

USAFA Class of 1973
45th Reunion After Event Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday November 5, 2018
Doolittle Hall, USAFA 1000

Attendance: Bill Diffley (45th Reunion Committee Chair), Ron Scott, "Trapper" Carpenter , Dale Birch, John Stefonik, Bob Munson, Jim Parker, Rich Fazio and Gary Blokland. Barbara Rosenstein of AOG by invitation

1. Bill called the meeting to order at 10am and set forth an agenda which covered each specific reunion event. Discussion of each area by the group followed.
2. **AOG SUPPORT** Group consensus was that "Tier 3" services selected by the Committee and provided by AOG were a good choice and that '73 received the value expected. Special thanks to Barbara who was "thrown in the deep end" a few months before the event, but was always available and helpful. On-line sign-in presented some challenges some of which AOG have already corrected, some (such as: who signed up and who allows his name to be distributed) are works-in-progress. Revenues from the event are projected to be about as expected (between \$10,000 and \$15,000) with an eye to our ambitious agenda for the next five years-- Legacy Class 2023, Forged in Blue, appropriate recognition of deceased Classmates, etc.
3. **MERCHANDISE** Jim reported that Cole Promo performed pretty much as expected; but, given last minute schedule changes, receipt of class coins became a concern. His suggestion was that at least a month is needed to properly sequence events for merchandise. Class coins were well received and extras will be put to good use. Cost has always been a challenge. Use of classmate's web business for merchandise was considered, Cole Promo was selected for efficiency.
4. **WIDOW ESCORT** Essentially a new undertaking by the Class, Rich detailed a considerable number of issues and other considerations involved in properly supporting the effort. If we pursue this effort into the future, he strongly recommends taking the time to examine scope,, manpower, funding, and communication required to effect his suggestions. One challenge is that the AOG does not recognize graduate widows after those graduates pass away; the group recommended that the AOG consider tracking that group, and offer them affiliate membership.
5. **GOLF** Joe commented that near perfect weather and a great course (and his "monster drive") made for a top notch event. Woodmoor provided excellent support, with some minor exceptions. Golfers agreed, Eisenhower is their first choice and consideration should be given to adjusting our reunion date to take advantage of that premier facility. Golf mementos were a nice touch appreciated by most. Timing conflicted with last minute changes to Class meeting.
6. **CLASS MEETING** A last minute change to the Class meeting time created some confusion. Better if the schedule is made and followed; however, 425 signed up for the

Thursday reception created the need for room transformation and Marriott need the extra hour for set up. Meeting topics: Class gift, Legacy Class Project, Legacy Class Gift, Forged in Blue, Class Officer election flowed well and were approved by the Class. Raffle prizes added lite moments to the business atmosphere. More details are available on the Class website. Ron has provided an in depth "Hot Wash" document (covering other reunion matters) with suggestions and analysis available from him for future consideration (Atch).

7. COMMITMENT TO SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS Rich commented on the Memorial event for Charlie Stallworth. It is possible there will be more requests for similar events in the future. Rich noted good attendance, a dignified and appropriate service, but - the significant amount of attention to detail needed to "make it work." Class Officers had decided that simultaneous events were acceptable, but emphasis should be on the normally scheduled reunion events. Officers will examine the feasibility of incorporating future requests/events as a "reunion event."

8. MEMORIAL SERVICE Accounting for a tight schedule and the last minute addition of a wedding just before our event, Chaplain Blase orchestrated a meaningful, moving and memorable Service. This group suggested that the AOG use its influence to encourage AFA to limit use of the Chapel to reunion activities on designated reunion weekends. AOG was particularly responsive to brochure changes right up to a two week deadline for going to print. Marcella never lost enthusiasm or direction--thanks.

9. FRIDAY BANQUET Ron briefed the many challenges and details required to make the facility available to an over capacity booking. AV equipment, wine for each table, extra room makeup, squadron seating, bars available, length and content of presentation--to name a few concerns--had to be coordinated with changes occurring up to the day before. Marriott was flexible, helpful and responsive. The presentation to BG Wakin was a highlight with him being most appreciative of our effort. The flag was planned to be on the podium for the pledge of allegiance, but got lost in the "fog of execution".

10. FOOTBALL SATURDAY Air Force beat Navy; so, maybe all else is insignificant. However, ticketing was a concern. Trapper addressed the new software being used by AD. Tailgate/football tickets need work. AOG knows it needs work; AD knows it needs work, maybe in five years... Seating was not ideal, particularly for persons with physical challenges. All agreed, physical limitations need to be a much bigger part of our discussion for the 50th. AD tailgate food was judged good and plenty.

Respectfully Submitted

John Stefoniak

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16 Nov 18