

Minutes of the General Meeting of
The Southeast Texas Air Force Academy Parents Assoc.
October 23, 2005
Nit Noi Restaurant

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Berry who opened with a welcome to all in attendance.

MINUTES

Michael announced the minutes are posted on the website and a few copies are available to hand out. He asked for corrections. None being noted, he asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

JET RIDE RAFFLE

Due to Robyn and Bill needing to leave the meeting early, they were asked to make their raffle presentation early. They presented a banner, flyers, and poster to promote the L39 jet ride being raffled off as a fundraiser for the ball. Bill stated the co-pilot ride is for a cadet only, with the winning ticket to be drawn at the ball. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. He pointed out Navy and Army had this presented at their meetings and Army is ahead of Navy at this point. Robyn, who has taken the ride, stated "it is a thrilling ride!" As AF is the host for the ball, we are hoping AF will pull ahead in ticket sales and Bill encouraged members to pass flyers on to relatives and friends who would want to purchase a ticket in your cadet's name. Tickets can be purchased today or flyers with a check can be mailed in and stubs will be mailed to you. Also, the flyer can be found online and mailed in. Bill or Robyn can be contacted for any questions or for further information. The winning cadet will have one year after the ball to use the certificate.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Nelly Pena stated printed copies of her report would be available. Nelly said the beginning balance as of Dec. 21, 2004 was \$1,831.29. We have received a refund of \$27.55 from Chase Bank for monthly service fees they charged our account. Nelly approached the bank with the fact we are a nonprofit and they agreed to refund charges for February thru May. The bank will need to be notified each year of our nonprofit status in order to continue receiving no service fees. We have 75 members, with membership fees being \$1,490. Profit on nametags is \$250, \$630 has been spent on communications, and a \$500 donation was made to the Rando Fund. Our account balance as of today is \$2,624. Michael asked for a motion to approve the secretary's report. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

NOTES

Michael noted all officers except the secretary, will be "graduating" this year leaving vacancies on the board. He stated a nominating committee will be formed. A member asked which offices would be open and volunteered to take over as treasurer. His name will be turned over to the nominating committee. Michael also noted he has headed up the tailgate following the football game at parents' weekend. He will be asking for someone to take over in that capacity.

HANDOUTS

Updated rosters and a bio on the new academy superintendent, General Regni, were handed out. The bio is available on the academy website, as well as through a link from our club website.

REPORT OF PRESIDENTS' MEETING AT PARENT'S WEEKEND

A meeting was held on Wednesday night and Thursday prior to parents' weekend for all parent club presidents. Guests were briefed by various academy officials. Michael felt the most enlightening was

the briefing held by General Rosa who talked about a variety of issues related to the academy and then conducted a question and answer session that lasted a couple of hours. One of the discussions of mention was that of the "culture change at the academy." General Rosa detailed some of the changes that have been implemented over the last few years, beginning with the preparatory phase during the 2003-2004 school year. He also pointed out in the past, the academy has not been under the Air Force command, but is now looked at as an integral part of the Air Force. They believe this will be helpful in making our sons and daughters the kind of officers the Air Force needs.

Michael mentioned another briefing held by the AOG and reminded members of the importance of this organization if any of the members have not joined. Michael added that regarding the situation of second lieutenants failing pilot training, discussions were held by the AOG and General Rosa and no concrete details have been given at this time. Currently this situation is being dealt with on a case-by-case basis until further notice.

Michael stated there was a lot of discussion regarding commissioning ceremonies. The academy leadership feels the current arrangements are better than those in the past with commissioning ceremonies to be held as part of the graduation ceremony itself. Michael brought back a handout available for firstie parents.

A show-and-tell was held for all parent clubs to present items they are selling as fundraisers. Michael and Frankie presented the laser graphic items our club is selling. Michael noted he brought back flyers passed out by the other clubs for our members to view and make notes if interested.

MILITARY BALL UPDATE

Michael turned the meeting over to the ball committee for an update on the military ball. Frankie asked all committees members to stand and be recognized. Invitations were handed out at the meeting. Louanne Reeves reported the ball is 9 weeks away and gave the date and location. The hotel rate is \$69.00 and 100 rooms have been blocked but the discounted rate is only good until December 5, 2006. To date, 50 rooms have been booked and more are expected. Room cancellations will be accepted until 6PM the night of the ball.

Louanne spoke for Sandy Carp (absent), head of solicitations, to acknowledge three significant donations: the Getzleman family, the Camp family, and a donation from South TX Dodge Dealers Advertising Assoc. secured by Donald Henicke. She noted all solicitation information, as well as general ball information, can be found on the parent club website.

Frank Buehner announced he is collecting ball pictures for the club website. He has not had a lot of response and stated he will scan hard copy photos if members have them available and will mail them back to owners. He also told of a slide show at the ball and asked for those pictures as well. Louanne gave the website address for Jerry Durner, West Point webmaster, to send those photos to and stated Jerry asked parents to limit their photos to 20 per cadet.

Maria Hendrix, check-in chairperson, announced she has sign-up sheet to pass around for volunteers needed to help with Air Force and VIP check-in. She asked that those volunteers arrive around 4:30PM.

Carol Murphy, silent auction chairperson, asked for volunteers for time and items for the silent auction. She passed out handouts prior to the meeting which listed the donors to date and asked all members to please support these merchants at any opportunity. Carol has a printout of all items received and of all merchants contacted which members may look over.

THINGS AT THE ACADEMY

Michael stated the viewpoint of the academy from a cadet's perspective tends to change and can at times be overwhelming. Speaking from his own son's experience, he said his son did not always think things were done correctly and sometimes thought things could be handled in a better way; however, after graduation, the son's perspective has changed after serving time in the Air Force. He now looks at things much differently than at the time he was at the academy. Michael is pleased to see this change in the two years since graduation.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Michael thanked Bruce and Elizabeth May for the work they put into the golf tournament. Bruce noted it was a lot of fun although extremely hot that day. He assured the members if a tournament is held next year, it will be held during cooler weather. The tournament did not draw as many players as hoped for, but did make a profit of \$5,200.24. He acknowledged Timber Creek for the job they did on the tournament and said they charged us only for the number of people present instead of the higher number agreed to in the contract. All in all, it was a fun and profitable day and Bruce recommended it be done again.

Frankie asked all those who helped with the golf tournament to stand and be recognized. Bruce told of lunch with Col. Morgan and Chad Hennings (Dallas Cowboy and academy grad) at which Chad stated he would provide a signed jersey for the tournament silent auction. Elizabeth May was the high bidder and announced she will be giving it to her son for his birthday.

A question and answer period was held with general ball questions being asked and answered, Michael encouraged all members to attend the ball.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael thanked Doi Heckler, academy grad and owner of Nit Noi, for graciously allowing us to meet in his restaurant. The restaurant is normally closed on Sunday but he opens it for our club meeting.

Michael restated the need for new officers for 2006 and asked that anyone interested in holding any of the offices contact him. Election will be held during the January meeting.

ALO COMMENTS

Lt. Col. Gary Morgan asked that if any parent knows of kids from their area who are interested in going to the academy, please forward that information to the ALO's. Personal references are helpful in their selection process.

He announced two ALO retirements this year – Capt. Pedro Rivera and Maj. Doi Heckler. They will be missed. He also announced Doi has other restaurant locations in the Houston area and asked the members to support those locations as well.

Lt. Col. Morgan told of an ALO in Groves who was affected by the hurricane, and stated he and other ALO's are covering for him at this time. He asked to be advised of any potential candidates from that area that a member might know of.

Lt. Col. Morgan asked for questions and was asked his opinion of Gen. Rosa's leaving. It was stated that Gen. Rosa will be taking over as commandant for his alma mater, the Citadel.

KEYRING RAFFLE

A drawing was held to give away key rings and stickers picked up at the parents' weekend president's meeting.

NEXT MEETING

John Omohundro announced the next meeting will be held on January 22, 2006 at Ellington Field. Time and directions will be posted on the website.

BIRTHDAY CARDS

Kay Scully read a list of cadet names of which she needs post office box numbers and/or birth dates.

ADJOURNING

Michael asked for and received a motion to adjourn. Motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned to allow 2008 parents to "brag" on their cadet and then for all parents to fill Halloween goody boxes to send to their cadet.