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Prez Prose

Jason VanOverbeke, President

To all USAFA Grads in the Minnesota area:

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm looking forward to summer. After the disappointing spring we had, I think Mother Nature owes us a good one!

However, before we move into the future, a brief recap of the past events. Rick Knoll, Denny Sultany and Sandy Carlson all outdid themselves in planning and carrying out our Heritage Dinner. They worked closely with the MN Parents club to create one of the best Heritage/Founder's Day Dinners we have ever had. Between the TCA AOG, the Parents Club and the Appointees and their parents, we had over 170 attendees to this amazing event. It was largest 2022 Founders Day event in the country!

The hard work and dedication of Twin Cities Area Chapter continues to amaze me and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization. We are not a large chapter, but the quality of our activities is Second to None (just like Second Group where I graduated from)!

Looking forward, we have a few more plans for the summer. Our get together dinner June 10th at the White Bear Yacht Club was a success, thanks Tom. We are also planning on partnering with the Parents Club for a few more social activities later in the summer. The Parent's Club has invited us again to their summer picnic, see details on the events page at tcausafaaog.org. Keep an eye on the TCA AOG website and on Facebook for more events and details.

Finally, June 21 was our annual business meeting and we voted for the open positions for our Board of Directors and the Officers of the Board. These votes are always open to all MN Grads to vote. If you're interested in serving or just participating, meetings are at 1730 on the third Tuesday of each month at the Bloomington VFW, we hope to see you there.

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

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

Jason VanOverbeke
President, TCAAOG Chapter

Astronaut Scholarships at USAFA!

In 1984, the Mercury 7 Astronauts created an organization called the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. The mission statement is very simple, "To aid the United States in retaining its world leadership in technology and innovation by supporting the very best and brightest scholars in science, technology, engineering and mathematics while commemorating the legacy of America's pioneering astronauts". The Foundation awards 65 plus scholarships to juniors and seniors at 45 colleges and universities across the country. The amount of the scholarship is up to 15,000 dollars.

While the money is important, the benefits of the scholarship are much greater than a mere dollar amount. In addition to the funds, the scholars receive mentoring, networking with NASA alumni, professional development training, internships with major companies and more. While USAFA Cadets already have exposure to some of these experiences due to the amazing training they are already receiving, the recognition, connections, and networking opportunities of the Astronaut Scholarship program will benefit these future officers, the Air Force and our country for years to come.

In the academic year, 2021-2022, the Air Force Academy received its first two scholarships. The recipients were two Second Class Cadets, juniors. On April 7, 2022, C2C Eva Damon, electrical and computer engineering, and C2C Madison Marsh, physics, were formally awarded and recognized for their scholarships at a ceremony at USAFA. In addition to the award ceremony, a number of USAFA alumni astronauts held a panel discussion concerning the future of space operations and their space missions. Just a couple weeks ago, USAFA received a second round of scholarships from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. Due to their continuing high performance during their first year of scholarships, now C1C Damon and C1C Marsh received a second year of scholarships.

If you know a Cadet majoring in a STEM related field, be sure to check-out the website below. That Cadet may be eligible to apply and receive the prestigious Astronaut Scholarship. For more information concerning the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, you may contact Curt Brown '78 TCA AOG board member at curtbrown11@gmail.com, or visit the website at astronautscholarship.org

MN ALO Update

Some quick highlights from the ALO front. We are currently doing our annual training to prepare for the next cycle applicants, class of 2027! One of the main areas we are concentrating on is how to increase the pool of qualified applicants from MN and figuring out how to recruit more appointees from opportunity districts. Opportunity districts in ALO lingo are the districts where there have traditionally been very few qualified applicants to the academy. Minnesota's district 7 covering Western MN is one of these.

The last application cycle MN, like much of the nation, saw a significant drop in the numbers of qualified candidates applying. We are trying to determine the causes for this decline. Covid had a lot to do with that decrease, however we want and need to increase the size of the applicant pool and figure all the factors as to why fewer kids are interested in the academy. As members of the long blue line, any help the grad community can do to keep spreading the word and generating interest can help us raise our applicant numbers and find the right candidates.

The other big event for the ALO community was the May Heritage Dinner at Flying Cloud airport. It was a very successful evening from what I hear, (I was unable to attend due to Covid.) Commandant of Cadets BGen Moga said it was the best organized and most enthusiastic parents club he's visited thus far and is excited to come back next year. Thanks for including the ALO community in this event.

Ed Zarembo, '07



USAFA MN Parents Club

The Parents Club families of the class of 2025 will be hosting the annual summer picnic on July 16th from 4 – 7 pm at Lake Susan Park, 903 Lake Drive, Chanhassen, MN 55317. The AOG chapter is invited to join us and celebrate the Class of 2026 with families and cadets. Flyer with directions is on the TCA AOG website.

USAFA Parent Weekend 2022, Sep 2-6

The Parents Club has coordinated with Colorado Springs comedy club, 3 E's Comedy Club, 1 South Nevada Ave, Suite #110, to secure comedian Jose Sarduy USAFA grad and USAF Reserve pilot for several shows. We are expecting to hold shows Friday and Saturday, Sep 2 and 3, at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. More information to come as our Parents Club will be helping to market this event. Look for updates from AOG and come see Jose if you are in town. A new addition this year for our Parents Club is an organized Tailgate. We are working with a tailgate company to have a tent set up in Falcon Alley. If MN graduates are at USAFA for the game against Northern Iowa on Sep 3, please let the Parents Club know and come by and say hi!

MN DAV & Sutton Ridge Farm Third Annual “Military Appreciation Family Day at the Farm”



The Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota (Minnesota DAV) is set to host their third annual “Military Appreciation Family Day at the Farm” Sep 10 at Sutton Ridge Farm, Jordan MN. This is a day to acknowledge and thank our disabled American veterans who continue to sacrifice past their days of active service. This year will pay special honor to our Vietnam Veterans. Sutton Ridge Farm, Jordan MN has volunteered to open their property for this delightful day of fun, family, and community. Jennifer Jensen, Farmer, owner & operator of Sutton Ridge Farm states, “We, along with our community, are seeking to be a blessing to our military veterans and thank them with a day of honor and enjoyment.”

Activities offered at the event include:-A DAV of MN keynote discussion panel-Speakers from various Veteran organizations-Flag raising ceremony by a local Veteran’s Color Guard-Live musical performances by international jazz artist, Johnny Holliday and Willie Moore-Kids bootcamp featuring a 60-foot-longobstacle course with inflatable climbing wall-Variou farm activities including sheep shearing, corn shelling and self-guided farm tours-Catered lunch and many free concessions-Silent Auction-Live remote with Minnesota Military Radio-Hay wagon rides, local vendors and more!

To learn more and register, visit at davn.org/events. Direct link at <http://davn.org/military-day-at-the-farm/>, or check the AOG web events page for links.

This event is free to all military members, \$8 for military families, \$20 for the public, and free for children 5 and under. Registration deadline is 9/06/22.

Open to all Military members (Active Duty, Reservists/National Guard, Retired) and their families, and the general public

Chapter Events: Past And Future

In an effort to keep the membership informed of events that our Chapter sponsors or co-sponsors, here is a list of the recently held events:

June 10: Dinner at White Bear Yacht Club. We had 18 attend, including one West Point grad and spouse. We will plan something similar to his next year and maybe opening it up to all academies again.

14 May: The annual Heritage / Founders Day Dinner. The speaker this year was the new USAFA Commandant, BGen Paul D. Moga, '95. This event was co-hosted with the MN Parents Club. It was a huge success with over 170 in attendance. This was our largest ever, and was one of the largest in the nation this year!



USAFA Commandant of Cadets BGen Moga



Commandant with Class of '26 appointees



Comparing Class of '95 rings

Upcoming Events

16 July: MN Parent's Club Picnic. See TCA AOG events page for info flyer

10 Sept: AF vs CU Football on CBS. Possible TV get together. More later.

10 Sept: MN DAV Military Family Day at the Farm. See article above

18 Sept: Annual St. Croix River Cruise. Open to all Academies. More later.

1 Oct: AF vs Navy Football Game on CBS. Possible TV get together. More later.

5 Nov: AF vs Army Football Game on CBS. Possible TV get together. More later.

11 Nov: Annual Veteran's Day Dinner. More later.

TBA: A possible wine tasting and/or a bourbon tasting event... Any other events will be shared with the membership as they become known.

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

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TCA AOG Key Personnel Roster

Twin Cities Area Chapter - USAFA Association of Graduates July 2022

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