

Parents Association
Website:
www.uscgaparents.org
(with links to local Chapter websites)

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

PARENTS NEWSLETTER



Winter 2009, Vol. 15, No. 1

The Latest Parents' News ...

From Kaye Hollifield, President, CGA Parents Association

Greetings!

At the end of the calendar year and the completion of the first semester in the academic year, it's a good time to reflect and count our blessings. They are many. In the 36 years of our association's existence, we have grown and have accomplished much as an organization while supporting each other along the way. By the same token, previous leadership and the contributions of parents of cadets now graduated have set us on solid ground to move ahead in our commitment to steadfastly support the needs of the CGA Corps of Cadets.

Before I enumerate, I'd like to direct your attention to the letter I received following Parent's Weekend this year from James Daffer, Regimental Commander. His letter is printed elsewhere in this newsletter in its entirety (page 3). Please be sure to read it and relish it as I did. It addresses the question I have occasionally heard posed, "Do the cadets really know what the CGA Parents Association is doing for them?" The answer is a resounding "YES!" While it contains some personal references to my son, it reflects the continuing and considerable impact of parents both collectively and individually on the success of the Corps of Cadets. For this reason, I have chosen to print it without omission hoping you feel the same pride in your cadet through it that I feel for the entire corps. Thank you, Cadet Daffer!

The motto that guides the Parents Association is "Somus Vobiscum" which means simply, "We are with you." Thanks go to the web team and our listmasters for upholding this motto more than any other single group. And, this year more than most, they have been in their "spare time" advancing our association and its communication systems electronically. A huge accomplishment was the transition over to the new message lists.

Following some major work and refining, requiring many hours, the message list concept envisioned by the web team and designed by David Anderson, whose daughter graduated with the Class of 2008, was successfully implemented. I watched David conceptualize and then construct this plan over several years and it was a joy to watch. His delight in enabling us to move to the message list was heartwarming. Along with the amazing Paula Smith, Swab Listmaster to the Class of 2012, who worked with David to engage and troubleshoot the first message list; we saw the fruition of a much needed update to our CGA Parents Association web communication system. Working to implement the new design behind the scene was Ken Winterberger. Ken's work on our association web site is appreciated beyond my ability to calculate. He's amazing and longsuf-

fering, always quick to respond to site needs, despite being a very busy person. Joining Ken on the web team and equally important to us current and future are web team members Dan Elder and Krishna Subramanian. Our photomasters Judy Olsen and Pat Turner complete our web team. These volunteers could never be paid what they have been, and continue to be, worth to our organization. Thank you!

Following up on the new message list format required another invaluable volunteer group lead by our Corresponding Secretary, Craig Neilsen. Craig has spent endless hours moving all four classes and the prep school group from the old lists to the new message format. His hardy group of wonder workers (also known as listmasters) accomplished this so that we were only moderately aware of the change and almost oblivious to the work required for the task. In addition to transitioning the 2011 List on his own, Craig was assisted by our always reliable listmasters: Jo Ann Lane (2009), Terri Grier (2010), Linda Strathman (2012), and Julie Jefferson (Prep). Thanks to you all for your maintenance of our lists and the additional work those transitioning had to do. Also, welcome, Linda, to the ranks of our listmaster heroes!

Now, as I indicated to the group of 2012 parents I spoke to on R-Day, I am taking the liberty of sharing my personal story and how much the CGA Parents Association has meant to me and my family. As my beloved class of 2009 already knows, on May 23, 2006, I received the phone call that my dear husband of 37 years had suddenly died following a game of handball, a game he played every Tuesday night for 30 years. Fortunately, a doctor was in the group of players and everything that could have possibly been done was done. It was just his time. Our cadet was in Honolulu, Hawaii on the cutter Jarvis when he lost his dad. As I indicated when I spoke to the 2012 last summer, the Coast Guard moved mountains to get him home to us in a matter of hours and provided him with adequate bereavement leave, in addition to their many sincere condolences.

What I most want to convey in this personal narrative is the unbelievable support of the parents of 2009. Our family

Coming Events at USCGA

March 5

Billet Night

March 7-15

Cadet Spring Leave

March 26-27

Ethics Forum

April 9

Dining In

May 20

Commencement

Coast Guard Academy Parents Association

The *Parents Newsletter* is published three times per year. Copies of the *Newsletter* are mailed to all dues paying members of the Parents Association.

Membership in the Coast Guard Academy Parents Association is \$125 for the period of time your son or daughter is a cadet attending the Academy and includes a 1-year associate membership in the USCGA Alumni Association. Dues may be paid by check or credit card. Local chapters may also assess dues in addition to the dues assessed by the CGA Parents Association.

Parents of cadets may renew their associate membership in the USCGA Alumni Association at any time. Dues for Associate Members of the Alumni Association are \$66 per year or \$180 for three years. Membership includes the bimonthly magazine, *The Bulletin*, discounted rates at area hotels/spa and conference centers, Joint Academy Travel Program, among other new and exciting benefits.

For additional information about joining the Parents Association and the Alumni Association, call 860. 442.2683 ext.17, e-mail: cgaalumni@CGAalumni.org, or write to: USCGA Alumni Association, 47 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320-8111.

CGA Parents Association Website:
www.uscgaparents.org

USCGA Alumni Association Website:
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CGA Parents Association Executive Council

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From the President

received cards, phone calls, emails, visits, floral tributes, offers of hospitality, and gifts in an amazing outpouring. A precious 2009 mother even met James at the airport and personally delivered him back to the academy when his leave ended. Without the listserv (now message boards) provided by our organization, we could never have developed such a closeness and ability to respond so compassionately in time of need. I requested that our situation be shared with the other class lists and there was much support from these as well. It was my thought that, hard as our situation was to bear, it was important for other parents to see how strongly the Coast Guard and the Academy were there for us and how such a sad situation was handled with great compassion as well as efficiency. The response of my fellow parents was amazing and so very helpful to our family in ways I can never enumerate. To the 2009, I will always be so grateful for you and "our" amazing cadets. I am unashamed of the pride I feel to belong to this class. You have set the bar and it will be up to the classes who follow us to exceed it.

It is my hope in sharing that my fellow parents realize the far reaching advantages of membership in our organization. Not only are we providing for the Corps needs such as transportation, club support, copier service, day room amenities, etc.; we have established endowments to see that meeting these needs will go on despite any shortfall. Through the CGA Parents Association message boards and through our chapter activities, where they are available, we as parents find a means of mutual sustenance and of learning how we can support our cadets individually while letting these enlistees move ahead in learning to become the officers they wish to become and that our great country needs.

While we are a geographically widespread group; our association especially through our web site, is cohesive. Additionally, chapters established within the association play a large role both currently as well as in the past. Sometimes it gets confusing; however, there is no "national" connected with the Coast Guard Academy Parents Association. Chapters are sanctioned and operate within the CGAPA. If there is a chapter operating in your area, please take as active a part as you can. In looking back at the history of our group, almost all of the initiatives we have undertaken have been made possible by the work of chapters including the endowments. Without funds generated through and donated from chapter activities, we would be far behind where we are now, especially fiscally, as an association. If there is no chapter in your area, consider starting one! That's what we did in the Carolinas with very satisfactory results. You may contact me or any member of the Executive Council to learn how you would go about this process.

Finally, I want to thank each one of you who supported our fundraising effort for the Parents Gift Fund this fall through the Alumni Association under whose umbrella we operate for our tax exempt status. Our membership dues, a one time payment of \$125 for all four years, provide about \$10,000 annually. This covers the cost of our newsletters and the continental "pick-ups" prior to the annual meeting on Parents' Weekend each year. . . just barely! Our Executive Council is unpaid and we bear all our own expenses. The requested needs from the Academy for the Corps of Cadets for this year approaches \$65,000. We could not do it without parent generosity as well as chapter fundraising efforts. As a member of the Executive Council for the last three years, I've seen firsthand that funding for requested needs increases each year. I am so grateful that we are able to continue to support the needs of our cadets and our academy to such an extent. The Coast Guard Academy Corps of Cadets may be smaller than others but they are no less deserving!

I extend to each of you my very best regards for a happy and healthy new year.

Kaye M. Hollifield, President
Coast Guard Academy Parents Association
PO Box 1875
Lewisburg, WV 24901

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Letter from Regimental Commander, USCGA

Dear Mrs. Hollifield:

Greetings Mrs. Hollifield! My Name is James Daffer, and I had the deep privilege of escorting you during the review of the Corps of Cadets that took place Parent's Weekend. On behalf of the Corps of Cadets, I want to thank you and the Parent's Association for all you do to support us. Cadets are well aware of the number of activities and morale events that would not be possible without your continued leadership and support. Already this semester the Parents Association has helped to support major morale events including a trip to Springfield, Massachusetts for the Eastern States Exposition and a trip to Bristol, Connecticut to visit Lake Compounce. We often become so overwhelmed by our many time constraints that we do not pause and take the time to thank our parents for always standing behind us and providing the necessary hometown support that helps us to cross the finish line after four long and rewarding years here at the academy. I hope that in your view, we made up some of that ground over Parent's Weekend.

As I mentioned to you during the regimental review, I rowed crew with James during our 4/c year. Though both of us discovered that our interests lay elsewhere, his temperance, demeanor, and success at the academy has always impressed me as a friend and classmate. Though I speak with little authority when it comes to these matters, I can tell you that my parents are a primary reason for my continued motivation and perseverance at the academy, and I would posit that you have filled a similar role for James.

Please share with the rest of the officers and members of our Parent's Association the deep gratitude of the Corps of Cadets, and our sincerest thanks for your pledged support of our cadet activities fund for this academic year. It was truly an honor for me to meet you ma'am, and I look forward to seeing you again during the week of our graduation events, if not sooner.

Sincerely,

J.S. Daffer
Regimental Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Chapter Happenings

Captain Paul F. Foye, CT-Area Chapter

Our Chapter participated in both R-Day and Homecoming by staffing tables in Leamy Hall, welcoming parents and guests and selling scrapbooking supplies along with Ensign Edibles orders.

STARS DESSERT – This event was held for the Fall Semester on Thursday, November 13th, 2008. Our geographic proximity to the Academy affords us the privilege and the responsibility of hosting and funding this event, which takes place each semester to honor those cadets who earned any, all or a combination of the Academic (Gold), Military (Silver) or Athletic (Blue) stars of excellence for their uniforms during the previous semester. In addition to our themed item, Apple Pie Ala Mode or with Cheddar Cheese, celebrating Fall in New England, we served a combination of specialty pies and cakes along with a chocolate fountain complete with a repertoire of various dippings - cookies, pretzels, marshmallows, fruit, etc. Special thanks to those of our Chapter Parents who baked homemade apple pies, assisted with set-up, serving and clean-up.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE AND SOCIAL – The third annual Holiday Social and Cadet Cookie Exchange was held on Sunday, December 7, 2008 in Alumni Hall. The CAPT Paul Foye Chapter hosted this event in partnership with the New England Chapter. This annual event is enthusiastically attended by bakers and members from both Chapters. Over 10,000 cookies and various candies are contributed and result in many large cookie trays for each of the 8 company dayrooms, a tray for the Watch Office,

CGA Parents Association Members-at-Large (Term '08-'10)

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**Parents Association Website:
www.uscgaparents.org**

Chapter Happenings

a tray for Regimental Staff, a tray for each of the Officers in residence and trays also for campus security – both the main office as well as the guard hut at the main entrance. Thanks to Diane Nielsen from the CAPT Paul Foye Chapter who serves as chairperson for the event. Diane coordinated the bakers and also provided mulled cider for the event, while we assembled the cookie trays, enjoyed the fellowship with each other, sampled the goodies and listened to holiday music. This event is pure fun and good will and is also attended by many of our chapter cadets who brought friends to sample the goodies during the event. Both Chapters receive big thanks from all constituents served – the cadets, the Officers in Residence and from parents across the country who cannot attend but appreciate the effort and support shown to the entire Corps of Cadets. Hopefully this will continue to be an annual event and transcend the current leadership tenure of the Officers of both Chapters.

ANNUAL PROSPECTIVE CADET LUNCHEON – This is another annual event co-hosted by both the CAPT Paul Foye Chapter and the New England Chapter. Working cooperatively with LCDR Octavia Poole, Director of Recruiting for USCGA, our chapters hold a luncheon for prospective cadets in the application/admissions process from the CT and greater New England area. The event will be held this year the Sunday prior to Super Bowl Sunday in early 2009. This date is specifically targeted for the week before Super Bowl Sunday in an effort to encourage maximum attendance. Our current USCGA cadets come to speak to the students and the various Chapter members who came contribute to the potluck lunch and speak with the parents of the students. In addition to lunch, Q&A, cadet-on-student discussion, and chapter member-on-parent discussion, a representative from Admissions will also attend and speak to the group about the application process.

ENSIGN EDIBLES – Our geographic proximity to the Academy permits us to offer customized Care Packages personalized with a note from home and delivered to the Watch Office. This is both a valuable service to swabs and cadets whose families live far away while it serves as our principle fundraiser. Fall specials included an Energy Package, in addition to our ala carte offerings. We update the specials periodically over the course of the academic semester and partner with the MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) Office to offer “new” items for purchase such as Dry Dock coupons and Bowling Coupons. Orders may be placed via the web with electronic payment by visiting the following site: www.uscgaparents.org/chapter/CaptPaulFoye/EnsignEdibles.htm

-Niles Pierson, Co-President

Chesapeake and Potomac

During the first weekend of the Academy's Spring Break 2008, the Coast Guard men's lacrosse club traveled to the DC area to take on the University of Maryland's men's club team and the club team from George Washington University. After each game the Chapter and team families hosted tailgate dinners. Saturday CGA dropped a hard fought game against Maryland that featured almost every weather phenomenon but snow! Sunday the CGA team was victorious over GWU in much more pleasant weather. Over the course of the two days the chapter and team families hosted meals for almost 140 players, coaches and CG fans. Go BEARS LAX!!

On Sunday May 31, the chapter held its annual Appointees Picnic at the Anchorage Club, Coast Guard TISCOM in Alexandria, VA. The Chapter welcomed the families of 26 appointees from PA, MD and VA for a picnic and information session. Three members of the Classes of 2009 and 2010 were also on hand to share their knowledge with the appointees. Our thanks go to Carroll Chase (P'11) for organizing this very popular and successful event.

The C&P Chapter would like to recognize CG TISCOM (Telecommunication and Information Systems Command) for its role as a frequent host to Chapter activities. CG TISCOM is home to the U.S. Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard and is located on land that was once part of George Washington's Mount

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Chapter Happenings

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On June 29, 2008, in cooperation with the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Parent's Association, C&P hosted the annual Pre R-Day Social. This event was held on the balcony of Leamy Hall the evening before R-Day and allowed the swabs to meet other swabs and their families in a relaxed atmosphere. Attendance was terrific with over 600 swabs, family members and friends participating!! Thanks to Melanie Langston (P'10) for her efforts and thanks to our sister chapter Delaware Valley for co-hosting with us again!

A chapter meeting was held August 23rd in Bethesda, MD, where we formally welcomed parents of the Class of 2012 into the chapter and renewed our ties with parents of the Classes of 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The chapter had a table at Leamy Hall on Friday and Saturday of Parents Weekend. Don Hager (P'11), Chair (and sole member....) of our Ways and Means Committee pulled together a terrific selection of new items available for sale in our fundraising efforts supporting the Corps of Cadets.

On a final note, our chapter supported the upcoming Joint Service Academies Ball in the National Capital Area. This year's ball was held on December 27, 2008, at the Sheraton Premiere, Tysons Corner, VA and was sponsored by the Parents Club from the Air Force Academy. In December of 2009, the JSAB will be co-hosted by the local parents clubs of the CGA and the Merchant Marine Academy.

-Lou Hepp, President

Delaware Valley Chapter

Since our last report, the Delaware Valley Chapter conducted our fall general membership meeting on Friday, September 19, 2008 at the academy during Parents Weekend. We had great participation, particularly from parents of 2012 cadets. As a result of the record breaking sales during R-Day and Parents Weekend by our Ways & Means committee, we were able to donate \$2000 to the National Parents Association for cadet activities.

During the fall, two members of the Delaware Valley Chapter provided support to the organization efforts for the upcoming All Academies Ball in the Delaware Valley Area. This year's ball will be held on December 26, 2008 at the Union League in Philadelphia. Our chapter donated \$500 and collected independent donations for gift-cards to be distributed to the cadets in attendance.

We conducted our winter general membership meeting on December 7, 2008 at the USCG Station in Philadelphia, PA. In addition to approximately 25 chapter members, we hosted a 2013 appointee and her family

members. Our next scheduled meeting will be held in April 2009 during which we will elect our officers for 2009-2010 Delaware Valley Chapter. That meeting will be very important since we will conduct final planning for our Spring Welcome Picnic for incoming cadets as well as planning for the pre R-Day Social on June 28, 2009.

Our chapter membership currently stands at 82 families for the classes of 2009 through 2012. We continue to hold our meetings at various Coast Guard facilities within the DE, NJ, & PA areas in order to have an opportunity for our members from different locations within our region attend.

-Paul D. Kauffman, President

Florida Chapter

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year to all, from the Florida Chapter.

I must first start out by saying thank you to everyone that purchased one of the outstanding tapestries we had available for purchase. Your fine heirloom blanket will forever keep you and your family warm as well as help support the many cadet services the Parent Association funds.

Many thanks go out to Bill Korn of Brooksville, Florida for conceiving this fantastic idea. I am pleased to inform you that this will be an ongoing project for our Chapter, so if you still would like a tapestry please contact us at BradLr1@msn.com and we will get you the purchasing information right away.

During Parents Weekend the Florida Chapter presented Admiral Burhoe and Captain Fitzgerald each with a tapestry in gratitude for their outstanding contributions and leadership with the development of our Cadets as future Officers. Thank you.

On November 8th Debbie, our daughter Dana and I were able to go back to the Academy for the last football game of the season for the Bears, and for our seniors. Florida's only senior was 1/c Brian Dykens. Other cadet sightings around base were 2/c Jon Jaffares, 4/c Matt Baldwin, and 2/c Abbey Harms. All were looking outstanding and were in great spirits. The Bears unfortunately lost but a great time was had by all as we watched the game. Autumn is a fantastic season at the Academy with all the colors of the season blended with the hills and bricks it is really a sight to behold, a trip worth taking in sometime.

The holidays also mark another important milestone in our Cadet's lives; we are half way through the year. (Cue: the jump for joy.) There are many All Academy Military Balls around the country available for you to attend and events to catch up upon. I hope that you are able

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Carolinas Icarus Chapter — Gary and Marian Ward (Maggie '09 & Katie '12); 919.362.1708; Tekward@aol.com
Chesapeake & Potomac Chapter — Louis Hepp (Christopher '10); (301) 320-9605; LouH5ABC@aol.com
Delaware Valley Chapter— Paul Kauffman (Andrew '09); 610.459.1818; pkauffman40@verizon.net
Florida Chapter — Brad & Debbie Dykens (Brian '09); 727.347.0575; bradlr1@msn.com

Chapter Happenings

to attend a Ball as they are an inspiring event celebrating your Cadet's commitment and achievements as they train to serve their country.

When our cadets return to the Academy they will experience the dreaded "Dark Ages". Those of you from the north appreciate what I mean. The night is longer than the day and by 18:30 you feel like it's midnight. To remedy this we put together Dark Ages gifts that enable our cadets to get through this period. We are planning on having a Dark Ages gift gathering in mid-January, place and time TBA. Check your e-mail accounts for more info coming on this.

The fall is also a very active period of time for the Academy Admissions Partners. This terrific group of volunteers lead by Tamara McKenna serves as local representation for the Academy and presents information to interested students wanting to become cadets. I encourage you to get involved with this wonderful group and spread the word.

I have already interviewed several fine young people as potential cadets and it is heartwarming to see and hear the inspiring stories of these kids and it makes me proud to be living in this great country we call "The United States of America".

As parents of a First Class cadet we are proud to be nearing the end of our journey with our son. This is bittersweet however as over the years we have made some outstanding friends and have experienced some incredible times. With this in mind, it is time to hand over the mantle of leadership of this fine group. I and Tony O'Brien will be vacating our offices this spring. Over the past few months in anticipation of this, I have spoken to quite a few parents. I would like to officially ask of any Florida Parents (even the ones that spoke to me at Parents Weekend) that would like to serve as either President or Vice President to please contact me at BradLr1@msn.com with your intent to serve.

The CGAPA Florida Chapter is a vibrant group of wonderful family members that have embraced the mission of serving our cadets, Debbie and I are so proud to have been a part of this fine group.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon. Until next time.....Semper Paratus

- Bradford (Brad) Dyken, Co-President

Northwest Chapter

The Northwest chapter had the great pleasure of hosting Eagle at the Tacoma Tall Ships festival this summer over the 4th of July weekend. We are a small, scattered chapter covering Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska (at least on paper) but were able to host a well

received hospitality area for the cadets and crew of the Eagle, as well as any other Coastie that came by. Quite a few of the cadets took advantage of the cookies and drinks, free movie passes, transportation to various destinations in the Seattle/Tacoma area and the many offers of homemade meals, time away from Eagle, unlimited hot showers and beds wider than 2' without something 18" above them. Several groups journeyed on day hikes to Mt Rainier and experienced why western Washington is so green.

In addition to providing the hospitality area, our chapter was also part of the Tall Ship Festival and hosted an information table on Eagle and the Coast Guard Academy in the Foss Maritime Museum. We fielded many questions about the Academy and hopefully sparked some interest in some of the high school students we talked to.

A special thank you to the Foss Company. They not only sponsored the Eagle but also provided us with space to set up our hospitality area and fantastic logistical support. Also, a special thank you needs to go to Carol Prange (Jordan 2011) who contacted Foss for the space, coordinated all the volunteers, donations and food for the event. And thank you to everyone that helped out in anyway, I think that everyone involved had a fantastic time.

Our chapter ended the year with a potluck and tour of the ice breaker Healy at Sector Seattle. At that meeting the chapter presidency was turned over to Matt and Ann McCune (Zachary 2011) and Michelle Berg (Alex 2012) in a VP roll. This past year as chapter presidents has been as interesting as the 4 years ride to graduation. Good luck to all the current classes and we are quite confident the chapter is in good hands.

-David
& Kathy
Anderson



The Eagle in Seattle



A group of cadets in Rainier

Georgia Chapter — Debby Parker (Daniel '08); 770.591.8172; parkerfamily9@yahoo.com
Golden Gate Chapter — Daniel & Helen Crump (Helen '09); 916.789.8493; crumpd@surewest.net
Great Lakes Chapter — Robert Murray (Travis, '09); 815.730.8583; murray_robert_d@cat.com
Greater Los Angeles Chapter — Stephanni Jones (Micah Knight '10); 323.753.2823; jeffin@ca.rr.com
Greater New York Chapter — Frank Rodino (Philip '09); FJRodino@aol.com; 973.479.5130
VADM Robert T. Nelson Chapter (W. PA, OH, & WV) — Interim Contact Nancy Tongol (Kelly '03); ntongol@aol.com

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Chapter Happenings

Rocky Mountain Chapter

Since we last visited, our parents have planned a number of functions. Our June "Welcome Barbeque" was a fantastic success with many parents and their future Swabs making acquaintances with those of us who are "seasoned" parents. We recruited parents attending to be thinking of holding office replacing our outgoing 2009 parents as well. We are pleased to introduce our new president Linda Strathman, whose son Evan is a 4/c. We thank our retiring leader Linda Gruver for her fabulous job of keeping us all informed and planning our annual events from the welcome events, to our twice-a-year potlucks. At our potlucks we share stories about our cadets over our meal and then package up goodies we forward to our cadets to get them through the study times preparing for finals each semester. It's as much fun for the parents in Colorado as we understand it is for our cadets to receive the bags of snacks, powdered beverages, batteries, etc. to get them through the long days and their finals.

Parents' Weekend '08 was a great success. You might remember our table with the many buttons, car air fresheners in helmets, our lovable Gumby pins along with pens and pins. It was good to visit with all who stopped by.

We are now looking forward to seeing our cadets for Christmas break, sharing their many accomplishments, stories of academy life and adventures that they have taken. Some of our parents have been hard at work all year preparing for the festive upcoming Colorado All Service Academy Ball to be held at the world-class Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs on Saturday evening, December 27th. Rear Admiral Christopher Colvin (USNORTHCOM) will be our guest speaker for the event. This year we co-host the ball with the US Merchant Marine Academy Colorado Parents' Association. It is our way to give applause and tribute to our cadets and midshipmen's hard work and outstanding accomplishments. They are our finest!

We wish all of our Coastie families a wonderful holiday season, safe journeys and an awesome 2009!

-Anna Lee Halsig

Upstate New York Chapter

The Upstate New York Chapter is pleased to announce new leadership beginning after graduation, Spring '09. Sarah Hafensteiner (President) and Katie Campbell (Secretary) will be giving up their posts upon their sons' commissioning. We welcome the newly appointed leadership and hope to continue fostering open and frequent communication among the parents to benefit the Corps of Cadets.

- Nancy Stevens (Kevin, '11) will assume the role of President of the Chapter.
- Tari Otabara (Tyler, '12) will serve as co Vice-President along with current Western NY VP, Helen Walsh (Luke, '10).
- Mary Sue Hamlet (Amanda, '12) will bring her expertise as a Navy Mom and serve the membership as Secretary.
- Maya and Pat Hennebery (Michael, '10) will continue to serve as Co-Treasurers.

Thank you for your continued support of our cadets, Sarah and Katie. The Chapter is looking forward to many new and exciting events and activities under the new leadership and is in very capable hands for the next few years.

We had a very successful Parents Weekend, especially with the introduction of our new fundraising items, Christmas note cards and Eagle scratch pads. The Christmas cards come packaged in sets of 8, four of the Chapel and four of the Eagle, complete with green envelopes. Priced right at \$10.00 each plus S & H. The scratch pads have a lovely rendering of the majestic Eagle, by artist William Cook.

We once again offered goodie bags to those cadets whose parents have joined the Chapter and are current in their dues. The goodie bags are supposed to bring good thoughts and well wishes from home at final exam time. Some comments from the recipients exclaimed, "best goodie bag EVER" and "a HUGE surprise!" We know the cadets love to receive them and are now getting used to seeing bags of munchies from the Chapter.

New York State is honored to have two All Academy Holiday Balls this year. Both fall on the same date, Dec. 27. The Capital District All Academy Ball is being hosted and sponsored by the CGA Parents Association of Upstate NY. RADM J. Scott Burhoe, Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, is the featured speaker and honored guest at this event. Further information and an invitation and reservation form are still available through Katie Campbell at dcampbell12@nycap.rr.com.

The same evening is the Central NY All Service Academies Ball at the Calvary Club in Manlius, NY. The speaker is Col. Bill Smullen (ret) of the Maxwell School of Public Affairs of Syracuse University. For details, contact Donna Walker at donnaw@twcny.rr.com.

Two of our own have been appointed leadership roles in the Corps of Cadets. First class Tommy Olson has been named the Regimental Commander for the Spring '09 semester and 1/c Sam Hafensteiner will serve as Foxtrot Company Commander. Change of Command ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 5, 2009. Heartiest congratulations.

-Katie Campbell, Secretary

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Northwest Chapter — David & Kathy Anderson (Lina '08); 425.486.4243; de_anderson@hotmail.com

Rocky Mountain Chapter — Linda Strathman (Evan '12); 303.937.6016; lindastrathman@comcast.net

San Diego Chapter — Mike Ramirez (Jackie '10); 619.884.7905; mikeramirez2@hotmail.com

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