

OC24-69, June 2, 2022, Reunion Planning Group Meeting – Summary

Hello 50th Company:

The Leadership/Reunion Planning Group held an online Zoom meeting on June 7, 2022. In attendance were Brian Flora; Brian Walrath; Scott Davis; Bob Hines; Mike Eberhardt; and Lou Lallo. Lou chaired that meeting, and he and Brian Flora prepared the following meeting summary.

1. Comrades in Distress: Brian Flora, thankfully, had no new reports of critically ill classmates (or spouses) or of any who have passed away.

2. 50th Company Website: Bob Hines shared data on visits to our website. He noted that the website usually gets around 250 visits a month, which is quite respectable for a website of our “ilk.” He gave the following breakdown of website hits thus far:

- *Battle of Gettysburg*: Chapter 1 = 61; Chapter 2 = 43; Chapter 3 = 25; Chapter 4 = 32; Chapter 5 = 25.
- *Kugler Remembers*: 53.
- *Kochis Testimonial*: 44.
- *Davis Testimonial*: 41
- *Eberhardt Testimonial*: 40

Everyone congratulated Bob for his work on creating and monitoring our outstanding site. We encourage classmates to visit it often for the latest class and reunion information and to conjure up collective memories from a very important period of our lives. If appropriate, share the site with your children (and even grandchildren as they mature), and other friends and relatives who might be interested in our stories.

3. Video Production: Scott Davis, 50th Company’s VG (Video Guru), reported that everyone agreed that the *Missing Man Video* for the reunion banquet is excellent and needs no further editing. He (Scott) is working on a short video to honor our volunteer (who is not a classmate) who has been narrating all of our videos. Scott will invite him to come to our reunion so that we can properly thank him.

4. A Focus on the Reunion Details:

-**The Reunion Schedule:** Brian Walrath noted that cell phone numbers of the Points of Contact for the reunion had been added to the reunion draft schedule, which has pretty much been agreed to by the members of the reunion planning group. In early August it will be sent electronically to all reunion attendees. A more detailed print version of the scheduled is being prepared by Brian Flora and will be distributed at the welcome desk upon arrival at the Hotel.

- **Reception Desk:** Our welcoming area (in the College Room) is just off the Hotel sign-in desk. It will be manned from 2pm to 8pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. The following

classmates have volunteered to staff the desk: Mike Eberhardt; Brian Flora; Brian Walrath; and Bill Thoroughgood. In addition, other Reunion Planning Group members will be standing by to assist, as needed. Scott and Lou will prepare a welcome kit, which will include a printed schedule for the reunion and instructions for those staffing the welcoming table.

-Group Photos: We will gather for group photos after the Cocktail Hour in the Eisenhower Room ends at 6:00PM. Reunion Planning Group members will guide the assemblage. To simplify things, we decided to forgo Platoon photos and just have a 50th Company classmates-only photo, followed by one with spouses and guests. For the classmates-only group shot, the Platoon members should try to gather together. Brian F will try to herd the 50th Company cats into Platoon formation. The Hotel recommends that we do this on the front steps of the hotel underneath a banner that they will post. Scott has provided them with a 50th Company OCS logo to place on the banner.

After photos, Lou (with help from his Reunion Planning Group friends) will be in charge of “herding” folks into the dining room, where there will be no assigned seating. The photos, including movements of the reunion participants from the Eisenhower room to the front of the hotel and from there into the dining room, should take less than an hour, and allow a 7:00pm start time for the dinner’s opening ceremony

-Opening Ceremony for the Dinner: The ceremonial prelude to the dinner will last twenty to thirty minutes.

- Planning Group Leader Lou Lallo will start the program with a gracious welcome to everyone, make some thank-yous, and will end with a brief introduction to the “Missing Man Table.”
- The Missing Man video, prepared by Scott Davis, is a poignant explanation of the symbolism of the Missing Man ceremony. It also honors 50th Company classmates who are no longer with us.
- 50th Company Padre Mike Eberhardt will do the blessing, remembering our missing classmates, and blessing the food and fellowship.
- Brian Walrath will then deliver the evening’s toast.

-Banquet Dinner:

- Dinner is served at approximately 7.30pm.
- The first course is the House Salad.
- For the entrée you will have had the option of pre-selecting either Parmesan Crusted Chicken or one other choice, TBD. The plated dinner entrees include tea and coffee, water, iced tea and assorted breads and butter, as well as the chef’s selection of starch, vegetable, and dessert. Each table will have a bottle of the house Chardonnay and a red wine.
- The evening program with videos will begin around 8:30pm
- At around 9:00pm, Lou will give brief closing remarks. But the party isn’t over! Classmates, spouses, and guests should feel free to mix and mingle and continue to socialize.

-Reunion Fees: The Reunion Planning Group is beginning to make financial commitments, so it is time to start asking for the reunion fees. The Commo team will shortly announce to the classmates that the fees should be sent by check to Scott Davis with a target date of July 5, 2022. Lou will reinforce the message in his monthly newsletter.

- Dates of future meetings:

- June S.T.B. = Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 1pm, EST.
- July Reunion Planning Zoom = Wednesday, July 6, at 1pm, EST.
- July S.T.B. = Wednesday, July 20, at 1pm, EST.

Until next time stay healthy, stay strong and stay positive.

Lou Lallo and Brian Flora