

## TELECONFERENCE NOTES AUGUST 3, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Sullivan, John Connors, Bill Cater, Frank Monaco, Terry Young, Charlie Magee, Tom Rabaut

This meeting was called by President Jim Sullivan to discuss the issue of Marta Kaine's Honorary Class Membership and the approval of John Beasley as the new Chair of the Activities Committee.

History: At a previous meeting it was determined that Marta would be made an Honorary Class Member and recognized along with Wally at our 50th Reunion for their tremendous work on the Legacy Yearbook. Then President Dave Brown sent an email to the Kaine's informing them of our intentions to present this at our 50th Reunion. However, due to Covid, the reunion was cancelled and the vote was never sent to the class and the presentation was never made. The situation was further complicated in that during the interum, the Class Constitution was modified excluding spouses and only requiring 2/3 of the EXCOM to approve. Wally inquired as to the status in early 2023. A motion was made by Frank Monaco at our July '23 teleconference to honor our commitment to Marta and make her a honorary member using the amended Constitution requiring 2/3 approval of the EXCOM. The motion was seconded by John Connors and passed unanimously. The thinking was we needed to honor the commitment made by Dave and that her work recognized her work on the Legacy Book and not as a spouse. Gil Harper did not support this action saying the EXCOM took the easier route and did not follow the original Constitution. He resigned his position as the Special Operations Chair as a result. Since the integrity of the EXCOM was questioned, Bill Cater requested additional discussion. This resulted in Jim having further discussions with the Special Operations Committee and scheduling this teleconference.

Sully called the meeting to order at 5:02 EST. He reviewed the purpose of the meeting and said he had five votes to send Marta's situation to the class and five votes approving John Beasley as the new chair. Bill stated his desire for further discussion resulted from his talking to members of the awards team. He was informed that Marta did not want the vote to go to

the class and that Wally was offended. He thinks we need to be on the same sheet of music and communicate the same message.

Sully said he had a long talk with the Awards Committee plus individual conversations. He also discussed the issue with Wally. Wally understands where we are and is OK with it. We now have a procedural matter to get it back on track. I am asking for a resolution to put this back under the guidelines of the Constitution.

Frank said he does not understand why we were doing this. We followed the new Constituion and approved her membership. He feels very badly that we are putting the Kaine's through this.

JC: We did not take the action arbitrarily; we just didn't look at the Constitution closely. What we are doing is asking for a ratification of our actions.

TJ: We could easily be chasing our tail on this. I'm disappointed Gil came to the conclusion that he did. This occurred during a confusing time. Although we did not take a class vote I think it is a safe assumption they would have approved it based on the favorable comments about the Legacy Book. Although it is a long shot, what if the class does not approve this? And we still have the dilemma about spouses in the future.

Bill asked if we did a class vote for Joan Emmer or Gus and the answer was no.

Sully: There is a need to maintain transparency and this is a one time shot. The award has been approved. Our guy decided to make it an issue and used the words of our Cadet prayer against us. I personally think this was distasteful and caused a division within our class.

JC: The only way the class would disapprove this is if someone is actively lobbying against the award which I don't think is happening.

Bill: This is why I thought we needed this discussion. We're doing this for one guy. Regardless of what we do, someone will disagree.

Frank: There were over 10 classmates that were ready to burn down the Academy because our 45th Reunion was not held during a football weekend. Trust me—we'll get some hate mail.

Sully: One guy has influenced a dozen guys. I think the best thing we can do is follow the old Constitution. Gil will then have nothing to complain about. Folks need to be heard and it shows that we listened.

Tom: I just want to ensure I heard this correct and that we are asking for a ratification as opposed to an approval. That is a big difference. The answer was yes. He also asked if we knew anyone close to Gil who might be able to talk him down a little. Sully said he spoke to Terry Johnson who is very close to Gil. He thought Gil was very sincere and would not change his mind.

Sully: I've spoken to many members and I have to be careful about saying any more.

Charlie asked about the vote. Does it require a majority of the class or a majority of the respondents? Only requires the majority of respondents.

Sully asked to formalize our vote on the new chair of the awards committee and for the ratification. JC made a motion to approve John Beasley as the new head, which was seconded by TJ. Motion carried unanimously. Tom made a motion to send the ratification of Marta's Honorary Class Membership to the class. JC seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Sully will comprise a letter to be sent to the class along with Dave Brown's email for their information in voting but will bounce it off the EXCOM for review. Sully also asked if there might be some interest in combining our 55th reunion with the 250th US Army Reunion. Frank can query the class.

There being no further business, JC made a motion to adjourn at 5:41 PM which was seconded by Tom. Motion carried.