

**Minutes of the General Meeting of
The Southeast Texas Air Force Academy Parents Assoc.
April 30, 2006
Nit Noi Restaurant, FM 1960, Houston, Texas**

Steve Vorhies, President, called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and made introductions of the Air Force Staff, including ALO Lt. Col. Gary Morgan. Lt. Col. Gary Morgan then introduced his other ALO staff in attendance. Lt. Col. Gary Morgan commented how helpful first-hand parent knowledge and input is in the selection and appointment of cadets to the USAFA.

RECOGNITION OF 2005 OFFICERS: David Carp acknowledged and presented recognition gifts to all the 2005/6 officers: Nelly Pena, Treasurer, John and Peggy Omohundro, Vice Presidents, and Dr. Michael and Frankie Berry, Presidents. Michael Berry commented about the long-standing, rewarding and fast-moving relationship with the Parent's Association group, and thanked everyone for their support in making the Parent's Association a success.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ATTENDEES: Karen Long, Communications Vice President, introduced new attendees and provided them a bit of information on membership, name tags, etc..

2006 OFFICERS: Steve Vorhies introduced the new 2006/7 Officers and their background: Bruce and Elizabeth May (both absent), as Administrative Vice Presidents; Karen and Richard Long, as the new Communications Vice Presidents in charge of the membership roster, emails, newsletters, and freshman recognition gifts; Frank Buehner, Webmaster; Dody Cortner as Secretary; Louanne Reeves as Treasurer (and former Secretary); and the Presidents, Steve Vorhies and his wife Brenda. Brenda is a Klein elementary school teacher, and Steve is a former Air Force pilot (C-130's), now with American Airlines.

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting were passed out and reviewed. Steve Vorhies reminded members to check the website to review minutes prior to the meeting. 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.

MILITARY BALL: Steve Vorhies reflected on the 2005 Military Ball, and expressed his appreciation for the success of the Ball and acknowledged the group involved in planning for it. He then asked Louanne Reeves and Sandy Carp, co-chairs of the Military Ball Planning Committee, to stand for recognition, along with other planning committee members. Steve summarized the fund raising process and that the Cadets were given a total of over \$56,000 in cash and prizes at the Ball. Certainly the new members will want to advise their cadets to make plans to attend the Ball!

Sharon Kozy from the Naval Academy Parent's Association 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. Orders can be placed with Sharon. She will also be in attendance at the August PA meeting to deliver orders or to take new orders.

LASER GRAPHIC FUNDRAISER: Carol Murphy described the beautiful laser graphic glass display stand gifts that are one of the Parent Association's main fundraisers. 100% of the funds go to the Rando Humanitarian Fund for Cadets. Carol has order forms, or these gifts can also be ordered from the SETXAFAPA web site.

PA BY-LAW AMMENDMENT FOR OFFICERS: Michael Berry formalized the proposal that was discussed at the January 2006 meeting, regarding adding a new position of Webmaster, and updating the Communications Vice President role description. (Please refer to the January minutes for details of the roles and nominations of the positions). This proposal requires Parent Association approval in order to amend the

job descriptions as written in the By-Laws. A motion to approve the By-Law revisions was made, seconded, and approved.

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS: Steve Vorhies was grateful for the excellent meeting turnout. He discussed the options that exist around the locations of the quarterly meetings, and whether food was required to be served at the venues. The Air Force ROTC facility at the University of Houston is available free of charge for our meetings, however they do not have kitchen facilities, so food/drinks/snacks would need to be brought in. Fuddrucker's has also been a meeting site, but is often quite noisy. The Nit Noi restaurant provides a dedicated meeting site and excellent food. However, as the restaurant is normally closed on Sunday's, it was felt that once per year was an appropriate frequency for this meeting location, given the additional burden for the restaurant staff. It was suggested that a "central" meeting location would be best, given the geographical extent of the Houston-area Parent membership. There was an expressed desire to conserve funds in the budget, and not to use them for regular meeting rentals. It was also noted that other Academy Parent Clubs meet in member's office complexes (eg, Halliburton office).

It was agreed to use the web site to get a representative vote on meeting locations, and whether food should be part of the meeting. Frank Buehner will work with Steve to get this vote set up on the web.

Steve acknowledged the efforts and contributions of Doi Heckler, owner of the Nit Noi restaurant chain, and also a 1984 USAFA graduate. Steve also introduced Na, the Manager of the restaurant, and thanked him and the staff for working on Sunday, their day off. There are 8 restaurants throughout the Houston area, all named Nit Noi. Steve encouraged continued patronage of these restaurants to show our gratitude for their services and commitment to the parent's club and cadets.

NEW APPOINTEE MEETINGS: Steve Vorhies announced there will be two upcoming meetings for the new appointees. The first meeting, hosted by the ALO's, will be on June 4, starting at 1:30, at the ROTC facility at the University of Houston. This meeting will be for appointees and their parents, and will last about 3 hours. Attendance is strongly encouraged, as this is a very informative meeting about what to expect at the Academy and how to prepare for induction and Academy life. ALO's will soon be mailing out the meeting invitations and details. Steve then offered to host a second small session at his home, for anyone that will not be able to make the June 4 meeting. Details on this make-up session will follow.

The second meeting is the Appointee Pool Party on Saturday, June 10, 2006, at 1:30 PM, at the home of Steve Vorhies. This is an informal gathering for new appointees to meet other Houston area cadets, including a couple of upper class cadets. Food will be provided. A map and instructions will be posted on the web site.

APRIL NEWSLETTER: Donda Thomasson and Frank Buehner were recognized for the latest Newsletter. Colored, bound copies were made available to graduating cadet families, as well as new appointee families.

CADET AWARD PROPOSAL: Donda Thomasson described a proposal for the Parent's Association to sponsor one of the 100 USAFA Cadet Awards. This proposal would be for an award during the 2007 Graduation week, and would involve the Parent Association's representative presenting an eagle and fledglings bronze trophy in a private ceremony to the AFA selected cadet honoree. The award and sponsorship would also be captured in the program, pictures, etc., for posting on our website. More details can be found in **Attachment 1** to these minutes. The cost would be \$400 for a one-time sponsorship, or possibly up to a five year commitment of \$2,000, payable in annual payments of \$400. Steve Vorhies agreed to review the budget situation with the Treasurer and to have the proposal discussed again at the August meeting.

2006 PARENTS WEEKEND: Sandy Carp noted that the 2006 Parents weekend event does NOT have a home football game, and thus, the absence of the fun and social occasion of a football tailgate party. There were many comments of support for the tailgate party. The event can be even more significant if hosted with other Texas Parents groups (eg, San Antonio or Dallas). A proposal was tabled to pick a home game and to organize either a SETXAFA tailgate party, or have one jointly with other Texas Parents group(s). It was

suggested to be the Air Force v Navy game. Sandy recruited several volunteers to work on a committee to formalize a proposal for consideration. Michael Berry offered his notebook from organizing the past two tailgate parties, and that the budget of a catered BBQ was around \$12-15/person. The set up costs could also be much less if shared with other groups. More details to follow.

NEXT MEETING: Steve Vorhies announced the next meeting date was yet to be determined, but would be some time in August. The meeting would be to cover the Parent's weekend events and activities. A notice will be sent out once the meeting date is set.

ADJOURNMENT: Steve Vorhies summarized the meeting and thanked everyone, again, for such great attendance in support of our Cadets. He shared a recent comment from the vice wing commander at Vance AFB, that the Colonel was thoroughly amazed and impressed with the caliber and quality of the cadets he has seen being admitted to and graduating from the Academy. Parents have every right to feel proud of their cadets and their achievements!

Steve thanked the Nit Noi Restaurant Manager and staff again for lunch and working to make their facility available for the meeting.

Steve 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 thanked Louanne Reeves for arranging the Graduation cake. He asked for a motion to adjourn, in order to serve the cake, and then have 2006 parents "brag" on their graduating cadets. Motion was made, seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Attachment 1

A Proposal for Sponsoring a USAFA Cadet Award

Cathy Wedo/Chief of the Cadet Awards Program is looking for a Parents' Club to sponsor one of the two remaining unsponsored awards.

The first award is the Most-Valuable Baseballer and the second is the Most-Valuable Cheerleader.

WHAT IS THE CADET AWARDS PROGRAM?

On Memorial Day, the Monday before Graduation, an Individual Awards Ceremony is held. By invitation only. The Cadet Awards Program offers incentives to cadets for higher achievements in academic, athletic, leadership, military training and related activities by public recognition. The awards foster unit and individual competition and enhance morale.

There are 100 awards given out to USAFA cadets and the awards fall into the categories of Military, Academic, and Athletics. While we could "invent" a new award, most likely that award already exists, and new awards take about 6 months to pass through all the reviews.

Currently, these parents' clubs are cadet award sponsors: Georgia Parents' Club and the Colorado Parents' Club and in the past USAFA Parents Association of New Jersey and the USAFA Parents Club of the North Los Angeles.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

This simple: We purchase a bronze sculptured trophy of an Eagle and fledglings, similar to the bronze statue outside Mitchell Hall which inspired the trophy's creation. The Bronze trophy will have engraved on it the winner's name, the name of the award, and the sponsor of the award. In addition, the sponsor's name will be noted in the Awards Program booklet and announced as the sponsor of the Award. Plus someone from our club can be present at the Award Ceremony just to hand the trophy and pose for a photo op. No Speech; just a Grip and Grin, as there are 100 awards to be given.

Very little effort on our part. As a club, we have no input on the selection process. The Chief of Awards contacts various USAFA personnel to identify possible candidates and later the award winners are chosen by the experts in the area, such as the Athletic Dept who reviews the stats, or the Dept heads of the different Academic areas, and so forth.

We pay for the trophy and we get recognized and a possible photo op for it. In return, we commit to \$400/year and if not continuing, to let the Chief of the Cadet Awards know as soon as possible.

Attachment 1 (cont'd)

HOW DO WE PAY?

A group sponsoring an award is to provide \$400 for each year of sponsoring the award.

There are 3 ways to give money:

1. Commitment for one year at a time - \$400.
2. Commitment for five years (can make annual \$400 payments or a lump sum payment of \$2000. The cost is "frozen" despite any price-hikes)
3. Endowment - \$7,500 which arranges for the award to be in perpetuity.

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