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| usafmn-logo |  **October 8th, 2016**   **10 A.M.** **St. Francis Rehab Board Room** **Meeting Minutes**  |
| **Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.** **by Jill and Jeff Foss** |  |

**Attendance**

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

Class of 2018: Mike and Jeanne Mikulski (Andrew)

Class of 2019: Sue Jantscher (Ted), Brett and Suzanne Wharton (Kylie), Linda Boyd (Hannah Springer), Sara Ahlquist (Hunter), Patti and David Blair (Reid)

Class of 2020: Karen Pirozzoli (Marco), Emer and John Scheibner (Katie), Dayna and Steve Gustafson (Lauren)

**Welcome**

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

Special welcome to guest, Mary Jacobson, mother of 1999 USAFA Grad, Erik Jacobson, and a retired Air Force Nurse. She is also a close friend of the Foss’. Mary welcomes questions and conversation at her email address; maryjean@usfamily.net.

**Reports & Business Items:**

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

Copies of the Year to Date Financial Report, 1/1/16 through 10/8/2016, were distributed at the meeting. The inflow was $7,541. The outflow was $5,554.50. The ending balance was over $17,000.

**Updates from the Academy – USAFA Parents Club Presidents Meeting** Jill and Jeff Foss, Julie and Randy Eiden

Jill and Jeff presented a comprehensive summary of the USAFA Parents Club Presidents Meeting, which preceded Parents Weekend at USAFA. on Parents Weekend at USAFA. This event included a Superintendents Reception on Wednesday evening 8/31 and very informative all day meeting with Q and A on Thursday 9/1. This event was informative and clarified many issues. It is strongly recommended that the Sophomore Class Presidents attend with the Senior Class Presidents. The Sophomore Class Presidents would better retain and utilize this knowledge, then the outgoing Senior Class Presidents.

Jill and Jeff Foss compiled comprehensive notes. **Please refer to the file section of the MN USAFA Parent’s Face book page to view this valuable resource.**

**What to expect at USAFA by Year**   **Doolie/Freshman** – 2019 Class Reps This first year is the least challenging academically but it is mentally very difficult, with many restrictions until “Recognition”. In the Freshman year, cadets complete basic academic courses. Highlights of the Class Year include flying in a Glider, decorating tables for their squad’s Christmas Dinner. “Hundreds Night” in February is the first opportunity for Freshmen to stand down. They can wear civilian clothes, and have fun decorating the Seniors dorm rooms 100 days before Graduation. “Spirit Mission of the Day” begins 40 days before Recognition, with the freshmen from Squad 40 completing an approved “prank”, and so on, down to Squad 1, until Recognition. “Recognition” culminates the Freshman year with 3 days of very intense training in March. It is a ceremonial acknowledgement that the fourth-class has successfully met the military training requirements, and is prepared to continue the rigorous Academy journey. Afterwards, they are allowed to wear Prop and Wings insignia on their flight hat, and are recognized as upper cadets.

**Sophomores** – 2018 Class Reps A $250 pay increase begins the summer following Freshman Year. During the summer, rising Sophomores complete ESET Survival training in the woods for one summer session. For another session, they’ll be assigned either Jump, Soaring or Drones. Phy. Ed this year is boxing and Survival Swimming. You must pass survival swimming or you will not graduate. It consists of jumping off a 10-meter platform fully dressed in ABU’s, and swimming under a submerged bulkhead to the bottom of the pool to retrieve a dummy in a timed event. Sophomore year is tough academically with 6-7 classes. Cadets must declare a Major at the beginning of their Sophomore year. Sophomore year begins leadership training through coaching 1-2 assigned freshmen through their Knowledge test, how to behave, and rules to follow. Their military rank is tied to how well their coached cadet performs. Military jobs are manning the CQ desk by checking who comes in and out of the squad, and directing a task oriented activity like photography or a newsletter. If they are interested in a staff position during their Junior or Senior year, they’ll interview during their Sophomore year. Staff positions require that the cadet remain on campus during the school year. This excludes plans to study abroad. The Exemplar dinner is a formal dinner where the class celebrates their selection of the individual who exemplifies the type of person that the class wishes to emulate. The Class Crest is developed during this Sophomore year.

 **Juniors** – 2017 Class Reps Commitment Dinner in August is a formal dinner that celebrates the cadets commitment of incurring the financial or active duty “commitment” for their education if they depart the Academy prior to Graduation. Counseling and information is provided to the cadets in advance of this decision. If they choose, Juniors may receive loan of $36,000 at .75 % interest after committing. If they leave the Academy, the interest rate jumps to 18-21%. Many cadets use some of this money to purchase an automobile which they may bring on campus in May, after the “hat toss” at Graduation. The AOC offers good advice on managing the loan balance. They will advise cadets on mutual fund portfolio mixes, household expenses when on base, and funding the cadets 60 days of travel post-graduation. Class Ring selection and ordering occurs in December and January. Ring cost options range from $1,000 - $10,000 – the average price is $1500-2000. Purchase is mandatory. The AOG will help to purchase a cadets ring if they are unable to afford it. Ring Dining Out and Dance is a formal dinner where the cadets receive their class rings at Mitchell Hall, and then attend the Ring Dance at Arnold Hall. Significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend this event. This event is also where the official class painting is unveiled and presented to the class. The summer after Junior Year offers research and travel opportunities, as well as basic training leadership.

**Seniors** – 2017 Class Reps Incoming Seniors are counseled in August about job choices after graduation; rated and non-rated. Those invited to the rated positions of Pilot, CSO, RPA, ABM will find out their job in September. Non-rated positions are announced sometime later. These jobs are public affairs, force support, acquisition, contracting, airfield ops, and intelligence.

**Parents’ Weekend Tailgate** Sue Jantscher All agreed it was a good gathering spot before the game, and the new “feather flag” made the area easy to locate. Sue reported that asking parents to bring a food item resulted in too much food. A decision was made to eliminate this potluck aspect of the tailgate. Next year, the Parents Club will provide Bagels and Coffee. The group present approved the motion to fund this with $125 annually.

**Fundraiser – Water Bottles from Temper Craft** David Blair An excellent presentation was given by father of C3C cadet, Reid Blair, who is a sales rep for Temper Craft. These cups and mugs are custom designed, durable, and are double walled and vacuum sealed. They keep hot liquids hot for 12 hours and cold liquids cold for 24 hours. They have interchangeable tops and come in a variety of sizes and styles. There was a discussion for using this product as a possible fundraiser for our club in the future. A decision was made to form a committee to study the possibilities and report back. David Blair and Steve Gustufson volunteered, and others are encouraged to form this committee as well. These Temper Craft products may be viewed on the company website at www.tempercraftusa.com.

**Parents’ Night Out** Jill Foss for Missy LecyCome enjoy a fun dinner and social time with other cadet parents. RSVP’s by the day preceding the event to mlecy77@gmail.com Please include “PNO” in your subject line. October 20 - Barrio – 5036 France Avenue South in Edina November 17 – Tanpopo Noodle Shop – St. Paul

**Mark your calendars for future PNO’s. Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Locations to be determined.** Dec. 15 Jan. 19 Feb. 16 Mar. 16 Apr. 20 May 11

**Silent Auction Concerns/Questions** Jill Foss for Missy Lecy Jill reported that we are the first Parents group in the Country to join with the AOG for our banquets. The AOG limited their Raffle and Silent Auction items to ten, of which the proceeds went only to the AOG. This was a break-even event for us. Our proceeds go to pay for the Banquet, and purchase Senior gifts. We will decide at the January meeting whether or not to limit the AOG’s items for the Raffle and Silent Auction.

**Families to Support Shaver Family (Crosby 2017) – Death of brother/son Drake** Jill Foss Drake’s funeral was 10/8/16. There was a discussion about how best to show our support. A decision was made to immediately send a memorial contribution of $100 from our MN Parents Club. Jill Foss and Jeanne Mikulski will act on that. To show our ongoing support to Crosby, our Club will be sending a card after each of our meetings this year. This card will be passed and signed at each of our Parent Club Meetings and sent to Crosby by Suzanne Wharton.

**Stamer Family (Anne 2018) – Bone Marrow Transplant** Suzanne Wharton The Stamer family is in Minneapolis from Fort Meyers, FL. They are staying here long-term for Anne’s surgery, chemo, radiation and recovery. The family has taken an apartment downtown to be close by Anne. Please reference our “USAFA Parents Club of Minnesota Facebook Page - September 19th posting by Vickie Gleason” for the full story… Immediate challenges the Stamer family is facing are the cost of parking, and getting outfitted with loanable winter clothing. Suzanne has posted the Stamer families clothing needs on our face book page. Our Club agreed to fund one month of parking at $75, and provide the family with a VISA gift card in the amount of $200. One other family at the meeting offered to fund another month of parking as well. We will re-visit this situation at November’s meeting to see what else this family needs that our Club can assist with.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**October 20th**, **2016** – 6:30 PM- Parent’s Night Out @ Barrio in Edina

 **November 5th, 2016** – USAFA Parents Club Meeting – 10 am The American Legion Post at 14521 Granada Drive, Apple Valley

**November 17th** – 6:30 PM – Parent’s Night Out - Tanpopo Noodle Shop, St.Paul

**December 3rd, 2016** – Cookie Packing for Cadets – time TBD – possibly 7 am? Blue Cross Blue Shield MN, 1750 Yankee Doodle Road, Eagan

**All Academy Ball** – Date, time, location TBD

**April 22, 2017** - Class of 2021 Spring Appointee Banquet Rush Creek Golf Club, 7801 Troy Lane North, Maple Grove, MN

**Orientation** – Date, time, location TBD

**Cadet Sharing** by the 12 families present

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. Minutes taken by Liisa Holm