



Coast Guard Academy Parents Association

February 4, 2010

Greetings Fellow Parents:

The purpose of the Parents Association is solely to support the Coast Guard Academy and its Corps of Cadets. Keeping in line with our purpose, I am pleased to inform you that the Parents Association Executive Council approved a Leadership 44 Fundraising Plan. This is a huge step in honoring the commitment that we made during Parents Weekend – to fund one of the new Leadership 44 vessels; and this plan will serve as our blueprint in raising these funds.

As many of you are aware, during our cadets' 2/c year, part of their summer experience is the Coastal Sail Training Program. For the first time, cadets are placed in leadership positions in the maritime environment on a relatively small sailing craft. For well over 40 years, this training has been aboard the Academy's fleet of 44' Luder sailboats. Although an excellent craft for its time, these boats are now difficult and expensive to maintain, and do not convey a positive image of the Academy nor the Coast Guard. With just four Luders, only about 60% of each 2/c group can train on them, while the remainder must use alternate, less satisfactory vessels or forego this important experience altogether. While replacing the Luders is a high priority for the Academy, unfortunately, funding is not available. To address this shortcoming, a campaign to replace the Luders has been initiated by the USCGA Alumni Association, the Coast Guard Foundation, and the CGA Parents Association. Our collective objective is to obtain eight state-of-the-art training vessels for the Academy to employ in the Coastal Sail Training Program and in additional leadership development activities.

Morris Yachts of Trenton, ME was contracted to build the first four boats, and production will begin in April 2010. Of these four, the Alumni Association will pay for 2, the Foundation will pay for one, and the Parents Association has committed to funding one. The first four boats will be completed by the end of 2011 and the remaining four will be completed shortly thereafter. Once all eight are completed, each CGA company will have its own boat! Additional information about the Leadership 44s, as well as the campaign, can be found at <http://www.cgaleadership44.org>. We are also working on adding a page on the Parents Association website regarding this campaign.

By now I'm sure you're wondering about the price. The cost of each boat is \$750,000. We've already received \$50,000 towards this effort and \$100,000 will come from unrestricted contributions to the Parents Pledge program. The remaining balance of \$600,000 will be paid over five years. I feel that this

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is a goal that we can achieve with the support of current parents, chapters, and even parents of past classes.

I ask you to embrace this effort and contribute towards this Leadership 44 commitment in an amount that you can afford. I also encourage you to seek matching contributions from your employer or other organizations, if such matches are possible. Granted, many of our cadets will not have an opportunity to be trained on these vessels but if history repeats itself, many of them may return to the Academy in different leadership roles. Nonetheless, our goal is for all cadets – regardless of the class year – to be able to benefit from not only a top-notch education, but top-notch training as well.

I hope you will consider making a donation. We have a very dedicated group of council members working on this Fundraising Committee, and I am confident we've adopted the best plan that will enable us to fulfill this commitment.

You may donate by sending a check, payable to the Alumni Association with PA L44 Campaign in the memo section; or by going to the website, clicking on "Donate" and following the link for a credit card donation. In either case, **please indicate that you are a parent donor**. Please send donations to:

USCGA Alumni Association
44 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-8111

Memo Line of Check: PA L44 Campaign

Food for thought . . . If every cadet family were to donate \$600, we would have the Parents Association Leadership 44 paid for!

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to supporting the Corps of Cadets.

Best Regards,

Cassandra H. Brown, President
CGA PARENTS ASSOCIATION
1/c Jonathan Scott, Foxtrot
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

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