St. Louis-Gateway Chapter Minutes of the Annual Board Meeting –6 Jan 2022, Zoom (Q1 mins)

The St Louis Chapter, USAFA AOG, Quarterly/Annual board meeting was held on 6 Jan 2022, 7pm over Zoom.

**Members Present:** Keith Heien, Elizabeth Granier, Mike Ziemann, Kirk McDonald, Reed Shafer, Pat Ellis, Brian Lindsey, James McQueen, and Bob Baker. **Members Absent** Mike Brecht

Members at large attending: Tim Souhrada

**Minutes from previous meeting were sent out by email for approval and updates.**

**Financial Report:**  Brian Lindsey Reported a balance of $1,034.46. A check of $60 from AOG that is profit from Founders Day is expected. Update on the Tax Exempt Status is that waiting for IRS paperwork to get back to us.

**Old Business/Recurring Business:**

**Annual Report for Distinguished Chapter Due Jan 30, 2022.** Keith and Elizabeth have filled out the online submission. Need Mike Z to send something that can be upload as documentation from the President’s Conference from Sept 2021 he attended. Keith and Elizabeth will look over one more time to ensure everything done over last 18 months is entered. Should have no problem earning the necessary points for Distinguished Chapter award. Elizabeth will send Flag to Karina when time to get new numbers added.

**All Academy Ball Held Dec 29th, 2021**. Keith had last minute family emergency so Kirk McDonald stepped up and did MC duties. Parents reported that 180 people attended. Our Chapter was thanked along with the donations efforts made by our officers/board members that helped to raise enough money to cover ball expenses, provide cadets a few small gifts.

**Top Golf Parents Fundraiser Nov 14th 2021**. There were 7 graduates that participated and help to raise for the parents club ~2K for the All Academy Ball. The Team of Mike Brecht, James McQueen, Josh Fogle and Bob Baker were the overall winners of the entire event!

**Service Project for 2021/2022:** Kirkwood Rotary fun run, 5K and 10K runs Sept 11, 2021 served as our service project for 2021. Four grads participated in the various events and helped the group raise money for local in need charities. For 2022, Kirk will contact the Veterans community project.org about when they might have a day they need volunteers to work, or about other opportunities to get involved.

**Founder’s Day 2022 Planning:** Keith and Val did a lot of research on possible locations for the 2021 Founders day event which ended up being held at their home Oct 23, 2021 with Mr. Lacey, WWII Veteran and Battle of the Bulge Survivor, as guest speaker. Looking forward at 2022, the information gathered on the Highlands in Forest Park, Spazios at Westport, Stonewold in IL, Zia’s on the Hill, or doing something again at someone’s home with catering were all discussed. Keith will reach out to the AOG on guest speaker availability. Our top 2 choices are current Commandant of Cadets (95 grad) and the Hockey Coach. If the Hockey Coach can get a recruiting trip to St. Louis and thus get Athletic department funding, we think this could be a great speaker. Timing of our Founder’s Day will be based on availability of our speaker right now.

**Memorial Day Service:** Bob Baker/Reed reported that we may not get a ceremony this year. They will reach out to our USNA contact Mike and “Rock” from USMA. Last time anyone discussed the ceremony, Jefferson Barracks was still not offering support and assistance to us holding an event there.

**All Service Academy Golf:** Reed will reach out to the USNA and USMA contacts to see if there is interest. James McQueen offered to look at golf course options outside of Scott AFB.

**Watch Parties:** No discussed but Tim Souhrada and Elizabeth Granier are POC for USNA and Mike Brecht is still POC for the USMA party.

**Annual President’s Conference:** Not discussed this meeting

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Officers/Board Membership:** Mike Brecht and Bob Baker were re-elected to the board for another 2 year term. They will now serve 2022-2024. Reed Shafer and Pat Ellis are currently 2020-2022, and James McQueen and Mike Ziemann are currently serving 2021-2023. No change in officer positions. President still Keith Heien, Vice President Kirk McDonald, Secretary Elizabeth Granier, Treasurer Brian Lindsey. Social Media/Website Reed Shafer and Tim Souhrada

**Updates from AOG Call 4th Quarter and AOG Membership for All**: Mike Ziemann was our chapter representative on the call and provided updates that along with email blast state there is now AOG membership for all for free. Any previous members that paid for lifetime memberships will now be legacy members. This entitles them to continue to get hard copies of checkpoints and be apart of a “club” In order for graduates not currently AOG members to get this free benefit, they need to go to the USAFA AOG membership website and fill out a hyperlink. Goal is to get membership which is around 54% of total graduates as members to 85%.

**Social Hour/Networking Event 1st Quarter**. To try and ensure we get enough points for 2022, we need to have more regular social/networking events. Thought was maybe to have one this 1st quarter (Feb) during maybe a Blue’s Hockey Game. It was also entertained to look at sports teams schedules and see if any teams are coming to St. Louis area. A quick search on goaiforcesports.org showed that it does not appear any NCAA teams are heading to St. Louis anytime this spring. Clubs teams we are not able to tell. Another idea was to maybe if Men’s or Women’s Basketball teams make March Madness tourney or NIT to have an event to watch their game. Mike Brecht was put in charge to potentially plan a social event/networking event.

**AOG Focus Groups**: Elizabeth Reported that some of the AOG surveys sent out recently on graduate attitudes and association with USAFA led to formation of small focus groups being formed so AOG could gather more insight on graduate attitudes. Elizabeth was chosen for one of these groups and attended the meeting through Zoom Dec 6, 2021. The consensus was that this group of grads do wear their USAFA gear and talk proudly about being a graduate. They enjoy the opportunities usually related to sports events to gather and cheer on the USAFA teams. It was brought up that more could be done to help graduates in transition, more information on master or other graduate programs that might cater or want AF graduate and Officers. More online events of speakers and topics that graduates speak to which many felt were educational in letting them learn about the new career fields and opportunities available.

**Next Meeting:**  Tentatively the next meeting will try to be during the Week of March 14-18. Once the Airline folks get their schedules and Mike Brecht and others can look at days during that week that might be best for a lunch meeting at Lester’s in Frontenac we will settle on date/time.

**Adjournment:** With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Fontenot Granier ‘00

Secretary