



USAFA Minnesota Parents Club

Minutes November 4, 2017



9:08AM

The meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Minutes from the October 4, 2017, meeting were referenced. A motion was made to approve these minutes, and a second was accepted. The minutes were then approved and entered into the record.

One of our new ALOs (Air Force Liaison Officer) attended the meeting and was introduced. His name is Maj. Grant McCall, USAFA class of 2001 (grantwmccall@gmail.com, tel 651-600-6387). He is originally from Dallas, TX, flew A10s after graduating from USAFA, and works for Orbital ATK in the west metro Twin Cities. Maj. McCall provided a short overview and then participated in an informal Q&A, where we learned the following:

- Minnesota has approximately 20 ALOs (and Maj. McCall offered to provide us with a listing of all MN-based ALOs)
- Starting with the class of 2022, ALOs have two separate responsibilities: mentoring to candidates in their home state; and, evaluation of candidates outside their home state via virtual interviews (phone or video conference)
- USAFA is aggressively recruiting pilots to cover anticipated needs, but only 40% of the class of 2021 is qualified according to their DODMERB (Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board) medical exam
- Pursuing and achieving soaring instructor or power flight instructor status at USAFA is viewed very positively when considering a cadet for flight training post-graduation
- For the class of 2021 from Minnesota, 27 candidates were accepted for admission, and 23 enrolled, a yield of 85.2% (which is very high as compared with other colleges)
- USAFA is offering early acceptance and/or rolling admission for the class of 2022
- ALOs are interested in participating in high school college fairs if these do not require a fee. Please contact Maj. McCall if you know of such opportunities.
- Goals for the MN-based ALOs are “40/40/40” - 40 ALOs, 40 candidates accepted for admission, and a diversity goal of 40%.

Parental sharing was then done by all according to class: 2021, '20, '19 and '18

Treasurer's Report: Wendy Ojala recently took over this role, and had no report of activity for the month of October. It was stated that we have a \$1,000 loss to date on the sale of water bottles, but with an inventory of 88 left we anticipate at least breaking even - esp. during the sales period next month during the cookie packing event.

All-Academy Ball: to be held on Dec 30, 2017. Dress Blue required, and last year, only 2 USAFA cadets attended to some derisive comments by the other services despite donations by USAFA Parents to the silent auction.

Other updates:

- Cookie packing – scheduled for December 2, 2017@ Blue Cross offices, 1750 Yankee Doodle Drive in Eagan. **8am start!** Please bring cookies, candy, treats, bars, coffee, et al. individually packaged for 120 people (~80 Minnesota cadets plus USAFA senior staff). Linda Olsen (oley66@aol.com) is looking for volunteers;
- All-Academy Ball - scheduled for December 30, 2017. Dress Blues required, and last year, only 2 USAFA cadets attended sparking some derisive comments by the other services.
- Mom's night out – Moving to January so as to not conflict with MN Night at USAFA. Kathy Orner (korner@carlsonwagonlit.com) is the contact but was not in the meeting to provide details.
- Minnesota Night at USAFA: Scheduled for February 28th, 2018. Wendy Ojala (wsojala@gmail.com) is leading the effort but stated that there is a lot of work to be done, and the cost could be north of \$15,000. Donations / sponsorships are likely needed from major Minnesota companies, and care needs to be taken to not conflict with the Spring Banquet fundraising done with smaller MN companies. Shellie Tryon suggested a committee be formed to help plan and execute this event, which would host up ~160 kids (80 cadets from Minnesota and their plus-ones).
- Spring Banquet & silent auction is scheduled for April 30, 2018, and will again be held at the Rush Creek Country Club in Maple Grove as has been the case for the past 2 years. It was stated that two years ago we combined this event to welcome incoming cadets with the AOG (Association of Graduates) Founder's Day celebration in Minnesota, and this has met with success and some challenges.

11:01AM The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A.R. Weiler, Secretary

USAFA Parents Club of Minnesota

ADDENDUM:

USAFA ATHLETIC EVENTS NEAR OR IN MINNESOTA:

Nov 12, 2017- Wrestling to UM 1pm

Feb 4, 2018- Wrestling to NDSU (Fargo) 2pm

March 21-24, 2018 - NCAA Men's Swimming Championships, UM

The purpose of the USAFA Parents' Club of MN is to promote the wellbeing of the Minnesota cadets at the Air Force Academy and Prep School, and to support their families.