



Class Business Meeting Notes May 22, 2023

During our 55th reunion at West Point, a Class meeting was called to order on May 22nd at approximately 3:00 pm in Eisenhower Hall. A brief summary of issues discussed and decisions made follows:

A. Class Standing Committee (CSC) Election:

Class Election Chairman Dale Hansen called for a show of hands of classmates who had not voted electronically and wished to during the Class Business Meeting. As there were no hands up, Dale announced the following election results:

President: Dutch Hostler	At-Large: Bill Bachman (new)
Vice President: Dan Kaufman	Paul DeCoursey
Secretary: Skip Greeby (new)	Dale Hansen
Treasurer: Myles Crowe	Tom Jewell (new)
Historian/Scribe: Dave Gerard	Larry Jordan
Information Systems: Andy Shaffer	Dick Shipley
	Gordon Tillery (new)

B. Class Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA) Nominees:

The Class Standing Committee has designated Dave Ohle and Harold Timboe as '68's Class Nominees for AOG's Distinguished Graduate Award.

C. Fallen Graduate Memorial Scholarship (FGMS):

As a result of Class discussions with AOG, they will continue to offer Fallen Graduate Memorial Scholarship grants through direct contact with families of the fallen, and will also seek to coordinate with other charitable organizations such as Children of Fallen Patriots and the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund to financially cover scholarships for children eligible under the FGMS Program using monies generated by the FGMS Endowment established by our Class. AOG management will also seek approval of their Board of Directors to include children of graduates who are MIA, POW or seriously disabled as a result of wounds received in action.

D. Classmate Memorial Articles:

Dale Hansen briefed all on the current status of classmate memorial articles (see attached). Of our 706 graduating classmates, we have lost 20 in Vietnam plus another 122 to date from natural causes. Volunteers are still needed for seven (7) of our departed classmates' memorial articles.

E. Taking Care of Classmates, Spouses, and Caregivers (Being There for Classmates):

David Clemm made an impassioned plea for the Class to support an effort to take care of those with critical health issues and their caregivers. While there are ten KNOWN classmates and one spouse with Parkinson's and two KNOWN classmates with ALS, we believe there are more. David noted that Megan Hostler had established a website to limit knowledge of their issues and questions for the Parkinson's and ALS group with these diseases AND their spouses. Dr. Ed Mendoza, a neurologist and Class member, is part of the group and is available as a resource to the group for questions. This site is only useful if used and if the classmates advise spouses that it is available to them as well. Questions about this can be sent to Megan (megan.hostler.1@gmail.com) or David (dcsurveypcb@gmail.com). Andy Shaffer has also agreed to modify our Class website (www.westpointclassof1968.org) to encompass our approach to health care. By comparison, various Naval Academy graduates have set up monthly Zoom calls for those impacted by Parkinson's and Agent Orange, websites for spouses/caregivers to spread news and seek help, and a website on health issues and health information.

David noted that there are also a variety of other health issues that we are facing now or in the future, including various forms of cancer, dementia, heart issues, and strokes to mention a few. Some of these issues have been recognized for coverage by the VA and the Congress through the recent passage of the PACT Act. Unfortunately, most classmates and even fewer spouses know how to deal with the bureaucracy and take advantage of the services and support available to the veteran and the spouse when some of these health issues arrive. The question David posed to the Class is what should and can we do to provide support for those that need it. When things get really bad, spouses simply have no time to navigate the VA bureaucracy or to figure out how best to proceed. Hopefully, some physicians and attorneys will also step forward to be both a resource for those in need and to help craft what we can do.

David has requested that all classmates and spouses provide thoughts on how best to move forward and what you personally could do to support this effort. Responses should be sent to David at (dcsurveypcb@gmail.com).

David H. Clemm

Email: DCSurveypcb@gmail.com

Mobile #: (850) 257-3132

F. Reunion Administrative Reminders:

After Dutch offered a number of reunion administrative reminders, the Class meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.

TAPS 2023

Maurice Adams

Tony Ambrose

Bud Burrell

Gordon Crupper

Ken Day

Joe Dooley

Karl Gustafson

Bob Henderson

Claude Johnson

Larry Main

Bob Messell

David Olmsted

Dick Palke

Tom Pierce

Marv Wooten

PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR

CLASSMATE

Flynn, Dick

Gerke, Jack

Gooding, Dan

Hughes, Neil

McConnell, Thomas

McCrone, Bill

McElroy, Howard

Miller, Bill

Schweitzer, George

Simmons, Tom

Stallings, John

Walsh, John

Williams, William

Zophy, Gordon

TAPS VOLUNTEER

Jeff House

Norm Miller

Al Kimball

Dale Hansen

Jim Walsh

Jerry Hansen

Gerry Weeks

Larry Manning

Ed Lorentzen

Dick Shipley

Greg Camp

Sandy Cohn

Joe O'Connor

Bruce Zophy (brother)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ackerman, Art	A4
Clark, JJ	D1/H1
Garrison, Ed	C3/G3
Hergenrether, Dennis	D3/H3
McLane, Donald	F1/H1
Paulson, Peter	C3
Schappaugh, Gary	E1

TAPS ARTICLE PREPARATION

- After learning of death, I will retrieve the classmate's Cullum file from WPAOG.
- I will search for an obituary and other information, will add the classmate to our Class of 1968 Virtual Cemetery (<http://www.westpointclassof1968.com/virtual-cemetery.html>), and will search for next of kin (NOK) contact information as needed.
- If you wish to do the TAPS article, please notify your Regimental Representative before you get started; we will send you what we have found to get you started. Reach out to the NOK when you start; on rare occasions (two thus far) NOK may not be willing to have a TAPS article.
- Prepare the TAPS article with input from company mates, extracurricular teammates, next of kin, and tributes on WP-ORG and WPAOG sites where individuals who knew our classmate can post tributes. Check the Register and class reunion books and Both Sides of the Wall.
- Follow the Memorial Inventory Sheet guidelines, available from the Regimental Representative, from me, or online at westpointaog.org. 850-925 words!
- If no classmate volunteers, we will contact you and see if we can volunteer you!
- Once the NOK (defined in the inventory sheet) approves the article, you or the NOK should send the inventory sheet and TAPS article to memorials@wpaog.org or to Marilee.meyer@wpaog. The deadline is 28 Feb 2024 for publication in TAPS 2004.

Contacts:

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Tom Margrave (3 rd Regt)	tecmargrave!@gmail.com
Jerry Hansen (4 th Regt)	ljhansen77@gmail.com