



USAFA Minnesota Parents Club

Minutes of Saturday, October 13, 2018

Blue Cross Blue Shield Meeting Center, Eagan, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Brett Wharton. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sue Jantscher, co-President, and recited by all.

Sue then welcomed all attendees and provided an update on an ALO meeting she attended earlier this summer. Various items were covered, including:

- A Visitors Center complex is being built near the North Gate
- There is an Alexa app providing updates on USAFA
- Cadets now have access to “free” washers and dryers
- New uniforms are in the plans, but will not be rolled out immediately
- The chapel renovation has begun, and the superintendent is offering his home for wedding in the interim
- There is a Spirit fund for each class, and they are responsible for sponsoring the Ring dance

The Secretary, A.R. Weiler, then provided a brief update, including a request that all attendees include the squadron of their cadets to aid in cooking distribution in December.

The Treasurer, Wendy Ojala, then provided a report, including the following:

- The Club lost \$800 last school year
- The Club has new bylaws in place, and now an annual budget is required. The Treasurer has proposed a budget, based on last year’s budget, and this was provided to all attendees.
- The Treasurer provided an update on an IRS audit of the Club, which went well and with no issues.
- Further discussion took place around Club Dues, which are currently \$125 for 4 years, and if dues should be increased to reflect the fact that we are spending approximately \$195 per cadet over 4 years. After some additional discussion, a motion was made by Brett Wharton to increase the dues to \$200 effective on January 1, 2019, and this motion was seconded by Sara Alquist. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Wendy Ojala will now email this out to all family who have not yet paid dues, and it will also be updated on the website.
- The Club also discussed the need for a \$10,000 reserve to be put in place as a stop-gap in our budget and to have money to support Club and other club’s families in difficult times, such as a loss of a loved one. After discussions, questions and answers, Sue Jantscher moved to amend the Club bylaws to create this \$10,000 reserve, and the motion was seconded by Steve Gustafson. A vote was called and the motion was approved.

Fundraising - an updated was provided, and in particular, the Club was informed that it was decided that we would suspend water bottle sales. There are, however, 40 water bottles left, and these will be sold at Cookie Packing, but not given away at the annual banquet next year. Another idea for fundraising was to sponsor lunches / dinners at various restaurants.

Sara and Erik Alquist then provided an update to new parents around what to expect during their cadet's first year. Advice and observations were provided, as well as question and answer.

Suzanne Wharton then reviewed the Club's key contact information and open positions, encouraging Club members to volunteer for these positions.

Wendy Ojala discussed a change in the Club's logo. After discussion, a decision was made to include 4 stars in the logo rather than having 1 star that is center on the Twin Cities. Wendy will move forward with finalizing this logo which will be used on all future Club correspondence and on the website.

Upcoming Events:

- Minnesota Night at USAFA will very likely now be on February 28, 2019. Minnesota cadets are invited and allowed to bring one guest. Information will be on the website, but Club members are encouraged to help raise the \$10,000 required for the event plus at least an additional \$5,000 in prizes and addition cash. Wendy Ojala will email all Club members with a donation letter to help raise funds for this fund night.
- All Academy Ball will be held over Christmas break.
- Cookie Packing will be held in early December; this event starts early and moves fast. Please see the website for more information.
- The Parent's Night Out schedule has already been sent to Club members. Please contact Suzanne Wharton if you have not received this.

ALO Presentation - Lt. Col. Grant McCall is our Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO) covering Minnesota. There are 24 ALOs in Minnesota (roughly half in the Twin Cities), and their mission is to reach out to high school students as well as ROTC students in Minnesota to outline roles and responsibilities of being a United States Air Force Officer, as well as advise and be mentors to all applicants. Lt. Col. McCall also provided statistics for the Class of 2020:

- 88 candidates from Minnesota
- 29 offers of admission to USAFA
- 25 accepted and enrolled, as compared with 20 for the class of 2021
- Interesting, only 2% of the class of 2022 has quit at this point, which is unusually low; possibly due to the fact that cadets are no longer allowed to quit during BCT

Finally, Club members shared updated on their individual cadets.

The meeting then adjourned at 11:13am.

Respectfully submitted,

A.R. Weiler,
Club Secretary
October 15, 2018