

Classmates and Ladies of the Class:

July 1, 2013

In 2009, following our fund drive which gifted to West Point the Honor Kiosk and other library enhancements, plus naming rights to the building's coffee shop, the Class Executive Board of that period decided against future fund drives. In April, your current Board also decided against another fund drive. We considered several factors, to include our ever-depleting numbers and our mostly fixed-income state. We also noted that the Association of Graduates focuses on class giving up through their 50th anniversaries; and that many class gifts beyond that milestone appear to be mainly divestments of their residual funds or contributions to enhance previous gifts.

Our decision does not preclude a later Board, in 2017 or beyond, from deciding differently; but realistically, the odds are against such a reversal. It may therefore be wise for each of us to reevaluate our giving practice. To that end, I strongly encourage all of us to contribute directly to West Point, via one or more of the avenues that are available. As you know, only "core" academic, moral/ethical, military and physical development programs receive federal funding. "Margin of Excellence" activities that are of great value to the cadets, but outside the "core" designation, receive minimal to zero funding. The extensive new athletic facilities that have been ranked so highly, and the many cadet learning undertakings involving the centers of excellence and studies-abroad programs, plus the clubs and club sports activities, are all funded by donations from graduates and other friends of the Academy. As West Point competes for candidates whose range of choices include our sister Academies and the top tier-one schools of the nation, it is often the "Margin of Excellence" opportunities that make the difference. Our alma mater is consistently rated near or at the top among colleges and universities; and to ensure we remain so, your Executive Board encourages each of you to donate to the extent of your ability.

As it happens, a major Academy fund drive is in progress. "For Us All" is running from January of 2009 through December of 2015. The private portion (read major donors) is completed and the public effort has now commenced. The goal is \$350 million, and a significant 80%, over \$285 million, has been raised so far. The choices in contributing are several, as are the ways to do it: Contributions to the Superintendent's Annual Fund primarily support cadet activities; the Long Grey Line Fund is the AOG's funding source for alumni activities; and the Army A Club supports intercollegiate sports. In addition, there are also many restricted gift opportunities which you may wish to explore and support individually. The means of giving are many: cash, gifts-in-kind, bequests, annuities, life insurance and trusts of various types, all of which can be structured with tax advantages.

It is a given that our sentimental bonds to our rockbound highland home grow with age. This is the time in our lives when we could individually make a final, significant, contribution to our alma mater. If you want any sort of planning assistance, contact the AOG Development Office at 845-445-1650; they will be pleased to help.

You may be thinking, don't we have money in the Class fund now? Yes, we do: We have over \$152 thousand, of which about \$130 thousand would be available for disposition at this time. Our Board will continue discussion about how to handle the

residual gift fund. There are numerous options available, including: selecting another gift; arranging to dispose of the amount with a bequest to the Class of 2007; or just doing nothing for the time being. We will be soliciting your advice in the matter, we will keep you informed, and all the Class will have a voice in the outcome.

Forty-five and a butt months until the 60th!

Paul Schwehm