

D'61 DAM Article – November/December 2020

The projected rains for today have arrived and my golf game was cancelled. The day is dreary and once again overwhelmed by the direct and indirect effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Adding to all of this is the anxiety of the upcoming election in early November for the president/vice-president of the U.S. By the time that you read this article, the elections, hopefully, will be over and the country will have one less issue with which to be consumed. Through all of this, however, the Class of 1961 has moved forward with resiliency, flexibility, cooperation and togetherness, regardless of political allegiances. As a result, the class achieved a success that could serve as a model for today's federal government.

The class completed the year ended June 30, 2020 successfully, probably more so than most other classes. We easily exceeded our class dollar goal for DCF and easily exceeded our class DCF participation goal, achieving an outstanding 78.1% classmate participation, the highest of *any* class, reunion or non-reunion. As a result, the Class *again* won the John R. Mason 1915 Award. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our highly anticipated class mini-reunion scheduled for March 2020 in San Diego had to be canceled. However, we instead held a virtual on-line class meeting and by mail vote, proxy vote and voice vote were able, after three years of work, to approve an Amended '61 Class Constitution which, among other things, overwhelmingly endorsed the informal adoption of all classmate spouses and widows as participating members of our class. Our class' ongoing communication efforts remained outstanding: periodic newsletters, regular on-line notices and extensive classmate obits, class columns for each bi-monthly issue of DAM, detailed Minutes of all monthly class officer/executive committee teleconference meetings, periodic letters to classmates from our class president, periodic telephone calls and email communications to classmates/spouses/widows, and live in-person or virtual mini-reunion meetings, as determined by COVID-19.

Although all of the aforementioned can be attributable to the class officers/executive committee members as a group and to numerous individual members of that group, and to the members of the Class of 1961, the most important key to our success is attributable to the leadership provided by our current class president, **Don O'Neill**.

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