

USNA CLASS OF 1959  
59<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee

Minutes of Committee Meeting 9 May 2017

The 59<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee conducted its second meeting on 9 May 2017 at the Naval Academy Club commencing at 1300.

Committee members in attendance were: Gary Smith, Charlie Pease, Bob Beaton, Frank Pipkin, Pete and Elaine Stout, Bob and Sandy Reifsnnyder, Bill Garrett, Dan Truax, Norm Bednarek, Walt Szczypinski, Jay Bainbridge and Donna Krupa.

Committee Co-Chairman Gary Smith announced that Chairman Jerry Welsh is undergoing chemotherapy treatments which temporarily limits his active participation. Gary requested that both he and Jerry be “copied to” on any 59<sup>th</sup> Reunion related correspondence. The importance of having backups for committee Chairmen and Company Representatives, as evidenced by Jerry’s problems and our advancing age, was noted.

The major accomplishment since the first meeting was completion of the Class of 1959 Reunion Survey in March 2017. The results are summarized in Attachment 1 and were discussed. Elaine Stout cited her need for access to the individual records from this Monkey survey in order to provide useful information to the Committee and to Company representatives. (Elaine received this information from Holly Powers on 10 May and is reviewing and incorporating the data. Summary numbers may change somewhat due to some duplicate responses). **Based on the survey results and the experience of other classes, the Committee agreed on a planning number of 375 attendees for our 59<sup>th</sup> Reunion.** It was noted that the Survey did not clearly indicate that the Saturday Navy vs Air Force Football Game Buffet is for an **AWAY** game which we will view on TVs in the N\* Room of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Future correspondence with the class, including these minutes, will clarify this.

Committee chairmen reported the following:

Company Parties: Gary Smith stated that Company Representatives will be responsible for their individual party and for collecting and paying the bill. The cost per person attending will not be part of the registration fee. The Committee concurred. The list of Company Representatives is posted on the Class website as is the list for their backups. There is presently no backup for the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> companies. The Chairman will coordinate and track the status and location of the company parties.

Correspondence: Charlie Pease provides general class information to separate mailing lists for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiments. He will provide these minutes to the Class, when approved by the Chairman, and will provide appropriate reunion updates to Shipmate.

Data: Elaine Stout provided printouts from the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion as examples of what she will provide for the 59<sup>th</sup> Reunion. She is incorporating data from the Monkey survey (see above) and plans to have all of the 59 data base on the Total Choice Hosting server by 31 Dec 2017. She noted that about a third of our living classmates did not attend the 50<sup>th</sup> or 55<sup>th</sup> Reunions. The Committee thanked her and Pete for their tremendous efforts in maintaining and improving our class website.

Favors: Pete Stout will provide some options and costs at the next meeting and the Committee will decide what to provide in addition to a tote bag with class crest to stuff with Reunion items. Reunion

ID Badges will be gold in color for all attendees except Committee members and Company Representatives. Another color (other than dark blue) will be selected for clarity for the latter attendees.

Finances: Paddy Ford provided Reunion cost estimates based on 375 or 300 attendees. The Committee selected 375 as the planning figure. Changes to these estimates included deletion of \$15000 for Company parties (will be handled separately by Co. Reps), deletion of \$9000 for a Saturday night informal gathering (cancelled), reduction of transportation cost to \$9000, and reduction of religious events cost to \$800. Paddy will revise his budget accordingly. **The Committee decided to use Cafeteria pricing for the Navy vs Air Force Away Football Game N\* Buffet and the Sunday Brunch.**

Hotels and Brunch: Griff Hamilton reported by note that he expects to sign a contract in June/July with the Hilton Garden Inn and later with the Courtyard Marriott and Residence Inn. Rooms will cost \$199 +13% tax per night. **Rooms can be reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn in December 2017 and at the Courtyard and Residence Inn 12-14 months before the Reunion.** The three hotels are within easy walking distance of each other (5 minutes) and the Garden Inn and Courtyard each have a lobby bar and lobby seating for about 50 people. The Garden Inn also has a first floor meeting room which might accommodate 100 people. **Based on these limitations the Committee decided to cancel the Proposed Saturday night informal gathering at the Garden Inn, leaving Saturday evening free with cash bars available at the Hilton Garden Inn and the Courtyard.** Because of limited food facilities at the Garden Inn and the convenience of having Brunch near the two Chapel services on Sunday, **the Committee approved Brunch at the Naval Academy Club on Sunday.** The date has subsequently been reserved with the Club and a contract has been signed. Paddy Ford will serve as Brunch Chairman and Bob Beaton as Co-Chairman.

Printing: Bill Garrett volunteered to chair the Printing Committee and will contact Rick Johnson (the Printing Chairman for the 50<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Reunions) and a local Printing Company to assist in accomplishing our printing requirements. \$2800 is presently allocated for Printing.

Registration: Bob and Sandy Reifsnnyder will handle Registration on Thursday and will coordinate with Holly to provide two assistants on Friday and Saturday. On Saturday registration will shift from the Garden Inn to the N\*Room at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium between 1230 and 1300.

Religious Events: Dan Truax reported the Memorial Service is limited to one hour and will be followed by the outside ringing of the bells (provided by Brother David) until noon meal formation. 52 classmates have died since our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion and 400 total deaths are expected to be listed in the program by our 59<sup>th</sup> Reunion. **The Committee decided that only the names of those who have died since the 55<sup>th</sup> or others whose names have not been previously read will be read out loud during the program. Recommendations or volunteers to give reflections during the service are solicited.**

Sporting Events: Norm Bednarek will obtain tee times for golfers and collect fees. 25 people indicated in the survey that they wished to play. John Butterfield will organize and run the Saturday Fun Walk in the vicinity of our hotels. Ray Art will handle the tennis. (16 players per the survey).

N\* Room: Frank Pipkin announced a contract was signed with the Stadium Caterer, Bo Brooks, and a deposit made for the **NAVY vs AIR FORCE AWAY Football Game N\*Buffet in the N\* Room at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Based on a game start time of 1530 (EDT) provided by ESPN, doors will open at 1330, the N\*Buffet will be held from 1400 until the end of half time (approximately 1700). The game is expected to end between 1830 and 1900. Beer, wine (included**

**in the price) and snacks will be provided until near the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.** The contract calls for a guaranteed 200 attendees. A final count is to be provided on September 22, 2018. Ray LaVan is the Co-Chairman.

Transportation: Walt Szczypinski announced that bus shuttle transportation will be provided from the hotels to the Gate 1/Fieldhouse area outside the Yard. Mini buses will be provided inside the Naval Academy to provide transport to sites within the Yard. For Sunday church services (and perhaps the Memorial Service on Friday) Walt will coordinate with Holly Powers to gain approval for shuttle bus access into the Yard to enable disembarking at the Chapel. **Special Note:** The Class will not provide transportation to Company Parties. However, Company Reps may individually arrange and pay for bus transportation to their respective parties. Company Reps may contact Walt to assist in making these arrangements with Annapolis Bus Co.

Trolley Tour of Historic Annapolis: Jay Bainbridge, who has enjoyed this tour, volunteered to chair this Committee and will make the arrangements with the Annapolis Bus Company or Watermark Tours. 219 persons on the survey indicated their desire to take this tour.

Yard Events: Bill Garrett volunteered to chair this Committee. He will coordinate with Holly Powers to verify the times in the Schedule of Events are correct for Yard facilities. He will also contact Captain Jim Minderlien to make arrangements for the Virtual Tour. Holly has reported that there will be no parade on Friday.

Handicap Arrangements: Subsequent to the meeting, Dolf Lekebusch agreed to make the necessary arrangements for our handicapped attendees.

Attachment 2, 59<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee, and Attachment 3, Revised Tentative Schedule of Events, reflect the changes described above. The next Reunion Committee meeting will be held on 17 October 2017 and Registration for the Reunion is expected to start about February/March 2018. This meeting adjourned at 1645.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Smith