

OC24-69, 50th Company, 2023 Reunion Planning Group Zoom Summary

On March 6, 2023, we held our monthly Reunion Planning Group meeting via Zoom. In attendance were Steve Porter; Scott Davis; Bob Hines; Brian Flora; Brian Walrath; Mike Eberhardt; Bill Thoroughgood; and Lou Lallo. Lou chaired the meeting. This summary was drafted by Lou Lallo and edited and commented on by Brian Flora.

For the record, Peter Nowlan texted that he was “indisposed” and requested an excused absence. However, one of our 50th Company drones spotted him skiing on the slopes behind his house. When Peter heard the ominous click of a Hellfire Missile being locked and loaded in the pristine blue sky above him, he looked up, mumbled “S - - T!” and then flopped onto the snow and began frantically pushing up Vermont.

1. Regular monthly reports:

- **Comrades in Distress:** Brian F. learned that that the spouse of one of our classmates was recently diagnosed with leukemia. I and Brian have contacted the classmate on behalf of the Company to offer prayers and collective wishes that the treatment to come will be gentle and the recovery complete. The classmate said that, when the diagnostic process is complete, he will give us and the 50th Company classmates a status report.

- **Website:** Webmeister Bob reported that we have received 403 hits to our website in the past 30 days. He also noted that hits increase on Sundays, for some reason, and that we get more views after we send out videos. For example, the first Gettysburg reunion *Video from the Vault* (starring the 50th Co. “Three Amigos” (Kugler, Hines, and Nowlan) got a respectable 30 views, including one from Australia. The 50th Company website continues to do dang good for such a small organization composed of aging septuagenarians and even a few agier octogenarians. (Apparently, Peter Nowlan’s hit-the-site Bot-App that automatically logs in and out of the site several times each day seems to be working.) Kudos to Bob and Scott (and Flora for his narrative input) for making this happen!

- **Videos:** Videomeister Scott reported that the next *Message from the Vault* video (featuring Gary List, David Doe, and John Morrissey) will be coming out soon. He also noted that the fourth chapter of the Gettysburg reunion photos is ready to go and will be released shortly.

Scott also asked if we could promote the OCS Alumni Association's new website and videos, since two 50th Co Classmates (Scott and John O'Shea) are on the Association's board. Lou will do this in his March "AT EASE!" letter to the Company.

2. Reunion Planning for September 2023 in Kansas City, Missouri:

- **Hotel update.** Scott had nothing new to report and noted that, as of now, it looks like the reunion registration fees will be \$350 per person. This might decrease if we receive, as we did at Gettysburg, generous donations to help cover costs.
- **Color Guard.** The group decided that this wasn't necessary. The "Missing Man Table" ceremony, which reflects on those who have left us, will serve the same purpose.
- **Speaker.** We are still struggling with a banquet program speaker. We agree that we need something that goes beyond the welcoming and thank you remarks by me, the blessing/benediction by Padre Eberhardt, and a Company Toast. What remains is to decide whether to have one speaker for 30 minutes or several of our classmates speak for 5-7 minutes. Several names were proposed. We kicked the decision-can down the road until next month so that everyone will have a chance to think about it. Suggestions and/or volunteers are always welcome.
- **Letters to undecided classmates.** Lou has sent a personal invitation to attend the reunion to those classmates who indicated they "might attend."
- **Reunion Hotel Reservation and Fee Collection Schedule.** Lou asked when we want to start collecting registrations, announce the time to make hotel reservations, etc. Monsieur Davis "volunteered" (as always) to see what we did last year for Gettysburg.
- **Kansas City Attractions.** Lou compiled a list of things to see or do during our time in Kansas City. Last month we decided that a Planning Group member (or anyone else attending the reunion) should research a site or two that he (and spouse) are interested in. If other classmates would like to visit the site as well, they could figure out the logistics, schedule a time slot, and lead a small group. Brian F and his friendly spouse Kay did this at Gettysburg for the Eisenhower Farm and Home, and no one was disappointed. Please note, such tours are **not** part of the reunion program; everyone is free to link up with other classmates (or not) and do whatever is most interesting to them.

Given our time constraints at the reunion, we recommend three particular sites that we will ask for Planning Team volunteers to organize and, if possible, to arrange for

a guided tour: *The National WWI Museum the President Harry S. Truman Museum and Library* and *The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*.

But there are many other options. I, after some internet research, have a list of the other interesting sites and encourage you to do your own research so you can visit a site that floats your boat (Do people still say that?), either on your own, or (better yet) to organize other interested classmates to attend with you.

The list of attractions, in addition to the three that we have recommended, that I found on the Internet are:

- Arabia Steamboat Museum
- Negro leagues Baseball Museum
- Kansas City Zoo
- Distillery Tour
- Sea Like Kansas City Aquarium
- Union Station
- Science City at Union Station
- Boulevard Brewing Company
- The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
- Hallmark Visitors Center
- The Money Museum
- The American Jazz Museum
- Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio

Note: I (Lou) have volunteered to coordinate a visit to the WWI Museum, and Brian F and spouse Kay have volunteered to arrange a visit to the Truman Museum, Library, and Grave; they already have eight takers. We will need one more Reunion Planning Group member (or any other classmate planning to attend the reunion) to organize and lead a visit to the Art Museum, or instead, offer to lead a group to any other site that strikes their fancy. Get back to us!

3. Future Meetings:

- March, 2023 Shoot The Breeze: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 2pm, ET.
- April, 2023 Reunion Planning Meeting: Monday, April 10, 2023, at 1pm, ET.

Lou Lallo and Brian Flora