

COAST GUARD ACADEMY PARENTS ASSOCIATION
Executive Council Meeting
USCGA, Officers' Club
September 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President Cassandra Brown.

Members Present: J. David Beshoar, Romeo and Cassandra Brown, Edward Collins, Harold Gracey, Kaye Hollifield, Bill and Elizabeth Korn, Lizann Miller, Kelly Morgan, Craig Nielsen, Duncan Pitcairn, Stephanie Prefer, Frank Rodino, Bill Van Cleave, Tim Van Cleef, Mike Ramirez, Stehpahni Jones, Linda Strathman, Marian Ward, Bob Pray, Elena Salinas, Angel Womack, Brock Volkman, Alice and Nevin Wiest,

Academy Staff: RADM Burhoe, Dr. Colella, CAPT Bibeau, CAPT Fitzgerald, Dr. Cieplik, CAPT Fauntleroy

Guests: Tamara McKenna, Jim Sylvester, John Maxham, Mike and Debra Knaeble, Carolyn Hohenberger, Tari Otabara, Chip Coleman, Maria Larsen, Douglas Sankey, Deb and Richard Tatara

Academy Report:

The Superintendent and his staff provided the group with status reports of CGA activities.

RADM Burhoe (Superintendent) provided some information on the drug problem discovered over the summer. In response to a question on morale since this incident he reported that he believes the cadets have put this behind them and moved on. He also noted that due to the changes in the swab summer, he and his staff believe that the swabs emerged from the experience with better leadership skills. He explained that the purpose of the Academy was to prepare the cadets for the 30 years after they leave the academy, and in so doing they must be given what they need, which isn't always what they want. He noted that the Academy continues to move up in ranking in US News and World Report and other reports such as this. He also noted that the Academy's regional accreditation visit will be in March of 2011. This is very important for the college and is consuming much of everyone's time. All engineering programs have received accreditation. There are many capitol improvements going on, which can be seen in all of the construction. The improvements include updating of the rowing center, the new roof on Leamy Hall, and the athletic facilities. Also in the plans is a new indoor range by the Child Development Center.

Dr. Colella said he has asked instructors to focus on quality, face-to-face interaction. He said convocation was beautiful. And the superintendent had used the opportunity to talk about what happened over summer and the challenges ahead. Summer school students were embarrassed by what was going on during the summer. He would like to work on improving life for summer school students. He gave an update on improvements in facility and equipment in academic halls and on transforming the library into a learning center. He mentioned what a big deal regional accreditation is. They will try to always

keep assessment and accommodation measures in place so future accreditation visits are less stressful and time intensive. The strategic plan is coming out at the same time as the accreditation. There is a lot going on with government policies that are affecting the curriculum. The curriculum has always been and will continue to be rigid. They need to continually evaluate how it affects the Coast Guard.

When Capt Bibeau rose to speak, Admiral Burhoe announced that she will be retiring this year and has professionalized the admissions process. Because of her, the Academy has the best admissions office in the country.

CAPT Bibeau thanked Cassandra and the Parents Association for the parent to parent calls. She reported that the class of 2013 admission saw an improvement in growth and selection. Some of this may be attributed to the economy, but the USCGA saw double the growth of the other academies. This enabled the Academy to be very exclusive as far as academy needs. There was a 36% increase in the number of underrepresented students. Admissions changed how they looked at applicants. There was more of an emphasis on character and not strictly on test scores and class rank. The faculty reports the class is more engaged and motivated. The class of 2014-will be a bit smaller and with the economy as it is, should be a very competitive year. The Superintendent interjected that the Coast Guard does not need to grow the officer corps at this time. They will have many less in officer candidate school and since the retention rate is higher they need to bring fewer cadets. Capt Bibeau noted that we are dealing with congressional appointment round three, and she informed the council that the Admissions Office could use parents' help with the on-line community: You Tube, Facebook, My Space, and College Confidential.

CAPT Fitzgerald thanked the Parents Association for all its support, financial and social. He particularly wanted to thank the listmasters for helping the 4/c parents. He reports that he holds study hour sacred because the cadets can't go to the field if they don't get a degree. He believes the cadets lead by example and have a positive attitude and enthusiasm. The CGA calendar is now mandatory for cadets and it's available in the bookstore for parents. He noted that Chase Hall construction remains on track. He plans to put new, cadet proof furniture, in day rooms by Christmas. Capt Fitzgerald gave kudos to the regimental staff. He said they were pushing the corps to excel. He gave an update on the Swine flu: 45 cadets were diagnosed over the summer; have not had any since the fall semester started, but they are prepared for it. He reported that the 4/c cadets were issued Macintosh notebooks this year for the first time. Upper class can switch over to the Mac notebook, but cannot charge it to their white card account.

CAPT Fitzgerald asked that parents help in the following ways:

1. Remind your cadets that they must prepare ahead of time if they wish to do foreign travel. There are 6 hours of required annual training that cadets have to do and they must also get a request well in advance of the trip. He advised parents to not purchase tickets until the cadet has approval to travel. He noted there were 240 requests last spring break. The requests can't be processed at the last minute.

2. Talk with cadets about alcohol. Cadets can't drink under the age of 21, even in another country. If they are over 21, they should drink responsibly. Cadets can't rent mopeds even if allowed in another country.

CAPT Fitzgerald gave an update on 3/c Kenneth Link. He reported that he is beginning to make progress in his recovery; he has taken a few steps and will soon start speech therapy. Medical officers are working with the family and they are hoping he will be discharged from rehab before the end of the year.

Dr. Cieplik, the athletic director, is also responsible for physical fitness of all cadets. He emphasized that the cadet must stay in shape year round. This is their responsibility. There are nice exercise facilities for cadets. There is a need for a new aquatics center, which is on the drawing board. The Academy sponsors the most popular sports and also those unique to a water-based campus. There are 23 sports at this time. The challenge is not having too many sports so the Academy can maintain competitiveness with peers.

CAPT Fauntleroy reported that many cadets celebrated Rash Hashanah last week and that several went to Yale the week before for a Ramadan dinner. He stressed that there are many chaplains in every building on campus, not just the chaplain staff. He noted there's a new Interfaith Council initiative to broaden knowledge of other faith groups.

Introduction of all in the room

Council Officer Reports:

Elizabeth Miller (Recording Secretary) reported the minutes of the June 28, 2009 meeting were approved electronically.

Duncan Pitcairn (Treasurer) noted that the Treasurer's report had been distributed by email prior to the meeting to give everyone an opportunity to review it prior to today's meeting. He provided updated financial information for the Parents Association.

A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasure's report.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Parents Association
Financial Summary
September 10, 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Parents Association Dues Paid:	\$13,230.00	\$13,705.00
Parents Association Income:	\$ 805.00	\$ 355.00
Parents Association Expenses: (Newsletters, Refreshments, Awards, etc)	\$12,216.23	\$ 4,803.07

Fund Balances as of 9/10/09:

Parents Cadet Transportation Endowment \$167,333.89**
Parents Cadet Activities Endowment Balance: \$175,116.76***

**Funds Available to be distributed from Parents Cadet Transportation
Endowment in calendar year 2009: \$4,386.00 Funds spent YTD: \$0.00

***Funds Available to be distributed from Parents Cadet Activities
Endowment in calendar year 2009: \$5,224.00 Funds spent YTD: \$0.00

Parents Gift Fund Balance at 1/1/09: \$123,888.66

Revenues \$ 73,466.25

Transfers to Endowments \$ 80,000.00

(\$20,000 to Parents Cadet Activity Endowment)

(\$20,000 to Parents Transportation Endowment)

(\$40,000 to Leadership 44 Fund)

Expenses \$ 64,560.45

(\$59,090.45 for Cadet Activity Support)

(\$ 170.00 for R-Day reception)

(\$ 5,300.00 for Holly Ball sponsorship)*

*This money comes to us for sponsors
to get the tax donation and then the
money goes right back out for expenses

Net Change (\$71,094.20)

Parents Gift Fund Balance at 9/10/09: \$ 52,794.46

Total Association Leadership 44 Contributions: \$ 43,909.00

Duncan noted that the Great Lakes Chapter presented a check today in the amount of \$1500 for the Parent's Gift Fund; and the Greater New York Chapter presented a check today for the Leadership 44 fund in the amount of \$2000.

Craig Neilsen (Vice-president) reported that Jo Ann Lane will be the Listmaster for the Class of 2013. He also announced that Bill and Marie Starsinic and Virginia Redstone were appointed as 2011 Members at Large, replacing Bill Korn and Stephanie Prefer; and Robin Donahey was appointed as a 2012 Member at Large, replacing Phil and Eileen Hipe.

The slate of nominees for 2013 Members at Large were presented: Col. Bernard Hyland, Douglas Sankey, Mike and Carolyn Knaup, and Mike Knaeble.

Jo Ann Lane (Corresponding Secretary) - thanked LCDR Felger for giving answers to all the listmaster questions. She also reported that Paula Smith will help train incoming listmasters.

Cassandra reported that Ken Winterberger, webmaster, could not attend today's meeting but he forwarded copies of his report regarding the updating of the Parents Association website. In his report he noted that the new format will go live in October.

Tamara Makenna gave a briefing on the Admissions Partner Program. She noted that the Admissions Office couldn't do what they do without the Admissions Partners. Some of the ways they have volunteered their time this year to promote the Coast Guard Academy include:

- Many, many college fairs
- 400 applicant interview
- 150 presentations of accepted cadets
- Numerous congressional contacts

She reminded the council that to become a volunteer, a 1 hour online training and a simple background check are required in order to be given access to the portal to help students with application process. She announced a Partner meeting will be held at 1:00 PM today, September 25, in the ground level of the library. Ms. Makenna thanked Cassandra for help with contacting the parents of the 2014 underrepresented minorities who have expressed an interest in the Coast Guard Academy. Good results came of this effort.

Old Business:

Cassandra reported that the Admissions Office helped to communicate with 2013 parents to become part of the Parents Association. Next year we hope to be able to put a Parents Association letter in the packet going to cadets who have accepted appointments. As of last night, September 24, there were 625 families who were members. It was noted that Parents Weekend is big enrolment time.

In anticipation of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By Laws being approved at tomorrow's General Membership meeting, Cassandra asked the Membership Committee to begin the implementation of the new chapter/membership structure. Serving on this committee will be Craig Neilson (Chair), David Beshoar, Lizann Miller, Stephanie Jones, and Bill Korn. The committee was asked to report the new process at the spring council meeting.

Kelly Morgan gave an update on the Leadership 44 Campaign by starting out with a little history. The plans for the Leadership 44 boats changed in January 2009 when the decision was made not to piggy back on naval academy boat order. There had been problems with the Naval Academy boats, which left the door opened to choose the right

boat for the CGA. The Naval Academy design was modified and improved, which resulted in a better boat with cleaner lines. Twelve builders were asked for bids, which were worked down to 8, then 5, from which there were three credible proposals. A boat builder from the Bass Harbor area was chosen. Each boat will cost \$650,000 roughly. The Coast Guard will be providing 150,000 per boat in equipment. The Parents Association wanted to do the best we could to support one boat. The first boat should be on the waterfront in 2010; 8 boats by spring 2011. The question is how we are going to pay for these boats. The fund raising effort needs to be focused and to that end a committee needs to be formed to take charge. The gift fund is a possible place to get some of the funding as well as money from chapters. Kelly suggested the Parents Association set up a campaign, or use website to garner donations. Other questions, suggestions and concerns: Timeline - probably can't do in a year or two; can borrow-upfront funding and pay back overtime – not from bank but from other associations. Another source could be parents with deep pockets or yacht clubs willing to fund.

A motion was made and approved that the Executive Council officially accepts Leadership 44 as a fund raising project of the Parents Association in conjunction with the Alumni Association and the Coast Guard Foundation and establish a committee to lead the fund raising effort.

A Fundraising Committee was established for the sole purpose of raising money to fund one boat. Serving on the Fundraising Committee will be Duncan Pitcairn (Chair), Ed Collins, Dave Beshoar, Mike Kaenble, and Tim VanClef.

Jim Sylvester, President of the Alumni Association, presented the Executive Council with options for the Parents Association to consider in its support of the Leadership 44s. A discussion ensued, and Cassandra asked that further discussion be tabled until our next meeting, for the sake of time. However, it was agreed that a committee would be established to look into whether it's in the best interest of the Parents Association to dissolve the endowments or keep them in place as originally intended. It was suggested that Dom DiIulio would be asked to join the committee as a consultant, and the committee would present a report at our next meeting.

New Business:

The Council voted and approved the Slate of Members-at-Large for class of 2013 (as named outlined earlier in the meeting). The slate will be ratified at tomorrow's General Membership meeting.

John Maxham, Alumni Association, gave an update on the Library Reading Room in Waesche Hall. The reading room was created several years ago to provide the cadets with an attractive reading room with a coffee shop atmosphere, with the intent of drawing cadets to the library. He informed the council that funds had been provided for the past few years by a donor; but this year they're running short on financial support. John noted that during a typical year, cadets go through about \$3,500 in coffee supplies; and he informed the council that \$2,500 is needed to fund it for this year. He would like the

Parents Association to provide funding for this year and consider supporting it on a regular basis.

A motion was made and approved to provide \$2,500 for the library this year; and it was agreed that this cost could be added to the Commandant of Cadet's annual funding request in subsequent years and paid by the Parents Association.

Chapter Reports:

The New England Chapter reported a successful R-day lunch. Key chains will be given to firsties this weekend and they will take orders from parents. The magazine drive is coming up - low prices on magazines. They will be facilitating a Holly Ball in Boston this winter with Capt Foye Chapter, and they are serving box lunches today.

Georgia Chapter created a Coast Guard Academy flag and they're selling it at their table today. Sales are going so well that they're just about sold out already.

Greater New York provided water and snacks on buses for the MMA game.

San Diego Chapter held an AIMS students' meeting. They are doing recruitment at high schools, and are expanding outreach with the help of the Coast Guard sector in San Diego. They're hoping to improve applicant numbers from that area.

Florida Chapter requests better communication with some parents. Cassandra admitted this was a shortcoming. When the parents join there is no acknowledgement of their membership. The first sign that they are members of the Parents Association is when they receive the *Bulletin* – but it doesn't come for a month or two. There need to be a way to let parents know they're members, i.e. welcome letter, email, etc.

Texas Chapter is preparing the treasures report to get ready for the change in the Constitution and By Laws. They have tried using web conferencing for their meeting. Can get up to a thousand people to join and it is reasonably priced.

Carolina Chapter had a swab picnic and a barbeque when the Eagle came. They are doing key chains this year for a fundraiser.

Rocky Mountain Chapter held a welcome abroad event. They are establishing a relationship with the retired Colorado coasties so they can get more involved with cadets and establish relationships.

Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter had a good R-day reception. They are alive and well.

Delaware Valley Chapter fully funded for holiday ball. They are supporting 3/c Kenny Links' family and house cadets over night who come to visit with him.

Craig Nielson inquired about the possibility of moving the Parents Weekend Executive Council meeting to Thursday night instead of Friday morning. Cassandra will look into the feasibility of moving the meeting.

Cassandra thanked 2009 Members at Large who were in attendance at today's meeting: Frank Rodino, Kelly Morgan, and Kaye Hollifield. She recognized Past President, Bob Pray, and thanked Kaye Hollifield for her support.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Lizann Miller
Recording Secretary, USCGAPA