Subject: Minutes of Class Business meeting at the 55th Reunion **with Addendum**

To: Members of the Class of 1960

The Class of 1960 55th Reunion business meeting was conducted on the final day of the reunion, Sunday, 3 May 2015. The meeting progressed generally in accordance with the charts circulated in advance and attached to this memo.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Fred Kaiser rendered his Treasurer’s report covering the state of our two funds: the Class gift Fund and the Class Admin Fund. During the discussion, it was reiterated that the Gift Fund may only be used to support West Point through giving to Superintendent approved projects and programs. The Admin Fund may be used for any purpose the class chooses.

**Memorial Articles**

Frank Cloutier presented the status of the TAPS articles and urged all the companies that are behind in writing memorial articles to get busy and reduce the backlog as soon as possible. It was noted that the best way to get ahead is for everyone to write their own TAPS memorial article and leave it where it is accessible to next of kin. But there is still a major effort required to get on top of this situation.

**Planned Giving to West Point**

Under New Business, we heard an excellent presentation from Mr. Chris Frawley of the AOG about Planned Giving. He presented the attached slides and responded to several questions from the members. He also passed out packets containing additional information for those interested. Since we do not intend to conduct another class-wide fund drive to benefit West Point, planned giving is an excellent way to demonstrate your appreciation for your Alma Mater. I urge everyone to consider this personal method of giving and leaving a legacy to West Point by joining the several classmates who have already made such a commitment.

**Giving to Other Worthy Causes**

Also under New Business, we listened to a presentation by Dick Healy made on behalf of John Gibbs. John had contacted me some months before requesting that the class make a donation to the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) Warrior and Family Support Center (WFSC) in San Antonio. I suggested that he raise the issue at our reunion business meeting. Since John did not attend the reunion, he asked Dick to make the presentation on his behalf. A lively discussion followed the presentation during which Jim Pearl offered to have the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust of Laredo, Texas, match all the contributions of classmates up to $100,000. Jim is a Trustee with this organization. This suggestion was universally applauded.

I stated that the Class Gift Fund could not be used to make such a gift. I also stated that the Class Admin Fund was underfunded to meet the projected requirements for sending memorial donations of $150 to charities of choice by next of kin upon the passing of our classmates. This would require a special fund drive to make such a donation to the WFSC. In response to questions from the floor, I offered to contact the AOG and ask about exceptions to their rules on the matter of using the Gift Fund and the possibility of the AOG getting all classes involved in making donations to such worthy causes outside of West Point.

Accordingly, upon my return from the reunion I sent the following two questions to Mr. Carl Moccia, the Chief Financial Officer at the AOG and received his highlighted responses:

1.    Is it possible to make a donation to the BAMC Warrior and Family Support Center out of our Class Gift Fund Account rather than the Admin Fund Account?

No, since our mission/purpose (approved by the IRS) is to support West Point and its graduates. This would not.

2. Would the AOG be interested in sponsoring a small campaign to invite other classes to make donations to this worthy purpose?

No, same as #1. We only/primarily raise funds based on the SUPT’s needs (for West Point) and the WPAOG’s needs based on our Board of Directors.

In light of these responses from the AOG, I have pursued the clear intent of most members present at the business meeting to establish a mechanism for classmates to make individual donations to support the FLWC, to have those funds matched by the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust , and also to receive a tax credit for the donation. We have not decided what the mechanism will be as yet, but I expect to get resolution soon and will post an addendum to these minutes at the earliest opportunity. **[See below]**

This is certainly a worthy cause as one will see by reading the slides shown at the meeting by Dick Healy.

**Addendum to Class Business Meeting Report from 3 May 2015**

Mechanism for Providing Donations to the WFSC

Classmates who wish to make a donation to support the Warrior and Family Support Center at Brooke Army Medical Center should make out their checks payable to “Returning Heroes Home” (RHH) which is a 501,3,c organization that built the WFSC and provides the conduit for donations to sustain it. Annotate the lower left corner of your check with this notation “USMA 60 gift to WFSC”.

Mail your checks to John Gibbs at this address: 357 Pike Road, San Antonio, TX 78209. John will collect the checks and make a list of names, addresses and amounts so that acknowledgment letters can be sent to each donor for tax purposes as well as appreciation. John will take or send the checks and a copy of the list to his RHH point of contact periodically. The RHH POC will ensure acknowledgment letters are sent to each donor. John will also send a copy of his list to Jim Pearl so that Jim may process the amount for the matching gift portion of the contribution by the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust.

John will also provide a copy of each list to the Class Treasurer Fred Kaiser for information only. Fred and I will take steps to keep the class informed about the status of the giving through periodic updates via email and the class web site.

Plans for Dedication of Nick Rowe Room at the Hotel Thayer [This piece of business was inadvertently omitted from the first edition of this report.]

During the general discussion of the Treasurer’s Report, questions arose about the state of the planning for the room dedication. Fred Rice, who is the leader of the small task force which has been doing the planning for the Rowe Room dedication and memorabilia selection, gave a short report. Plans to conduct the dedication during the 55th Reunion had to be canceled due to the fact that the Rowe family was unable to attend such an event at that time. Fred is pursuing an acceptable date with Susan Rowe, and we expect a decision will be made to have the event in the fall of this year. We will make the date known as early as possible to make planning easy for those who wish to attend the dedication.

**Plans for the 60th Reunion**

As the final piece of New Business, we briefly discussed making plans for the 60th Reunion. We may have a larger turn out for that reunion due to the concept of “Class of 1960 at 60”. I noted that we ***might*** be able to fit into the Thayer Hotel, but have since found out from Mrs. Emmer that the Thayer Hotel does not rent out more than 130 or 140 rooms while always holding some in reserve. It would be problematic under those conditions for the Class of 1960 to be able to house all reunion attendees in the Thayer, but that is a matter for early planning on hotel selection for the 60th.

I also announced my retirement from reunion chairmanship after being the Chair for the last three major reunions. I welcome anyone who wishes to volunteer to take on this job for the 60th Reunion of 1960. I will provide full support to a new chairman in the way of lessons learned and file folders recording recent reunion planning. I ask you to get in touch with me if you are willing to take on the task.

**Closing Items**

Under Any Other Business, John Denton raised the issue of procuring a Class Flag as he had recently been in the flag room of the Alumni Center Herbert Hall and noted that ours was one of only a few classes not represented there. As we do not have a class flag, I noted that I would look into procuring one as there was general agreement that we should get a flag for the class. Mr. Frawley offered that there was an AOG policy covering class flags and offered to send it to me. He also noted the approximate price was something less than $2000. He subsequently sent the policy to me and it is attached as the third enclosure to these minutes. It is my intention to procure the flag for our class with the Class Motto of “Go Like ‘60” on the ribbon rather than the somewhat redundant “USMA Class of 1960” using the Class Admin Fund monies to cover the total charge of $1,430.

There was nothing else offered under any other business except my announcement that I would be posting access links for the pictures taken at this 55th Reunion by Mr. Anthony DiNoto and for the video taken by Mr. Tom Davidson during our 50th Reunion.

These are the links:

55th Reunion photos in both Flickr and Dropbox formats: <https://www.westpointaog.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1860&chid=298>

50th Reunion video: First half hour <http://youtu.be/ed4_JsAiVVE>

Next 1 ½ hour <http://youtu.be/2Jxjk6l6EcY>

The meeting was adjourned after one hour and ten minutes time.

Charles P. Otstott

President, Class of 1960

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