CONSTITUTION

of the

CLASS of 1972

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

ARTICLE I: PREAMBLE

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Class of 1972, United States Military Academy (hereinafter the “Class” or “Class of 1972”).

Section 2. The Class is a non-profit, unincorporated association.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The purpose of this Constitution is to provide an agreed means to administer the affairs of the Class. The term “members” include Regular Members and Associate Members as defined in Section I, Article IV. Membership, written below.

Section 2. The objectives of the Class are:

1. To maintain and strengthen the relationships of its members.
2. To provide a means of communication and fellowship with members.
3. To [assist in organization of] organize and hold periodic reunions of its members.
4. To assist widows and families of deceased members.
5. To recognize graduations of [ sons and daughters of] member children or grandchildren from the Service Academies.
6. To memorialize the passing of members.
7. To further the ideals of the United States Military Academy.
8. To assist the West Point Association of Graduates (“WPAOG”), USMA, and affiliated fund-raising organizations in the accomplishment of common objectives.

ARTICLE III: OFFICES

The offices of the Class shall be at the WPAOG Alumni Center, Herbert Hall, 698 Mills Road, West Point, New York, or at such other location as the Executive Committee may designate.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section1. The Class shall be comprised of Regular Members and Associate Members.

1. Regular Members shall include all graduates of the Class of 1972, United States Military Academy. [and former cadets of the Class who are officially recorded as such by the Association of Graduates, United States Military Academy.]
2. Associate Members shall consist of former cadets of the Class who are officially recorded as such by the WPAOG or who are Associate Members of the WPAOG and widows of deceased Regular Members who request to be Associate Members. Associate members may not vote, serve as Class Officers or be counted in determining a quorum for a meeting and will have rights and privileges according to WPAOG guidelines.

Section 2. The Executive Committee may designate individuals not otherwise eligible for Class membership as Honorary Members. Honorary Members [are not formal Class members and] may not vote, serve as a Class officer, or be counted in determining a quorum. Honorary Members may be extended invitations by the President to participate in Class functions.

Section 3. Only Regular Members in good standing may vote on Class matters, serve as a Class officer, or serve on the Executive Committee. A Regular Member is in good standing if he has not resigned from the Class and is not in arrears as to any levy made pursuant to this Constitution.

ARTICLE V: CLASS OFFICERS

Section 1. Beginning with the Class’ 45th reunion business meeting, and at each succeeding quinquennial reunion business meeting, the following Class officers shall be elected to serve five-year terms: (1) President, (2) Vice President, (3) Second Vice President, (4) Secretary, (5) Historian/Class Scribe. Each such Elected Class Officer shall serve until conclusion of the election and the next quinquennial reunion, unless he sooner dies, resigns, or is removed.

Section 2. In addition, The Executive Committee may create such non-elected Class officers with such duties as deemed desirable. Such appointment and duties of non-elected Class officers shall be by absolute majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section [2]3. Any Regular Member serving as an Elected Class officer immediately prior to the election of Class Officers at the [45th reunion] 50th reunion business meeting who is not re-elected at that meeting shall be designated Class Officer Emeritus and shall hold his Emeritus position for life. Class Officers Emeriti have no responsibility for Class administration and do not serve on the Executive Committee solely by reason of their status as such. Being a Class Officer Emeritus does not preclude that individual from being elected later for any of the Class Officer positions.

Section [3]4. Class officers shall perform the duties prescribed by Article VI of this Constitution [and by the Class Bylaws] .

Section [4]5. Elected Class Officers may be elected for one five-year term and up to one additional term of five years. Executive Committee members may serve in that position for only one term, but they may subsequently be elected to a Class Officer position[s]. The aforesaid requirements may be waived by an absolute majority vote of the Executive Committee. Any Executive Committee member being considered by such waiver for an additional term shall recuse himself from voting.

Section [5]6. A vacancy resulting from the resignation, removal, or death of an Elected Class Officer, [shall be filled by a special election of the Executive Committee. Nominees will be identified, vetted and voted on by the Executive Committee, and an individual selected by majority vote of the Executive Committee. In the event of a tie vote, the President or in his death, the Vice President, shall decide among candidates.] except as noted below, may be filled by an absolute majority vote of the Executive Committee. In the event of a tie vote, the President or in his absence, the Vice President, shall cast the deciding vote. The officer so chosen to fill a vacancy shall hold office until the next Class reunion business meeting, at which meeting an individual shall be elected to fill the vacancy. When the Presidency shall become vacant and the Vice President is serving, the Vice President shall assume the position of President, and the vacancy in the office of Vice President will be filled with the Second Vice President. The Executive Committee may then fill the vacancy in the office of Second Vice President.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

Class Officers are those elected individuals who are volunteers for their Class and are willing to serve the Class and its members. They must have the capability to collaborate and contribute in the accomplishment of Class business. They also collaborate with the WPAOG [Association of Graduates] in the conduct of their duties.

Section 1. The President shall:

1. Execute the purpose and the objectives of this Constitution through the Executive Committee.
2. Preside over all Class meetings and Executive Committee meetings.
3. Execute such Class business as may be approved at Class meetings.
4. Represent the Class in all alumni activities, either directly or through his delegated representative.
5. [With the aid of the Executive Committee, appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate prospective Executive Committee members and prospective Elected Class Officers, and supervise elections.]
6. e. Review the annual report of the Class Fund.
7. f. Authorize disbursements from the Class Fund or charitable purpose funds up to $2500 subject to provisions of this Constitution.
8. g. Authorize disbursements from administrative funds up to five thousand dollars ($5000).
9. h. Coordinate Fund Raising activities
10. i. Take such actions as necessary to coordinate, [and] collaborate with, and support the activities of the Executive Committee and other committees.

Section 2. The Vice President shall:

1. Assist the President as directed by him.
2. Assume the Presidency, with pronouncement to the Class membership, in the event of the death or other inability of the President to continue in office. In this event, the Executive Committee shall act as provided in this Constitution to fill [to] the office of the Vice President. [and the Second Vice President].
3. In the absence of the President, preside over Executive Committee meetings, Class business meetings or other Class activities.
4. Conduct an annual review of this Constitution.
5. Oversee and coordinate actions associated with the death of a Classmate, e.g., provision of flowers to a [the] funeral viewing.

Section 3. The Second Vice President shall:

1. Assist the President as directed by him.
2. Assume the Vice Presidency, with pronouncement to the Class membership, in the event of the death or otherwise inability of the Vice President to perform duties, or the Vice President’s [moving take the office of the President] assumption of the Presidency pursuant to Section 2.b. above. In this event, the Executive Committee shall act as provided in this Constitution to fill [to] the office of the Second Vice President.
3. [Assume responsibility for liaison for widows.]

Section 4. The Secretary shall:

1. Assist the President as directed by him.
2. Maintain all Class records [,] and retire records of the Historian / Class Scribe.
3. Record minutes of all Class meetings, and Executive Committee meetings.
4. Prepare notices and other communications and coordinate their sending to appropriate recipients.

Section 5. The Historian / Class Scribe shall:

1. Maintain a current record of all Class members.
2. Maintain a current Class contact list and ensure WPAOG has the same...
3. Publish all routine Class information intended for the Class members.
4. Complete and submit the Class column for publication.
5. Submit annually to the President a report of the Class status and official Class activities of the preceding year. The date of submission of this report shall allow the President sufficient time to review and edit the report before its submission to any Class meeting.

Section 6. A Class Officer or Executive Committee member may face impeachment proceedings for, among other reasons, extended negligence of duties, dereliction of assigned responsibilities, or failure to represent the best interests of the Class.

1. Any Regular Member may request impeachment proceedings to remove a Class Officer or Executive Committee member. The request must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee in order to initiate proceedings. The request must also include explicit reasons for which impeachment procedures are requested.

1. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request, the Executive Committee shall designate an ad hoc Committee to investigate the matter. The Class Officer or Committee member proposed for removal shall recuse himself from participating in or voting on all related matters.
2. The ad hoc Committee shall number no less than six (6) and no more than twelve (12) Regular Members. At least half of the Committee shall be comprised of Regular Members who are not Class Officers or Executive Committee members. Within sixty (60) days of formation the Committee shall investigate and determine whether sufficient cause exists to remove the Class Officer. In such investigation the Class Officer or Executive Committee member proposed for removal shall be afforded a rebuttal opportunity.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total number of members of the ad hoc Committee is required for removal of a Class Officer or Executive Committee member.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Class shall maintain an Executive Committee to act in the name of the Class and to implement the purpose and objectives of this Constitution.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

1. The current Class Officers until the elections at the [45]50th reunion business meeting, and thereafter, all the Elected Class Officers, and,
2. Eight Regular Members of the Class who are in good standing. Beginning at the 45th reunion and continuing thereafter at each quinquennial reunion, the eight members of the Executive Committee who are not Elected Class Officers shall be elected by their respective Regiments[,] and voted for only by Regular Members of that regiment prior to the Class business meeting. The quorum for such a vote shall be 10% of the Class members of that Regiment. If there are more than two members nominated for a Regiment then those two members receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Between elections, any of these eight members may be replaced or have any vacancies in their positions filled in the same manner as an Elected Class Officer.

Section 3. Unless otherwise required by this Constitution, [or the Bylaws], the Executive Committee shall act by majority vote of those participating in its meetings; provided, however, that, as a minimum, at least a majority of the members of the entire Executive Committee must have participated in a meeting to constitute a quorum allowing any vote.

Section 4. The Class President will be the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. By not later than September 1, 201[8]9, the Executive Committee shall create and shall thereafter maintain a Nominating Committee composed of five Regular Members in good standing, ideally with at least one representative from each Cadet Regiment. If five are not available and willing to serve, such lesser number of Regular Members in good standing available and willing to serve. Unless insufficient numbers of Regular Members in good standing are available or willing to serve, the Nominating Committee shall include a majority who are not then Class Elected Officers. Members of the Nominating Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee shall act by absolute majority vote of those of its members participating in a meeting. Not later than 270 days before the election of Class officers at a Class quinquennial reunion business meeting, the Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more Regular Members in good standing as candidates for each of the Elected Class Officer positions specified in Article V, Section 1, of this Constitution, and the Executive Committee shall give the Class notice of the nominations at least 180 days before the election.

Section 6. The Executive Committee may create such other committees as it deems prudent to carry out the purpose and objectives of this Constitution, including, without limitation: (1) a Reunion Committee, (2) a Memorial Committee, and (3) a Gift Committee. The Class shall be notified of these ad hoc committee appointments.

Section 7. Should insufficient Regular Members of the Class remain alive, in good standing, and willing to serve as members of the Executive Committee, such that an Executive Committee of 13 members cannot be constituted, then the Executive Committee may be constituted of such lesser number of Regular Members who remain alive, in good standing, and willing to serve, and who are selected to serve in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall establish Class policies, programs, and objectives in accordance with the purpose and objectives set forth in this Constitution. The Executive Committee shall act for, and be responsible to the Class, but shall not be required to solicit Class approval of business except as set forth below:

1. Use of a Class administrative fund [the Class Fund] for an [singular and unusual purpose of some type, or] expenditure of an amount greater than [one] five thousand dollars [($1000.00)] ($5000.00).
2. Use of the USMA Class of 1972 Gift Fund for any expenditure up to five thousand dollars ($5000.00).
3. Extraordinary matters or an unusual purpose of some type.
4. Changes to the Constitution.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall, upon being notified by any Class officer or Executive Committee member of his inability to continue in office or following the removal of any Class officer or Executive Committee member from his position pursuant to provisions of Article V. Section 6., appoint an interim successor who shall hold office until the next election. Such appointment shall be by absolute majority vote of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. There shall be Class business meetings at such times and places as the President or Executive Committee direct after reasonable notice given to the Class pursuant to this Constitution, except that, in quinquennial reunion years, a Class meeting shall take place during the reunion. The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and consider the report of the Executive Committee and to conduct elections. The members participating in the meeting by authorized means shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. If at least [2%]10% of the Class’ Regular Members in good standing request a Class business meeting by written petition submitted reasonably in advance of the requested meeting date, then the President or Executive Committee shall cause such a meeting to be held. Such petition shall name a specific matter or matters intended to be addressed at the requested meeting.

.ARTICLE X: CLASS FUNDS

Section 1. The “Class Fund” shall be officially designated as the “USMA, Class of 1972 Fund.” This fund shall only disburse expenditures for administration and support of class activities as directed by the President and as allowed by this Constitution [and the Bylaws]. The Class Fund shall be used only for such purposes as are determined by the Executive Committee to be in the interest of the Class as a whole. Some examples of permissible purposes include but are not limited to: (a) standard small gifts or mementos to present to the [son, daughter], child or grandchild of a Regular Member who graduates from a Service Academy, (b) a standard floral arrangement or standard donation to memorialize the passing of a Regular Member, and (c) support to 50-year class affiliation activities. If the Class Fund becomes depleted to a degree considered by the Executive Committee to be inadequate to carry out Class purposes, then the Executive Committee may authorize a notice to the Class soliciting additional funds. If, at such date as the Class membership shall determine that maintenance of the Class Fund is no longer feasible or appropriate, [the] any remaining balances [of the Fund] shall be donated to the [West Point Fund] Long Gray Line Fund or such fund as determined by the WPAOG.

Section 2. An annual review will be performed of the Class Fund as directed by the President. The Class officers and Executive Committee will be advised of the results of such review. The results of such review will then be announced at the next subsequent Class business meeting and will be published in any Class meeting report. The results of any such review will be made available to any [Class] Regular Member who [requests in person or sends a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Class President.] makes such request by phone or email to a Class Officer.

Section 3. The Class sponsors charitable donations through a segregated account managed by the WPAOG for authorized and appropriate activities supporting the mission of the United States Military Academy. This account shall be designated as the USMA, Class of 1972 Gift Fund (“Gift Fund”) or such other name as determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, aided by a Gift Committee, shall:

1. Coordinate with the WPAOG on appropriate specific Class gifts and fund-raising campaigns.
2. Recommend monetary amounts and specific Class gifts to be targeted in Class fund-raising campaigns and obtain Class approval, which approval shall be pursuant to the provisions of Article XII.
3. Organize and oversee fund-raising efforts and provide progress reports to the Class members.
4. Coordinate and manage ceremonial and related activities in recognition of Class fund-raising efforts.
5. Authorize disbursements from the Gift Fund in accordance with prior Class approval.

Section 4. From time to time the Class may establish other administrative funds and associated accounts to support specific Class activities such as mini-reunions. These funds shall be operated in a manner similar to the Class Fund in Sections 1. and 2. above.

[ARTICLE XI: BYLAWS]

[The Executive Committee may adopt such bylaws as it deems desirable; provided however, that they shall be consistent with this Constitution. These Bylaws may be amended by an absolute majority of the Executive Committee or the Class by a majority vote of those participating in a Class meeting.]

ARTICLE XI [XII]: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. At least [two (2%)] 10 %of Regular Members of the Class, or the Executive Committee, may propose in writing an amendment to this Constitution. If by Regular Members of the Class the proposed amendment(s) shall be undersigned by the same as if by petition. The President shall then present the proposed amendment, together with the Executive Committee’s recommendations, to the Class:

1. At the next Class meeting, or,
2. By a manner of notice allowed by this Constitution.

Section 2. An amendment to this Constitution shall be effective if approved by (a) two-thirds of the votes cast by Regular Members in good standing at a Class meeting; or (b) two-thirds of the votes **cast** by Regular Members in good standing after receiving notice in a manner allowed by this Constitution, followed by a period in which to vote of not less than sixty (60) days.

ARTICLE XII [XIII]: NOTICE, MANNER OF   
CONDUCTING MEETINGS, AND MANNER OF VOTING

Section 1. Notice of meetings shall be given reasonably in advance of the meeting date and time and by a means reasonably calculated to reach Class members, the case of Class meetings, or Executive Committee members, in the case of their meetings. Notice shall specify the location of the meeting, date of the meeting, time of the meeting, general agenda, and methods of participation allowed (e.g., conference call, web-cast).

Section 2. The following shall be deemed sufficient means of notice for purposes of this Constitution: (a) notice sent by [mail or] e-mail to a member’s address as maintained by the WPAOG [Association of Graduates] and, either (b) notice given by posting on the Class of 1972 [Association of Graduates] website or (c) actual notice received by any means.

Section 3. A Regular member may participate in a meeting in person, by telephonic means, or by electronic means, such as by web cast, and may be counted as part of a quorum and have his vote counted; provided, however, that the Class shall have no obligation to fund the means for such participation and the determination of the President or Executive Committee shall govern as to what methods of participation other than attendance in person will be authorized for particular meetings.

Section 4. Voting by members may be by written ballot, by voice vote, by show of hands, by e-mail, by electronic means, or by other reasonable means. [established by the Executive Committee.] The determination of the President or Executive Committee shall govern as to what methods of voting will be authorized for a particular meeting[s].

Section 5. A quorum necessary to conduct business at a Class meeting shall consist of at least 10% of Regular Members. Except as stipulated in this Constitution all matters to be determined by Class vote shall be by a simple majority.

Section [5]6. In the event of any dispute regarding the conduct of any meeting, to the extent not addressed by the Constitution, [and Bylaws] the following shall control in order of precedence: (a) Roberts Rules of Order, (b) rulings by the Executive Committee, and (c) rulings by the President.

ARTICLE XIII [XIV]: DURATION OF EXISTENCE AND DISSOLUTION

Unless sooner dissolved by a vote of a majority of Class members or by absolute majority vote of the Executive Committee, the Class shall automatically dissolve when the last Regular Member dies. Upon the death of the last Regular Member, if not previously donated, the [Class] Admin Fund shall be donated to the [West Point Fund] Long Gray Line Fund or such fund as determined by the WPAOG.