

**Minutes of the General Meeting of  
The Southeast Texas Air Force Academy Parents Assoc.  
Oct. 21, 2007  
Events Center, 5800 Airline Drive, Houston, Texas**

Steve Vorhies, President, called the meeting to order, and thanked everyone for the great turnout and for bringing the food and Halloween candy to share. Steve then recognized and thanked Steve 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.

**RAFFLE:** A raffle was held for a USAFA bag, t-shirt, retired Christmas ornaments and engraved crystal bowl. Ticket costs were \$1. Later, the tickets were drawn and the prizes were awarded.

Brenda Vorhies and Louanne Reeves also showed the Military Ball crystal bowl that is available for sale at a cost of \$16.39. (All bowls were sold out by the end of the meeting.)

**MILITARY BALL:** Ball invitations were available for pick up. The Military Ball is being hosted by Army and is Dec. 26, 2007 at the Woodland's Marriot. Ticket costs are \$45 per person, prior to Dec. 1, or \$50 after Dec. 1. Table seating will accommodate 10-12 people, and will be assigned on the basis of when reservations are returned. The Marriot should be offering reduced rates for those wanting to stay at the hotel.

Bill and Bette Lehmborg, from the West Point Parent's club, presented the Crystal Ice Bucket fundraising item, and described the ordering and delivery process. The ice bucket is etched with the selected Military Academy crest. The cost is \$50, and order forms were distributed. One can also get information on ordering on line at our website, linking to the Joint Military Ball site. The deadline for orders to be received is Nov. 15, 2007. There will be no silent auction on the evening of the Ball this year; other details are still being worked. Mess dress or dress blues are fine for cadets. Remind your cadet to bring their "boards" for the uniform. Also remember to send photos of your cadet for the powerpoint viewing, per the note Karen Long sent out.

A drawing was held later to determine which first degree cadet would have the honor to toast the Air Force Academy at the Ball. Ryan Cortner was chosen, with alternate of Matt Chigna. Four volunteers were also identified to assist with Ball check in.

In keeping with tradition, and given the sizable funds required, the hat was passed for donations to give the West Point Parent Club for the Military Ball.

**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.

**MEMBER SHARING:** Steve then recognized this year and last year's Prep School parents. He also recognized the parents of each of the Classes of the Academy and particularly recognized the outstanding turnout of the Classes of 2011 and 2010.

Parents of 2011 cadets were invited to share their cadet's experiences with the group. Discussion included the new snowfall, and the "first shirt" ritual. Steve also had some fun trivia questions for the parents. He also provided a "reality perspective" for the new parents and how the cadet experience is reflected in the Air Force, upon graduation. He also provided information and encouragement about Academic Probation.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Louanne Reeves summarized the current financial situation of the Club's Budget. The current balance is \$6,880.18. This budget balance is at a record level for the Club.

A \$750 donation was made to the Rando Fund, which reflects the profits from Laser Graphics sales the past two years. Steve explained the purpose of the Rando Fund, which can also be found on our website. Steve

asked for a volunteer to take over the Laser Graphics sales from Carol Murphy. These laser graphic wooden boxes are also given to the graduating cadets as a gift from our Club.

**2008 PARENT'S WEEKEND:** Steve reminded everyone that next year Denver will host the Democratic Convention the same weekend as Parent's weekend. People should consider travel needs with that in mind.

**PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE:** Steve summarized the discussion from his Club President's meeting with General Regni during Parent's Weekend. Steve brought up the Cadet Clinic issues, which apparently were also broadly supported by a majority of the other Clubs. The General and Staff were receptive and engaged in the issue and Steve expects to soon hear their plans to address the accessibility and quality of clinic care. Another topic for the meeting was the quality of the facilities at Vandenberg Hall. Monies are budgeted as part of "Rebuild USAFA" for renovation of this Hall in the coming several years, just as Sijan was renovated. Steve also encouraged the upper class cadets to provide airport transportation for younger class cadets during the holidays and other key activity times. The members expressed their gratitude to Steve for taking on our cadet issues with USAFA management. Steve noted that our club is doing well compared to many others, that have trouble with volunteerism, membership, etc.. Steve offered his ongoing availability to discuss and represent issues for our club/cadets.

**ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTION:** Per the By-Laws, a nominating committee is to be formed to identify officer candidates for election at the winter meeting (January 27, 2008). The officers begin serving at the Spring 2008 meeting. Steve mentioned the various club officers, and invited the Treasurer and Webmaster to further describe their roles and skills/time requirements. Note, the Ball Committee handles accounting for that activity, not the Club Treasurer. Steve mentioned he would be willing to continue as President, if no other candidates were found. The Nominating Committee consists of a volunteer from each class, as follows: Roger Darohn ('11), committee head, Frank Buehner ('08), Dee Wright ('09) and Mamie Abdul-Raheem ('10).

**CALENDAR:** Army/Air Force November 3, 2007 game will have a Houston event at the SRO-OT club. See our website for more details. Mark your calendars for Sept. 13, 2008, when USAFA will play U of H in Houston. Houston area tailgate party will be planned. Later in the year, USAFA plays TCU and the North Tx. Club may sponsor a tailgate party.

**2008 MILITARY BALL:** Our AF club will host the ball in Dec. 2008. We will need to raise close to \$50,000 for the event which approaches 1,000 people. Joanie Baine described the plans for the Golf Tournament fund raiser which is being planned for April 28, 2008 at the Pine Forest Golf Club. The club is considering the possibility of waiving the green fees for our event. Corporate sponsors, food and beverage sponsors, and team/prize sponsors were discussed, along with possible team fees and sponsor levels. Information will soon be sent out to club members to start advertising and planning to participate in this event. Additional volunteers will be solicited at the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING PLANS:** The next meeting date is Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at this same location. The winter meeting will include the Nominating Committee presenting their office candidates, and any others that are interested, for election. Steve will have a slide show on the UAV's (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) that are growing in use and importance for the AF, and their implications for AF careers. There will also be a briefing on the Expeditionary Air Force and the "Green Zone" in Baghdad. He may also cover some of the report from General McCaffrey on the condition of the AF equipment and related challenges. Steve also has topics on becoming an Intelligence officer, and Pilot training that he will weave into the schedule of meetings over the coming year or two.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Steve acknowledged and thanked Steve Collins for making the facility available for the meeting and presented the donation. Steve reminded everyone to drive safely getting home. The meeting was then adjourned. Families then packed Halloween candy for sending to their cadets.