



USAFA Idaho Parent Club Board Meeting

Sunday, June 11, 2023

Call To Order

The Parent Club meeting/Summer BBQ called to order at 1:00 at Bob & Ellen Tamminga's home.

Bob Tamminga, Treasurer

Julianne Russell, Vice President

Shonna Bisagno, President

x parents and family members

Agenda

Eating and mingling

Introductions and agenda

Officer Reports

Announcements

AOG Idaho Chapter President, Mike Russel for Dave Damrath

ALO, Ralph Getchell

Mingling and swag purchases

Officer Reports

Vice President, Julianne Russell

- Let everyone know about the various swag items we're selling. Payment can be on the website, cash, check, or Venmo Shonna.
- Talk about the various resources on the website.

- Event Announcements (see Announcements section below)

Taste of Home Liaison, Charlie Silva

- The only parent-led activity USAFA allows.
- It's meant to give the cadets a break amongst their busy schedule, a chance to gain resiliency. The event provides a sense of being at home by eating the typical foods from their state and doing fun activities.
- The nation was broken up into regions for planning purposes. Charlie develops ideas for the event with other liaisons from Alaska, Hawaii, part of California, Washington, and Oregon.
- Charlie attended the first event and said it went well. Approximately, 3k cadets went to the event. Idaho's representation was average.
- The event will be held every other year due to the amount of work.
- Charlie is willing to keep up with it in 2025. Help is needed for fundraising.
 - Fundraising entails each state doing fundraisers to get money for additional swag or get corporate sponsorship for Idaho swag.
 - Depending on how much swag we sell, a portion could go to the TOH event.
 - If any of you work at a company who donates to charities, see Charlie.

Treasurer, Bob Tamminga

- We have \$5,827.19 in the club checking account.
- We purchased items for the finals boxes and postage for ~\$1800.
- This BBQ is ~\$245.
- We spent ~\$1700 to purchase items to sell as a fundraiser. They can be purchased on the website and at all the events the club puts on.
- We bring in money from dues and an annual donation from the All Academy Ball organization. The Ball typically gives us \$0-\$1k/year. We didn't receive any during the two COVID-19 years since that event was shut down. Last year, the Academies didn't receive any.
- Idaho hasn't had a fundraiser until now and our aim with it is to no longer have to charge annual dues.
- Q&A

President, Shonna Bisagno

- As of today, there are 35 Idaho cadets/appointees/CC's: 8 Firsties (Seniors), 11 C2C's (Jr's), 6 C3C's, 7 Appointees who will become C4C's once they pass Basic Training, and 3 Cadet Candidates at the Prep Academy.
- If you are parents new to the club and for those of you Appointees heading to I-Day in the next few weeks:

- o The reason there are no/only a few cadets here today is because they are in USAFA's summer session. USAFA breaks up their summers into three sessions and cadets attend two of those. That means they are home for three weeks during the summer and that is often when those families go on a family vacation. Cadets can also come home for Thanksgiving for about three days, Christmas about three weeks, and Spring Break a week.
- o The summer sessions are made up of opportunities to go to air force bases to be a part of their processes to give you a flavor of what it's like, survival training, flying, cadre for other Appointee's BCT, etc.
- o If you don't have a sponsor family, let me know before you leave so we can get started on that. Having a sponsor family allows you to get off campus, which you will appreciate the first year. There are many more chances to get off campus the remaining years.
- o These service academies are machines that keep rolling along while doing their best to get information to families. You'll often times find your son/daughter will know things before us parents do. On the other hand, the cadets don't have a lot of time to get us information and they usually have other obligations that keep them from thinking about what information we might care about.
 - There are two parent liaisons at USAFA who are in charge of getting information out to all 4700 cadet parents and answering questions. Therefore, the liaison's started these state clubs to help get information out and for us be the first line to answer questions. Contact us if you need answers to anything.
 - Your son/daughter will be assigned a squadron, which are made up of cadets from all classes. For each squadron there is a parent FB group you can join. You'll end up getting information from our club's FB page, the general USAFA Idaho Parent FB group, the squadron's FB group, and your son/daughter.
- Our son will be a C2C/Junior and is in Florida at an air force base for this first summer session. This was the advice he wanted to share:
 - o You will not do anything right, especially this first day. Expect to be yelled at consistently.
 - o The day after restrictions are lifted, those same Cadre who yelled at you incessantly will do everything to help you succeed. So just remember when they are yelling at you, it's just their job at that moment in time. Don't take it personally. It won't last forever. However, the friendships you make going through this experience will last a lifetime.
 - o There are a list of survival tips from other current and past cadets that I'll pass to each of you. Come grab one from me before you leave.

- Warrior Race

- o This is our fundraiser to benefit the Military Working Dogs of the 366th Security Forces Squadron out of Mountain Home AFB. The money brought in by charging vendors for a tent spot and corporate donations are used to buy the MWD's and the kennel training and deployment assets.
- o (Read the donation letter as a way of explaining the event.)
- o Please share the posts on the club FB page to your feed. There have been two and there will be more as I introduce the dogs. We want as many running participants as possible. Let's continue getting the word out.
- o Volunteers
 - The Pulse Running & Fitness Shop created the registration website, mapped the race route, and is taking care of the Aide Stations along the race.
 - My KW business bought challenge coins and race day shirts.
 - USAFA Idaho Parents Club will market, have volunteers on-hand, and will have a tent spot to sell swag. Money, we make will benefit our club with the goal to no longer need to charge us parents for annual dues. As far as marketing, I'm gaining vendors and getting corporate sponsors on behalf of our club.
 - Does anyone happen to have a microphone I can borrow for the event (i.e. stage, microphone, sponsor board)?
 - Kennel Master, Sgt DuBord, approved the date, logos. He'll get final approval to have the MWD's in attendance closer to the event.
- o Next steps:
 1. Continued marketing to the Mtn Home AFB, Nat'l Guard, local Fire and Police Departments, CAF will market, Mission 43 will market, our club, the All Academy Ball, the Service Academy AOG's, ALO's, general public through FB and word of mouth, and possibly an interview by KTVB.
 2. At the event, they each will talk about what they do as a company to give back/thank their employees who are veterans, reserve, active duty (...and use this as the cornerstone of their Veteran Employee Resource Group or for this to be an event for their Veteran ERG).
- Let's talk about Board positions. As you can imagine, board members switch out as their son/daughter graduates. Therefore, succession planning for the next board members starts now for next year. That's reviewing the duties and keeping that next person in the loop so they can get the hang of it before their term starts. Julianne and I both started our positions the first year our son's were at USAFA, so no training needed and it's a great way to get to know.

- Treasurer – Zero to one hour/month to reconcile the bank statement, write reimbursement checks, receive in checks from corporations for the Warrior Race. If you are interested in starting next February, please talk with Bob.
- Secretary - Approximately one hour per week time commitment to post and email information that comes from the parent liaison group and our Idaho club events. This position is open right now.
- President – When there’s a Secretary, this position is approximately one hour/month. You work with the other Board members to create and run our state’s events and talk with in-coming parents. This doesn’t include the Warrior Race or TOH events. Our son will be a Junior so I don’t mind staying in the position for two more years. However, I’d be happy to transfer the duties earlier than that if anyone would like to join the board. I’d be happy to be Treasurer or Secretary.
- Introduce the Idaho AOG President and ALO’s.

Announcements

August 31-September 4 - Parent’s Weekend

- Who is planning on attending? Get hotel rooms/AirBnB as soon as possible and as soon as possible for next year.
- Football game tickets
- The Bisagno’s will be hanging out at the public tailgate if you’d like to join them.

September 23, 2022 – 1st Annual Warrior Race

- Shonna will provide more detail in a moment.

Late November - Cadet Finals Boxes

December 30 - All-Service Academy Ball

- Save the date Friday, December 30 at the Riverside hotel. Ask for volunteers to help at the registration and check-in table (need 4).

AOG & ALO

AOG Idaho Chapter President, Mike Russell for Dave Damrath

- Introduction to AOG (Association of Graduates)
 - USAFA grads are automatically Life Members of AOG. The AOG sponsors events to assist cadets and keep the grad community alive.
 - They sponsor athletic tailgates when Air Force comes to town. That’s football and other sports.

- o They get us together for athletic Watch Parties for important games that are not being played in Boise.
- o They also sponsor WebGuy, which is a team of photographers who take pictures of your son/daughter and post them on their site, usafawebguy.com.

ALO, Ralph Getchell

- Recruit within their designated area within the state and support appointees through their admissions process.
- Explained the All Academy Ball and the importance of it not only being for the AOG but also for current cadets.

Q&A

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.