

**Minutes of the General Meeting of  
The Southeast Texas Air Force Academy Parents Assoc.  
Aug.19, 2007  
Events Center, 5800 Airline Drive, Houston, Texas**

Steve Vorhies, President, called the meeting to order, and thanked everyone for the record turnout. Steve then recognized Lt. Col. Gary Morgan, who coordinates the Air Force Liaison officers. Colonel Ray Taylor also joined the meeting later. (Note: new member nametags will be mailed out after the meeting.)

Steve then recognized this year and last year's Prep School parents. He also recognized the parents of each of the Classes of the Academy and particularly recognized the outstanding turnout of the Class of 2011. He explained that one of his goals as President was to educate the families about the Air Force, Academy and cadet life so that they could better support their cadets. Steve then recognized and thanked Steve and Carmen Collins for making the Events Center available for the meeting. A collection was passed to cover the Collin's maintenance and utility costs for the meeting.

Steve then introduced all of the club officers. Emily and Wes Ritter, Administrative V-P's; Louanne Reeves, Treasurer (absent due to illness in family); Karen and Richard Long, Communications V-P's; Dody Cortner, Secretary; Frank Buehner, Webmaster; and Steve's wife, Brenda. He commented that he was going to work with Frank to set up viewing of key emails from the Academy for parent information.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the last meeting were made available. Steve asked for any corrections, and none were noted. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and approved. Draft minutes from this meeting will be posted on the website for review/comments prior to the next quarterly meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** On behalf of Treasurer, Louanne Reeves, who was unable to attend due to an ill family member, Steve summarized the current financial situation of the Club's Budget. The current balance is \$5,611. Membership applications and fees are available on the web site.

**CLASS OF 2007 GRADUATION:** Steve Vorhies and Frank Buehner prepared a presentation to commemorate the graduating Class of 2007 cadets. This was a tremendous effort on their part, and was much appreciated by everyone. Steve wants to establish this as a tradition, and to expand it this year to also recognize the parents. Please keep those photos! Steve also explained the typical assignments post-graduation, including the leave, pilot training, casual status, Air and Space Basics class, etc..

**MENTOR MOMS PROGRAM:** Steve described the Mentor Moms program and requested that if any new appointee families do not have a mentor mom, to contact either Dee Wright or Antoinette Preston. Steve also acknowledged he has received many calls for assistance on cadet matters, and is appreciative to be considered for that advice.

**CLASS REPRESENTATIVE:** Steve solicited a volunteer to serve as class representative for the Class of 2010, and the class of 2011. He then explained the role, such as obtaining the class commitment coins, etc.. The name of the representative will appear on the website.

**NEXT MEETING PLANS:** The next meeting date is Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 2PM at this same location. The fall meeting will include the Class of 2011 parents talking about their cadet's experiences thus far. There will also be a briefing on the Expeditionary Air Force and the "Green Zone" in Baghdad. Steve also has topics on becoming an Intelligence officer, and Pilot training that he will weave into the schedule of meetings over the coming year or two. Steve is open to suggestions on what topics the club would like to hear. At the fall meeting, we will need to form a nominating committee to identify and nominate officers for election in the January meeting. (Officer roles are described in the By-Laws that are posted on the website.) Parents are to bring a bag of Halloween candy, and they will fill a flat rate post-box to send to their cadets. The Academy often gets staff, children, etc. for Halloween treating.

**USAFA MAILING PROCESS:** Steve briefly explained the changes to the FedEx and UPS mailing process for cadets. They will no longer be sending an email to the cadet to advise that the package has arrived. Parents should send an email to their cadet to have them watch for their packages.

**ALO STAFF:** Lt. Col. Gary Morgan than briefed the families on his role, the area he represents, the quality of the cadets and how he and his staff can assist the parents if they have an issue or need help. He also solicited the families to help the ALO's identify the best candidates for appointment. (Note: Our region has more AF cadets than any other in the country!)

**ON-LINE SUPPORT GROUP:** Anne Trapani talked about the on-line support group for parents.

**RANDO FUND:** Steve recognized Valerie Maier, who showed the group the wonderful quilt being raffled to benefit the Rando fund. Steve explained the Rando Fund purpose, and that every Parent's club supports it.

**PARENT SHARING:** Steve invited the parents of the Class of 2010 to talk about their cadet's summer experiences and assignments. Frank Buehner noted there are Basic's photos on the AFA and AOG websites.

**PARENTS WEEKEND – CLUB PRESIDENT'S MEETING:** Steve described his role as President of our Club to represent current issues to the USAFA leaders during the Parent's Weekend President's meeting. Steve solicited input for issues for this year, including medical quality, incentives and access to these services.

**PARENT'S WEEKEND/TAILGATE PARTY:** Steve provided some advice for Parent's Weekend. He encouraged the parents and families to dress appropriately for the on-base activities. Dress casual would be advised, along with comfortable shoes, poncho, sunscreen and a jacket. Arrive early for the day, and for classes, etc.. Watch your speed on base, and no use of cell phone while driving. Also, there has been a recent issue in the Colorado Springs area, so do watch for car snatching of belongings – keep them hidden or in the trunk. He covered what to expect from the cadets, given their intense training prior to the event.

Laura Parker then provided the details of the Tailgate party. It will be a joint event with the San Antonio and North Texas/Dallas club. It will be held at the Quarterback Club tent, with BBQ, sides, dessert and a drink. Beer will be available for those of age. Ticket sales are in progress. Tickets are to be turned in for entrance into the event. There will be some gift cards raffled for our cadets, as well.

**MILITARY BALL:** The Ball is being hosted by Army. It is Dec. 26, 2007 at the Woodland's Marriot. Laura Parker gave a brief update of the plans. Please advise Laura if your Class of 2008 cadet will be attending the Ball, so that their name can be drawn for giving the toast. Steve also commented he will try to get a pre-event hospitality suite for the AF attendees.

Our AF club will host the ball in Dec. 2008. We will need to raise close to \$50,000 for the event which approaches 1,000 people. A Golf Tournament fund raiser is planned for the spring. Pine Forest Golf Club is donating the facility, and will not charge green fees. More details will be available at the Fall meeting.

**RAFFLE:** A raffle was held for a USAFA/flag photo, and other AF goodies. Ticket costs were \$1. Later, the tickets were drawn and the prizes were awarded. Proceeds from the raffle go to the general Club fund.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Steve Vorhies summarized the meeting and thanked everyone, again, for such great attendance in support of our Cadets.

Steve updated the families on USAFA's stern policy for alcohol violations, which is essentially a zero tolerance. He also briefly talked about the changes being made to the Honor Code - changes that were prompted by the cadets. Essentially there will no longer be a "probation" option if the cadet is found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of an Honor Code violation.

Steve acknowledged and thanked the Collins' for making their facility available for the meeting and presented the donation. Steve reminded everyone to drive safely getting home. The meeting was then adjourned.