**Minutes from October 5, 2013 - MN/USAFA Parents Club Meeting**

**ATTENDEES:**

Class of 2014 - 8 families Class of 2015 – 4 families

Class of 2016 – 4 families Class of 2017 – 10 families

**CALL TO ORDER –** Woody Kingman called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**MOTION MADE AND CARRIED –** To approve the minutes from the May 4, 2013 MN/USAFA Parents’ Club meeting. It was decided that minutes would no longer be printed and available at the meetings. Instead, they will be accessible to members on the website, and on our face book page. You may also locate other documents at these sites.

**ALO REPORT –** Major Jake Zender was unable to attend the meeting. Woody spoke with Major Pete Swanson unofficially about concerns regarding furloughed ALO’s impact on admission process. Civilian volunteers are needed as ALO’s. Contact Woody if interested, and he will put you in touch with Major Pete Swanson.

**REVIEW OF CLUB STRUCTURE**

It was noted that the review of club structure may be done via the MN USAFA Parents’ Club website. Class of 2017 user names and passwords to access the site will be emailed to the class of 2017 members by Sherry Herrala.

**Mission Statement –** The purpose of the USAFA Parents’ Club of MN is to promote the well being of the Minnesota cadets at the Air Force Academy and Prep School, and to support their families.

**Bylaws-** Our goal is to keep our meetings informative and brief. It was suggested that when a meeting will require committee technical planning, that the first part of the meeting contain “cadet sharing” and other general interest topics. This may be tried at our next meeting on November 2nd.

**Membership-** All parents with cadets are welcome. Payment of membership dues is encouraged, but not mandatory. Please come even if your dues are not paid.

**Contacts -**New contacts were introduced -  **SECRETARY: Liisa Holm** (Eric –2017), **2017 PARENT REPS:** **Jill and Jeff Foss** (Nathan – 2017) and **Jennifer and Greg Wilken** ( Hannah – 2017), **ATHLETIC LIAISON:** Mike Neubeck (Travis – 2017).

As Athletic Liaison, Mike wants to develop a “Minnesota welcome” to visiting USAFA IC teams. This *may* include our USAFA IM Club teams as well. Mike is assembling a roster of Minnesota IC and IM Club team members.

**TREASURER REPORT** – Mary Herbst is developing a Treasurer’s spreadsheet of Club Membership - members, dues paid, duration. It is requested that all outstanding receipts be emailed or mailed to Mary. Please include your return address. Also, reimbursement checks must be promptly cashed. The current treasury balance is a little over $18,000. This amount goes up and down depending on the activities. There will no longer be copies of the treasurer’s report given to attendees of the monthly meetings. Instead a copy will be given to Elise Kingman and Liisa Holm, who will make them available if requested. $50 cash was given to each of the graduating cadets from the class of 2013. Thank you notes from each recipient were passed around to be read.

**SUMMER PICNIC and PARENT’S WEEKEND PICNIC REPORT -** Kevin Field reported that the picnics, held at Lake Harriet on July27th, and the Colorado picnic on Parent’s Day Weekend were both well attended. The costs per family was considered reasonable. The ending balance was $260 in the black. The locations were satisfactory for both picnics and were sheltered, with electricity and running water. Highlights were; the Minnesota Pipe Band, featuring USAFA parent Mark Getty on the bagpipes at Lake Harriet, and a visit from Senior Leadership at the Colorado picnic. Much excitement was generated by a visit by Lt. Gen. Johnson and Chief Master Sergeant Ludwig. Time was spent relaxing and visiting with the cadets and parents. Photos and videos from each picnic are posted on the website.

It was noted that Chief Master Sergeant Ludwig is a good resource, as he is responsive to concerns and has an open phone policy.

**FACE BOOK AND WEBSITE UPDATE** – It was reported that Sherry Herrala is trying to keep both sites up to date. More members are encouraged to post onto the face book page. Jean Cady agreed to contact Sherry regarding providing the Class of 2017 with their user names and passwords so they will have full access to the website.

**REPORT FROM PARENT’S CLUB PRESIDENTS’MEETING IN CO** – Mark Cady, Woody Kingman, and Kim Landecker attended this event held in Doolittle Hall on the Thursday of Parents’ day weekend, along with 150-200 parent reps from across the nation. Lt. Gen. Johnson and Sr. Leadership were in attendance. They spoke about “Having a culture of commitment, not compliance.” Networking opportunities, a presentation by the AOG, and a discussion of the Rando Fund also occurred.

Kim Landecker discussed two areas of concern and focus at USAFA; Suicide Prevention and Sexual Harassment.

It was reinforced that the first point of contact for any issues is the cadets’ squadron AOC. Those numbers are in the Cadet Squadron Phone Guide, on pages 77-79 of the AOG USAFA Parent Handbook, 2013-14.

**CLUB MEETING DATES** – October 5th, November 2nd (Executive Meeting), December 7th – cookie packing, January 2014- no meeting, February 1st, March 1st (Executive Meeting), April 5th, May 3rd. All meetings begin at 10 a.m. at the Fort Snelling Officer’s Club – 395 Highway 5 and Post Road, St. Paul, 55111.

**CLUB EVENTS FOR THE YEAR**

**Parent’s night out** – Next gathering - 7 p.m., October 10th @ Glockenspiel Restaurant, St Paul.Attend to socialize as a single or a couple. The yearly schedule will be emailed. Schedule is also posted on face book page. Save these Thursday evenings; 11/14, 12/12, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, and 5/8.

**Mom’s in Prayer Group** – Meets monthly. Watch for email invitations.

**Cookie Packing** – **December 7, 2013** – a sign up sheet was passed around to volunteer in one of six categories. Goal: all parents bring 144 pieces of individually wrapped baked items or treats (candy, hot cocoa, gum, etc.) .Assemble Christmas Goodie Boxes with notes and personal cards to all Minnesota Cadets and Dignitaries. Deliver to Delta which flies boxes to Denver that very afternoon. Denver contact picks up boxes to deliver to USAFA that night. This is a highlight of the cadets Christmas Season. Volunteers show up to meeting at 9 a.m. for set-up duties.

**All Academy Ball Fundraiser Open House – November 2, 2013** – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.@ Burnsville High School cafeteria. Becky Busho sent out an email 10/7. **You may also order products online until 11/4/13.**

**All Academy Ball – December 28th, 2013** – Wayzata Country Club. Sending invitations 11/1. Hoping to have Air Force “Master of Ceremonies” – must be enlisted, retired or reserves. Woody encourages USAFA parents to attend this event at least once. Also looking for donations to the Silent Auction/raffle to be held that night. Cash donations also accepted. Please contact Becky Busho.

**Mom’s Night Out – Jan or Feb (TBD)**- Gather at Plymouth Playhouse for the show, dinner next door at Green Mill afterwards with cadet sharing, overnight accommodations at the hotel with morning prayers. Can do some or all of it. Watch for email invitations.

**Spring Banquet – April 26, 2014** -

**New Cadet Orientation - May 2014** – date depends upon final exams - TBD

**CLUB MERCHANDISE** - nametags are the only merchandise currently offered. The club voted to not offer other merchandise.

**OPEN POSITIONS IN THE CLUB – 1.)** Co-treasurer (class of 2016 or 2017) **2.)** Class of 2017 Representative(s) **3.)** Silent auction coordinator for the 2014 Spring Banquet.

**THUNDERBIRD LETTER** – Woody encourages a letter writing campaign to our Congress People for the Thunderbirds to be allowed to fly over at the 2014 Graduation Ceremony. Elise Kingman will be sending a mock letter to us via email as an example of composition.

**CADET SHARING** – Parents shared Cadet stories and experiences.

**ADJOURNMENT** – This meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Liisa Holm, secretary.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

**October 10th PNO – Glockenspiel restaurant, St. Paul**

**November 2nd Parent’s Club Meeting – Officers’ Club**

**November 2nd All Academy Ball Fundraiser – Burnsville High School (online deadline 11/4)**

**November 14th PNO – Tavern on France, Edina**