



## USMA Class of 1957

18 July 2011

### Classmates

The purpose of this letter is to bring you up-to-date on the status of reunion planning, request your approval for use of Class gift funds to modify/upgrade the Class of 1957 Hallway in the Arvin Gymnasium, and to ask you to approve a proposed amendment to the Class Constitution on the election of officers.

### The Reunion

It is good to know that in 10 months many of us will be assembling at West Point to celebrate the 55th anniversary of our graduation from USMA. We are pressing ahead with arrangements for the 20 - 23 May 2012 reunion and will have a letter to you in late August with details. It will provide a preliminary registration form, a list of planned events and associated costs, and request a deposit to cover the administrative aspects of the reunion. The current draft schedule of reunion activities is posted on the Class website (<http://www.usma57.org>). The website will be the place to go to for attendance rosters and updates on reunion events.

As we indicated in our first letter to you about the reunion, we will be staying at the Hilton Woodcliff Lake, 200 Tice Boulevard, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677. You may begin to make reservations for the reunion on or after August 15 by calling Reservations at the Hilton Woodcliff Lake at 201-391-3600 or by calling the toll free phone number, 1-800-445-8667. The room block is in the name of the West Point Class of 1957. Rooms are \$159.00, single or double. We ask that, until 15 September, you reserve only one room so that all classmates will have an equal opportunity for getting a room at the reunion hotel. After September 15 you may reserve as many rooms as you need. There are other hotels in the area in the event the Hilton is fully booked.

### Class Gift Fund and the Class Hallway in the Cadet Gym

As you may recall, at our 30th reunion in 1987 the Class donated an upgrade of the entrance hallway to the central gymnasium. A photo of the result, taken in 2006 after the rehabilitation of the Gym, is included below.



This is the hallway that runs between the rooms we used as cadets for boxing and wrestling (and was the hallway in which Maureen O'Hara stood as she watched Marty Maher-Tyrone Power teach a boxing class). Over time, the use of the hallway and the adjacent rooms has been dramatically changed. For security reasons, cadets or guests may no longer enter the gym through the entrance to this central hallway. The boxing and wrestling rooms have been converted to weight rooms and outfitted with the highest quality equipment, becoming some of the most popular places in the gym. The hallway is used both as a passage to the weight rooms, and as a room for the conduct of promotions and other ceremonies by the Department of Physical Education.

Unfortunately the lighting system we installed 25 years ago has proven to be inadequate. The simple fact is that the hallway area is so dark as to make it seem a foreboding place. It further makes it difficult to view the pictures (of us) on the walls, and to recognize that the writ-large brass lettering on the archway at the end of the hall identifies it as being a Class of 1957 memorial. In addition to the ravages of time, the major rehab of the gymnasium complex created changes in the hallway that further detract from its attractiveness. The major problem is that they had to fill in the archway with a plaster wall and a metal door. These need to be wood-paneled and fitted with top-grade hardware in order to match, and hopefully enhance the decor of the rest of the hallway.

To once again make it a first-class area representing the Class of 1957, we need to provide considerably better lighting throughout the hallway. To accomplish this, we propose to replace the existing ceiling lights with higher wattage fixtures/wiring and to add wall-mounted sconces. Further, we need to add hardwood paneling to the metal doors and other areas throughout the hallway, which have been changed as a result of gym reconstruction. We will add entry door hardware, to include two sets of panic hardware, pull plates, toe kicks, hinges, and automatic closers, all in bronze. In addition radiators and ventilation coverings will undergo major repair and upgrade. And finally, we will fix/repair a number of other items in need of improvement. It is not going to be cheap; but it is going to be first-class.

Bob Stevens and Ray Bell have met with the AOG and post staff, together with the potential contractor for this project. They concluded that the proposed work is necessary and will fully accomplish the many improvements we are looking for. They were, however, able to identify several cost-saving cuts to the proposed fixes, which have reduced the total cost from \$35,188 to \$33,131. We are asking your approval to commit to a total expenditure of up to \$40,000 in order that we will not have to expend the time, effort and expense of coming back to you in the event that necessary add-ons turn up during the reconstruction. As the Class currently has approximately \$130,000 in the gift fund as a surplus from the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion gift campaign, this project will not necessitate a solicitation for additional funds from the Class. Any further required work in the area will be handled by the AOG and the Academy using either Academy funds or the maintenance endowment we have provided to cover all of our gifts.

Your Executive Board (EB) believes the rehabilitation will greatly enhance the visual quality of the hallway and reflect positively on the Class of 1957 and the Military Academy. **Therefore, the Executive Board recommends that the Class approve the expenditure of up to \$40,000 to carry out this upgrade.** Under the Class Constitution, any expenditure of Class gift funds must be approved by a majority of votes cast within 60 days of the initiation of voting. You may cast a vote by returning the attached ballot titled "57 Hallway Renovation" to Paul Schwehm or by going to the Class website and voting electronically. Mail ballots must be postmarked by October 1 and electronic ballots sent by the same date. We would urge you to vote on this expenditure as soon as you receive this letter, as history indicates that a letter put aside is a letter never sent.

## Constitutional Amendment re Election of Officers

The election of Class officers to serve from 2012 to 2017 will take place at the Class business meeting during the reunion in May 2012. The current Constitution calls for a nominating committee appointed by the Executive Board to develop a slate of officers that will be sent to all classmates, both electronically and by postal mail, 60 days prior to the Class business meeting at the reunion. The slate will include nominations made by the nominating committee and nominations offered in writing by the petition of 12 regular Class members.

The Executive Board believes that the current procedure for election of the president, first vice president, and second vice president does not best serve the needs of the Class. The Nominations (4) and Election (5) paragraphs of the Constitution (a copy of which is posted on the Class website) are attached to this letter. They have been annotated to show proposed deletions and additions that the Executive Board considers both appropriate and necessary as the Class ages. **The changes in the Nominations paragraph replaces the original requirement to have five (5) candidates for the three positions of president, first vice president, and second vice president with a straightforward requirement to nominate at least one (1) candidate for each position.** The nominating committee has the opportunity to examine the qualifications of interested individuals and to make recommendations to the Class as to whom it believes would be best suited for each position. The provision in the Constitution that permits additional nominations to be submitted by 12 regular Class members ensures that the opportunity exists to go beyond the recommendations of the nominating committee.

**The candidate receiving the most votes for each position would be elected to that position.**

**There is no change in the process for nominating the Secretary, Treasurer, Scribe, and Information Systems Officer, or for the election of Regional Group representatives.**

**Your Executive Board recommends that the Constitution be amended to require the nominating committee to nominate at least one individual for each of the seven Class officer positions and that the person receiving the most votes for each position be elected to that position.**

The specific changes to the Constitution are identified in the attached Amendment Presentation. For ease of reading, a clean version of the proposed paragraphs 4 and 5 is also included below the annotated version. The Board asks that you review the proposal and cast your vote by returning the ballot, Proposed Amendment to the Class of 1957 Constitution, to Paul Schwehm, postmarked by October 1. The proposed amendment will pass if it receives more than two thirds of the votes cast.

For the Executive Board



Gerry Galloway  
Class President

(To eliminate any possible appearances of conflict of interest, neither Dick Stephenson, Ted Voorhees nor I will run for any office or accept a nomination should one be offered)