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| **October 11th, 2014****10 A.M.****Fort Snelling Officers’ Club****MINUTES** |
| Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Beth Stout |  |

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Class of 2015:Beth Stout (John `15), Kathy Donlin (Drew `15), Becky Busho (Colin `15)

Class of 2016: Terry and Kevin Field (Shannon `16), Heather Getty (Summer `16), Steve Herrala (Jeffery `16)

Class of 2017: Liisa and John Holm (Eric `17), Jill and Jeff Foss (Nathan `17), Jennifer and Greg Wilken (Hannah `17),

 Julie Eiden (Ethan `17).

Class of 2018: Jeanne Mikulski (Andrew `18), Shellie Tryon (Tara `18), Linda Olson (Maxwell `18),

 Kathy Orner (Jake`18), Carol Kilbride (Erin `18), Melissa Lecy (Erik `18).

**Welcome & Meeting Call to Order**

Beth Stout called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion to accept the May 15th, 2014 minutes approved.

**ALO Welcome**

Major Bill Fields was introduced. He is a 1999 USAFA Graduate and served as an Air Force pilot.

**ALO Report**

Major Fields reported on his background and suitability for this position.

**Cadet Sharing**

Parents in attendance reported on how their cadets are doing at the Academy this Semester.

**Reports/Updates/Business Items**

1. Master Cadet Roster updates – It was decided that Class Representatives are responsible to maintain and update their respective graduation year rosters of Minnesota Cadets. Squadron is important. Do we have missing Minnesota cadets? Have any left the academy? Try to have an updated list before December’s cookie packing activity.

2. Orientation Update – 18 out of 26 Appointees came. The Eagan Community Center was a good venue. The Officer’s Club would be preferred, but we can’t seem to get it on the date required due to weddings taking precedence. Ten cadets offered to come and speak this year.

3. Summer MN Picnic – Jill submitted reports for both of the Minnesota Parents Club Picnics.

The Summer Picnic at Beard’s Plaisance registered 53, with 49 attending. The picnic was catered by Turkey to Go, with favorable feedback.

Nathan Foss was the only Cadet able to attend the picnic. His ability to answer questions with the insight of a Cadet was greatly appreciated. We will encourage more cadets to attend future picnics.

The Minnesota State Fire Service Pipe Band entertained. Our thanks to them!

We were pleased to have in attendance special guest Clem Douglass from USAFA Class of 1961.

A USAFA trivia game and mentoring sessions between Basic Cadet parents and Upper Class Cadet parents rounded out the evening.

4. The Parent’s Weekend Picnic in Colorado had 105 registered and 66 attending (16 Cadets, 50 Family Members). Torrential rains and wind at the start of the picnic adversely impacted the attendance.

This picnic was again catered by Rudy’s BBQ, who have always done a good job for us.

Speakers were Tim Hartje, the Director of USAFA Fitness Testing and Evaluations, and General Johnson’s husband, John Hargreaves, who attended with their twin sons and spoke in her absence.

Dignitaries attending were General Williams and his wife, and Chief Master Sgt. Grindstaff and his wife.

It was suggested to have extra gift bags on hand as the dignitaries may not RSVP by the requested date.

The format for Parents’ Weekend changed this year and parents did not attend class with their cadets. It was suggested that we consider scheduling an earlier picnic start time next year.

Invitations to both picnics were distributed in the new cadet folders, via email, and on our Parents’ Facebook page.

They were not mailed out. Attendance was down slightly this year and we may want to consider mailing out the invitations.

5. Club Executive Positions:

 Several executive positions were filled by Class of 2018 parents in attendance.

 2018 Parent Reps - Shellie Tryon (Tara `18), Linda Olson (Maxwell `18), Kathy Orner (Jake`18)

 Treasurer - Jeanne Mikulski (Andrew `18)

 Parent’s Night Out Coordinator (PNO) - Linda Olson (Maxwell `18)

 All Academy Ball – **OPEN POSITION**

Mom’s night out – **OPEN POSITION**

Parent’s Night Out:

The Coordinator calls the restaurant to set up the reservation, informs parents and is there to greet attendees.

Beth Stout and Kathy Donlin will host the first PNO event at Crave Restaurant in Edina’s Galleria on 10/23/14.

Time TBD.

Linda Olson has volunteered to be the PNO Coordinator from that point on.

All Academy Ball:

This will be held at the Wayzata Country Club on Saturday 12/27/14. Invitations will be sent out on 11/1/14 to cadets at all five Minnesota Service Academies. An address list was circulated among those at the meeting to make sure the addresses on file are current.

Becky Busho (Colin `15) is the current volunteer coordinator and is seeking a replacement to transition in this year, as her cadet is in his senior year at USAFA.

Becky explained that all five service academy branches make a $500 annual donation to the All Academy Ball.

Becky motioned that the Club approve a $500 donation, Kathy Donlin seconded, club members voted, and Beth Stout declared the motion approved.

A Silent Auction is also held at the Ball, in which half of the proceeds go to Base Camp Hope, a camp for veterans, service members and families who are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD).

6. Treasurer’s Report

Beth Stout reported the Wells Fargo October Balance at $16,761.00

The interim Treasurer, Denise Byers will meet with our new Treasurer, Jeanne Mikulski (Andrew `18) to transfer over the accounts.

The two events that draw off our balance are the Appointee Orientation in May, and Cookie Packing in December. The Parent’s Club bears the expense for both events.

7. Website/Facebook Update – Steve Herrala reported for Sherry.

The website is paid through Spring, 2017.

Please submit photos and videos to the website page and Sherry will post them.

The USAFA Parent’s Club of Minnesota Facebook page has 68 members. Sherry will send out an email inviting the class of 2018 to join. She encourages members to submit posts and pictures to share with other members.

Sherry is hoping to use both mediums (Website and Facebook) to enhance broader communication within our USAFA Parent’s Club of Minnesota community.

 Jill Foss (Nathan `17) has volunteered to assume Webmaster/Facebook Administrator responsibilities for Sherry Herrala (Jeffery `16). She will transition this year, and take over the position next year.

**Thanksgiving Shuttle & Airline Tickets – LMD**

The shuttle schedules are posted for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Check with your cadet before making airline reservations. They can leave after their last military duty, and that time is specific to your cadet.

Shuttle reservations are being taken beginning on October 14th.

(Please note that cadets should return on a flight scheduled to land 3 hours prior to check-in time at USAFA when landing in Denver (DIA) due to weather concerns.)

**Other Items:**

**Spring Banquet** – Terry and Kevin Field spoke about the Silent Auction portion of the Spring Banquet.

This is an important fundraising event, and needs a Coordinator, or a team to organize it.

Begin now to think about items or gift baskets that you could donate for the auction. Everyone is asked to contribute. USAFA themed items are always a big hit.

**AF vs. West Point football game** – Saturday, November 1st. The Navy/Air Force game was a lot of fun last month.

If Air Force wins the West Point game, we’ll win back the Commander’s Cup, and the team will earn a visit with the President! The location will be at Champs in Bloomington. We’ll be sending out an email shortly. Please RSVP.

**Mark your calendars for:**

 **PNO:** at Crave Restaurant in Edina’s Galleria on 10/23/14

 **November Parent’s Club Meeting**: 11/8/14

 **December Cookie Packing**: 12/6/14, Time to be determined

 Please bring 144 individually packaged, non-perishable items. These will be distributed into shoeboxes and sent

 to our Minnesota cadets and dignitaries at USAFA. We will pack boxes for those unable to attend.

**Meeting Adjourn at 11:15 a.m.**