

**Minutes of the General Meeting of  
The Southeast Texas Air Force Academy Parents Assoc.  
May 6, 2007  
Events Center, 5800 Airline Drive, Houston, Texas**

Steve Vorhies, President, called the meeting to order, and thanked everyone for the record crowd turnout. Steve then recognized the new appointee attendees. He recognized the Prep School parents, and noted those with appointments. He then recognized the parents of each of the Classes of the Academy and particularly recognized the support of the Class of 2010, setting the example for the Class of 2011 parents to follow!

**ALUMNI PROGRAM PROPOSAL:** Steve introduced the alums, John and Marylyn DeFilippo. Steve introduced his proposal for the alumni graduating parents (Class of 2007), and asked their commitment to come back to join the Club as alumni members, and to return to at least the spring graduation meeting each year until the doolie class of their senior cadets are honored for graduation (eg, Class of 2010 for the graduating Class of 2007). This would allow the cadet families to learn from the graduate's experiences, and AF life after the academy. This would also grow the attendance and celebration at this special meeting.

John DeFilippo gave support for this proposal, and also provided an update on his son who graduated from the Air Force two years ago. Marylyn also congratulated the graduating parents, and commented about the mentor moms program.

Steve introduced the Air Force ALO Staff – Greg Huey, John Ellis, Toby Zoller, and Colonel Raymond Taylor.

Steve announced his retirement as an ALO. He then recognized one of his recent appointee recruits, Matt Tasin from the Klein school, and his mother, Paula. Steve presented Matt with his appointment certificate to the USAF Academy.

Later, Colonel Raymond Taylor honored Steve for his outstanding service as an ALO and his dedication and leadership for all of the cadets and their families. Steve Vorhies was presented a framed photo as recognition.

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.

A raffle was held for a USAFA Chapel photo, AF cap, and AF T-shirt. Ticket costs were \$1. Later, the tickets were drawn and the prizes were awarded. Proceeds from the raffle go to the general Club fund.

Steve then introduced all of the club officers. Emily and Wes Ritter (Wes was unavailable due to a death in the family), Administrative V-P's; Louanne Reeves, Treasurer; Karen and Richard Long, Communications V-P's; Dody Cortner, Secretary; Frank Buehner, Webmaster; and Steve's wife, Brenda. Steve gave great acclaim to Frank for the Website. He then recognized Coleen Wilson and Karen and Richard Long for printing the graduate brochure.

Steve recognized Emily Ritter for her work on the Chaplain's Fund, and presented her a framed photo of the USAFA Chapel. The Chaplain's fund does not have sufficient funding, since 9/11, so fundraising has been established. This will allow for retreats to be done twice/year. Donations can be sent to Emily Ritter, or directly to USAFA Chaplain's Fund, c/o Captain James Armstrong or Greg Woodbury, 2348 Sijan Drive, Suite 100, USAFA, Co. 80840. You may want to denote on your contribution if it is for a particular one of the four sub-groups (or it will go to the general fund), and that your contribution is coming from a SETXAFAPA member.

Steve then recognized the past Administrative V-P's, Bruce and Elizabeth May for their outstanding service and generosity to the Club these past 4 years. They were presented a laser engraved plaque from the Club.

**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:** Louanne Reeves summarized the current financial situation of the Budget. The current balance, as of 5/6/07, is \$5,060.29. Income since the January meeting is \$742.20, including membership fees, raffle and Laser Graphic sales. Expenses are \$1,431.90 including Senior Gifts and Newsletter, Parent Guides, Website fees, nametags, Laser Graphics and misc.. There are a few outstanding cost items (cake), and a donation to the Rando Fund from the Laser graphics profits, but these are expected to be less than \$500. This would leave a balance of around \$4,500, which is the highest in recent years!

Louanne described the process for club applications and nametags from the website. Nametags, if ordered soon, should be mailed out to the parents in time for Parent's Weekend.

A proposal was then made to allow the purchase and use of "Quickbooks" for about \$100, as the software to do the books for the Club. This would better serve the needs, allow for an auditable trail, and would make for a seamless transfer to the next Treasurer. A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase Quickbooks.

**APPOINTEE POOL PARTY:** The appointee Pool Party will be June 2, from 11:30-15:30 at Laura Parker's home. The ALO's have the directions and will be getting that to the appointees. It will also be on the website. This party is for the cadets, only, not parents. The aim is to give them some initial connection with other cadet friends from the area. Several upper class cadets will also be available for interactions and questions, and John Ellis, one of the ALO's, a 2004 Academy grad, will also assist.

**NEXT MEETING PLANS:** The tailgate party and Parent's weekend will be the topics for the August, 2007 meeting. Meeting date is Sunday, August 19 at 2PM. Location to be announced later. Steve may also get one of the ALO's to talk about the changes being made to the Honor Code. These changes were prompted by the cadets.

**PARENT'S WEEKEND/TAILGATE PARTY:** Steve has been working closely with the Board, and with the North Texas AFA Parent's club to get support for a joint "after game" tailgate party on Parent's Weekend. Final details to follow on the web site, or from Karen Long via email. Details will include purchase of group tickets for the football game (individuals can purchase their tickets from the group reservation beginning June 21.) Steve encouraged sitting as a group, and having the tailgate, to add to the opportunity for the club members to get acquainted and create new friendships.

Steve solicited a volunteer to help chair the football tickets plans for Parent's Weekend. Paula Tasin volunteered.

**MILITARY BALL:** Steve Vorhies commented on the Ball and our club's continued support of the event. Army will be the host of the Ball in 2007, and planning is underway. AF will host the ball again in Dec. 2008. This will require support from the classes of '09/'10 and beyond. Steve recognized some of the key planning committee members from the past host team, and noted their significant efforts and accomplishments for the 2005 Ball, and that this will be a benchmark for future events.

Steve wants to start the fundraising for the 2008 event this year, given we need to raise close to \$50,000 to host the event. It was proposed to host a Golf Tournament Fundraiser, similar to the one Bruce and Elizabeth May coordinated in 2005. Steve solicited a volunteer to help coordinate this. Joanie Bain and Emily Ritter volunteered.

Emily Ritter also described the USAFA Stadium Blanket fund raiser, and was looking for volunteers to help sell these at the Academy on Parent's Weekend. For more details, contact Emily.

Emily Ritter also offered to start a Mom's prayer/social group to meet about every 6 weeks for coffee. A sign-up sheet was available. For more details, contact Emily.

**MENTOR MOMS PROGRAM:** Sandy Carp discussed the important Mentor Mom program and its role in getting the family through the unique and challenging early years at the Academy. There are around 20-30 new appointees requiring this mentoring. Serious volunteers are being solicited. New appointee families should indicate preferred contact details. Also, Sandy solicited several volunteers to help coordinate the program, given she is a graduating parent. Dee Wright, and Antoinette Preston volunteered.

**2007 GRADUATES:** Steve Vorhies showed a video clip from his son's USAFA graduation, to set the scene for the coming "prize" for the 2007 graduation ceremony. (Note: the "Outstanding Squadron" gets to set on the speaker's stage for the ceremony.)

Senior parents were then asked up to come up and be recognized, and to share their cadet's experiences and plans. Graduating Seniors for the Class of 2007 include: Steve Boyd, Chris Carp, Melissa Collins, James Gilchrist, Matt Higham, Chris Knaute, Michael May, Clayton Rieber, Nathan Rieber, Chase Scully and Tommy Steiner.

The senior parents were presented gifts from the Club, including a power point DVD presentation honoring the graduates, prepared by Steve Vorhies. They also received a colored brochure of the April 2007 newsletter, including the summary of the graduating cadets. For the cadets, the parents were given a lacquered wooden keepsake box, engraved with the Class of 2007 Crest.

Dinner and graduation cake were served.

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

Steve once again congratulated the graduating parents. He quoted one of his AF associates as saying that the 'graduating cadets are the luckiest kids on the planet to becoming officers at this time, and to have the technology that is available to them in their career fields'. Steve also added his remarks that the cadet's time on the Academy grounds is one of the safest times in their careers, and that as they pursue their careers, they can be put more in harm's way (eg, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc). The training they receive at the Academy and post graduation will serve them well in their career. We are extremely grateful that the cadets are willing to take these risks and the sacrifices for the sake of protecting our country and for joining the war on terror.

He again acknowledged and thanked the Collins' for making their facility available for the meeting and presented the donation. The Collins' have a daughter that was being honored for graduation, and it was quite a challenge for them to be recognized, and to celebrate the achievement, while having the special responsibility for the meal.

Steve reminded everyone of the plans for the Aug. 19 meeting. He also reminded everyone to drive safely getting home. The meeting was then adjourned.

