



August 2021

TWIN CITIES AREA ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

The Northern Zoomie



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Prez Prose

Tom Wilson, President Emeritus for Jason VanOverbeke, President

To all USAFA Grads in the Minnesota area.

It's me again, (Tom Wilson) filling in for Jason for this issue, so bear with me. I would like to start by complimenting Jason on the way that he has stepped up to continue the leadership of our Chapter. Just so you know, Jason has a full-time job and is a reservist with the AFOSI and yet finds the time to be heavily involved with Chapter activities including being our President, currently acting as Events Chair, and representing our Chapter at the upcoming AOG Presidents Conference. Coordinating all this is no easy task, as I can attest to.

The Twin Cities Chapter of the USAFA Association of Graduates was created 10 years ago to serve the needs of our graduates and the Academy. We decided that all grads in the Minnesota area (including Wisconsin, North and South Dakota and Iowa) would be members merely by being here and a graduate of the Academy, with no cost. During this time period we have served thousands of grads and given serious support to our Academy. We

have won the Distinguished Chapter Award from the national AOG for every year since we started.

Two years ago our country and world was thrown into the coronavirus problem, with quarantines and social avoidance. This problem even hit the Academy where the students were put into serious quarantines. The cadets handled this challenge, just as so many cadets before them handled their challenges, by grasping tightly to the challenge and getting through it. The Academy has recovered nicely from the virus and is back into normal activity.

Like everyone else during the pandemic, our chapter has suffered with cancelled events, putting our lives on hold and grads avoiding the few meetings and activities we were able to schedule. Now that the pandemic is disappearing into the rearview mirror we have a lot of ideas and activities we would like to start doing.

Having said that, we need your help. In order to plan all the things we want to do, we need someone to step forward and relieve Jason of his Event duties. It does require a little effort and coordination, but can be handled relatively easily once you learn the process. For you recently retired grads, please consider getting more active with the Chapter and volunteer your services. We all would appreciate some fresh "blood" and ideas.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will read about the events we currently have scheduled. Most of the future events are "Save the Date" for now, with details to be announced as we get closer to the event date. You will also read about our association with the MN Parents Club and learn about more joint activities that are planned.

It is time for we grads to take the example from the Academy and get back into our normal life. If you are looking for a group that understand how the Academy helped us become the people we are today, get involved with us and show your support. Please call me at 651-275-5167 to check us out. Please call with feedback even if you are not currently available to support.

Tom Wilson, '61 – President Emeritus

Reconnect With Updated Employment Hub

Hardly anyone can report they were untouched by the pandemic. Career-wise, I know many who were laid-off, furloughed, or at the very least, changed the way they worked. For me, the pandemic highlighted the importance of connecting with others in similar circumstances and having a network to turn to if I needed new career options. As I juggled working from home with school-aged kids learning next to me (including 2 foster kids for a year), my ability to keep the employment section of the Tri-Service Hub up-to-date waned a bit, but we have recently made good updates and look forward to feedback of folks finding the pointers and links relevant!

Let's take a quick tour of what you can find at www.triservicehub.com! From the homepage portal, you can click just once and land on their local service academy alumni page with notes about upcoming events, socials, and worthy causes. The other main areas of our site consist of separate, dedicated hubs for both employment and education. We work hard to list information pertinent to the Twin Cities area exclusively, knowing that we are not on track to replace LinkedIn, national job sites, or other larger-scope veteran support initiatives. For the employment hub area of the site, you will find tabs to take you to job resources, recent transition notes, and info about Academy networking breakfasts that are available to anyone who finds our site – spread the word! Note that the East side breakfasts have recently restarted in-person, whereas West side ones have yet to get going since the pandemic.

We often list a handful of job opportunities that we have heard about. These listings tend to get stale pretty fast. Use them as examples of job options we have come across and reach out to the contact listed to determine if they might be looking to fill a similar more-current job opening.

To view lists of grads who work in local companies willing to help others make connections, you will need to log-in as a registered Academy alumni user. These lists are great to use in conjunction with LinkedIn and other online resources as grads explore new career opportunities. After my active duty career, I moved to the Minneapolis area to live closer to my wife's family, but knew no one besides her family. Through the Tri Service Hub, I was able to meet Matt Johnson, '84, for coffee where he introduced me to a whole host of other helpful area grads. The rest is history!

The Education Hub is the newest part of the site, assisting those looking to further their education in our area by steering them to programs and schools they might not have known about otherwise.

Let us know if you have an educational or job opportunity you'd like us to share – the more contacts and current, relevant information we have, the better it will be for all of us!

Dan Dorson '99

MN Admissions Liaison Officers (ALO) Program Update

The MN ALOs will be using private funding provided by the TCA AOG to purchase access to a statewide database of high school counselors. This will allow the team to amplify outreach efforts and better pursue America's best and brightest, attracting them to apply to the Air Force Academy. The MN ALO Team looks forward to another successful year of mentoring the best-of-the-best MN students and introducing them to the exciting career opportunities available to US Air Force Officers.

MN ALO Lt Col John Zimmerman was recently named the Commander of the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the MN Air National Guard. Lt Col Zimmerman has been an ALO since 2009, and ran the MN Liaison Officer Team from 2015-2017 as the Director. He then transferred to a full time position in the Air National Guard while maintaining status as an Additional Duty ALO in MN. Congratulations to Lt Col Zimmerman!



Five MN ALOs attended the Twins Game to support USAFA 2017 Grad Griffin Jax in his home Major League starting pitching debut at Target Field. Skip Wipson ('88), Lt Col Pete Swanson ('95), Lt Col Ron Killins ('99), Lt Col Bill Fields ('99), Capt Matt Williams ('15) attended. They were joined by USAFA 2015 Grad Capt Drew Donlin, the Air Force's Male World Class Athlete of the Year 2019. These distinguished Grads cheered on Jax as he became the first MN Twins rookie pitcher to strike out 10 batters in a game since 2014. Jax earned the win as the Twins beat the White Sox that evening. Griffin is the first Air Force Falcon to play in the Major Leagues.

-

Lt Col Bill Fields, Class of 1999

Parent's Club Partnership Continues To Grow

Here is the text of a recent letter from a co-President of the Minnesota Parents Club to Karina Ross of the National AOG regarding TCA AOG support of Minnesota cadets:

"Hello Karina,

I'd like to share with you some examples of how the Twin Cities Chapter of the AOG continues to support cadets through collaboration with the Minnesota Parent's Club. On 24 July, the parents' club held our annual picnic. 84 people attended, including 10 AOG members spanning 60 years from 1961 to 2021. (See attached photo and names below.) The picnic is an opportunity for parents of upperclassmen to welcome parents of basics while their sons and daughters are still in BCT, and contact with them is minimal. Hearing words of encouragement from seasoned parents and AOG members helps answer their questions and ease their concerns. Parents of new basics tell us that our picnic, with so many alumni available to answer questions, illustrates what The Long Blue Line means to them.

The TCA AOG supports the Minnesota Parents' Club and our cadets year-round. In addition to the Summer Picnic in July, they sponsor the New Appointee Welcome Celebration in May and secured this year's guest speaker, Lt. Gen Richard Clark. They also sponsor Minnesota Night at the Academy in February and provide support through non-traditional avenues such as providing encouraging phone calls to struggling cadets and networking for summer internships.

With this focus on, and support of our state's cadets, it's no wonder the TCA AOG has received the AOG's "Distinguished Chapter Award" every year of its existence.

Keep up the great work of sharing stories of the Long Blue Line. We have some remarkable stories happening here in Minnesota.”



Front row L to R: Tom Wilson '61, Mike Riess '67, Georgetta Olson '90, John Olson '92, Susan Kramer-Folkert '85. Back row L to R: Rick Knoll '65, Bob Hockman '89, Scott Sather '88, Matt Williams '14, David Howe '21.

Another First for TCA AOG!!

Here is the email stream marking another first for our chapter, first chapter to become a member of the Sabre Society:

“Good Day, Col. Wilson,

Thank you for the conversation yesterday by phone. The Air Force Academy Foundation welcomes the Sabre Society-level support of the Twin Cities Chapter. We are excited to not only have the support of your Chapter, but to move forward with inspiration from your gift in exploring ideas for additional Chapters and Parent Clubs to be philanthropic partners in support of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Your Chapter discussions and your outreach are truly appreciated.

As desired by the Chapter, by making a Sabre Society gift in support of the Air Force Academy Fund, you are bolstering cadet programs and the Academy's immediate strategic needs as identified by the superintendent. In addition, the fund supports programs and services for graduates and the operational strategies of the Air Force Academy Foundation. I've listed a few of these areas of recent impact below, as well as words on the benefits of Sabre Society annual gifts.

THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY FUND RECENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Lecture and IT upgrades necessary for successful COVID-related remote learning
- Dedication ceremony for Davis Airfield, named in honor of Tuskegee Airman Gen. Benjamin Davis
- Airmanship Next program to prepare cadets for pilot training
- Repairs to campus memorials and statues.

DONORS AT THE \$1,000 SABRE SOCIETY LEADERSHIP LEVEL ENJOY:

- Access to the new Sabre Society Speaker Series
- Name recognition in the online annual Donor Honor Roll
- Sabre Society lapel pin and certificate
- The opportunity to interact with key Academy staff and fellow Sabre Society donors.

A check for \$1,000 or more can be made out to the "Air Force Academy Foundation" with "Air Force Academy Fund" in the memo line. The check can be mailed to the address below. I will have Gift Processing be on the lookout for this generous gift.

Air Force Academy Foundation

C/O Gift Processing

3116 Academy Drive

USAF Academy, CO 80840

Would it be alright to tie your name and contact information to the gift in regard to Sabre Society communications? Now is an opportune time to renew your Sabre Society support, as we have introduced new and exclusive communication avenues. The ZoomieLink Sabre Society group and the Sabre Society Speaker Series allows Sabre Society-level supporters to network with fellow graduates and learn about current trends in industry and society. I want to make sure your Chapter receives communications on these matters, especially with the Speaker Series, which is proving to be a high level and meaningful aspect of being a Sabre Society-level donor. I will keep in touch with you to ensure that your Chapter is thanked and listed as a donating entity in the proper fashion.

Thank you,

David Smith

Director of Annual Giving

719-472-2041 • Cell: 701-740-7704 • david.smith@afacademyfoundation.org

Dear Mr, David Smith:

Included with this letter is a check for \$1000 to enroll the Twin Cities Chapter in the Sabre Society. We are proud to be the first chapter to initiate this program and hope that it catches on with other chapters and Parents Clubs. It is a pleasure to be able to support our Alma Mater in this way.

Sincerely,

Twin Cities Chapter USAFA AOG"

EVENTS (SAVE THE DATES)!!

DETAILS WILL FOLLOW AS WE APPROACH THE DATES...

Football Schedule: We planning on viewing most or all the games at some location around the Cities. Will advise on each site as we confirm and as dictated by attendance... The Parents Club members are included in the invitations, as well as the Army and Navy at those particular games. Stay tuned.

| | <i>Time</i> | <i>At</i> | <i>Opponent</i> | <i>Location</i> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| September 4, 2021 (Saturday) | 12 pm MT | Home | Lafayette | USAFA (Stadium Network) |
| September 11, 2021 (Saturday) | 1:30 pm MT | Away | Navy | Annapolis, MD (CBS) |
| September 18, 2021 (Saturday) | 5:30 pm MT | Home | Utah State | USAFA (Fox) |
| September 25, 2021 (Saturday) | TBA | Home | FAU | USAFA |
| October 2, 2021 (Saturday) | TBA | Away | New Mexico | Albuquerque, NM |
| October 9, 2021 (Saturday) | 5:00 pm MT | Home | Wyoming | USAFA |
| October 16, 2021 (Saturday) | TBA | Away | Boise State | Boise, ID |
| October 23, 2021 (Saturday) | 5:00 pm MT | Home | San Diego State | USAFA |
| November 6, 2021 (Saturday) | 9:30 am MT | | Army | Arlington, TX |
| November 13, 2021 (Saturday) | 5:00 pm MT | Away | Colorado State | Fort Collins, CO |
| November 19, 2021 (Friday) | TBA | Away | Nevada | Reno, NV |
| November 26, 2021 (Friday) | 1:30 pm MT | Home | UNLV | USAFA |

OTHER EVENTS:

12 September: Annual St. Croix River Cruise out of Stillwater. Sign up by September 9.

18 September: Military Appreciation Day at the Farm in Jordan, MN.

11 Nov: Veteran's Day Dinner

Around 25 January 2022: Scotch Tasting

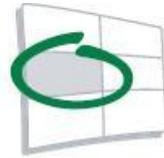
5 February: Lowell Inn Dinner in Stillwater.

One activity that Tom Wilson has been personally working on – without any success, he adds - is to convince the Director of Athletics at the Academy to schedule AT LEAST ONE HOCKEY GAME EACH YEAR WITH A MINNESOTA COLLEGE!!! If any of you that read this can assist, PLEASE DO!!! The only hockey game that has been held here at Mariucci Arena was a COMPLETE SUCCESS, with over 250 grads and family in attendance. Would love to make that an annual event... It would be of benefit to all concerned, especially in the USAFA recruiting program. Please help if you can to make this happen.

DO YOU HAVE ANY "IT" BACKGROUND?

Bob Hickcox has now been in North Carolina over a year and a half. He is still helping with our website, Newsletter, etc., but his new AOG chapter needs his services **so we need to replace him before December 31st**. We are in search of a new WebPerson to keep our two websites up to date and humming smoothly. This work is typically 2-3 hours a month, with a guaranteed hour a few days before our monthly board meeting, and the other time spread out over the month, usually in 30 minute to 1 hour increments. The work consists of editing existing web pages to update or replace text and picture content, adding new pages (usually events) to both the website and facebook group page, updating web software (very easy), and deleting new members of our employment website, who are not Academy graduates (usually known spammers), also easy. The ideal candidate would be someone who breathes, has operated a personal computer from time to time, and is willing to learn something new. While helpful, knowing HTML is not really required, as most of the website editing is done in an easy to use, what you see is what you get, editor. Our websites are implemented in WordPress, using the Divi theme and a visual editor, so if you understand Microsoft Word, or something similar, and have used some of the intermediate features, you will probably be able to pick this up. You will have support from Dave Carpentier, who handles the more technical aspects of the website, such as hosting and backups. And Bob Hickcox (robert@hickcox.org or 952-738-2318) will provide an orientation and as much training as you need to get going. He is also willing to answer questions and do all of this via Zoom while you learn.

This Newsletter Is Possible Thanks To These Great Sponsors



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INVESTMENT MANAGERS



TCA AOG Key Personnel Roster

Twin Cities Area Chapter - USAFA Association of Graduates June 2021

Chapter Officers

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--|
| President | Jason VanOverbeke '03 (Holli) | 612-382-2602 | jasonvanoverbeke@mac.com |
| Vice President | Chris Sedlacek '97 | 301-310-3716 | csedlacek97@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Bob Youngquist '72 (Jo) | 651-731-0363 | bobyoungq@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Rick Knoll '65 (Kathe) | 952-518-3737 | rickknoll@msn.com |
| Legal Advisor | Charlie Nelson '96 (Vanessa) | 952-240-2784 | mustabusa@gmail.com |
| President Emeritus | Tom Wilson '61 | 651-275-5167 | twil906k@aol.com |

Board Members (10) with term expiration included:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Terry Flower '64 (2022) (Margaret) | 651-437-2005 | tfflower@stkate.edu |
| Rick Knoll '65 (2022) (Kathe) | 952-518-3737 | rickknoll@msn.com |
| Bob Youngquist '72 (2022) (Jo) | 651-731-0363 | bobyoungq@aol.com |
| Denny Sultany '64 (2020) | 612-221-1821 | dennissultany@gmail.com |
| Tim Hess '93 (2020) | 952-221-2464 | tim.hess@hotmail.com |
| Jason VanOverbeke '03 (2020) Holli | 612-382-2602 | jasonvanoverbeke@mac.com |
| Tom Wilson '61 (2021) | 651-275-5167 | twil906k@aol.com |
| Chris Sedlacek '97 (2021) | 301-310-3716 | csedlacek97@gmail.com |
| Pete Swanson '95 (2021) (Angela) | 612-810-1546 | swanyafa95@gmail.com |
| Zach Turcotte '00 (2021) (Jessica) | 701-610-1736 | myzteriously@hotmail.com |

Committee Chairpersons

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Advanced Education | Terry Flower '64 | tfflower@stkate.edu |
| ALO Programs | Bill Fields '99 | bfields701@gmail.com |
| Financial and Budget | Rick Knoll '65/Terry Flower '64 | rickknoll@msn.com , tfflower@stkate.edu |
| Fundraising | Open | |
| Membership | Zach Turcotte '00 | myzteriously@hotmail.com |
| MN Parents' Club Coord | Bob '89 and Christine Hockman 952-233-1588 | bckswhock@msn.com |

