



13 July 2022
(via MailChimp)

Dear Classmates,

As I hope you all are aware of by now, with my impending retirement as our Class President, we are in the midst of our first ever post-graduation Class Officer Election Process. Over a 6-month period starting late last year, a group of our classmates served on our Class Governance & Election Committee which composed our Class Bylaws which were adopted by a broad (and unanimous) vote of our Class in early May.

These newly adopted Bylaws call for the creation of a slate of Class Officer nominees to fill five roles to lead the Class for the subsequent five-year period. Each newly elected group of Class Officers will officially take over leading the Class at the next reunion, in this case on September 2, 2022 at our 35th Reunion.

To solicit the broadest possible slate of nominees, over the past several weeks I enjoyed numerous wonderful and informative conversations with Classmates during which I learned much and was inspired by the affection and care you all hold for our Class. I reaffirmed that many of you serve our Class and USNA in a variety of ways and learned that some of you might be interested in running at a future date which I encourage so we have as broad a representation of our Class running in each cycle as possible.

With that background, I am excited to share with you the Class Officer Nominee Slate for the 2022 election cycle along with my deep gratitude to each of these candidates for stepping forward publicly to run for office and their willingness to serve our Class. This list is ordered alphabetically by last name for each role.

President:

- Scott Herbener
- Len LaPorta

Vice-President:

- Nancy Springer
- Dale Szpisjak
- Tim Wolf

Chief Financial Officer:

- Chris Dunphy

Chief Communications Officer:

- Steve Rowe

Chief Technology Officer:

- Jason Hardebeck

I have attached a set of biographical details and reasons for running as provided by each of the Candidates (download [HERE](#)). This memo also contains contact information for each of the Candidates. Please feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions or ideas, or simply to thank them for stepping up to lead the Class.

Once you have completed your review of the attached materials, done any additional diligence and are ready to vote, please take 5 minutes cast your vote here: [Class of '87 Class Officer Election](#)

Class Officer Election Voting will remain open until 5pm ET on Friday, July 29, 2022. We will collate the vote tallies over the weekend of 30-31 July and announce the newly elected officers on Monday, August 1st. We will then begin the turnover process with the official turnover occurring at the Friday Class meeting at the upcoming Reunion.

A few comments about the voting mechanisms since we have varying numbers of candidates for the different roles.

First, you have the choice of voting for one of the Candidates or Abstaining from Voting for that position, but write-ins are not provided for in this election design. You will see how this implemented when you complete the voting form.

We have two candidates for President, and therefore that candidate with the most (majority) votes will be elected. Since there is the theoretical possibility of a tie, in such case we would extend the voting in 24-hour increments to expand the voting pool and break the tie.

For the VP slot, since we have three candidates, we will be using a Rank Choice Voting (RCV) Mechanism as called for in the Bylaws. Ranked Choice Voting is a way to ensure elections are fair for all voters by selecting the candidate who reflects a majority of voters in a single election even when several viable candidates are in the race. To accomplish this, voters are asked to rank the VP candidates in order of preference: one, two, and three. If one of the candidates receives more than half of the first choices, that candidate wins, just like in any other election. However, if there is no majority winner after counting first choices, the race is decided by an "instant runoff." The candidate with the fewest first place votes is eliminated, and voters who picked that

candidate as 'number 1' will have their votes count for their #2 choice. Since we only have three candidates, the remaining candidate with the majority of the first place votes will be elected. In the case where we had more than 3 candidates, this process would have continued until we only had 2.

Finally, for the CXX roles where we only have one candidate, so long as the number of votes each candidate receives is more than the "Abstain" votes, they will be elected to their respective office.

The intention of the Governance & Election Committee was that our Class elections be fair, simple and drama free and we believe that this approach accomplishes these goals. This is the first time we have run elections so I am sure there will be improvements and changes to the process when the Class runs them again in 2027 but for now, please let me know if you have any questions, ideas or concerns.

I end where I began - with genuine and deep appreciation for our Nominees' desire and commitment to serve our wonderful Class.

Onward!

Jim

Jim Matheson
CDR USNR (ret)
President, USNA Class of 1987
jmatheson@1987.usna.com
(M) +1-617-510-9264