



USMA Class of 1961

“Second to None”



CLASS COMMITTEE MEETING

26 February 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 1315, 26 February. Members participating were Bob Glass, Bruce Shroyer, Dick Buckner, Ed Brown, Marty Ganderson, and Lucy Paone.
2. Old Business:
 - a. Ed updated the committee on the status of the initiative started by Tom Lough, USMA '64, to fund a suite at the Thayer Hotel in honor of USMA Olympians.
 - b. Ed recently learned that Tom has been successful in obtaining a pledge to cover a significant portion of the cost.
 - c. The committee agreed to pledge \$2,000 to this initiative to ensure that our classmate, Joe Amlong, a gold medal winner in the 1964 eight man with coxswain rowing event, is recognized.
3. Personnel Status:
 - a. Living Graduates: 369 of 534 (69.1%)
 - b. Deceased Graduates: 165 (30.9%) – (1 in 2018; 13 in 2017; 7 in 2016)
 - c. Living Graduates with Addresses: 367 (Jimmy Connors is only “lost” graduate – Luke Boeve’s status is unknown)
 - d. Living Non-Graduates with Addresses: 41
 - e. Deceased Non-Graduates – 58 including 25 determined by comparing names and dates of birth with the Social Security Death Index – (3 in 2017; 3 in 2016)
 - f. Classmates with Mailing Addresses – 531, includes widows and non-graduates (50 do not have e-mail addresses – 21 graduates, 21 widows, 8 non-graduates)
 - g. Widows with Mailing Addresses – 123 (112 graduates; 11 non-graduates) (21 without e-mail addresses)
 - h. Golden Girls – 120 (110 graduates; 10 non- graduates) (20 without e-mail addresses)
 - i. E-Mail Addresses – 478 (includes 17 graduates, 29 widows, and 9 non-graduates not registered with AOG)
 - j. E-Mail Addresses at the AOG – 423
 - k. Widowers – 37 (12 remarried) – Frank Egan and Buck Shaffer are recent additions.
4. Widows Issues:
 - a. Lucy notified the committee that Vera Burns, the widow of Charlie Burns, had passed away.

- b. Lucy will ask all of the class widows to impress upon their next-of-kin the need to notify her if they pass away.
5. Treasurer's Update: Dick reported the following balances as of 20 Feb 18:
- a. Admin Account – \$65,050.45
 - b. Gift Account – \$400,477.11
6. Reconciliation Plaza Maintenance: As approved during the 12 August 2017 committee meeting, management of the maintenance of Reconciliation Plaza transferred to the AOG effective 1 January 2018. Chris Branson, the AOG's Manager of Repair, Maintenance, and Minor Construction, will manage the maintenance and coordinate with the class committee.
- a. 2018-2022 Maintenance Program: Bob briefed the committee on the maintenance program as follows:
 - (1) The contractor selected by the AOG to do the maintenance is Garone's Lawn and Landscape, based in Clintondale, NY.
 - (2) Garone's has a number of other contracts at West Point and maintenance of Reconciliation Plaza will be one of the smaller ones.
 - (3) In March, Garone's will completely dig up the present grounds around our monuments, re-level the area, and put in a double layer of fabric that prevents weed growth.
 - (4) Garone's will re-edge and install mulch and dirt for the flowers.
 - (5) Subsequently, Garone's will fertilize the grounds, plant low, seasonal flowers in the spring, and replace them with low, seasonal flowers in the fall. The class does not plan to specify the flower types, but will trust Garone's to address this as any other plantings done for commercial business purposes.
 - (6) Garone's will maintain the site four times a year – early spring, late spring, summer, and fall.
 - (7) Because they have other contracts and have very frequent access to WP, Garone's will briefly check the site a number of other times to ensure there are no weeds and no dead plants (any dead plants will be replaced at no cost).
 - (8) The total cost for 2018 maintenance is \$5,800. This is higher than normal because of the costs of removing and re-leveling the site.
 - (9) The costs for the next four years are expected to be approximately \$4,500 - \$5,000 each year of a five year contract.
 - (10) The committee will ask classmates in the West Point area to periodically advise it on the appearance of Reconciliation Plaza.
 - b. 2018-2019 Maintenance Proffer and Invoices:
 - (1) The proffer covering the 2018 and 2019 maintenance program has been submitted on behalf of our class by Elena Ivanova, AOG Director of Class Giving. The reason for the two-year proffer is that it will be at least a year after establishment of a maintenance endowment that funds will be available for the maintenance effort.
 - (2) She will ensure the proffer is completed in a timely manner to permit the AOG to draw the funds from the class gift account to pay invoices from Garone's.

- c. Reconciliation Plaza Maintenance Endowment: Bob will discuss the funding of a maintenance endowment with the committee after Elena and he agree on the amount needed to generate sufficient interest to fund the annual maintenance program.
- d. Committee Discussion:
 - (1) Bruce voiced his concern that the class has now lost its oversight of the maintenance efforts and the lack of a personal relationship with the maintenance contractor will result in degradation in appearance of Reconciliation Plaza. Bob assured him that committee oversight would preclude this.
 - (2) Bob will ensure that the AOG sends Dick copies of all invoices so the committee can monitor the expenditure of gift funds.
 - (3) Bob will get information on how other classes, especially the other Thayer Walk Project classes, are handling maintenance of their sites.
 - (4) The committee emphasized that Garone's must pay special attention not to damage the monuments and must assume responsibility to repair any damage resulting from its maintenance activities.

7. Scribe Comments

- a. Marty notified the committee that Pete Gleichenhaus will be honored on 27 February with the Jewish Community Relations Council Distinguished Leadership Award for his tremendous community service in leading JCRC's Hiring Our Heroes project to match returning veterans with jobs and for enhancing Jewish life in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.
- b. Marty assures that he will notify Ed when class notes are published so that Ed can notify the class.

8. Other New Business

- a. Ed notified the committee that Mike Eiland has volunteered to be his back-up. Mike and Ed will meet to ensure Mike is able to assume Ed's responsibilities if required.
- b. Ed notified the committee that he is now an addressee on the weekly message from the West Point Cemetery showing all planned funerals. This will enable Ed to notify classmates in a timely manner of upcoming funerals.

9. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1430.

Respectfully submitted,



Ed Brown