



October 8, 2022  
USAFA Parents' Club of MN

## MEETING MINUTES

***Mission:** Our group exists to promote the well-being of Minnesota (and Western Wisconsin) cadets at the US Air Force Academy (USAFA) and their families. We are a member-supported group open to parents of cadets at both the Academy and the Prep School.*

The October meeting of the USAFA Parents' Club of MN (the "Club") was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:40am by Denise Metzler. Attendance included: Denise Metzler (2023), Inge & Tracy Grasdal (2023), Sarah Fournier (2023), Andrea & Craig Komschlies (2024), Georgetta Olson (2024 & 2025), Alina & Florinel Ciubotaru (2026), Scott Sather (Annika 2025), Jill & Bryan Olson (Maddie 2025), Britt Weber (Ben 2026)

The list of Class Representatives and Key Contacts was reviewed. A quorum was present for voting purposes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2022 & notes from September.

- Motion made by Inge Grasdal to approve minutes from April 2022 and second by Jill Olson. Motion carried and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Andrea Komschlies provided the Treasurer's report on behalf of Lynn Jackman. Britt Weber and Alina Ciubotaru will be taking over the Treasurer position when Lynn Jackman is available to meet with them.

- The missing banquet check finally cleared! There was a long lapse between when a check written from our bank account that was deposited by the AOG in July, and when the check finally cleared 10/7/2022.
- Club Checking = \$22,449.49
- Business Money = \$10,191.71 (reserve account)

**Open Positions** – positions serve calendar year (Jan-Dec) unless otherwise noted.

We are a member-supported group open to parents of cadets at both the Academy and the Prep School. We need volunteers to make the Club operate properly.

**All are asked to consider volunteering for open positions:**

- Class of 2026 representatives – 2-3 families/couples to volunteer from now until January of their cadet's senior year. Must be a paid PC member. Main jobs include: 1) Host 2023 picnic; 2) Work w/2024 on banquet.
- Secretary needed by January to replace Andrea Komschlies
- Facebook coordinator by January to replace Sarah Fournier
- Sponsorship/Donations coordinator to coordinate ongoing sponsorships, donations, etc.
  - We discussed the concept of adding this to the Treasurer position this year, since there are 2 volunteers for Treasurer this year. Britt Weber agreed to take it on. Andrea to send position description.
  - Tracy Treanor (2024) volunteered to apply for the City of Plymouth grant and attend the meeting.
  - We can discuss whether this should become permanent part of Treasurer job in the future.

**Why we exist – Parents' Club Mission:** Our group exists to promote the well-being of MN (and Western WI) cadets at USAFA and their families. USAFA would prefer that we say we exist solely to support parents, but our by-laws and mission state we support the cadets and their families.

**Future Meeting Guest speaker or topic suggestions.** Denise suggested sending a Google vote to figure out what topics parents would be interested in. Ideas suggested include:

- Job opportunities and career paths in the Air Force:

- AOG member Jason could be a good option as his pilot slot but didn't work out.
- John Olson – Space Force. Cyber jobs. AF Reserve. Serving as a General. – perhaps in the Spring.
- Cadet progression – (max out what AF offers – goal to get military retirement, healthcarer)
- Finances for cadets – someone who could talk about \$30,000 loan, 401k, etc.
- Webb telescope – NASA guy that Denise knows.
- Retired Thunderbird pilot (through Denise)
- Robbie, USAFA grad – Wash DC Indian Affairs (through Sarah F)
- How to pivot in and out of the military – how are you viewed in civilian life?

**Calendar Discussion - below are calendar highlights** (see also September notes and Budget discussion for event details)

- Calendar Links are available and are working to sync both Android and iPhone – Club and Cadet Wing links
- AOG Football watching – cancelled due to low attendance
- Cookie Packing Dec 3
- Frozen North Feb 9-12
- When is Hundreds night?
- Taste of Home March 16

**Proposed Budget Discussion**

Denise Metzler prepared a 2022-2023 budget and reviewed each item for individual discussion and vote.

- **Minnesota Night bank account** – We need to determine from Jennifer Sawyer where the account is located, so that we can learn the balance and figure out how to deplete the account. Andrea to send Inge Grasdahl the donation letters from Minnesota Night to determine what may be needed to convert the funds to general use.
- **Zoom Subscription** – There is interest in renewing zoom, although we want to encourage meeting attendance to enhance personal connections between members. Tech to make it work: Scott Sather has Wifi at hangar; Club has a projector, a camera and microphone. What else might be needed? It was suggested to keep zoom and research any additional needed tech. It was also suggested that, during zoom meetings, care is taken to avoid multiple people speaking at the same time. Inge Grasdahl volunteered to research the tech (Andrea to give him projector details) and he has a fold-up screen he can donate if necessary.
  - Motion made by Inge Grasdahl to continue the zoom membership and Craig K seconded. All approved.
- **Shutterfly re-order.** Thank you notes are in good supply and a reorder is not currently needed. Approved by all.
- **Birthday cards.** Group decided to continue sending birthday cards to cadets. Sarah needs birthdays/addresses.
  - Motion made by Jill Olson to budget \$150 for cards/postage. Second by Scott Sather. All approved.
- **Picnic – July 2023.** The group prefers the bigger pavilion - Lakeside Pavilion overlooking Lake Ann Park. Scott Sather offered to make contact with the Park system to secure the larger pavilion. For food, in the past, the main entrée has been donated (i.e. Famous Dave's), but we proposed allocating funds in case the Club needs to purchase the main entrée. Date needs to be set – typically after Doolie Day out. The picnic will be planned by Class of 2026, and there are notes available from past events.
  - Motion by Andrea Komschlies to budget \$500 for picnic. Second by Inge Grasdahl. Approved by all.
- **Football Game Tailgate.** The group determined that a MN tailgate event at the USAFA parents weekend game is not necessary, since most go to the squadron tailgates and also it's a busy weekend. The Club reserves a block of football game tickets for MN parents so we can gather there. For the 2023 game, Denise suggested to Andrea that we request seats closer together.
- **Cookie Packing – Dec 3. This is a very well attended event.** We pack approx. 100 boxes and ship to MN and SD cadets. Denise to find out SD Qty. Each parent brings 100 items. Shipping is coordinated with Delta to be delivered same day to cadets. Scott to find out optimize box size and communicate to Matt Metzler. Fewer big boxes better. For coordinating/helping in Colorado Springs, Jill Olson to check w/sponsor family. Event Schedule (once we know the flight schedule from Scott Sather)
  - 7:00 am – Volunteers arrive with 100 items to pack.
  - 7:00-7:30 am – Event coordinators set up the packing line.
  - 7:30 am – Packing begins

- 9:00 am – Boxes depart for MSP

Two parts for budget:

- 1) Motion by Inge Grasdahl to budget \$200 for Uline boxes. Second by Scott Sather. All Approved.
- 2) Motion by Inge Grasdahl to add \$300 to budget for other expenses related to cookie packing, i.e. shipping and breakfast. Second by Britt Weber. All Approved.
- **Frozen North – Tentative Feb 9-12, 2023.** This is “new” MN cadet event in CO Springs (off base) to take the place of the disallowed former Minnesota Night. Purpose of event is to get all MN cadets together, and intended to be a break during dark ages. In order to participate, cadets will use a “Scheduled Activity” form to get a pass for the weekend that allows doolies to get off campus without using any of the personal passes. **Potential schedule:** Thursday: nice dinner (maybe at Scott Sather’s home in COS in a heated tent with caterer who could make hot dish); Friday: activity that cadets can wear their PT (active) gear, i.e., bowling or laser tag. Weekend: family time. MN parent volunteers needed to travel to COS to participate. Corie Enstrom has volunteered to lead the event planning. Tracy Grasdahl questioned whether Frozen North could be done in conjunction with Taste of Home.
  - Motion made by Jill Olson to set \$5,450 in the budget for the Thursday + Friday dinner expenses. Second by Inge Grasdahl.
- **Taste of Home –March 16, 2023.** New event this year sanctioned by USAFA, hosted by parents from all states. Location is Arnold Hall. Replacement for state nights. All states involved. Each state asked to supply 1 food item and 1 activity. We need to try to get donations (i.e., Pearsons). It was decided that no cadet gift is needed, since they will have had Frozen North a month prior. Amy Rabon (2025) is our Club’s rep. We will need a few volunteers to attend in COS. Budget amount request is for MN food and activity items.
  - Motion made to allocate \$5,000 in budget for 4000 MN food item and MN state activity made by Craig Komschlies. Second by Alina Ciubotaru. All approved.
- **State patches.** MN & WI Patches for flight suits. Denise suggested a schedule to send these to cadets to catch up, and then moving forward send patches annually for Recognition. Catch-up schedule: 2024 @ Commitment get patches. 2025 @ Exemplar Dinner get patches. Andrea volunteered to order the patches.
  - Motion made by Andrea K to spend \$158 to purchase patches. Second by Tracy Grasdahl.
- **Coins.** Kevin Holm – not a voting issue, as we have enough coins.
- **Class Rep gift for graduating parents** – Group discussed and determined that the Club does not need to give parent volunteer gifts. Budget item no longer needed.
- **Rando Fund donation** – still a good idea for our Club to donate, and will be a future discussion item.
- **May Appointee orientation** – Group liked the location at EP high school; we agreed to renew. See budget spreadsheet for details on various budget items (printing, etc). To encourage cadet involvement, it was proposed that the Club reimburse a maximum of 8 cadets x \$300 per ticket = \$2,400 for flight reimbursement. There could be approx. \$600 of additional expenses to put this event on.
  - Motion made by Jill Olson to allocate \$3,000 for May Orientation to include \$2,400 for airplane ticket reimbursement. Second by Alina S. All approved.

**By-Laws** – Changes are needed to our By-Laws. Next month, we will discuss desired changes, and ask for a vote at next meeting. Inge reviewing the By-Laws with Denise.

**Event Updates. In addition to the events discussed during the budget above, the following were discussed:**

- Parent’s Night Out (PNO) – Georgetta Olson mentioned the following upcoming events:
  - Will be scheduled for 2nd Tuesday of each month except Valentine’s day
  - Cracked Barrel – October 15 @ 2pm. RSVP requested
  - Events Hosted at Class Rep home – Grasdals volunteered to host – date TBD
  - Famous Dave’s in Minnetonka – date TBD
- All Academy Ball - Dec 30, 2022. Sarah Fournier reported on behalf of Jennifer Sawyer. Event is for all military academies – cadets and families. Last year it was at Wayzata Country Club. For more info, look at website from last year’s event: <https://www.mnacademyball.org>

11:41 meeting adjourned.

Next Events:

October 15 – PNO @ Cracked Barrel Winery, 570 Coulee Trl. Hudson, WI

November 12 – Meeting: Guest Speaker topic – Graduation Information from '22 Alumni parent(s)

December 3 – Cookie Packing: Early start! Details to come once finalized for a cargo flight.

**Website:** [www.mnpc.afaparents.org](http://www.mnpc.afaparents.org)

**FB page:** USAFA Parents Club of MN

**Amazon Smile:** [smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4451633](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4451633). Please encourage your cadet to use Amazon Smile for their Amazon orders.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Komschlies (2024)