

Classmates,

Another great effort by Larry Aubrecht's team. Over 90 Classmates, most with spouses, attended what I thought was the best mini-reunion so far. Larry leads this effort magnificently and we all owe him our appreciation. Larry your leadership, contribution, and sacrifice for us is humbling. This will be a little long, but hope you enjoy. Here are summaries:

LeBlanc. From Sunday until mid-day on Thursday, the Class of '72 Hospitality Room served as a gathering place before events, a rest stop with snacks, cold drinks and adult beverages. In a beautifully appointed room with a balcony over-looking the world-famous Riverwalk, it was the perfect setting for classmates to meet and catch up. And it was well-stocked thanks to the hard work of Debbie LeBlanc and the many sponsors she solicited for our reunion. {JHN: Huge kudos for yet another great effort by Chris, his sister, and others.}

Dennis Miller. San Antonio Texas had two great opportunities to golf. On Monday we played the Brackenridge Park Muni Course. This course was established over 100 years ago. There are a lot of narrow fairways with 100-year-old trees lining both sides. Tough course. Grant Smith and I could not figure out if John Roggow was golfing or squirrel hunting. Roggow used rental clubs to miss a hole-in-one by less than an inch on the par 3 18th hole. On Tuesday we played The Quarry Golf Course. It is a great course that I highly recommend to any golfers who visit San Antonio. It's set in an old stone quarry in the heart of San Antonio - with lots of elevation changes, water and hip high grass. George Webb particularly liked the back nine in the center of the quarry. Most holes require you drive over a large expanse of the hip high grass with heavy grass lining both sides of most fairways - 4 to 5 sleeves of balls should about cover it. We need more women golfers to join in. {JHN - great 19th hole activities both days.}

Lee Barnes - Tejas Rodeo and Saloon: We had 130 folks enjoy the Tejas Rodeo and BBQ. Chuck wagon supper was served, with BBQ brisket and chicken breast, baked beans, coleslaw, and the fixings. We fared well against the full bar. We moved to the bleachers and the rodeo demonstration began with a chuck wagon-punctuated rodeo history lesson, followed by a drill team exhibition, then barrel racing and ending with a heading and heeling roping competition (and, yes, the cowboys and

cowgirls were competing for money in the last two events). The evening was punctuated by line dancing instruction where our more daring classmates and spouses/sisters found their way to the floor and the 5-6-7-8 something-something, switch-turn, bend and reach, jump and stretch or whatever...but all survived the encounter! A nice night, and great company made the Texas outdoor sampler a memorable experience. {JHN note: The Rodeo MC was stunned to hear all of us join in the singing of the national anthem. His voice cracked telling us that was the first time that had happened. Unfortunately, none of our classmates made the cut for "dancing with the stars" – but '72 put some good-looking cowgirls on the dance floor}

Jim Hougnon - Class Memorial Service. The class remembered 73 deceased classmates in a service at The Alamo. This historic site helped highlight the dedication that each of us has made to our country, bring to life the memories of our classmates, and sear in our minds the importance of finishing strong. The service was highlighted by a thought-provoking message by Bob Allbright, B-2, and the solo On Eagle's Wings, sung by Jeannie Hougnon. Generous donations from Classmates covered the Alamo venue rental fees and program printing costs. Following the memorial service, Tim Lupfer, G-4, told the story of the battle at The Alamo in the context of the overall effort by the Republic of Texas to gain independence from Mexico. Many toured the grounds of The Alamo.

John Roggow – Class Meeting. John Northrop opened the meeting with 80+ classmates plus a few spouses in attendance. The following topics were discussed.

Curran's AOG update – a key focus of AOG is outreach to each graduate. With a goal of being the most well-connected association of alumni in the country, there are a number of initiatives to make this happen. Grad Link is active. It's an app that allows one to locate other graduates within a given area or identify alumni – can be sorted. Only requirement is the Grad must also be on LinkedIn. Bob also reminded us of Grad Pass and Grad Tour. The Grad Pass is for all graduates without a DOD ID card to have access to Academy grounds. Passes are available by contacting AOG in advance of one's visit. The Grad Tour (\$10 fee) provides a behind the scenes tour of the Academy. One graduate needs to be on the tour. A VP of Career Services was recently hired to assist alumni throughout the various transitions in their life. '72s first grandchild of the class, Valentina Vincent,

granddaughter of Harvey R. (Dick) Jokinen, is a plebe in D-4. AOG considers the Class of 1972 to be an example for the other classes, both in giving and participation rate. AOG Development was one of only 16 of 3700 schools in the nation to receive an award for sustained excellence in fundraising and management of funds donated. {JHN: we owe Bob Curran deep gratitude for all he has done}.

Joe Adamczyk gave an update of the 50th Affiliation effort.. Many of us participated in a very busy summer. Some hand delivered dog tags (one classmate drove 200 miles to present one dog tag) to each candidate prior to their arrival at WP. We fell short about 150 for delivery later. R-Day, with an ice cream social the previous day, the March Back from Camp Buckner, and the acceptance parade occurred in July and August.. Upcoming events include the Yearling Flag Presentation to 2022 at the end of Camp Buckner. This is being Chaired by Jerry Hamilton. At the beginning of Cow year (August 2020) there will be the Affirmation Ceremony. A coin with the crest of 2022 on one side and 1972 on the other will be presented to each cadet. A representative for each cadet company is needed. We also need representatives to be present at the other academies to present to the exchange students. Scott McQuarrie is chairing this event. Later events will include Branch Night (Fall 2021) chaired by Paul Capofari. Anyone with questions or wanting to be involved should contact Joe or the event Chair. The 50 Year Affiliation Program is outlined on the AOG website.

Jon Jacobsen is the Class outreach coordinator. Being there for classmates and their families in times of grief or loss is a hallmark of West Point graduates in general and the Class of 1972 in particular. Jake is assisted by Widow Liaison Ruth ("Sam") Bilodeau, Widower Liaison Jim ("Bubba") Bowden, and Grieving Parent Liaison Grant Smith. Timely communication of need or loss is always the critical first step. Whether through company representatives, class officers, or just someone you're close to, please let us know. If desired, please tell us if you wish to have your concern brought to the informal 'Proud and True Prayer Team' organized by Steve Myer and several others. Part of the 50 year Affiliation is rings provided from our Classmates to the ingot of 2022's rings. More details will be forthcoming, but if you are interested in contributing your, or your deceased spouses class ring to the class of 2022 'Ring Melt', please tell Jake or one of the Excom members. Be sure you've cleared your desire

with all potentially concerned family members. His contact information is JonJacobsen72@gmail.com. The class objectives for the next 45 years is to take care of ourselves and each other. This is not to be “prying or nosy”, but rather to support and help in those situations where we can. The Regimental reps are in contact with company reps to maintain information flow within the class.

Important!!! Two surveys are set to be sent to the class this Fall. One will be regarding the timing of the 50th class reunion: Fall football versus Springtime. That decision will impact the timing of the 49th and 48th mini-reunions. Joe A. is putting together an information poop sheet to provide the pros and cons of the options. The other survey is in regard to locations of the 48th and 49th. The 47th is in Nashville, 6-10 October 2019. Harry Brown is assisting Larry and his team in arranging the venues.

Major DoD construction projects are currently taking place or being considered. With the completion of Davis Barracks, a reconstruction of existing barracks has started. Currently Eisenhower (C Wing) Barracks is completely gutted, windows out and interior stripped. This is the first upgrade to these barracks since construction 50 years ago during our time at school. USAFA facilities were built in the early '60s and have yet to be completely refurbished. This has been a recruiting advantage for USMA. The AoG has nothing to do with these efforts.

On the other hand, AOG had been heavily involved in non-DOD construction projects. The new Malek Visitors Center was completed last year and provides an excellent depiction of cadet life. Current projects under consideration include refurbishment of the east stands at Michie Stadium and a Humanities Center to be built below the level of the Plain. The Federal Government owns all land up to the exterior walls of the stadium, AWPAA owns the stadium. AOG is currently spending \$1M to determine the costs of the stadium improvement. One thought is to follow the model set by many minor league baseball teams with suites designed to attract corporate sponsors out of NYC. PS our Classes fund raising for the class gift at the 50th will begin in the Summer of 2019 and go until 2022.

Bob Dees – Class Dinner and Presentation of Proud and True Award The Class Dinner was a fitting conclusion to a great Mini-Reunion. Bob Dees introducing this year's awardee, Chaplain (Colonel, USAR, Retired) Andy Seidel. A short excerpt from his award nomination

reads, "Andy Seidel epitomizes the West Point "whole person" concept to an extraordinary degree, having made extensive and lifelong investments in the USMA Class of 1972, as well as a life of continuing service to the Army, the United States and other nations, and to his fellow man." As well as teaching our Class Math for four years (he caught a lot of old grad grief for this!), Andy was a sponsor and spiritual mentor directly and indirectly impacting many in our class, sowing "seeds which were harvested in later years, on later battlefields of life," seeds which continue to bloom in the Class of 72 today. Andy's personal and professional contributions have also extended to national and international arenas as a church pastor, Army chaplain, leadership director at a major seminary, and international trainer investing in multiple generations of pastors in Eastern Europe. His lovely wife Gail Seidel served thousands of meals to hundreds of cadets, and an accomplished international speaker and mentor in her own right. As well, Bob recognized Andy's children who surprised him with their attendance. Andy then provided inspiring reflections regarding his many interactions with our class, both then and now. Fittingly, our evening closed with the Alma Mater – thankfully, we had sufficient Glee Club members present. Overall, the Class Dinner was a fitting conclusion to a great Mini-Reunion in San Antonio.

Final Notes. Classmates in the news

Joe Schneider took a break from campaigning (6-Mass) for Congress to join us Wednesday. www.joeschneiderforcongress.com

Hud Berrey is nominated as one of Jacksonville's best doctors. Please consider voting for Hud. Do it ASAP – voting ends on the 12th. Also vote for Baptist MDAnderson as best cancer hospital. Do it ASAP

http://folioweekly.secondstreetapp.com/api/organization_user_email_verifications?token=elpe34pgmwm&opid=499243&lrt=xioo2ttwq3a&bf=8a118271b412d78abef67ca1fca0d58b&ip=73.171.243.6&redirect=http%3a%2f%2ffolioweekly.com%2fbestofjax%2f%23%2flogin%2fdgk25qbn2hu%2f-SS-gallery-SS--QQ-group-EE-293865

Cathy Speer. Calling all class of '72 wives! While in San Antonio, some wives there thought it would be a good idea to establish communications

among ourselves. That way we could keep each other informed about the happenings for the class of 72 and maybe plan and have a separate function or something just for the wives – say when guys are out golfing. We need ideas, e.g. lunch, museums, separate tour, etc. Nashville is our next destination. What do you think would be interesting to do there for our small group. Hope to hear from you soon --- and class of 72ers: please pass this message to your wife! Thanks ...

Again, heartfelt appreciation to Larry and his team for all their efforts. LeBlanc, Pressley, Barnes and Lupfer are among the significant contributors, with many others helping to row the boat. San Antonio was a wonderful event, it was good to see those there, and we missed those that weren't.

Thanks

John

Proud and True