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| usafmn-logo | **April 2, 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 Johnson (Spencer),

Sue Jantscher (Will)

Class of 2017: John and Liisa Holm (Eric), Jeff Foss (Nathan), Julie and Randy Eiden (Ethan)

Class of 2018: Mike and Jeanne Mikulski (Andrew), Shellie Tryon (Tara), Missy Lecy (Erik)

Class of 2019: Catie Jelinsky (Caroline), Linda and Doug Mohagen (Tristyn Hanson),

Sue Jantscher (Ted), Brett and Suzanne Wharton (Kylie), Erik and Sara Ahlquist (Hunter)

Incoming 2020: John and Emer Scheibner (Katherine)

**Call to Order**

Terry thanked those present for attending, and all present stood for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Major Bill Field was not present

**Reports & Business Items:**

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

Copies of the Year to Date Financial Report, 10/2/2015 through 4/2/2016, were distributed at the meeting. The beginning treasury balance was $15,574.16. The inflow was $2,362.70, the outflow was $4,912.21. The ending balance was $13,024.65.

A motion was passed for a donation of $100 to the Minnesota State Fire Service Pipe Band, which has generously performed at many of our Summer Picnics.

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

Missy reported that approximately 20 items or gift certificates have been acquired to date. Additionally, a few members brought their assembled “gift basket” donations to Missy at todays meeting.

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 a contribution. [mlecy77@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mlecy77@gmail.com)

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

Date: 4/30/16 Time: 6 P.M. Venue: Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove Keynote Speaker: Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, U.S. Air Force Academy Superintendent.

Shellie reported that 30 Families have RSVP’d to the Email invitation by the AOG – approximately 60 attendees. Two of those responding are Appointee Families.

Shellie reported that all arrangements are going as planned.

**Summer Picnic** Sue Jantscher

Date: 7/23/16 Time: 5 – 8 P.M. Location: Purgatory Creek Park Pavilion

The Parents Club Summer Picnic date will be during the 3rd Cadet summer session. If your cadet will be home during this time, attendance at the picnic is encouraged and would be very appreciated.

Parents Club membership will be promoted at the picnic. Sue will coordinate with Jeanne Mikulski to design a single form for both new memberships and nametags.

Sue also suggested having a Minnesota Parents Club tailgate presence before the football game on Parents Weekend in September. The Parents Club no longer hosts an evening picnic after the football game at the Peregrine Pines campground picnic shelter. A pre-game tailgate would provide an opportunity for parents to connect on Parents Weekend at the Academy, while offering an addition or alternative to the often awkward Cadet Squadron tailgate. More details to follow.

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

Date: Saturday, May 21st @ 9 AM Location: BlueCross/BlueShield - Eagan location/Yankee Place 1750 Yankee Doodle Road, Eagan 55121

Please contact Jill if your cadet will be home that weekend for their 96 hour pass, and could help out. We would like 5-7 cadets, with someone representing each rising class (sophomores/juniors/seniors). jjoslynfoss@me.com

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

It was suggested that mentorships be formed before the Summer Picnic, so both families could meet there. The new members will be contacted to ask if they desire to have a mentor.

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

It was suggested that a letter to all new appointees, explaining the benefits of Parents Club membership, be drafted and presented to the Executive Board for approval.

Both positions of Mentorship and Membership will be utilized during the Appointee Orientation, Summer Picnic and follow-up throughout the year. As these are newly formed positions, guidance and support will be available through the executive board as questions arise.

**Guest Speaker** Darrell Tamosuinas spoke on “Cadet Experience after graduation” (Amanda 2008, Alexis 2011, Ava 2013)

Darrell and his wife Linda have had three daughters graduate from USAFA. Darrell and Linda were active in the USAFA Minnesota Parent’s Club for nine consecutive years from 2004 -2013. They served as senior class leaders in 2007-08, 2010-11, and 2012-13. Additionally, Darrell chaired the Silent Auction for the Spring Banquet for five years from 2007-2012. Having Darrell and Linda talk about their daughters experiences after USAFA, was a great follow up to our graduation topic last month. Our sincere appreciation to the Tamosuinas’ for their wonderful presentation and personal insights.

Darrell spoke of his three daughters’ experiences in the Air Force after graduation, including career paths, personal strengths and challenges, relationships and marriage, a zig-zag of US base assignments, home ownership, and overseas assignments. Darrell emphasized that our Cadets are exceptional upon entering the Academy; their USAFA educational experience is first rate and unique; their Air Force careers offer outstanding opportunities for growth; their Air force experience and leadership abilities are valued highly in business.

In the course of telling of his children’s lives in the Air Force, Darrell gave his answers to four questions that we all have about our kids as they leave the Academy:

1. What happens next, and will they be alright? “They will be better than alright! They are more independent than you realize. It’s amazing, these kids are SOLID from the first in the class to the last in the class”.

2. Will our kids be safe and comfortable in their lives? Darrell believes that our cadets are 5-10 years ahead of their peers when they graduate from USAFA. He gave the example of one cadet graduate who gained immediate admittance into an MBA program that required 3 years of managerial experience. The graduate school considered his leadership duties at USAFA as equivalent.

3. Will we continue to provide guidance to our graduates? As parents of USAFA cadets, we are to be applauded for just getting them to the door. Once graduated, they just might finally start asking you for advice around age 25.

4. Can we help them to avoid problems? “You can’t – that’s just life. But no one can handle problems better than a commissioned officer from USAFA or any of the service academies. These kids are equipped!”

**Cadet Sharing** by the 15 families present

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**April 7th** – **6:30 PM** Parent’s Night Out @ Lyn 65 Kitchen & Bar in Richfield

**April 30th** – **6 PM** - FDD/ Annual Candidate Spring Banquet @ Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove

Register online by 4/27. https://www1.usafa.org/Events/Register.aspx?id=8569

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

**May 12th** –**6:30 PM**- Parent’s Night Out @ Betty Danger’s Country Club, 2501 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis

**May 21st - 9 AM** - Orientation - BlueCross/BlueShield -1750 Yankee Doodle Road, Eagan, MN 55121

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