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| usafmn-logo |  **March 5th, 2016**  **10 A.M.** **Apple Valley American Legion**  **Meeting Minutes**  |
| **Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.** **by Terry Field and Heather Getty** |  |

**Attendance**

Class of 2016: Terry Field (Shannon), Heather Getty (Summer), Scott and Chris Johnson (Spencer),

 Sue Jantscher (Will)

Class of 2017: John and Liisa Holm (Eric), Jill and Jeff Foss (Nathan), Steve and Kimber Jorgenson (Nick), Dan and Rhondi Meiusi (Anna), Julie and Randy Eiden (Ethan)

Class of 2018: Mike and Jeanne Milkulski (Andrew), Shellie Tryon (Tara), Linda Olson (Max), Missy Lecy (Erik),

 Kathy and John Orner (Jake)

Class of 2019: Catie Jelinsky (Caroline), Linda Boyd (Hannah Springer), Linda Mohagen (Tristyn Hanson),

 Sue Jantscher (Ted), Brett and Suzanne Wharton (Kylie)

**Call to Order**

Terry thanked those present for attending, and all present stood for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of “My Country Tis of Thee.”

**ALO Report (upcoming class of 2020)**

Major Bill Field

120 Minnesota Candidates/ 13 offers of appointment/ 1 conditional offer/ 8 accepted/ 1 declined/ 23 disqualified

**Reports & Business Items:**

**Treasurer’s Report** Jeanne Mikulski, Treasurer.

Copies of the Year to Date Financial Report, 9/1/2015 through 3/4/2016, were distributed at the meeting. The beginning treasury balance was $14,891.14. The inflow was $2,929.00, the outflow was $4,580.15. The ending balance was $13,239.99.

Jeanne also presented the Monthly Spending Comparison for 1/1/2015 -12/31/2015, and the Budget that she has drawn up for 2016-2017.

**Spring Banquet Update Report – upcoming 2016 Banquet** Jeanne Mikulski, Shellie Tryon, Kathy Orner

The date, venue and the keynote speaker have all been confirmed. This will be a joint event with our Minnesota chapter of the Association of Graduates (AOG), celebrating their Founder’s Day Dinner, and the MN USAF Academy Parents Club Spring Banquet. Dress will be semi-formal/cocktail dress. Registration will be online this year. Notification will be by email and, later, by a mailed invitation. Registration is limited. It is important that you register online as soon as the email alert is received.

2016 Graduate Parents – This letter was recently sent out to our Class of 2016 parents:

Hello USAFA Class of 2016 Parents.

Graduation is quickly approaching.  This will be such an exciting and proud moment for all of us.  We are in the midst of planning our New Candidate Spring Banquet/Founders Day Dinner event.  It will be held on Saturday, April 30th.  Families with 2016 graduating cadets will be recognized at this event.  We hope you all can attend this very special event.  We are honored to have General Michelle Johnson as our guest speaker.   It has been a tradition for our 1stClass Cadets to provide a biography of their time spent at USAFA and their future plans.  This will be on display at our event for all those in attendance to enjoy. Everyone likes to see what experiences our cadets have had and their future plans.

Attached are a few samples of what is included on our bio boards.  Please look it over with your cadet and fill in the spaces requesting information.  Please email the completed form to Sherry at sherrala86@gmail.com by April 2nd.  You can either scan your cadets graduation picture (and include with email), or bring an original 5 x 7 or larger to our April Parent’s Club meeting.  I will print them out for the display.  All photos and biographies can be brought home with you following the banquet.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Sherry via email.

Good luck with your graduation planning and we look forward to seeing you all on April 30th!

**Spring Banquet Volunteer help is still needed in these areas:**

Silent Auction/Raffle setup on the morning of 4/30

Graduate picture display on the morning of 4/30

Last minute help before the Banquet

Photographing the Appointees with their parents and mailing Appointee photos the following week

Videotaping General Johnson’s speech

Selling Raffle tickets at the Banquet

Cleaning up after the Banquet

If you can help, please email Shellie at shellietryon@yahoo.com

Date: 4/30/16 Venue: Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove Keynote Speaker: Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, U.S. Air Force Academy Superintendent

**Silent Auction/Raffle** Missy Lecy, Julie Eiden

Missy Lecy distributed letters for our members to use in soliciting donations for the Spring Banquet Silent Auction and Raffle. These are also available to print from our Facebook page and website.

Please participate by making a donation to the Silent Auction, even if you are not attending the Spring Banquet. The Silent Auction/Raffle is our only fundraiser. It is very important to our clubs financial health. Cash donations are very welcome. Please contact Missy to arrange for this. mlecy77@gmail.com

Some suggested donations: Approach businesses or restaurants that you frequent with our donation letter in hand, asking for their participation. Share your talents and resources by offering dance lessons, being chef for a small dinner party or providing a weekend stay at your cabin. Assemble a theme basket of wine, liqueurs or specialty foods - use your imagination. Air force or USAFA insignia clothing, hats, umbrellas or other accessories are always a hit, as well as Air Force/USAFA themed toys, puzzles, games, etc. A great selection of gift items can be purchased online from the Association of Graduates USAFA Online Store @ <http://shop.usafa.org>. You have a 15% discount here if you have a Webguy membership.

Please email Missy when you’ve acquired a donation and she will arrange a pickup time. mlecy77@gmail.com You may also bring your donation to the next Parent’s Club meeting on April 2nd.

Remember, volunteer help will be greatly appreciated the morning of the banquet for set up.

**Orientation for the class of 2020** Jill and Jeff Foss

Date: Saturday, May 21st Location: BlueCross/BlueShield - Eagan location Please contact Jill if your cadet will be home that weekend for their 96 hour pass, and could help out. jjoslynfoss@me.com

**New Chair positions approved** New MN Parents Club chair positions were proposed, discussed, and filled:

**Mentorship** - Catie Jelinsky (Caroline 2019)

**Membership** -Brett and Suzanne Wharton (Kylie 2019)

Both positions will be utilized during the Appointee Orientation and follow-up throughout the year.

**Guest Speaker** Suzanne Jantscher on “Graduation Planning” (Helen 2014, William 2016, Theodore 2019)

Sue presented Graduation Planning Information and Tips, which included a 19 page handout for those in attendance. A PDF file of Sue’s handout can be found under the files section of our Facebook pages. Our thanks to Sue for her helpful and informative talk!

Highlights from Sue’s presentation:

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. The *Baccalaureate Services* in the Cadet Chapel are very rewarding as well.

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

Bring protection from the sun: sunscreen, ball hats or larger panama style hats. 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 first served basis.

Graduation parties happen during Grad week, not after the ceremony. Your Graduate’s focus then will be on packing and out processing.

**Cadet Sharing** by the 19 families present

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**April 2nd – 10 AM** – Club Meeting – Apple Valley American Legion, 14521 Granada Drive, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Our Guest Speaker will be Darrell Tamosuinas. Darrell has had three daughters graduate from USAFA and will be speaking about their experiences post-graduation, including overseas assignments. This will be a great follow up to our graduation topic last month.

**April 7th** - Parent’s Night Out @ Lyn 65 Kitchen & Bar in Richfield

**April 30th** – FDD/ Annual Candidate Spring Banquet @ Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove

**May 7th** -**10 AM**- Club Meeting - Apple Valley American Legion, 14521 Granada Drive, Apple Valley, MN 55124

**May 12th** –Parent’s Night Out @ Betty Danger’s Country Club, 2501 Marshall St NE, Minneapolis

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Minutes taken by Liisa Holm