

SE Texas USAFA Parents' Association – January 19, 2003 minutes

President Steve Humber called the meeting to order at 2:15. He thanked Suzie Phelps for setting up the dining facilities at Ellington Field for us. Suzie then acknowledged the Humber's efforts in providing the "armadillo" chili that we were all enjoying. She also thanked the Omohundros and Doehring for their help in getting the room ready for our meeting.

Minutes of the October, 2002 meeting were handed out at check-in for all to read. A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion carried.

Steve then asked if there were any new parents at this meeting, but none were present.

Yum Mansfield reported a balance of \$2075.93 in our checking account. She went on to say that she was proud of the efforts of our group to continue the charitable donations and asked for a motion to once again give \$250 to the Rando Fund. The motion was made by Mr. Ripma and seconded by Lynda Mills. The motion passed. Yum then announced that dues for 2003-2004 would begin being collected at the April meeting and encouraged everyone to pay their dues in a timely fashion.

In news around the academy, Steve told of a request by Mrs. Dallagher to replace many of the old, badly worn state ornaments that adorn the Supt's Christmas tree. Dorothy Finch took on this project for our parents' group and sent a wonderful Texas ornament to be displayed proudly on the tree for many holidays to come. A photo of the ornament was passed around the room for all to see. Kudos go to Dorothy for finding such a unique and purely "TEXAS" decoration.

Steve's next item of business was the academy ball. He thanked Cheryl Bruyere for all of her hard work and she was given a nice ovation from all in attendance. Steve then called upon Cheryl for a report on the Service Academies Ball. Cheryl recognized all of those people from our group who served on the ball committee: Barbara Rolleg, treasurer and seating; Debbie Humber, seating; Frankie Berry, decorations; Barbara Westmoreland and Marylyn DeFilippo, programs; and Dan and Eileen Doehring, prizes. She thanked them for their hard work and reported that this was the best-attended ball in several years. Barbara Rolleg then reported that the cadets were given prizes totaling over \$19,000. Steve Humber went on to say that, from a military tradition and procedural standpoint, this was the best ball he had attended in the 4 years that he and his family had gone to this event. Cheryl also gave special thanks for all the help our members gave in sponsoring the event and for helping find corporate sponsors.

Steve reported that we would need a volunteer who would serve as the SE TX USAFA Parents' Assoc.'s rep on next year's ball committee. He explained that this person would only need to attend committee meetings and report to us the latest information concerning the 2003 ball. He asked our members to think about this project and to give him a call if anyone was willing to volunteer or if you had any questions concerning the duties.

Next, Steve informed the Class of '06 reps, the Ripmas and Penas, that they would need to take care of procuring the silver dollars for Recognition gifts for this class. He went on to explain the tradition of the silver dollar and the first salute. He also gave a brief explanation of Recognition without revealing the purpose behind it so as not to spoil it for our '06 parents. Barbara Rolleg gave information regarding the distribution of the coins and said that they had been sent to a senior cadet who was willing to get them to the freshmen whose parents were members of our group.

Steve then mentioned items that needed to be done regarding the Class of 2003. He said he would contact the '03 class reps, the Tauers, and have them get the butter bars engraved for our graduating seniors. Steve offered to get the bars for our group at the military price. He explained to the group that these bars would be pinned on the new 2LT at their commissioning ceremonies. Barbara Rolleg explained that these were to be brought to the April meeting and each senior parent was to pick up their cadet's bars at that time and bring them to the ceremony. For any senior parent not in attendance at the April meeting, the bars will be mailed to the parents.

Steve announced that Barbara Westmoreland had agreed to head our mentoring program for the 2003-2004 school year. He asked for volunteers to help her in this important outreach program for our newest members.

The Doehrings volunteered to design the ad in the Polaris (yearbook) honoring the graduating seniors from our area. It is to be noted that ONLY cadets whose parents are members of our club will have their names listed on this page.

Steve then introduced our club's ALO, Kathy McDonald. Kathy told us that she had recently attended a conference at the academy and was pleased to report that she had heard many good things about our club. One of the biggest topics discussed at the conference was the issue of harassment/assault at the academy. She reported that the academy staff is doing all in its power to deal with this issue and stated that the superintendent was adamant that even one case was too many. She also reported that the staff was aware that it had made some mistakes in regard to some of the perceived traditions at the academy. This statement caused some confusion, so several of the senior parents at the meeting were able to be more specific regarding this topic. Barbara Rolleg explained the uproar that was caused when Col Slavic's office tried to take away the senior privilege of allowing firstie parents to eat in Mitch's during Parents' Weekend and the subsequent letter of apology that she and Steve, on behalf of our club, had received from Gen Gilbert regarding this matter. Barbara also told of the latest efforts to make upper class female cadets cut their hair even shorter than regulations require. Frankie Berry told of the new policy regarding siblings not being allowed to be in the same squadron and the ill will that this change had caused. Yet, Kathy McDonald went on to say that despite these changes, the cadets that she had spoken to all agreed that they still felt that the cadets were in charge of the wing. Kathy went on to say that she was available to any of us who might have a question or an issue with the academy and that each of us could talk to her in complete confidence.

Steve acknowledged the great job that Dan and Eileen Doehring have done on our web page and our newsletter for the past year. He also thanked them for their willingness

to send out reminders and the latest news about our club via email. Steve reminded everyone in attendance to be sure to pick up a newsletter before leaving today.

Steve held a raffle and gave away academy paraphernalia to the following winners: Mrs. Pena, Mrs. Ripma, Lynne Brooks and Mrs. Omohundro.

The next item of business on the agenda was the election of new officers. Steve read the following slate and asked these people to please stand:

Presidents – John and Marylyn De Filippo
Admin. VP – Suzie Phelps
Communications VP – Matthew and Margie Godar
Secretary – Lynne Brooks
Treasurer – Nellie Pena

Barbara Rolleg moved that this slate be accepted by acclamation. Terry Mills seconded it. The motion passed and these people are your new officers for 2003-2004.

Steve then recognized John DeFilippo who thanked each of the out-going board members for their service to this organization and all were given a nice round of applause for jobs well done. Both the new board members and old board members were asked to remain for a few moments at the close of today's meeting.

Steve announced that our next meeting would be on April 13th. Suzie Phelps needs help in finding a place around the Memorial/Westheimer part of town. Call Suzie if you have any suggestions. Suzie also told all senior parents to be sure to bring senior photos and memorabilia to the next meeting. This meeting will showcase our graduating cadets.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 and was followed by an informal time of sharing from our Class of 2005 parents.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Rolleg, Secretary