 1300, 23 January. Members participating were Bob Glass, Ed Brown, Todd Counts, Marty Ganderson, and Lucy Paone. Mike Eiland participated as Ed’s backup. Pete Gleichenhau participated as the Class Advisor to the AOG Advisory Council and Gary Hyde was invited as the 60th Reunion Chairman.
2. Old Business: None
3. 60th Class Reunion Update:
 - a. Gary notified the committee that Bob and he had been notified by the USMA Chief of Staff that the Academy is unable to host our 60th reunion and is unable to reschedule the reunion. They host 15 classes a year and have cancelled all 2020 reunions and the 2021 reunions through spring.
 - b. Consequently, the committee agreed to reschedule the 60th reunion and is exploring options for scheduling it at another location sometime in early 2022.
 - c. Gary agreed to notify the hotel of the decision and determine if there are any financial obligations.
 - d. Bob will send the class a message notifying them of the cancellation.
4. Personnel Status:
 - a. Living Graduates: 337 of 534 (63.1%)
 - b. Deceased Graduates: 197 (36.9%) – 15 in 2020 (Jim Looram, Glynn Mallory, Bill Weis, Lou Berra, John Solomon, J. W. Chism, Lee Sager, Don Anselm, Dave Hastings, Bill Belknap, Frank Habic, Dan Barney, John MacLean, Nick Plodinec, and Bruce Halstead); 9 in 2019; 9 in 2018; 13 in 2017; 7 in 2016
 - c. Living Graduates with Addresses: 336 (Luke Boeve’s status is unknown)
 - d. Living Non-Graduates with Addresses: 41
 - e. Deceased Non-Graduates – 60 including 25 determined by comparing names and dates of birth with the Social Security Death Index – 0 in 2020; 0 in 2019; 1 in 2018; 3 in 2017; 3 in 2016
 - f. Classmates with Mailing Addresses – 515, includes widows and non-graduates [57 (22 graduates, 27 widows, 8 non-graduates) do not have e-mail addresses]
 - g. Widows with Mailing Addresses – 138 (125 graduates; 13 non-graduates) (27 without e-mail addresses)

- h. Golden Girls – 130 (119 graduates; 11 non- graduates) (23 without e-mail addresses)
- i. E-Mail Addresses – 458 [17 (1 graduate, 8 widows, and 8 non- graduates) not registered with the AOG]
- j. Widowers – 42 – 3 in 2020 (Lynn Bender, Bob Cairns, and Phil Smith)

5. TAPS Memorial Article Status: Ed provided the table below giving the status of graduate memorial articles.

Company	Graduates	Deceased	Articles Published	Articles Needed	2019 TAPS	2020 TAPS	2021 TAPS
A-1	22	7	3	4			2
B-1	22	8	7	1		6	
C-1	21	5	2	3		1	
D-1	26	8	5	3	2		
E-1	22	9	5	4			
F-1	24	6	4	2	3		
G-1	25	14	7	7		1	
H-1	25	12	4	8	1		
I-1	23	8	1	7			
K-1	22	7	5	2			1
L-1	18	4	1	3			
M-1	24	10	5	5	1	1	
Subtotal	274	98	49	49	7	9	3
A-2	21	9	9	0			
B-2	22	7	3	4			
C-2	22	7	6	1	1	2	
D-2	24	13	8	5	1		1
E-2	20	6	2	4			1
F-2	21	11	3	8		2	1
G-2	20	3	2	1	1		
H-2	20	4	2	2			
I-2	23	10	2	8	1		
K-2	22	9	6	3		1	
L-2	24	9	7	2	3	3	
M-2	21	11	7	4	3	2	1
Subtotal	260	99	57	42	10	10	4
Total	534	197	106	91	17	19	7

Notes:

- 2021 articles are for Don Anselm, Howie Bais, Tom Blanda, Bruce Halstead, Reid Russell, Lee Sager, and Al Wetzel.
- When published, articles are available on the AOG website.
- The total number of 2019, 2020, and 2021 TAPS articles is included in the number of articles published.
- Suspense for approval for publication in 2021 TAPS is 28 February 2021.
- 2021 TAPS will be published in August 2021.

6. Widows Issues:
 - a. Lucy notified the committee that the semi-annual Golden Girls Directory was distributed on 1 December.
 - b. She reported that the addresses we had for Helen Janoska, Helga Garens, and Lyl Hathaway are no longer valid and they had been deleted from the Golden Girls Directory.
 - c. In addition, she reported that Betty Claassen died on 26 June 2020, Judy Rooney died on 20 August 2020, and Jan Couvillion died on 22 November 2020.

7. Treasurer's Report: Todd reported the following:
 - a. Estimated end of 2020 balances in the class AOG accounts are as follows:
 - Admin Fund – \$57,967
 - Gift Fund – \$483,369The AOG books for 2020 are not yet closed. Once the books are closed, Todd will present a final 2020 Status of Class Funds Report with adjusted end of year balances.
 - b. Todd mentioned working on an historical perspective of the class gift fund he was preparing for the 60th reunion business meeting. Since the reunion planned in May 2020 has been cancelled, he will prepare and submit the presentation to the committee once the end of 2020 data are available.
 - c. Pete recommended that the committee consider giving assistance to needy classmates to enable them to attend reunions. The committee agreed to consider this for the 60th reunion when it is held.

8. Communications: Marty stated he would put all upcoming information about our 60th reunion in the class notes. In addition, he mentioned the many books on military history published by Mike Eggleston that are highlighted in the class notes. A question was raised regarding any personal expenses that Sam Weiss, our faithful webmaster, may have incurred. Marty will check and report any expenses to our treasurer.

9. Reconciliation Plaza Status:
 - a. Bob highlighted the provisions of Section 370 of the 2021 Nation Defense Authorization Act that requires the Secretary of Defense to establish a commission relating to assigning, modifying, or removing of names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia to assets of the Department of Defense that commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.
 - b. Specifically, the Act requires the commission to:
 - i. develop procedures and criteria to assess whether an existing name, symbol, monument, display, or paraphernalia commemorates the Confederate States of America or person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.
 - ii. develop a plan to remove names, symbols, displays, monuments, or paraphernalia that commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America from assets of the Department of Defense.
 - c. The commission is to report their results no later than October 1, 2022 and the SECDEF shall implement the plan submitted by the commission no later than January 1, 2024.
 - d. Bob will continue to maintain close contact with the USMA staff to ensure the concerns of our class are addressed when USMA considers Reconciliation Plaza in light of the

criteria developed by the commission. At this time, USMA has a list of 15 sites that the commission may focus on, 14 in one group and Reconciliation Plaza in the other. We are considered a principal stakeholder in Reconciliation Plaza, and if the commission raises it for discussion, we will be notified immediately to participate.

- e. Bob notified the committee that an anonymous donor has established an endowment for perpetual maintenance of Reconciliation Plaza that will be effective in 2021.

10. Cheating Scandal and Honor System:

- a. Bob presented highlights of the recent cheating scandal at West Point emphasizing the reasons for the delay from commitment of the violations on final exams in May 2020 to the information becoming public in December. There were 72 plebes and 1 yearling involved.
- b. The committee discussed the difference between the Honor Code – “A cadet, will not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do.” – and the Honor System – the adjudication of those accused of an honor violation – from the time when we were cadets. The code is unchanged, but the system has changed, beginning after the cheating scandal in 1976 and in the past 10 years.
- c. Pete gave an excellent overview of the 1976 cheating scandal in the Electrical Engineering Department.
- d. For a complete understanding of today’s Honor Code and the Honor System, the committee recommends studying the information at <https://www.westpoint.edu/honor>.

11. Class Flag:

- a. Ed reported that the Class of 1961 is one of 2 classes since 1960 that does not have a class flag displayed in the Alumni Center of Herbert Hall. Seven from the 50s have them as well as three from the 40s.
- b. Bob recommended that the class purchase a class flag at an estimated cost of \$1,600. This would include a 3’x4’ 1961 class flag, a class crest embroidery digitizing charge, a flag pole, a 7” brass spear for the top of the flag pole, a flag stand, and a flag spreader. The committee approved the recommendation.
- c. Ed will place the order with AOG Class Services.
- d. Our flag will be available for sign out from the AOG for special purposes as approved by the class committee.

12. West Point Center of Oral History. Bob reported that he had contacted and will continue to contact specific classmates to see if they will agree to be interviewed by the Center of Oral History. We have great insights and experiences to share with future generations using this resource.

13. Bob tabled the discussion on REACH, an issue on suicide prevention that the WPAOG is partnering with PREVENTS (President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide). Some information has been provided to the Class Leaders.

14. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1505.

Respectfully submitted,



Ed Brown