



USMA Class of 1961

“Second to None”



CLASS COMMITTEE MEETING

27 November 2018

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, 27 November. Members participating were Bob Glass, Dick Buckner, Ed Brown, Marty Ganderson, and Lucy Paone. Todd Counts and Mike Eiland participated as back-ups to Dick and Ed, respectively, and Pete Gleichenhaus participated as the newly appointed Class Advisor to the AOG Advisory Council. Bruce Shroyer was not able to participate.
2. Old Business: None
3. Personnel Status:
 - a. Living Graduates: 364 of 534 (68.2%)
 - b. Deceased Graduates: 170 (31.8%) – 6 (Dutch Coulter, Bill Parks, Pete Burgess, Jack Nevins, Chuck Westpheling, and Ron Hannon) in 2018; 13 in 2017; 7 in 2016
 - c. Living Graduates with Addresses: 362 (Jimmy Connors is only “lost” graduate – Luke Boeve’s status is unknown)
 - d. Living Non-Graduates with Addresses: 40
 - e. Deceased Non-Graduates – 60 including 25 determined by comparing names and dates of birth with the Social Security Death Index – 1 (Jack Dopler) in 2018; 3 in 2017; 3 in 2016
 - f. Classmates with Mailing Addresses – 527, includes widows and non-graduates (52 do not have e-mail addresses – 21 graduates, 23 widows, 8 non-graduates)
 - g. Widows with Mailing Addresses – 125 (113 graduates; 12 non-graduates) (23 without e-mail addresses)
 - h. Golden Girls – 121 (110 graduates; 11 non- graduates) (20 without e-mail addresses)
 - i. E-Mail Addresses – 474 (includes 10 graduates, 28 widows, and 9 non-graduates not registered with AOG)
 - j. E-Mail Addresses at the AOG – 427
 - k. Widowers – 39 (15 remarried) – Phil Mallory is a recent addition
4. Widows Issues: Lucy notified the committee that the semi-annual Golden Girls Directory will be published on 1 December.
5. Treasurer’s Update: Dick reported the following balances as of 26 Nov 18:
 - a. Admin Account – \$62,429.17
 - b. Gift Account – \$391,647.26

6. 60th Reunion Planning:

- a. Dates: Bob notified the committee that he had contacted Vince McDermott, the Chief of Alumni Affairs, about scheduling the 60th class reunion in 2021. After discussion of alternative dates, the committee agreed that the 60th reunion will be held 16-19 May 2021, which is Alumni Weekend and immediately precedes graduation..
- b. Planning: The committee discussed alternatives for planning the reunion including the AOG, class committee, and an ad hoc reunion committee. The committee favors having the AOG support both the reunion planning and the reunion at a cost of 12% of all funds processed. Bob agreed to contact Gary Hyde who did a magnificent job on our 55th reunion, for his considerations, before a final decision.
- c. Lodging: The committee discussed lodging alternatives including the Thayer Hotel and Park Ridge Marriott where we had our 55th reunion. It was agreed that the Park Ridge Marriott is likely the best alternative as it is unlikely that there would be sufficient rooms at the Hotel Thayer since the classes of 1946 and 1951 are having their reunions at the same time and have priority for the 150 available rooms. The committee acknowledged the inconvenience of having to be bused to West Point for alumni activities; however, the available facilities (sufficient guest rooms, extra rooms, and large banquet rooms) and the cost of using the Park Ridge Marriott, particularly if a favorable contract such as we had for our 55th reunion can be negotiated, outweigh the convenience of location at the Thayer (short bus rides).
- d. Bob agreed to notify Vince of the committee's decisions.

7. Reconciliation Maintenance

- a. Bob notified the committee that the proffer for 2018 and 2019 maintenance has been approved. The invoice for 2018 maintenance, \$5,800, has been paid. The amount is greater than in recent years since the contractor, Garone's Lawn and Landscape, completely dug up the grounds around the monuments, re-leveled the area, put in a double layer of fabric to prevent weed growth, re-edged, and installed mulch and dirt for the flowers. Garone's also fertilized the grounds, planted low, seasonal flowers in the spring, and replaced them with low, seasonal flowers in the fall. They also fought the nut sage infestation that hit West Point, among other nearby locations. The amount for 2019 maintenance is to be determined.
- b. Reconciliation Plaza Maintenance Endowment: Bob notified the committee that a classmate has agreed to establish an endowment for maintenance of Reconciliation Plaza. It will be fully funded by our 60th reunion. Therefore, another proffer will be needed for 2020 and half of 2021 to pay for maintenance using class gift funds.

8. Scribe Comments: Marty stated the he would have a Class Notes update sometime within a week or so.

9. 60th Reunion Gift:

- a. Bob suggested that the committee needs to determine if the class will give a gift to West Point at our 60th reunion, especially since we currently have nearly \$400,000 in our Class Gift Fund. As mentioned above, one of our classmates has pledged to provide sufficient funds for the maintenance endowment for our 40th Reunion Gift, Reconciliation Plaza.

Perhaps other classmates would like to make one last contribution to the Class Gift Fund before our 60th reunion, either for the three causes that we will identify, or to any project at West Point identified on a list of Academy or AOG needs. If we wanted to have a “goal,” we could make it \$1,000,000 with \$400,000 already in our account and another \$200,000 pledged for Reconciliation Plaza maintenance. There would be no major fund raising campaign, just a target to shoot at and possibly exceed. We need to check AOG for accountability help in keeping track of individual contributions.

- b. Bob’s initial thoughts on three major destinations for our funds are: Reconciliation Plaza Maintenance Endowment (our 40th Reunion gift – already pledged), West Point Center for Oral History (our 50th Reunion gift), and The Long Gray Line Fund (WPAOG funding). Note that these are not highlighted on the current lists as top priority needs.
10. Access to Class of ’61 Files at WPAOG: Bob notified the committee that Todd and Mike are now authorized to access ’61 files at the AOG. Ed agreed to show them how to access the files.
 11. Other Business:
 - a. DC Committee Treasurer: Bob notified the committee that Todd Counts has assumed the position of treasurer for the DC area checking account since Joe Fishburne has permanently moved to Mt. Pleasant, SC. Bob thanked Joe for his many years of service.
 - b. West Pont Center for Oral History: Bob noted that we have many classmates who have a story to tell, but interviews of only one classmate and his wife are included in the more than 300 on the center’s web site. Bob will contact the center and request that they consider interviewing more classmates.
 - c. AOG Advisory Council Class Representative (2019-2021): Bob reminded the committee that Pete Gleichenhaus was recommended by a classmate to be nominated as an Advisor-at-Large on the AOG Advisory Council. Instead of going through the nomination process for one of six positions, the committee determined that it would be best to ask Pete if he would agree to serve as our class representative on the AOG Advisory Council. Pete has agreed to do so and will serve from January 1, 2019 until December 31, 2021.
 - d. TAPS Memorial Article Status: Ed notified the committee that only 71 of the 228 deceased classmates (170 graduates and 58 non-graduates) have had memorial articles published. In response to his August message, representatives from twelve companies volunteered to recruit an author for each deceased company mate who has not had a memorial article published. Ed will send a message to members of the other twelve companies with list of those needing articles asking that someone volunteer to write one or more of the needed articles.
 12. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,



Ed Brown