

## Inside

- Prez Prose
- ALO Update
- MN Parents Club-Frozen North
- Visit a museum
- Chapter Events - Past and Future

## Prez Prose

### Jason VanOverbeke, President

To all USAFA Grads in the Minnesota area:  
 Has spring sprung? The little rodent out in Pennsylvania tells us there will be six more weeks of winter, but in Minnesota, that might be okay if its only six more weeks. Nevertheless, it's time for another AOG newsletter and our thoughts to turn to spring and all that we have on our docket for the next few months.

The planning for the 2023 Heritage Dinner is underway. Our chapter has been recognized over and over again for the size and the quality of this event. Last year we had the honor of having Mark Hille and Karina Ross from the National AOG attend the dinner. They were able to experience the great participation for themselves and reiterated the accolade of this event being one of the best in the country. The success is due in part to our amazing partnership with the Minnesota Parents Club and the hard work and dedication by all who have a hand in planning this annual dinner. Keep an eye out for more information and registration for this year's event. If you'd like to help with the planning, please reach out and we'll get you in touch with the committee.

While we're looking forward to some warmer weather, I'd be remiss if I didn't note and recognize some of the great events we held this winter. First of all, the Veteran's Day dinner. This year it was held at Mancini's in St. Paul and was a huge hit. And secondly, thank you to Terry and Margaret Flower for again hosting the Robert Burns scotch tasting event. I was sad to have to miss that event this year, but I have no doubt, it was a great time as the hosts always roll out the red carpet for the TCA AOG. Finally, as a reminder, our open membership meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Bloomington VFW at 1730. All meetings are open to grads so if feel free to stop by and attend a meeting.

While our organization is focused on our Minnesota grads, be sure to stay involved and engaged with the national AOG. Currently the 2023 AOG Board of Directors elections are taking place (through March 6). Eligible members should have received an email with your username and password from the Survey Ballot Systems. And be sure to follow along on their social media channels. There are great stories about graduates, interesting pieces of history, information about career conferences across the country and articles about current happenings at the Academy.

As always, we're looking for ways to serve you better. If you have ideas, activities or networking ideas, feel free to share.

Thanks for all you do and for the opportunity to serve you!

**Jason VanOverbeke, President**



## ALO Update

Hello fellow grads. Here are some highlights from the ALO world that might be interesting to the MN AOG community.

We currently have 21 active ALOs in the state of Minnesota. We are in the process of adding an additional ALO, Tim Uecker, a 1990 grad. All the Academy applications are getting finished up and all congressional interviews are complete. This brings us to the part of the year when the class of 2027 will be receiving their appointments.

Overall application numbers appear to have rebounded from the lows of the last couple of years, although that data will not be fully released until this summer. We are pretty early in the appointment assigning process, but so far from what I can access we have 9 appointments plus 4 recruited football athletes, for a total of 13. Five of the 9 appointments have accepted, so with the 4 athletes we have a total of 9 that have accepted so far. We are still early in the cycle and I expect to see more appointments trickle in during the next month or two. Normally MN rounds out in the mid 20s for total appointments.

Ed Zarembo, ALO



## USAFA MN Parents Club - Frozen North event



Some of the cadets at Minnesota Night joined Dave Ryan, KDWB (center) for a photo

USAFA Parents' Club of Minnesota recently hosted the inaugural "Frozen North" event in Colorado Springs to bring a little "back home" Minnesota to our current Minnesota cadets at the Academy. In past years, the Parents' Club hosted "Minnesota State Night" at USAFA, an annual event when cadets were treated to a Minnesota-themed meal during the "dark ages" of winter.

However, for 2023, USAFA discontinued State Nights in favor of a wing-wide Taste of Home event to represent all states, which will be held in March. Knowing how much MN cadets loved State Night, the parents brainstormed and found a way to make it happen off base, but still within USAFA guidelines. Hence, FROZEN NORTH was invented. The biggest challenge was that the event could not be held on USAFA grounds; it had to be held off campus. An additional obstacle was a late announcement of a Silver Training weekend assigned to the weekend the parents had planned.



Events began with a Minnesota-themed dinner on Thursday Feb 9. The event was emceed by Minneapolis radio host Dave Ryan of 101.3 KDWB. Ryan loves the Academy and gladly travelled to Colorado Springs to entertain the cadets with MN trivia and games and gave away MN-themed prizes. The dinner, which was catered by Southern Pride Asian Fusion BBQ (who was featured on Food Network's Great Food Truck Race), included Tater Tot Hotdish, Wild Rice Soup, and Cheese curds. Sweet Martha's Cookies donated cookie dough, so parents were able to serve fresh-baked Sweet Martha's for dessert! Every cadet received a goodie bags which contained donated items as well as a MN/AF blue t-shirt from the Parents' Club.



**Falconry Tour**



**C1C Metzler**

The Frozen North events continued Saturday Feb 11 when parents and a few cadets were given a tour of the Falconry mews – the building which houses the 11 current falcons. Two members of the current 12-member falconry team are from Minnesota and they gave great tours! In the afternoon, parents and available cadets attended the Men’s Gymnastics meet vs Army and Berkeley and were able to see C1C Sam Metzler led the team to a win over both teams!

In the evening, the parents hosted another social event for the cadets, this time at C3C Annika Sather’s parents’ Colorado Springs home. The Sathers opened their home to available cadets and MN parents where cadets were able to relax for a few hours, play games, and enjoy a casual dinner with fellow Minnesotans.



**Gathering at Sather house**



**Moms from class of 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026**

If you would like to donate or see what the Parents Club is doing for our MN cadets, you can contact them through their website.

<https://www.mnpc.afaparents.org/>

## Military Discounts

"Tidbit of Info:" If anyone is interested in learning more about Military discounts, go to "Military.com" on the internet. Look for: "Deals & Discounts Insider." While this is not an official government site, it lists many discounts you may not know are available.

## Seven Best Military Museums in the USA

I recently read an article about the Seven Best Military Museums in the USA. I thought many of you might be interested. The order may or may not surprise you!

- 1.The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.
- 2.The National Museum of the Army in Fort Belvoir, VA.
- 3.The National Museum of the Marines in Quantico, VA.
- 4.Gettysburg National Military Park and Museum in Gettysburg, PA.
- 5.The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA.
- 6.The Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH.
- 7.The National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL.

If any of you wish to share any descriptions of one or more of these museums, please feel free to contact me with either descriptions and or pictures and I will share them in future Newsletters.

Tom Wilson, '61



**Air Force Museum**



**XB-70 Valkyrie at Air Force Museum**

## Chapter Events: Past And Future

### Scotch Tasting – Robert Burns Dinner 28 January

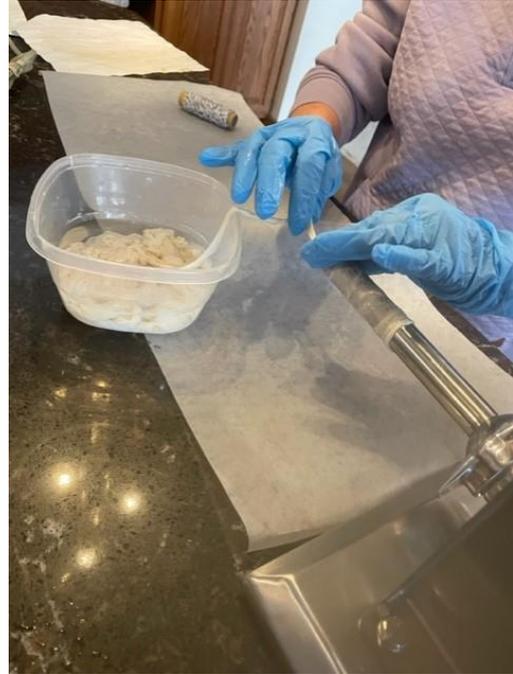


Presidents of these United States stated often that the best military officers were well educated in the humanities as well as the sciences and other disciplines connected to warfare. There is no doubt that military officers are known to consume whiskies. When some questioned Lincoln's appointment of General Grant to a leadership position he replied ... "Tell me what brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals." We do not endorse or criticize people who drink alcohol, but to educate our chapter members we instituted an annual whisky tasting event, starting more than ten years ago. This year we celebrated Robert Burns birthday with a Scotch whisky tasting event. To get attendees the opportunity to sample single malt whiskies we selected five different brands. Technically, Scotch is distilled in Scotland but we added a Japanese whisky because they have been known to distill a fine spirit as well. Some of these were well peated, with that smoky flavor permeating their other characteristics. We sampled, nosed, tasted, and even visually compared the whiskies.





Place setting for tasting



Preparing the Haggis

Throughout the afternoon we balanced the alcohols with food pairings prepared by Margaret Flower (Terry, Class of 1964) and gave some people their first taste of Haggis, a traditional Scottish fare. We read poetry of Burns including an *Address to a Haggis* and several more, like *My Love is Like a Red Red Rose*, and *Ode to a Louse* and an *Ode to a Mouse*. We ended the tasting event singing *Auld Lang Syne*.



Angie Swanson (Pete, 95) was the only attendee wearing a hat, so she, by default, had first choice of the bottles and the remaining contents. Other bottles went to those whose names were drawn from a hat. This gathering was meant to be an opportunity to bring grads together in a fun, somewhat educational venue.

It was a pleasant afternoon with the weather cooperating fully. We do know that a number of people were not able to attend for various reasons. We hope they will be able to join us next year.

Terry

## Winter dinner - 24 Feb

By the time you read this we will have held our annual winter dinner. This event has been held at the Lowell Inn in previous years, but that location was unavailable. Thanks to Terry Flowers for putting together a quick replacement option at Mancini's Char House in St Paul, who treated us extremely well at our Veteran's Day Dinner in Nov. Hopefully some of you made it out to enjoy good food and company.

## Upcoming events

### Heritage Dinner – 20 May

We are holding our annual Heritage Dinner Saturday, May 20. For those that don't know, one of the core requirements of having an AOG Chapter is hosting an annual Heritage Dinner. The TCA AOG dinners have been recognized as some of the best and largest in the nation. The USAFA Commandant and MN native BGen Moga has accepted an offer to return again this year as keynote speaker. The Sather family, Scott '88, have again graciously offered their hanger at Flying Cloud for the event. For those that attended last year, it was truly a memorable affair. Our close coordination with the MN USAFA Parents Club have made this a popular event for not just grads, but cadets and their families. The silent auction at this event is also one of our largest fundraisers of the year. We have had auction items from small all the way up to a T-6 ride. If you would like to donate something for the auction, look for details and sign up upcoming on our website and by email!

<http://tcausafoag.org/>

We recognize that not everyone will attend all these events, but do plan to schedule some; not only to support our Chapter, but also to enjoy socializing with members that have similar backgrounds and interests. Past experience has proven that those who do attend do enjoy themselves and the camaraderie... If anyone has additional events to recommend, please let any board member know of your thoughts.

Tom Wilson, 61 President Emeritus

# This Newsletter Is Possible Thanks To These Great Sponsors



## TCA AOG Key Personnel Roster

Twin Cities Area Chapter - USAFA Association of Graduates February 2023

If you need to contact the board, please use our new email [USAFA.TCA.AOG@gmail.com](mailto:USAFA.TCA.AOG@gmail.com)

### Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	Jason VanOverbeke '03
<b>Vice President</b>	Mike Reiss '67
<b>Secretary</b>	Curt Brown, '78
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rick Knoll '65
<b>Legal Advisor</b>	Charlie Nelson '96
<b>President Emeritus</b>	Tom Wilson '61

### Board Members (10) with term expiration included:

<b>Name (spouse)</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Denny Sultany '64	2023
Mike Reiss '67	2023
Jason VanOverbeke '03 (Holli)	2023
Tom Wilson '61	2024
Bob Hockman '89 (Christine)	2024
Pete Swanson '95 (Angela)	2024
Curt Brown, '78 (Mary)	2024
Terry Flower '64 (Margaret)	2025
Rick Knoll '65 (Kathe)	2025
Zach Turcotte '00 (Jessica)	2025

### Committee Chairpersons

<b>Advanced Education</b>	<b>Terry Flower '64</b>
<b>ALO Programs</b>	Ed Zarembo '07
<b>Financial and Budget</b>	Rick Knoll '65/Terry Flower '64
<b>Fundraising</b>	Open
<b>Membership</b>	Zach Turcotte '00
<b>Parents' Club Coord</b>	Bob '89 & Christine Hockman
<b>Newsletter</b>	Tom Wilson '61