



USAFA Minnesota Parents Club

Minutes of Saturday, March 9, 2019

American Legion Post 1776, Apple Valley, MN 55124

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Brett Wharton. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sue Jantscher, co-President, and recited by all. Sue Jantscher then introduced Tom Wilson, President of the Twin Cities Association of Graduates, and a member of the USAFA class of 1961, who would be speaking later in the meeting.

Minutes from the February 2019 meeting were previously sent to all members via email. Sue Jantscher asked if there were any questions or changes, and hearing none: a motion was made by Suzanne Wharton to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Steve Gustafson and the minutes were approved by voice vote of all attendees.

Treasurer's report: Wendy Ojala presented, as follows:

- Majority of activity for this month focused on Minnesota Night at the Academy, which took place on February 28th, 2019 (more details below).
- Total income for February was \$3,500.30 while total expense was \$6,194.08, of which \$6,022.04 was directly related to Minnesota Night expenses.
- Ending cash balance as of March 8, 2019 was \$15,213.96.
- After subtracting the Minnesota Night Balance and a \$10,000 reserve, cash available as of March 8, 2019 was \$3,963.29.

Additional topics were discussed, including the following:

- Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO) Update: Lt. Col. Grant McCall provides an update on admissions activities for USAFA in Minnesota. There were 5 offers of admission made to date, and 3 accepted. A total of 80 candidacies are still open, with interview continuing to take place with the last day of formal offers taking place by the middle of May. In addition to the 3 acceptances, 3 have received indications of likely admission. It was stated that Minnesota is one of the longer appointment cycles vs. other regions. 1 offer was made and accepted to the Academy Prep School.
- Minnesota Night – Over 163 cadets attended, including 154 Minnesota cadets and their guests. International students also received invitations and brought guests (something that we should ask them not to do next year). Dave Ryan was the emcee and was a big hit as were the cheese curds, tater tot hotdish, and esp. the walleye. Cash usage followed the same breakdown as last year, with food costs almost doubling and prizes/gifts quadrupling. The evening was a great success, and thank you to the 40 volunteers who helped during setup, during the event and especially around cleanup. And a special thank you to Wendy Ojala who organized this event for the 2nd year in a row.
- The annual Heritage Dinner which will include new appointees and their parents/guardians will be held on April 27th, 2019 at the Best Western Premier in Burnsville. Keynote will be USAFA Superintendent, Lieutenant General Jay B. Silveria. The registration link has been sent out via an

email invite; please contact the Club if you have not received this. Donations will continue to be accepted for the silent auction up until the event, including during the April parent's club meetings. Additionally, there will be an opportunity on the back of the program to recognize donors, so if you have donated items at \$100 or more and would like to be personally recognized, then please contact Christine Warner. Please also contact Christine Warner if you would like to volunteer to help during the event.

- The new cadet orientation will tentatively be held on May 18, 2019 from 9-11am at Blue Cross Minnesota, 1750 Yankee Doodle in Eagan (same venue as previous years). This should coincide with a 96 hour leave for all cadets, so we should encourage at least 1 cadet from each class to attend to meet the incoming cadets - please contact the Ahlquist's if your cadet can attend. The Parent's Club can reimburse up to \$1,000 total to be split among any cadets coming back to share their experiences.
- Summer picnic will take place on July 27th in Eden Prairie. A flyer will be sent out this spring, and all Club members are encouraged to attend.
- Parent's Night Out – Parent's Night Out was to take place on March 14, 2019 at 6:30pm at Baiggi's in Eden Prairie. Also, Jill Bruns has coordinated this event in the past, but is now looking for her replacement. Please reach out to the Club leadership if interested.
- There was an acknowledgement that Recognition for the Class of 2022 was taking place during the weekend of this meeting, and the Club wished all doolies well during this challenging time.

At this point, Tom Wilson, USAFA class of 1961, spoke to the Club, recounting the early history of The Academy and sharing some of his experiences. Some highlights and advice included:

- So much opportunity for additional educational opportunities after USAFA. Tom received his MBA from The University of Southern California. His grandson (Class of 2013) received a PhD and his granddaughter a Master in Psychology
- Medical coverage for the military is "second to none", and Tom's experience has been outstanding. Especially as you get older, TriCare has been very valuable to him and extremely important.
- USAFA grads should consider staying in the USAF Reserves after their time is up.

Question and answer then took place, and finally everyone thanked Tom for his insights.

The Club then participated in Cadet sharing with each attendee speaking.

With all business complete, the meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A.R. Weiler,
Club Secretary

March 31, 2019