



*Association of the Class of 1966
United States Naval Academy*



**Executive Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2023**

Executive Committee (EC) members Clay Spikes, Chairman; Chuck Grutzius, Treasurer; Mike Baird, Secretary; Members Don Jackson, Tom Eubanks, Tom Marfiak, Robert Percival, Steve Niss, Jim Long, and Tom Rorick, and Class President, Scott Redd, and Therese Long, Web Master, met this date via Zoom to discuss the items in the attached Agenda. The minutes of the March 4, 2022, EC meeting were previously approved by the EC via email.

Financial Status – Chuck Grutzius reported that the Class checking, certificates, and Alumni Association Accounts total \$66,666.66. The Class is in great financial shape.

1. **Lessons Learned from 55th + 1 Reunion** – The following areas discussed had additional comments from those in the washup comments paper. I have included those areas below in the minutes by category.
 - a. **Hotel** - Chuck Grutzius stated that potential problems occurred when Classmates canceled their room reservations a couple of weeks before the reunion opening the possibility of a penalty for not making the room reservation quota. Fortunately, we incurred no penalties as the hotels can usually fill the rooms.
 - b. **Buses** - it was noted that the buses were parked by Alumni Hall to pick up those attending the P-Rade. That could be a factor at the 60th Reunion.
 - c. **Reunion Gift** - Clay Spikes stated that a ball cap was appropriate for the 60th Reunion. Chuck Grutzius also stated that he had about 50 lumbar pillows available and he would send them free to any Classmate that wanted one.
 - d. **Dinner Banquet** – Clay Spikes felt strongly that it was deemed appropriate to have a Dinner Banquet as a means of communicating Class news, et al., and having a means of having most of the Classmates together. It was also noted by Chuck Grutzius that the hotel caterer erred on the entrees of filet and crab cakes for about 150 Classmates. He was able to negotiate a \$9,000 refund on the meal. Finally, the EC discussed that pre-organizing tables by Batt worked well as long as Classmates reserved seats for both themselves and their spouse (guest), i.e., didn't sign both up on the same line.
 - e. **Photographer** - Chuck Grutzius stated that we spent \$1,500 on a photographer for the Dinner Banquet and Tailgate. Debbie Latta wasn't available for Tailgate, and Chuck felt that if we couldn't get her full time, we should find another option for photos.
 - f. **Memorial Service** - Scott Redd agreed the bell should be rung after the names. It was also agreed that registration should be halted in time to permit anyone wishing to attend the service the opportunity to do so.
 - g. **Class Financial Support** - Clay Spikes commented that he was able to obtain a donation from a Classmate for \$15,000 to help defray widow and Classmate expenses for the reunion. Chuck Grutzius remarked that he also received an additional \$10,000 from that Classmate. Also, Chuck provided refunds to 15-20 Classmates.
 - h. **FOB Meeting** – Tom Marfiak suggested the FOB meeting not be scheduled for the 60th Reunion.

2. **Status of Nunna's Caring Heart Friends** – Jim Long and the NCHF Committee are still assessing possible bench schemes for installation near the USNA Columbarium. The committee consists of Jim Long, Tom Marfiak, Nancy Long, Courtney Spikes, and Sandra Hale. In addition, Scott Redd wants to be notified of a Classmate's or wife's death. Donations totaling \$21,000 have been received. The committee wants to reach out to widows and widowers in the Class. The EC approved Mike Baird informing the committee whenever a Classmate or Classmate's wife dies.
3. **The "List of Advisor Contacts"** <https://bit.ly/3QKGGGo> - **VA issues** - This link takes one to the '65 Health Advisor spreadsheet. It's modeled after the West Point program. Scott Redd will reach out to Jim Galvin about taking the lead for '66 on a similar effort.
4. **Dave Fitch Proposal on Class Web Site** – The EC liked the idea of a blog, but not a chat room. Therese Long advised the EC about MYUSNA, which is a forum for groups to communicate, much in the way Facebook works. One can go to usna.com and click on the MYUSNA tab to apply for a group. The EC agreed that Therese had enough on her plate as Webmaster without taking this on.
5. **Leadership Awards for GONZALEZ** – Chuck Grutzius is in touch with the XO of GONZALEZ and will coordinate the next award ceremony. He also stated that he had the HUE CITY Enlisted Awards Board and he wanted to send it to Tom Eubanks. Clay Spikes agreed to send an email to Tom that Chuck was sending the board to him.
6. **DGA Nominations Discontinued** – Tom Eubanks believes that Rod Rempt might be open to one more go as a DGA nominee. Scott Redd will investigate the success of renominating Rod and asked Tom to provide him Rod's previous nomination package.
7. **Planning for 60th Reunion** – Chuck Grutzius will talk to Wendy Owen about 60th Reunion planning. The need for a football weekend and when dates and opponents are known is limited to the first game, usually on Labor Day weekend, Air Force, Homecoming, and Army-Navy. The EC would like to avoid Homecoming.
8. **Elections for 2024 EC and Class President** – Clay will send an email to Tom Eubanks, asking him to establish election committees for Class President and EC Members. Note the EC guidelines for the Class Charter, Articles XIII and XIV describe the EC and Class President election process, respectively.
9. **Class Luncheon Schedule** – The next Class luncheon will be held in Annapolis on May 10. Robert Percival has reserved the Commodore Room at the Annapolis Yacht Club. Chuck Grutzius has sent an email to Brian Newberry, the new football coach, to be the guest

speaker. He will advise all if a positive response is received. Mike Baird will send a “hold the date” message to the luncheon group when a guest speaker is found.

10. **Wrap-up/Action Items** – There were no action item other than those provided in the above activity paragraphs.

There being no further business before the group, Clay Spikes adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm EST. The next meeting date was not set.

Submitted,

//L. J. Michael Baird//

L. J. Michael Baird

Secretary, USNA Class of 1966 Association

ATTACHMENT 1

USNA Class of 1966 Executive Committee Zoom Meeting Agenda February 15, 2023

1. Lessons Learned from 55th + 1 Reunion - All
2. Status of Nunna's Caring Heart Fund – Chuck
3. The “list of Advisor Contacts” <https://bit.ly/3QKGGGo> - VA issues
4. Dave Fitch Proposal for a chat room on Class Web Site - Mike
5. Leadership Awards for GONZALEZ - Chuck
6. No further DGA Nominations
7. Planning for 60th Reunion - All
8. Elections in 2024 for EC and Class President - Clay
9. Class Luncheon Schedule - All