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| usafmn-logo | **February 7, 2015**  **10 A.M.**  **Officer’s Club**  **MINUTES** |
| Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.  By Denise Byers |  |

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance was not taken at this meeting

**ALO Report**

Major Bill Fields reported Appointee Candidate numbers for the class of 2019 as about average.

The deadline to accept Appointment is March 15, 2015.

He reported that applications for Summer Seminar have increased.

Major Fields agreed to distribute a letter from our Parents Club to the new Appointees, requesting contact information, and also to notify us if their contact information changes.

**Rondo Fund**

Beth Stout commented that twenty five persons from USAFA attended the Louisiana funeral of C4C Jack Lindsey, who died in a skiing accident on January 24, 2014. The Rondo Fund provided airfare for eight of Cadet Lindsey’s fellow Squad 16 cadets, who otherwise would not have been able to attend. The Minnesota Parents Club contributes annually to this important fund.

**Graduation Presentation**

The entire presentation was captured on video, and offers excellent tips and advice from the Cady and Kingman Families, whose sons Andrew and Ned graduated in 2014.

Please refer to the three part You Tube video entitled **“USAFA MN Parents Club Graduation Advice Videos”**.

This can be accessed on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USAFAParentsClubofMN/>

The videos were filmed by Kevin Field and posted on the site on April 9th.

**Graduation Planning Tips**

Think about accommodations at least one year in advance, and send out a “save the date” announcement to family members interested in attending.

Watch the documentary “A Year in the Blue” together with attending family members to help them understand the significance of Graduation for your cadet. This can be done at your “gathering place” in Colorado Springs.

Enlist the help of others to get photographs so that you are able to enjoy the events and your cadet.

Don’t try to manage your whole group. Give them information, let them know where you will be, and let them chose which events they will attend.

Make dinner reservations well in advance, as there are other events occurring in the area too.

A rental home makes a convenient gathering and dining location. Rental rates are high for Graduation week. Begin shopping early on vacation rental websites.

Coordinate drivers and cars for events due to the limited number of parking passes.

The *Commissioning Ceremony* was thought to be the most meaningful event to both cadet and parents.

Leave your hotel 2 hours before the *Graduation Ceremony* to arrive one hour early.

The “official” pictures taken at the Graduation Ceremony are not very good. You may want to work your way down to the front to take your own pictures.

You may purchase beverages and food at concession stands in Falcon Stadium. Your cadet will be starving and dehydrated when they meet you in the stands after the ceremony for the 45 minute Thunderbirds Air Show. Be sure to have food and beverage for your cadet.

Bring protection from the sun. Sunscreen, ball hats or larger panama style hats, and loose weave infinity scarves will help. The sun is intense at Falcon Stadium. Umbrellas are not allowed – pack rain ponchos.

Bring EMPTY DISPOSABLE water bottles, and fill inside at the potable water stations, or drinking fountains by the restrooms.

Portable back rests may be rented inside the stadium on a first come basis.

Try to get a late flight on Wednesday, certainly no earlier than 7 pm, or better yet, spend the extra night.

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| **Additional graduation planning advice**  Please also reference the minutes from February 1st, 2014. These can be found under the file section of our USAFA Parents Club of Minnesota Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/groups/USAFAParentsClubofMN/ |

**Financial Report**

Treasurer, Interim Denise Byers (Jimmy `15)

Refer to February 2015 Treasury report. Copies were distributed at the meeting.

The beginning balance was just over $15,000. Denise reported that “the ebb and flow is just about revenue neutral for everything.”

The goal of each class is to leave the club financially stronger than when you came in. Consider ways to preserve the balance; e.g. sending out evites for the Spring Banquet to the cadets, once their email has been obtained, rather than paying for printing and postage.

**New Treasurer Introduction**

Jean Mikulski (Andrew`18)

An email will be sent out with Jean’s contact information. The importance of submitting original receipts (not copies) was stressed as we are a non-profit and subject to IRS auditing.

The organization has a debit card for larger purchases. Contact Jean if you need to use this.

**2015 Spring Banquet Planning**

Terry Field (Shannon `16) and Heather Getty (Summer `16)

The event will take place at the Olympic Hills Country Club in Eden Prairie on 4/25/15.

Terry Field emphasized the importance of the Silent Auction and Raffle to the financial support of the Minnesota USAF Academy Parents Club. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser help to support our mission and organizational activities. Volunteers are needed to assist in a variety of areas. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around.

If you weren’t able to attend the meeting, and are interested in helping out, contact Terry Field. [Terryfield@me.com](mailto:Terryfield@me.com)

This year, in order to invite all our ALO’s as guests to our Banquet, a goal has been set to raise an additional $1000.

Everyone (even if unable to attend), will have an opportunity to include a donation with their RSVP card from the Spring Banquet Invitation. All donations are tax deductible.

A Non-Profit tax deductible donation letter was distributed to all present to be used by members to solicit donations from businesses for the USAFA Silent Auction. Face to face interactions, personally soliciting donations, seem to be most effective.

Some ideas for donations:

Employer donations, Air Force Memorabilia,sports Paraphernalia, sporting event tickets (corporate season ticket holder donation?), tickets to a theatrical production,hotel and resort vouchers,personal cabin or timeshare vacation, electronic gadgets, autographed books, restaurant gift certificates,American Legion & VFW donations,

neighborhood businesses and services, landscaping services, spa donations, artwork (especially USAFA related), jewelry, home based business items from Longaberger, Thirty-One and Norwex, etc., theme gift baskets containing wine, gourmet or specialty food items, bath pampering products, or whatever you can imagine!

Heather Getty (`Summer `16) noted that the local chapter of The USAFA Association of Graduates was formed in the past 3 years. We would like a closer alliance with the possibility of combining banquets, and/or assisting us with speaker referrals. Heather plans to attend their Spring Banquet on 4/17/15, and invites any interested members to attend as well.

**Cadet Sharing**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Liisa Holm, Secretary

**Upcoming Meetings & Events:**

**February 28th, 2015 – 10th Annual USAFA Mom’s Day Out/Overnight @ The Plymouth Playhouse**

**April 10th, 2015 - Next Parents Club meeting @ 10 am at the Officer’s Club**

**April 25th, 2015 – Spring Banquet @ the Olympic Hills Country Club in Eden Prairie**

**Denise, Beth and Kathy,**

**Please enter any additional events – prayer meeting, Parent’s Night Out, etc.**