

## Meeting Minutes TCA AOG: 21 March, 2023

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| <b>Meeting Type/Date:</b>                  | Quarterly Business Meeting & Monthly Twin City Area (TCA) March Association of Graduates (AOG) Meeting, 21 March 2023   |
| <b>Location:</b>                           | VFW/American Legion Post at 311 W. 84 <sup>th</sup> St. Bloomington, MN 55420   |
| <b>Administrivia</b>                       |   |
| <b>1. Pledge of Allegiance:</b>            | Conducted, 1730 Hours, Meeting Commenced.   |
| <b>2. Quorum Established:</b>              | Yes, 5 Board Members Present (Minimum).   |
| <b>3. Attendees &amp; Introductions:</b>   | <p>Attendees: Tom Wilson: Pres. Emeritus, Board Member, '61</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Terry Flower: Board Member, '64</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Rick Knoll: Treasurer, '65</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Dave Reiner: Former Secretary, '77</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Bob Hockman: Board Member, '89</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Tim Uecker, '90</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Pete Swanson: Board Member, '95</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Zach Turcotte: Board Member, '00</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Andrea Komschlies, Parents Club President</p> <p><b>Introductions:</b> <b>Andrea Komschlies</b> was introduced as the new Parents Club President, taking over from Denise. Andrea indicated she has a son in his junior year at USAFA. Welcome aboard Andrea!</p> |
| <b>4. Last Meeting's Minutes Approval:</b> | Motion made, seconded, and approved relating to February's Meeting Minutes.   |
| <b>5. Current/New Business</b>             |   |
| <b>a. Upcoming Events:</b>                 | <p>Upcoming Events discussion Included: Heritage Dinner, AOG Fall Riverboat Cruise, Distinguished Grad. Award, Parents Club Activities, Next AOG Dinner Event, and Miscellaneous Upcoming Events (See Discussion Items below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fall Riverboat Cruise:</b> Tom W. indicated planning continues for a September cruise,</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <p>specific date may be impacted by MN Vikings schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Distinguished Grad. Award:</b> Tom W. indicated he has received information relating to this award and he will coordinate with the AOG Board regarding the nomination review, and Award winner. More information to follow.</li> <li>• <b>Parents Club Activities:</b> Andrea K, discussed several Parent’s Club past and upcoming events centering on the Frozen North weekend, and USAF career briefs for the MN cadets. Additional discussion centered on the Parent’s Club “Taste of Home” event. It was estimated that this last event, in which each state in the union was represented, was attended by approximately 3000 cadets, and that there are plans to conduct this event every two years at Arnold Hall on the Academy grounds henceforth.</li> <li>• <b>Next AOG Chapter Dinner:</b> Discussion centered on the outstanding event at Mancini’s in St Paul last February. The event was a great time with a great dinner for a very reasonable price of \$25 per plate. Feedback centered on the typical icy conditions in Mancini’s parking lot at that time of year. Tom W. indicated an alternate venue at Lowell’s in Stillwater using the protected parking ramp and/or have a summer dinner at Mancini’s.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>b. Financial Status: (Rick K.)</b></p>                  | <p>Rick indicated the Chapter has approximately \$10,061 in checking and approximately \$3,200 in savings.</p>  |
| <p><b>c. Heritage Dinner Planning: (Denny S./Rick K.)</b></p> | <p>Significant discussion on this topic, items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Heritage Dinner</b> date: Saturday, 20 May 2023. USAFA Commandant of Cadets and MN native, Brigadier General Moga has accepted an invitation to return this year as the keynote speaker at the Heritage Dinner.</li> <li>• The Planning Committee indicates <b>cost per attendee</b> currently projected at \$62. Discussion item: perhaps we could canvass the donor network for contributions to bring this cost down. It was mentioned that the individual cost per person rises with the free dinners we donate for various reasons.</li> </ul>  |

- Rick K. indicated last year's event was profitable due to **silent auction** proceeds and that we will have another silent auction for this year's event.
- Andrea K. indicated this year's event will include a **"wine grab"** event whereby each participant donates \$20 for a covered wine bottle they choose without specifically knowing what brand/vintage the wine bottle might be.
- **POW table** will be included at this year's event, appropriate POW table information will be included in this year's program.
- Responsibility for the development of this year's **Event Program** not clear, more discussion needed at April's meeting.
- Another **Heritage Dinner planning meeting** held on 22 March at the Sather Hangar.
- Andrea K. indicated we need to **cap the event at 200 attendees** due to space considerations.
- It was discussed that the Heritage Dinner is a joint effort of **the Parent's Club and the TCA AOG**.
- It was discussed that **no information regarding new USAFA appointees** would be disseminated at this time due to lack of information regarding the nomination process from USAFA. Appointments should be coming out between now and mid-April.
- **Sports Input(s)** It was noted that one of our USAFA Cadet intercollegiate wrestlers had captured 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the recent NCAA wrestling tournament held in Tulsa, Oklahoma this past season.
- Our Minnesota Twins have a USAFA graduate on their active roster this season, **James Griffin Jax**, nickname "Griff," drafted in 2016 by the Minnesota Twins. Lt. Jax is currently an Officer in the USAF Reserves. It should be an interesting season for the Twins and Griff!

**d. Other/Miscellaneous:**

Discussion Topics:

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of our <b>POWs being released from Hanoi Hilton</b> and returned to the U.S.</li> <li>• Pete S. indicated the Vietnam “<b>Wall That Heals</b>” would be making a swing through Minnesota sometime this year.</li> <li>• 2023 also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the <b>Air Force Museum</b> at Wright Patterson AFB.</li> <li>• Andrea K. reported on the recent Cadet death at USAFA, and that this death had been categorized as a suicide.</li> <li>• Denny S. (who could not make the meeting) is recovering from a <b>snow-mobile accident</b> with several broken ribs, a broken collarbone, and other injuries. Our thoughts go out to Denny for a speedy recovery.</li> </ul> |
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### **6. Old Business/Committee Reports**

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| a. Challenger Center: (Terry F.)                 | Terry F. indicated nothing new to report, follow-up at April Meeting.   |
| b. Website Status: (Bob H.)                      | Bob H. indicated any interested parties should review the current website and contact the Board with any comments/suggestions. Follow-up report at April Meeting.             |
| c. Education Website: (Terry F.)                 | Terry F. indicated any interested parties should review what’s on the existing website and make any comments/recommendations to the Board. Follow-up report at April Meeting. |
| d. ALO Program: (Pete S.)                        | Discussion centered on the <b>ALO budget requirements</b> for next year. Follow-up report expected at April Meeting.  |
| e. Young(er) Grad Initiative: (Pete S./Terry F.) | No input, follow-up report expected at April Meeting.   |
| f. Parents Club Liaison: (Bob H./Andrea K)       | Coordination continues with <b>new Parents Club President Andrea Komschlies</b> . Update(s) expected at April Meeting.  |
| g. Newsletter: (Tom W.)                          | Tom W. indicated our plan is to disseminate <b>our next Newsletter sometime in June 2023</b> . Please send all inputs to Tom prior to this suspense.                          |

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Quarterly Business & Monthly TCA AOG Meeting at 1836 Hours, 21 March, 2023.

Next Meeting: 18 April, 2023 (Third Tuesday of the Month).

- Location: VFW/American Legion Post, 311 W. 84<sup>th</sup> St., Bloomington MN 55420
- Social Hour: 1700 Hours
- Meeting Commencement: 1730 Hours
- All Academy Graduates welcomed and encouraged to attend a TCA AOG Meeting!