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Prez Prose

Curt Brown '78, President

To all fellow USAFA grads in the Minnesota / Wisconsin area: Welcome to the dog days of summer. Where has 2026 gone? In just a few weeks the Minnesota State Fair will start and the kids will be back in school. At least it is not winter — but that means it is construction season, so good luck out there on the roads.

So what has your TCA-AOG chapter been up to? First of all, we had a fantastic Heritage Dinner in May. Our guest speaker was none other than Mr. Mark Hille '97, the President and CEO of the Association of Graduates. He did a fantastic job updating us on all things USAFA. He has attended a number of our Heritage Dinners and is always impressed with our chapter events. The dinner was well attended by parents, families, grads, cadets, and appointees. We had a great turnout and also a new venue this year. Big thank you to Gregg and Mary Guider for hosting the event in their awesome hangar, and a big thank you to all the AOG members who made it all happen — Denny and Tony especially. Lots of work behind the curtain. Also a BIG BIG THANK YOU to the MN Parent's Club. They are probably the top Parent's Club in the world. They put a lot of effort into making the Heritage Dinner a huge success, along with the amazing silent auction. Thanks, MN Parent's Club!!!



2026 Heritage Dinner: introducing the attending Class of 2030 Appointees.

During the Heritage Dinner, we gave out two academic scholarships to two amazing young individuals. Each scholarship was worth \$2,500. Congratulations to both, and we look forward to your future success. Our chapter plans on continuing the scholarships and intends to increase the number and amounts in the future. We're looking for a grad with connections to help raise money to support our objectives. So if you are someone looking to get involved and give back to the Long Blue Line, please give me a call — we need your help.

Your chapter is also busy planning our future events. Look for upcoming luncheon speakers provided by our Luncheon Speaker Series. If you know of, or have any suggestions for, a great speaker, we would love to hear from you. We have already had a number of great speakers, and the future ones are amazing. Also, look for our annual St. Croix River cruise coming up in September. We are planning our annual Veterans Day celebration at Mancini's Char House in November, and we have plans for a future Bourbon / Scotch tasting. Stay tuned!!! Please check our website often, and we will send out reminders via email.

As always, we are looking to generate more involvement and more activities for our local grads. If you have any great ideas, don't be bashful — please give me a call, or better yet, come to our monthly meetings. It is always great to see old faces and meet some new ones. We have a chapter email at USAFA.TCA.AOG@gmail.com, email me at curtbrown11@gmail.com, or call me at (651) 295-5834.

Finally, our open-membership board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5pm, at the Richfield VFW, VFW Post 5555, 6715 Lake Shore Drive South, Richfield, MN 55423.

— **Curt Brown '78, President**

Food for Thought

Tom Wilson '61, President Emeritus

As we begin another busy season, I want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to Curt Brown for his continued service as our chapter President. Curt has led our chapter faithfully for many years, and we all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. I certainly do.

A Few Requests for Our Membership

1. Treat every accepted task as a commitment. If you take on a responsibility, please be prompt.
2. Coordinate communications through Curt. If your task involves emailing the membership, send Curt a draft so he can distribute it through the proper channels.
3. Thank Curt personally. The next time you see him, please express your appreciation for his outstanding service. Beyond his countless hours supporting our chapter, he also put his life on the line during six Space Shuttle missions. Let's all do our part to lighten his load.

Scholarship Program Update

Our scholarship program — led by Terry Flower and Rick Knoll — continues to grow. Thanks to their dedication, we expanded from a single \$2,500 scholarship each year to two scholarships. Our long-term goal is to increase both the number and the value of these scholarships.

To make that possible, we need to strengthen our fundraising efforts.

For many years, Joe Rodwell successfully generated surplus revenue to sustain our operations. Since Joe's passing, we have relied primarily on proceeds from our annual Founders Day / Heritage Dinner.

If we want to expand our scholarship program, we need one or more graduates to volunteer as our chapter fundraiser. Even modest additional funding can make a meaningful difference for students facing rising college and trade school costs.

AOG Chapter Presidents Conference

I have been asked to represent our chapter at the annual AOG Chapter Presidents Conference at the Academy on September 3-4. If you have issues or ideas you would like me to bring forward, please share them with me before the conference. I will gladly raise them during the discussions.

This conference is an excellent opportunity to share what has worked well for our chapter and to learn from successful approaches across the country. I also hope to gain a clearer understanding of the AOG's vision for the Academy's future.

On a personal note, I plan to take the opportunity to invite the Academy's new Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Paul Moga, to serve as our guest speaker for the 2027 Founders Day / Heritage Dinner.

A Gentle Reminder

I'd like to close with the revised third verse of the Air Force Song. I was a little embarrassed at my 65th class reunion when I realized I hadn't kept up with the change.

Here's a toast to the host of those who love the vastness of the sky.

*To a friend we send a message of the **brave who serve on high**.*

We drink to those who gave their all of old,

Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold.

*A toast to the host of **those we boast**, the US Air Force!*

Tom Wilson '61

Lt. Gen. (Sel.) Paul Moga '95 Confirmed to Lead U.S. Air Force Academy

Minnesota's own is heading back to USAFA!

The U.S. Senate confirmed Lt. Gen. (select) Paul D. Moga '95 for a promotion and his next assignment: serving as the 23rd Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Gen. Moga's most recent assignment was as commander of Third Air Force. He served as USAFA's Commandant of Cadets from 2021 to 2023. A command pilot with more than 2,600 flight hours — including more than 250 combat hours, primarily in the F-15C, F-22, and F-35A — Gen. Moga has commanded at the squadron, wing, and numbered Air Force levels. His career also includes significant joint and staff experience, with assignments at U.S. European Command and U.S. Northern Command, and he notably served as the first F-22 Demonstration Team commander.

Gen. Moga will now return to the Academy to direct the 47-month development program that commissions officers into the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force.



USAFA Admissions & ALO Update

LtCol Tiffany VanDenBroeke, Minnesota ALO Lead

Greetings, grads! We had a great season for the USAFA Class of 2030 out of Minnesota. We ended up with 25 appointees from our state — 3 to the Prep School — and recruited athletes for football, lacrosse, and hockey. We also had a record number of applicants, hitting around 160 applications from Minnesota high schoolers. It was great to send off the Minnesota USAFA Class of 2030 appointees at our annual Heritage Dinner! Going forward with the Class of 2031, we currently have about 90 applicants, which is on track for this time of year.

We sadly say goodbye to several ALOs (Admissions Liaison Officers) who are hanging up their hats after years of dedicated service. Please help me congratulate David Colwell ('64), Victoria Citrowske ('00), and Peter Drenkow on their support of our successful program. This leaves the Minnesota ALO team with 9 ALOs, plus myself as the Minnesota lead and Lt. Col. Ed Zarembo ('07) as the regional lead for ND, SD, IA, MN, and NE. Ed also now helps cover South Dakota's core ALO duties, since that state's last ALO retired from the position.

So, if you're thinking of becoming an ALO, now is the time to do it! The minimum volunteer commitment is 5 evaluations of cadet-candidates for the season, done remotely. That's it! You can be serving in any capacity: retired, civilian, active duty, reserve, or Guard. The Cat E (full-time) ALO program is still not open yet, but the additional-duty ALO role with 5 evaluations per year is open — and we'd love to have you pass along how amazing USAFA is to these young adults!

Looking forward to our upcoming events: we covered the Duluth Airshow July 11-12, and will cover Girls in Aviation Day on Sept. 19 at Flying Cloud. We look forward to congressional information nights, which usually occur in September, followed by congressional interviews around October or November.

— Tiffany VanDenBroeke '08

LtCol Tiffany VanDenBroeke • USAFA Admissions Liaison Officer • Minnesota Area Coordinator

Speaker Series Update

Jamie Lindman '95, Secretary

We have not had any speakers in the last few months, mainly due to everyone's busy summer schedules. We look forward to some great speakers and topics in the coming months:

- Mike Johnson is a WWII historian and was a dear friend of Minnesota WWII hero and POW, Les Schrenk. Mike will share Les' amazing story, including Les' reconnection and friendship with the Luftwaffe pilot who shot down his B-17.
- A Veterans Affairs expert will speak about all the great benefits the VA offers (including some that you may not be aware of).

If you have suggestions for future speakers, please let me know!

— **Jamie Lindman '95**

TCA-AOG / Parent's Club Upcoming Events

September 4-7 — Parent's Weekend at USAFA

October [TBD] — St. Croix Riverboat Cruise

October 9 & 10 — Hockey: USAFA at University of St. Thomas (game tickets on sale mid-August)

December 26 — All-Academy Ball

— **Antonio Rodriguez '94**

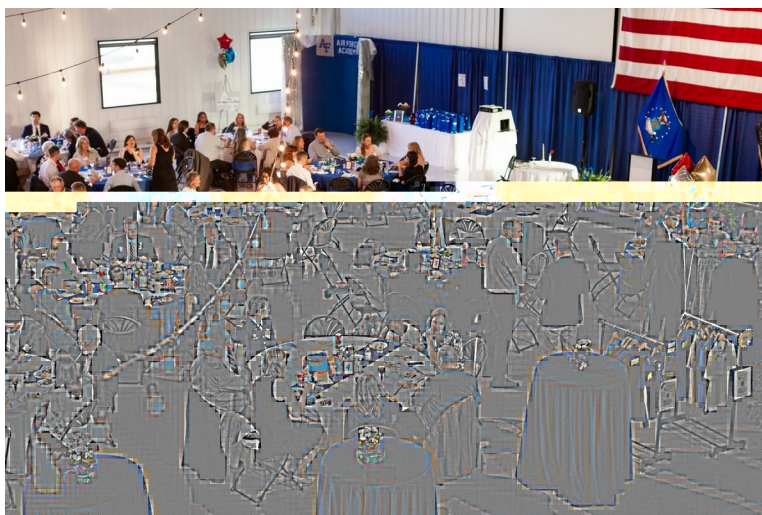
Key Personnel Roster | 2026-27

Twin Cities Area Chapter — USAFA Association of Graduates

To contact the board, please email USAFA.TCA.AOG@gmail.com.

Chapter Officers

President	Curt Brown '78
Vice President	Denny Sultany '64
Secretary	Jamie Lindman '95
Treasurer	Pete Swanson '95
Legal Advisor	Charlie Nelson '96
President Emeritus	Tom Wilson '61



The 2026 Heritage Dinner — Flying Cloud, Eden Prairie.

Board Members

Name (spouse)		Term Expiration
Denny Sultany '64		2029
Mike Riess '67		2029
Ed "Skip" Wipson '88		2029
Tom Wilson '61		2029
Jamie Lindman '95	(Allison)	2027
Tony Rodriguez '94	(Sarah)	2027
Curt Brown '78	(Mary)	2027
Terry Flower '64	(Margaret)	2028
Pete Swanson '95	(Angie)	2028
Jason VanOverbeke '03 (Holli)		2028

Committee Chairpersons (2026-27)

Advanced Education	Terry Flower '64
ALO Programs	Tiffany VanDenBroeke '08
Financial & Budget	Pete Swanson '95 / Tony Rodriguez '94
Fundraising	Open
Parents' Club Coordinator	Tony Rodriguez '94
Newsletter	Tom Wilson '61

Join us at our monthly meetings and reconnect with Grads!

3rd Tues of each month, 5pm Social, 5:30 Meeting

Fred Babcock VFW, Post 5555, 6175 Lake Shore Dr. S., Richfield, MN 55423
