

**Minutes of the General Meeting of
The Southeast Texas Air Force Academy Parents Assoc.
Aug. 6, 2006
Events Center, 5800 Airline Drive, Houston, Texas**

Steve Vorhies, President, called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and made introductions of the Air Force ALO Staff – Toby Zollers, Lance Sukans, and Raymond Taylor. Steve then introduced and welcomed Tom Kozy, President of the Naval Academy parent’s association, who was present to deliver and take orders on the engraved glass bowl as a 2006 Military Ball fundraiser.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ATTENDEES: Karen Long, Communications Vice President, welcomed and introduced new families of the class of 2010 cadets. She also provided them a bit of information on membership, nametags, etc. These families were invited to share their cadet’s experiences after the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF 2006/7 OFFICERS: Steve Vorhies introduced the other 2006/7 Officers: Bruce and Elizabeth May, as Administrative Vice Presidents that arrange the meeting sites and details; Dody Cortner as Secretary; Louanne Reeves as Treasurer; and the Presidents, Steve Vorhies and his wife Brenda. Brenda is a Klein elementary school teacher, and Steve is a Liaison officer with Lt. Col. Morgan’s group, and a former Air Force pilot (C-130's), now with American Airlines. (Note: other officers include: Karen and Richard Long, as the new Communications Vice Presidents in charge of the membership roster, emails, newsletters, and freshman recognition gifts; and Frank Buehner, Webmaster.) Frank Buehner, although not present, was specifically recognized and praised for the tremendous website that he maintains for the Parent’s Association.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting were passed out and reviewed. Steve allowed a few minutes for members to read the minutes then asked for corrections. There were none 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.

AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: A handout defining the Basic Chain of Command was provided to the members. This could be helpful for families planning to participate in the upcoming Parent’s Weekend at the Academy. Steve commented about the common use of acronyms in Air Force life. Steve plans to continue to share out information in these meetings about the Air Force and post graduation and commissioned officer life to help educate the families and aid their support of their cadets.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Louanne Reeves summarized the 2006/7 Budget and provided a handout indicating a balance as of 8/5/06 of \$4,426.78. There are no debts, except possibly a minor invoice for laser graphics. This balance is higher than normal, with new funds to come from annual membership and nametag sales (estimated at around \$800.) After a planned \$500 contribution to the Rando Humanitarian Fund for Cadets, there is a remaining balance of approximately \$3,900 for the club. (Note: Profits from the Laser Graphics sales goes to the Rando Fund – currently these profits are \$329.34.)

The initial 2006/7 budget proposal to the officers is a \$3,800 budget, so there is very little surplus. The budget includes senior recognition items (engraved butter bar and the graduation newsletter), and the new cadet recognition and pool party.

There was discussion about historical projects that have had to be excluded in the proposed budget, unless additional funds can be raised by higher membership fees, passing the hat, etc..

In the past, a recognition silver eagle dollar was given to the Club’s cadets. The class of ’07 was the last one to receive these. The class of ’08, and ’09 have not received these coins. To restart this tradition for these two class groups would add about \$500 of expenses. There was recognition that the 4th class cadets and seniors both get PA club recognition, but not the middle classmen.

In the past, there was also a \$300 half-page ad for the club’s graduates in the year book. For administrative reasons, the ad was missed in 2006.

There was a motion to pass the hat to collect money for silver coins for commitment recognition for the Club’s class of ’08 and ’09 cadets. The motion was seconded and approved.

After it was noted that the Naval Academy Parent's club membership fees are \$35/year, and that having fees at that level would allow for some "spare" funds for club use, the above motion was withdrawn.

The motion was then amended to raise the membership fees to \$35/year, effective immediately, and to allow the funds for the silver recognition coins for the class of '08, and '09. This motion was seconded and approved.

There was also discussion about the \$400 Cadet Awards proposal from the spring meeting. Donda Thomasson further described the purpose and process for the Award (see April '06 meeting minutes.) It was agreed that this would not be provided out of the budget, since it is not necessarily an award for a cadet from our club – the award recipient is decided by the USAFA. It was agreed to revisit the topic in the winter meeting.

Dee Wright volunteered to have her Company, Farmer's Insurance Agency, sponsor the \$300 Senior Yearbook ad for the '07 graduates. Much appreciation was expressed for this generous act!

Dody Cortner noted that her company makes available volunteer involvement funds for significant contributions of time to non-profit groups. The proposed budget does not reflect this possible award of \$500. She encouraged other members to check for similar support and encouraged their involvement in officer or other volunteer roles, to help fund the club's activities in this manner.

PROCEDURE FOR USE OF CLUB FUNDS: Steve Vorhies also shared the situation from the graduation recognition project for the 2006 graduates. The printing costs of the graduate brochure were significantly higher than had been budgeted, but were verbally discussed with a former officer. Steve explained the process for approving any expenditure by the club members. **Prior to any expenditure**, a proposal would need to go to the Parent's Association membership, and be considered relative to the budget. The PA Club members would then have a vote of authorization, if above the approved budget.

MEETING SITE RECOGNITION: Steve Vorhies introduced Steve and Carmen Collins, who manage the Social Events Center where this meeting was held. All expressed recognition and gratitude for the Collins' offering the Social Events Center free of charge for these meetings. Later in the meeting it was agreed that this was a great location, with suitable facilities and quite accommodating to our PA club's needs.

PARENT'S WEEKEND: There was much sharing of advice to new members on what to expect for Parent's Weekend Sept. 1-3. People should consider comfortable clothing, prepare for much walking, and to allow time for the large crowds for arriving, parking, eating lunch (Friday), etc. There was a general discussion of the needs of the cadets for their free time, and to be sensitive to these – particularly given the demands of the first few months for new 4th degree cadets.

Prep School families will have some separate functions on Parent's Weekend, and need to allow for driving between some of these activities.

SETXAFAPA members were reminded to wear their club nametags on Parent's Weekend.

USAFA information packets are late in being mailed out, but will contain further details on parking, access, lunch arrangements for 4th degree parents, etc..

Steve Vorhies also shared a pending issue on 4th degree cadets use of cell phones during the Academic year – given the high academic probation results for last year's 4th degree cadets.

There was also acknowledgement that communications and contact with new appointee families is constrained by the Privacy Act, which does not allow for specific regional listings of appointees to be shared with Liaison Officers or Parent's clubs. A list of Texas appointees was screened for identifying new SETXAFAPA families. Apologies were extended to those that may have been overlooked in this process.

It was also recognized that the USAFA web site for parent club listings had an incorrect web address for SETXAFAPA. Steve Vorhies was to follow-up with Barbara Gutierrez of USAFA on this matter.

A general recommendation was to contact Steve, or other club officers, or the assigned mentor contact, for further information on USAFA activities, versus relying on "FamNet".

MENTOR COMMITTEE: Sandy Carp recognized and thanked all mentor parent volunteers. She then ensured all new parents had or would receive an assigned mentor contact. Apologies were again extended if some families had been overlooked in this process, due to the Privacy Act constraints noted earlier. There was discussion on the differences between a mentor contact, and a USAFA area cadet Sponsor family.

MILITARY BALL: Steve Vorhies summarized the long-standing tradition of the Joint Military Ball. The Air Force PA group hosted the 2005 Ball for more than 900 guests, and the fund raising process resulted in the Cadets receiving a total of over \$56,000 in cash and prizes.

The 2006 Ball Committee is headed by the Naval Academy PA group. Tom Kozy explained that this committee has recently raised a question about the award of gifts from 501(c) organizations, and cadet acceptance of gifts given the gifts and ethics policies of the various military branches. The current interpretation is ongoing, but could limit the cadet gifts or the manner of the gifts. This could impact the success and participation at this year's Ball. Steve Vorhies agreed to represent the SETXAFAPA views to this committee and to keep members apprised of the resolution.

Tom Kozy gave further details on the 2006 Military Ball. It will again be on Dec. 26 at the Woodland's Marriot. The price will be the same as last year. He then described the beautiful 8 inch bowl with laser engraving of the Academy crest that is being sold as a fund-raiser for their sponsorship of the 2006 Military Ball. The cost is \$25, and makes a lovely and useful sponsor, family or cadet memento.

TAILGATE PARTY – OCTOBER 7: Laura Parker, representing the Tailgate Committee, provided the attached handout on the upcoming Oct. 7 tailgate party plans for USAFA vs Navy football game at USAFA. It was noted this is Columbus weekend, so the cadets are also off on the following Monday. The plan is for a barbecue fare to occur for 3 hours after the game. The cost will be around \$15 per person (must also pay for your cadet), and will also include seating. Deadline for reservations is August 25. People are responsible for obtaining their own football tickets. It was also noted that there was sufficient interest to not have this jointly with Austin or Dallas clubs. For more details, see the attached flier, or contact Laura Parker at: 281-480-6581, or email wparker11@houston.rr.com using "Tailgate" as subject. Another suggestion was also offered to have the club gather at a local sports bar, with or without other clubs, for upcoming football games – such as the Army game.

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING PLANS: Steve Vorhies summarized the upcoming meetings and plans, as follows:

October (Fall) meeting - October 15, 2006. There was consensus to have the meeting at the Social Events Center, again. The agenda will include parents bringing and boxing Halloween candy for their own shipment to their cadets. (Boxes will be provided.) Steve Vorhies will also do a briefing on Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) and what to expect for that year of life post-graduation. There will also be the formation of an Officer Selection Committee for winter meeting elections, and an update on the Military Ball.

Winter meeting (typically January): Steve Vorhies will do a briefing on the 6 week Aerospace Station Course at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama. Since 2004, all USAFA graduates have been required to attend. There will also be the election of new officers.

Spring meeting (typically April): The plan will be to honor and bid farewell to 2007 graduate families, and to have the change of officers. There was discussion about this meeting including a catered fare - to be decided at the winter meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Steve Vorhies summarized the meeting and thanked everyone, again, for such great attendance in support of our Cadets. He shared a safety reminder for the drive home. He then thanked the Collins' for making their facility available for the meeting, and offered everyone's assistance for clean-up. Steve again shared that his philosophy on the Parent's gatherings was to have fun and to socialize, and to gain a better understanding of all of the experiences of the Air Force, both in cadet and UPT life, as well as the operational Air Force. He asked for a motion to adjourn, and then for new appointee parents to share their cadet basic experiences. Motion was made, seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Attachment – Tailgate party notice:



October 7th

SETXAFAPA'S

Football & Post Game Tailgate Victory Celebration

Parking Gate opens at 8 a.m.

Kick-Off at NOON!

Then, after winning...

Post Game Tailgate Celebration!

Parking Lot 5A-Space 5

**We have the site (with our cadets) for 3 hours after the game ends!
Volunteers needed to bring cookies and brownies for the celebration.**

Cost \$15.00/person

(Cost includes chair rental for tailgate)

**Menu – beef brisket, spicy sausage, BBQ beans,
potato salad, coleslaw, bread & iced tea.**

**RSVP by *August 25th* with your check made out to:
Laura Parker – 15406 Bay Green Ct. Houston 77059
Questions call 281/480-6581 or e-mail wparker11@houston.rr.com**

BYOB

(if you want something other than iced tea!)



Mail to Laura Parker 15406 Bay Green Ct. Houston, TX 77059

Name _____

Phone _____

Cadet's Name _____

Number of Tailgater's @\$15 each _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Yes, I'll be happy to bring ___ dozen ___ cookies ___ brownies ___ lemon squares for the post game celebration

