

**U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
22 FEBRUARY 2002**

Nineteen of the National Parent's Association Board members representing five chapters and two other states were present. A social hour preceded the meeting. The meeting began at approximately 8:30 in the USCGA Officers Club.

CGA Parents Association President, Cliff Meeks, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Each person was introduced. The following USCGA Senior Staff members presented their remarks:

RADM Robert Olsen	Superintendent
CAPT Phil Heyl	Commandant of Cadets
Dr. Tom Haas	Dean of Academics
CAPT Sue Bibeau	Director of Admissions
CAPT Ivan Luke	Commanding Officer, Barque EAGLE
CAPT Peg Riley	Director, Leadership Development Center
Dr. Ray Cieplik	Director of Athletics

#### SUPERINTENDENT

RADM Olsen welcomed members of the Council. In his strategic outlook, RADM Olsen is working with the Board of Trustees on issues such as budgets and re-capitalization, homeland security, and interactions of CGA students with those of the Leadership Development Center. Upcoming capital improvements include a proposed major renovation of Chase Hall. This is estimated to be an eight-year project, costing in the range of \$30 million. RADM Olsen hopes this project will be funded in the 2004-05 budget.

RADM Olsen believes that the increased budget for the USCG, and the political importance of the mission of homeland security combine to add an exciting new emphasis on this heightened mission.

There has been a good agenda of speakers on the various aspects of leadership addressing the cadets, officer candidates, Leadership Development Center students, faculty and staff. RADM Olsen emphasized that leaders need to understand the culture of the organization. The administration also needs to be aware of the similarities and differences between a training center and an institution of higher learning. RADM Olsen reported that it is energizing for the different groups of students to be working together, and that he is experiencing the spontaneous synergy of the team.

In remarks following questions, RADM Olsen commented that many of the CGA students arrive at the Academy and begin classes unprepared in English and language usage, and math. He encourages parents to remind students of the opportunity available for all students to get assistance in their subjects in the Academic Center for Excellence. Communication, besides improving self confidence, is an important aspect of an officer's job.

## DEAN OF ACADEMICS

Dean Haas provided an update of the core curriculum. He stressed the importance of the curriculum in meeting the needs of cadets entering the U.S. Coast Guard in a changing world. The language lab sponsored by the CGA class of 1966 is running well. This lab has provided a great opportunity to facilitate learning. The Information Technology focus continues across the curriculum.

ABET reviewed 4 majors in October 2001. Dr. Haas predicts a six-year accreditation based on this review. The Management program is in a candidacy for accreditation by the AACSB in Spring 2003. Currently there are 12-15 students in the Management Information Systems (MIS) Program.

Dr. Haas reported that the current 1/c students have the highest GPA of the four classes. The challenge is for them to assist the 2/c. Dr. Haas would like the 3/c to take on academics as a class project, helping each other to succeed. The 4/c now has a combined class GPA of 2.76. Faculty advisors are continuing to be proactive.

Dr. Haas was proud to report of the recent award for CDR Vince Wilcznski as the national Outstanding Baccalaureate College Professor of the Year. This is the first time the award has been given to a service academy faculty member.

## DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Dr. Ray Cieplik reported that approximately three quarters of the cadet corps is involved in intercollegiate sports. There were numerous successes among the fall sports teams and participants. Spring teams are getting set for their competitions. His goal is to keep the teams successfully competitive.

Dr. Cieplik hopes that the capital improvements plan will include rebuilding the outdoor track facility.

## DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

CAPT Sue Bibeau emphasized that recruiting leaders of character is still important. There is an ongoing need for students with technical disciplines. Key admission issues continue to be talent and diversity. While the prospective incoming class of 2006 is showing a strong academic profile as a group, the number of applications is down about 12% from previous years. Meeting PFE requirements upon admission has been helpful in targeting those students not physically fit. In some years this has resulted in a 10-20% dropout rate. CAPT Bibeau was pleased to report that the class of 2005 had no dropouts for failure to meet PFE requirements.

CAPT Bibeau reported that the minority recruitment program that has been contracted out in recent years would now be done in-house with additional staffing. Progress is being made in diversifying the corps.

CAPT Bibeau thanked the parents for their support and involvement in recruiting. She will be working with the local Parents Association Chapters to help recruit for the Academy.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTER

CAPT Peg Riley spoke of her program's plan to increase interaction with cadets in leadership and management. There is an allotment to increase the leadership staff by 12 billets. Members of the staff participated in a recent warfare exercise in San Diego. The faculty will implement the principles of this exercise.

## COMMANDANT OF CADETS

CAPT Heyl summarized the "200 week leadership program" as a great success. He asked us to pay attention to upcoming critical dates on the calendar: 7 March--Billet Night, 9-17--March Spring break, 11 Apr--Dining In (the formal introduction of the class of 2002 to the Officer Corps). CAPT Heyl emphasized the important roles we have as parents in following the law regarding underage drinking, and in providing positive leadership examples to our children.

CAPT Heyl's goal for the class of 2006 is a zero attrition rate for the summer. He asked the Parents Association to have discussions with parents of the class of 2006 cadets during Reporting In Day on July 1.

## COMMANDING OFFICER, BARQUE EAGLE

CAPT Luke is excited about the opportunity for every cadet to get a taste of the sea aboard EAGLE. He works to make sure that each cadet receives a positive introduction to this seagoing experience, and that there is a safe return of the crew and the ship. He extended an invitation to parents who may be interested in visiting aboard EAGLE during the East Coast ports of call scheduled for this summer. If we let him know of our Academy association, we may not have to wait in the long lines with other tourists. The Barque EAGLE is currently in the CG yards in Baltimore for upgrades.

In the question and answer session that followed the presentations of the senior management team, the following questions were asked:

Q: Core values include honor. What is being done about the recent damage to automobiles, and the theft of clothing, money, CDs and other items from cadets?

A: (ADM Olsen) It is important to understand the aspects of leadership in following up on these incidents. Currently, students take care of these incidents themselves within their chain of command. Administrators and cadets understand the norms and values within the corps. Each case presents a learning experience, and therefore a leadership challenge as the investigations proceed to a discovery of what has happened.

A: (CAPT Heyl) High standards are a priority at the Academy. The cadets are in a system designed to reveal character. The question is will a person meet expectations with regard to core values--a system that values honor, and one that investigates theft. Graduating cadets understand and meet

these values. The situations in question allow the opportunity to look at the cultural values within the corps from the cadet chain of command and through the company officers.  
ADM Olsen and CAPT Heyl both will be following up on these issues.

Q: As new cadets report in, what is the role of parents to develop leaders of character?

A: (CAPT Heyl) The responsibility of the parents is to follow the USCGA system. It is the responsibility of each cadet to be a leader of character in order to run a ship. Parents need to be aware of the element of control vs. the level of support.

RADM Olsen commented on two articles in New London's The Day. A front-page article summarized the previous evening's leadership presentation to the Corps of Cadets and the CGA Administration and guests by former President George H.W. Bush. This was an inspiring presentation, in which President Bush reminded the guests of lessons he learned in life and in office, and important values he learned along life's way. A second feature article addressed the news that Dr. Cieplik will be spending more time on his duties as Athletic Director, and will be stepping down from the position of head coach of the Academy men's soccer team after the current season. Dr. Cieplik was given much credit for the successes of the team during his coaching tenure.

RADM Olsen also thanked Wayne Gronlund and John Maxham for their cooperation and assistance. Their outstanding work is beneficial to the Academy and to the Corps of Cadets.

This concluded the presentations from the USCGA Senior Management Team.

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

### President's Report

Cliff Meeks distributed summaries of responsibilities for Council Members at-Large. Numerous questions followed. Revised suggestions and descriptions will be summarized by the Slivinski's then e-mailed to members, to be reviewed before the June meeting, for discussion at that time.

Cliff encouraged us to support the development of new chapters. He would like us to think about an east/west liaison, and a liaison with the CG Auxiliary.

Council members were asked to consider being available to help provide early information and assistance to parents of incoming cadets on Reporting-In Day (as early as 6 a.m.). Various members had ideas on how we might schedule ourselves and the early part of the day. Discussion also included the appreciation of the Alumni Association personnel on Reporting-In Day last year.

We were reminded of the opportunity to visit aboard Barque EAGLE as she makes ports of call in our eastern states this summer. Parents of incoming cadets are included in the invitation to visit.

There was a discussion of the content/timing of the newsletters sent out by the Alumni Association. It takes six weeks to print and mail the newsletter after submission of material. It is important to share the news of milestones in the calendar of cadet/parent activities. Because the

newsletter also serves to notify the members of the slate of officers before elections, timing for mailing that particular newsletter is critical.

Our president has been invited by the West Point Parents Association to attend a seminar at the Military Academy April 18-20, 2002. A motion was made, and the Council approved an allocation of up to \$500 to cover registration, lodging, mileage, and meal expenses for Cliff to attend.

The Council approved minutes of the meeting of July 1, 2002.

## Vice President's Report

Frank Garcia distributed the class e-mail policy that reflects the changes negotiated at earlier meetings. After review and some discussion the Council agreed to another change in one section. This amended policy seems to best serve the interests of the parents of cadets. Jack Murphy will make the edits to the policy and distribute.

Frank solicited volunteers to serve on a committee to look at fundraising options for 2002. The following Council members volunteered to serve on the fund raising committee: Jack Murphy, Ric Waechter, Regina Symansky, Joanne and John Larkin, and Ed Seddon. Members were encouraged to be mindful of corporate matching programs for donations. Information on this topic will be updated on the website.

One of the concerns expressed to this Council is the desire for new furniture in the cadet dayrooms/recreation lounges. Ric Waechter volunteered to coordinate with local chapters to determine the levels of financial support available to equitably provide furniture for each of the dayrooms. Local furniture stores have shared their pricing schedules. Pricing for discounts through other suppliers is also being checked.

The nominations committee has been asked to bring to the June meeting a slate of officers and members-at-large for the 2002-2003 year. Nominations are now being received for various positions. The following Council members will serve on the nominating committee: Carolyn DiIulio, Janet Meeks, and Gregg Zike.

## Treasurer's Report

Year 2001 Parents Association Dues Paid: \$9,265.00

Year 2001 Parents Association Income: \$1,557.00

Year 2001 Parents Association Expenses: \$5,850.48

(includes newsletters, meeting refreshments, awards, pins, etc.)

Parents Gift Fund Balance (as of 12-31-01) \$36,660.00

Parents Cadet Activities Endowment Balance (as of 12-31-01) \$58,834.29

Funds Available to be spent from Parents Cadet Activities Endowment in calendar year 2002: \$2,336.00.

A question was asked about corporate donations.

Wayne Gronlund answered that local corporate support for a local chapter event is different than a major donation. With each possible case, the prospective donor's current involvement (if any) with the Coast Guard Foundation must be ascertained. This is a different issue than the matching corporate gifts opportunity.

Due to the length of discussion on preceding issues, and to the short time remaining for our meeting space, the following reports were presented in an abbreviated fashion:

### Webmaster's Report

Jim Buckley led the discussion regarding the possibility of hosting chapter web sites on the National web site. There was discussion of creating a virtual chapter since parents of many cadets are located long distances from any other parents of cadets. There is also the possibility of raising visibility of the USCGA with links from various sites.

Jim presented statistics on the website performance. He predicts the usual flurry of activity as parent of cadets of the incoming class learn about the site. The site is set up for the Class of 2006 to be included.

These issues are to be revisited in June. A key issue to consider then will be whether or not to establish a link to current legislation affecting the Coast Guard. This information would not advocate positions on any legislation, but would serve as an opportunity to provide information on current issues before the legislature.

A motion was made for the monthly and annual charges of this website to be paid by the Parents Association. The Council voted to approve this. Bills will be directed to the Alumni Association.

### Membership Report

	As reported July 1, 2001	As of February 22, 2002
Class of 2002	105 members	105 members
Class of 2003	96 members	100 members (4 new)
Class of 2004	136 members	156 members (21 new)
Class of 2005		<u>143</u> (our newest members)
TOTAL	<u>337</u>	504 members of active classes

There are also five new members among parents of USCGA graduates.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Revisions to Parents Association Bylaws (Section 3)

Bob and Tamara Slivinski have volunteered to gather input regarding changes beyond those, which were voted on and approved by the Council at the meeting. They requested that comments and background information regarding those comments be sent to them in plenty of time for all the input to be collated for the June meeting. One of the areas of particular concern was the earlier suggestion of considering changes to the terms of office of the Council members. This proposed change might require a change of the voting process.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Status of cadet vans:

Cadets 1/c D. Johnson, and 1/c Kotowski and LT Bosau presented information regarding the current operating condition and usage of the six vans presently on site. Three of the six vans are currently operational. A summary follows:

Van 65, a 10-passenger donated in 1994 is listed as inactive reserve.

Van 67, a 7-passenger donated in 1994 is sidelined with transmission problems.

Van 69, donated in 1996 is experiencing engine problems--not driveable.

Van 62, a 10-passenger donated in 1997 is operational.

Van 409, donated in 1999 is operational.

Van 66, a 10-passenger donated in 2001 is operational.

It was estimated that approximately 250 4/c cadets, and 200 3/c use the vans regularly. Two vans are generally available for liberty runs. Vans are used daily by the club sports teams to transport members to and from practices. Vans are in daily usage to transport individual cadets to off-base medical and dental appointments, to the airports for emergency leave, and to classes not on the Academy grounds. While it is generally the 3/c cadets who are the designated van drivers, each van is inspected before usage for travel safety, gas and oil levels, etc.. The cadets spoke of their great appreciation to the parents for the donation of these much-utilized vehicles.

Based on the information presented, several parents agreed to look into options of considering for future purchase vans manufactured for commercial usage. Consideration will also be given to the possible purchase of a sedan for the transport of individual cadets to their specific activities. Ric Waechter recommended that LT Bosau check with the Academy's GSA motor pool to ensure that GSA vehicles are being used as required instead of the vans.

Before the meeting ended a motion was proposed and the Council voted to allocate \$2,000 specifically for transmission repair of Van 67. This money will come from the Parents Gift Fund. It is expected that this van will then be available for cadet usage.

### Information Services/Laptop Computers

CDR Kmiecik is in charge of cadet computer support. Along with the Regimental Information Systems Officer, Cadet Baker, they were able to overcome the various configurations of the computer virus that caused a shutdown of the computers during Parents Weekend. CDR Kmiecik works directly with the cadets to answer their questions and to implement programs to meet their needs. He addresses issues on both hardware and software support. Five to six cadets in each company also assist in computer support.

CDR Kmiecik answered several questions:

Many members of the class of 2004 are experiencing computer problems. The major problem has been screen failures. CDR Kmiecik continues to work with the Micron engineers to find solutions to these various problems. Though not an ideal solution, substitute computers are available for the cadets to borrow when their own are not working. All cadets are encouraged to leave their computers for regular servicing during the course of the year.

Each year CDR Kmiecik works to get a contract for the best computer equipment and services at the best price, to meet the needs of the cadets for their educational programs. Because of the

competitive market in the 2001 calendar year, computers purchased for the class of 2005 have features that have not been included in the contracts for other class purchases.

Regarding computer support of non-standard computers that cadets may purchase in addition to those they are issued as incoming 4/c: CDR Kmiecik tries as much as possible to deploy quick solutions to stabilize the equipment. He is not always able to correct the problems of these computers in-house.

Because some students drop out early in their time at the Academy, computers that are nearly new are now available for repurchase on an as-available basis. CDR Kmiecik would be happy to take calls or e-mail and answer questions about these machines.

CDR Kmiecik is working on a sports web site. He hopes to have this up and running by late spring.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:30.

#### LIST OF ATTENDEES

RADM Robert Olsen	Superintendent
CAPT Phil Heyl	Commandant of Cadets
Dr. Tom Haas	Dean of Academics
CAPT Sue Bibeau	Director of Admissions
CAPT Ivan Luke	Commanding Officer, Barque EAGLE
CAPT Peg Riley	Director, Leadership Development Center
Dr. Ray Cieplik	Director of Athletics
CDR Egli	Assistant Commandant of Cadets
CDR Stephan Finton	Comptroller
CDR Chris Kmiecik	Information Technology
LT Joseph Sundland	Liaison to Parents Association
Wayne Gronlund	USCGA Alumni Association President
John Maxham	USCGA Alumni Association VP for Development
Cliff Meeks	National President
Frank Garcia	National Vice President
Carolyn DiIulio	National Recording Secretary
Jack Murphy	National Corresponding Secretary
Ric Waechter	National Treasurer
Jim Buckley	Webmaster
Kristine Garcia	President, Delaware Valley Chapter
John & Joanne Larkin	Members-at-Large
Donna Waechter	Member-at-Large
Janet Meeks	Member-at-Large
Doug & Lynne Butterworth	Members-at Large (Oklahoma)
Regina Symansky	President, Greater New York
Bob & Tamara Slivinski	Members-at-Large
Nancy Duffy	President, New England Chapter
Gregg Zike	Member-at-Large (South Dakota)
Marianne Baker	Member-at-Large

