

Class of '68 50th Reunion Committee Meeting  
Friday, February 17 at Doolittle Hall

Executive Summary – major decisions

The reunion will be the weekend of October 6, 2016 at the Double Tree Hotel – the detailed reasoning behind these decisions is on our class Web page ([usafa68.org](http://usafa68.org))

Attending:

Bill Crimmel, Bob Denny, Garry Dudley, Bill Eckert, Gary Hoffman, Carl Janssen, Ed Leonard, Mike Parkinson, Vince Rusinak, Bob Sallee, Neal Starkey, Gary Vasek, Doug Wilson, and Bill Wood

Mike Parkinson began the meeting at 1400 by thanking Sherry Cooper of the AOG staff and Greg Knedler and Raz Doherty of the Endowment staff for their help on the project thus far. Mike also specifically thanked the Hotel/venue committee for their very quick action and the Gift committee for their work.

Mike then summarized data that had been gathered by Al Bloomberg and Bob Sallee after the 45<sup>th</sup> reunion and the results of classmate input on reunion preferences. That data shows the reunion should include or emphasize:

- Opportunities for informal classmate interaction
- A memorial service
- Opportunity to attend a football game
- Opportunity to visit the Academy and the Cadet Area
- A golf tournament
- Family (particularly spouse) involvement

The reunion should avoid:

- High cost, particularly a high cost hotel
- A formal program at the banquet
- A required senior staff briefing.

Mike then shared changes in Academy policies on reunion support and the need for AOG involvement. Most significant among these is the Academy's (not the AOG's) decision only to support

reunions on weekends of home football games coupled with a contract that results in the time for all home games, other than Navy, being announced as little as 10 days before the game date.

The results of the Hotel/Venue Committee were summarized and consensus determined the reunion will be the weekend of October 6, 2018 (The weekend of the Navy at AFA football game) and the reunion hotel probably will be the Double Tree. The date was dictated by policies summarized above. The hotel selection was made because of classmate requests to avoid a high cost hotel and the fact that the Double Tree was best able to accommodate our group.

Several members of the class gift committee were present (Garry Dudley, Bill Eckert, Gary Hoffman and Mike Parkinson). Bill Maywhort, chair of that committee, was unable to attend so Mike summarized their efforts thus far. The class gift will be an endowment to support the Cadet Cyber Competition Team. The goal for that project is \$500,000. Fundraising is currently in the “silent phase” but the committee is already about half way to meeting its goal.

Specific committees were discussed and a current list of committee assignments is attached to this report. These included:

Gift (summarized above)

Hotel and Venue (summarized above) – it was also suggested that a banquet committee be added and Bill Crimmel volunteered for that committee. Specific suggestions for this committee included: Using buffet stations to encourage interaction at the reunion “banquet,” providing a quiet area during any band performance at the banquet and providing some recognition and/or thanks to Pat Russell and Tim Davidson for their work on behalf of the class.

Contact/Lost Souls - The committee was encouraged to invite classmates who did not graduate and surviving spouses (family members) of deceased classmates.

Memorial Service – it was noted the Chapel will probably be under renovation at the time of our reunion.

Class Merchandise – Sherry Cooper shared the name of a merchandiser the AOG has used and Vince Rusinak indicated he had worked with that group.

Golf Tournament – Al Bloomberg and Barney Mills were unable to attend but have agreed to serve on this committee.

Golf Alternative – Doug Wilson and Bill Wood agreed to help organize a pheasant hunt or fishing event as alternatives to the golf tournament.

Family/Spouse involvement – No one volunteered for this committee, which may be charged with organizing some recognition of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries or encouraging family involvement in reunion events.

Colorado Springs retirement options – Nancy Rusinak has agreed to help with this project which may be gathering information on the COS area.

Football coordination – no one volunteered for this committee, which will be charged with coordinating with the AOG on tailgate and football seating.

Tour of USAFA Airfield – there were no volunteers for this committee

Tour of Falcon Stadium  
Neal Starkey

WWII Flying Museum – Vince Rusinak volunteered to gather information for this tour for Thursday.

Visit to Blue and Silver Club – Vince Rusinak is exploring option for either a tour or actual football attendance at the Blue and Silver Club.

Football alternative (meet in private lounge NOT Falcon Stadium) – discussed options that may include a private lounge to watch game on TV.

Colorado Springs Activities – Mike Parkinson volunteered to find information that can be provided to reunion attendees.

Transportation Committee – No one volunteered but we did discuss that the AOG may provide busses between Doolittle and the Cadet Area. We will also explore the need for handicapped assistance during any tours.

Sunday Open House – Carl Janssen volunteered to host an open house the Sunday of the reunion

Reunion Yearbook – No one volunteered for this project. We discussed an on-line option and tabled the discussion to the next meeting.

## NEXT MEETING

The committee agreed to meet again in mid May at Doolittle Hall at 10 am. Exact date to be determined.

## EXISTING COMMITTEES

Venue/Hotel

Al Bloomberg  
Bob Denny  
Gary Hoffman  
Mike Parkinson  
Bill Sasz  
Bill Crimmel (banquet)  
Bill Wood (banquet)

Gift Committee

Bill Maywhort - Chair  
Bill Beggert  
Garry Dudley  
Bill Eckert  
Gary Hoffman  
Steve McPhail  
Mike Parkinson  
Alan Price  
Squadron Reps to be added

Contact search/lost souls

Carl Janssen  
Neal Starkey

Memorial Service

Dale Oderman (Chair)  
Garry Dudley  
Bob Denny  
Ed Leonard

Class Merchandise

Bill Eckert  
Vince Rusinak  
Bill Wood

Golf Tournament

Al Blumberg  
Barney Mills

Golf Alternative (Pheasant hunt or other)

Doug Wilson

Bill Wood

Family/Spouse Involvement – NEED VOLUNTEER(S)

Colorado Springs retirement options - Information on retiring in or moving to COS

Nancy Rusinak

Football Coordination - Tailgate, Tickets, Seating etc. – NEED VOLUNTEER(S)

Tour of USAFA Airfield –NEED VOLUNTEER(S)

Tour of Falcon Stadium

Neal Starkey

WWII Flying Museum Tour

Vince Rusinak

Blue and Silver Club – Tour or football attendance alternative

Vince Rusinak

Alternate to Football (meet in private lounge etc.)

Gary Hoffman

Transportation – movement within Academy AND from hotel to Academy or alternate activities

Mike Parkinson

Sunday open house

Carl & Debbie Janssen

Name Tags (arranging cadet photos on name tags) –NEED VOLUNTEER(S)

Reunion Yearbook - Tabled