

## **Class of 1973 Officer Quarterly Meeting**

April 8, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30

Pikes Peak Library 21c, Conference Room B6

1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Call-in: 1-(515) 739-1015, Access Code: 964-303-900 #

**Attendees:** Ron Scott, Bill Diffley, John Stefonik, Kelly McCullar (by telephone), Mike Arnett, A.J. Ranft (by telephone), Bob Munson (by telephone), Trapper Carpenter, Dale Birch, Joe Kahoe (by phone), Gary Blokland, Craig MacPherson (by telephone), Denny Merideth, Rich Fazio

### **Agenda:**

1. Meeting called to order 09:30, Ron Scott
2. Wrap-up 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Bill Diffley  
All agree Bill did a masterful job leading our 45<sup>th</sup>. Final numbers are still coming in, but most estimates were very close. Lodging was our biggest challenge--50 will be even bigger. Ron is actively recruiting a 50<sup>th</sup> chair--interested: contact him. All agreed "tier three" AOG support was worth it.
3. Update on Class 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Survey, Ron Scott  
Ron indicated the 50<sup>th</sup> survey is just about ready to circulate. Rich points out: sooner is better as many venues need significant lead time. Mike will "get the word out" as soon as the word is available.
4. Report on recent NCLS, Bob Munson  
Bob gave a summary of our participation in NCLS 2019. 2019 was remarkably better than previous years due to the highest level of Academy and Air Force support. Several comments about '73 facilitating quality and high-ranking speakers point to our ability to help NCLS continue an upward vector.
5. Update on Legacy Program, Bill Diffley
  - a. Update on Contrails, Bob Munson  
Bob continues to work our Contrails project. \$15,000 was set aside; indications are that amount will not be required. Bob will monitor and engage.
  - b. Honor Code session, First BCT, July 16-18, Mike Smith  
The key is participation: Mike Arnett will continue to get the word out. Each of us need to talk up '73 being there. A list of attendees will be produced and a short summary of techniques, do's and don'ts, plus suggestions will be available.

c. Acceptance Day Speaker Concept, Bill Diffley

Just 5 minute or so presentation by a member of '73; but, we need to, again, be there to let 2023 know we are part of their 4 years at USAFA. Ron will work on a speaker: several suggestions were forwarded.

d. RSVP and lodging, Bill Diffley

AOG and USAFA no longer provide a formal "Bed and Breakfast" for the incoming class due to liability.

e. Proposal to authorize Legacy funds to offset travel costs, Bill Diffley

Postponed to future meeting.

f. Linking Legacy events with Front Range lunches and dinners, Gary Blokland

Gary has several ideas and suitable venues as he tries to make Legacy events meaningful and fun.

g. Ideas on linking Legacy program to the annual NCLS over next four years, Bill Diffley, Bob Munson, Trapper Carpenter

Work in progress. Bill, Bob and Trapper will continue to explore options.

6. Report on Class History Project, Mike Smith (**see attachments**)

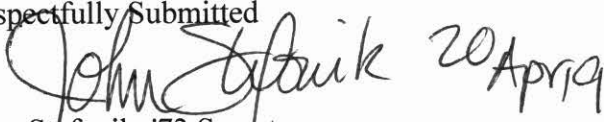
7. Class Funds, Kelly McCullar

Kelly still trying to get reliable numbers from AOG and Endowment. Bob will help. Meanwhile, we committed a total of \$2,100 from a 5,000 budget for expense reimbursement to seven (\$300 each) widows attending the reunion. A complete accounting conceivably available by next meeting.

8. New Business

Next meeting to be held on July 8, 2019, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (brown bag lunch), at Pikes Peak Library 21c, Conference Room B6, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Call-in: 1-(515) 604-9094, Access Code: 964-303-900 #..

Respectfully Submitted

 20 April  
John Stefonik, '73 Secretary

Attachments

1. Minutes of March 15, 2019 Teleconference
2. Initial Approach

## **Attachment 1: Minutes of Class History Project, March 15, 2019**

Attendees: Mike Smith, Paul Taylor, Ron Scott, Mike Arnett, and, Don Rightmyer

Interested but not able to attend: Bill Diffley, Denny Merideth

Others to add in the future: Craig MacPherson

Project definition notes:

Provided by Paul Taylor:

1. Compile, edit and publish personal accounts/remembrances of events/situations class members where leadership and character traits/skills instilled/learned at the Academy paid dividends later in the member's career.
2. Compile, edit and publish humorous personal accounts/remembrances of events/situations involving class members either leading up to entrance at the Academy, during the Academy years, or thereafter.
3. Compile, edit and publish personal accounts/stories of events/situations class members where bravery, courage, devotion to duty played a part of one's career.
4. a Combination of the above.

In addition to the items provided by Paul, it was suggested to include challenges classmates experienced during the appointment process as well as character and leadership challenges faced before, during, and after the Academy.

A release form that allows us to edit and publish both in print and on the web should accompany all data collected. We will need a release as well for pictures provided, whether this comes from the individuals in the picture or the owner of the copyright of the picture.

As data is collected, analyze the inputs and categorize them according to themes, using these themes as chapter divisions. Using the virtues defined by the Center for Character and Leadership Development might provide a useful construct for a starting point for themes.

It was suggested that raw stories should be posted on the class website and, following a review of these materials, a subset would be selected for further editing and publication in book form.

It was suggested that we work with the AOG with a goal of establishing a template for collecting class histories for all classes to use thus enabling the AOG to create a robust history for all classes.

Legacy class was discussed. Is there some way to link this project with the legacy class and with a future NCLS where a legacy panel discussion could be added to the format?

We discussed donating all profits from publication to the AOG or Endowment. The AOG might foot the publication bill since they would directly benefit. In addition, AOG staff might have useful insights into the editing and publishing processes and costs.

Self-publishing is a possibility. Ron mentioned that it is possible to self-publish a softcopy book at no cost. Bob Munson might have additional information as he has been working on publishing the Contrails for our legacy class. We might be able to contact the publisher for the yearbooks and get additional data as well.

Soliciting inputs:

In addition to repeated email blasts through Mike Arnett, use the squadron reps to push data requests.

Solicitation requests should contain a concise description of the project, a template for submittal, and questions to stimulate submittal of useful and relevant data.

Project timeline:

Develop a concise description of the project, list of questions to stimulate input, and template. Due June 2019

Collect data: June 2019 through June 2021

During the collection of the raw data, create selection criteria for selecting items for print publication and conduct first order data analysis. Post raw stories to class website in order to create class engagement and stimulate additional inputs.

Analyze data for themes, follow-up with writers, and complete first order edit: Completed by June 2022

Edit and publish print materials: Completed by June 2023

Action items:

1. Mike Smith to draft meeting notes; attendees to amend as needed. Due March 22, 2019.
2. Mike Smith draft concise description of the project and distribute to participants. Due March 29, 2019
3. Paul draft questions to stimulate input and distribute to participants. Due April 8, 2019
4. Mike Smith review data at the Center for Character and Leadership Development for potential themes and distribute for comment. Due March 29, 2019.

Those who did not have action items at this meeting—your time will come 😊

Next meeting: May 14, 2019. Call-in information will remain the same. Reminders will be distributed.

## **Attachment 2: Approach**

As the Illustrious Class of 1973 nears our 50<sup>th</sup> graduation anniversary, it is important that we capture our collective leadership history for future generations. In particular, it is important to provide our legacy class with an enduring view of what it means to live the Air Force Core Values. The comprehensive compilation of events that shaped our character should include pre-Academy, Academy, and post-Academy experiences.

We will solicit, compile, edit, and publish stories from across the Class to capture a broad range of defining moments. Inputs should use a consistent format to enable analysis and eventual hardcopy publication. The suggested format includes:

- Situation: providing sufficient context for the reader to understand the circumstances the individual faced during the defining event.
- Decision: providing the reader insight into the physical, personal, and professional risks and/or ethical concerns that informed their decision and course of action.
- Action: providing the reader understanding of the actions taken to respond to the situation and implement the decisions resulting from their analysis.
- Results: what happened because of the actions taken providing sufficient detail for the reader to assess both positive and negative outcomes.
- Feedback: how did this event inform future decisions faced throughout the remainder of the person's life—both career and personal.

All stories will be edited to ensure content reflects proper language, acceptable content, and does not violate another person's right to privacy. Each story will be analyzed against a rubric that has not been established at this time. The rubric will establish criteria to assess the quality of the experience and the impact of the resulting lesson on future leaders. All stories, once edited, are published electronically on the Class website. Once the rubric is established, a committee will review and select stories for publication. Stories reflecting enduring character and leadership lessons will be hardcopy published.