

Draft Council of Class Presidents (COCP) Fall 2021 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 0730 by COCP Chair, Mr. Stephen Comiskey '69, using the Class of 1969 Gavel and Sounding Board crafted of wood from the deck and side of the USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides").

Pledge of Allegiance

New Class Presidents were recognized:

- RADM Bob Fountain '55 replacing Ted Parker
- LtCol Tony Verducci '90 replacing Tim Kobosko
- CAPT Bill Pennington '96 replacing Nagel Sullivan
- LCDR Adrienne Maeser '06 replacing Andrew Lukich

Active duty and reserve members in attendance were recognized: CAPT Dave Foreman '98 (who is incoming Deputy DANT) and LT John-Rex Spivey '13

Oldest and youngest Class Presidents in attendance were recognized: Richard Claytor '49 and Will Roberts '14

There was a moment of silence for Class Presidents lost:

- VADM Ted Parker '55

The minutes for the Spring 2021 minutes were approved

Decade reports were provided:

- 50's Gordon Gerson: concerned that we are running out of room at columbarium and consideration of assignment of Plebes to Firsties.
- 60's Stephen Comiskey: appreciated all of the excellent communications from Alumni Association/Foundation; COCP would like to work with the AA and the Foundation to provide more communications to all Class Presidents with respect to what individual Classes are either already gifting to USNA or considering gifting so that Classes could brainstorm together and consider complementing each other's ideas and gifts; acknowledged the great work of 60's leaders (Locklear, Terwilliger, Akerson, Natter), welcomed Mark Ferguson to the AA and to today's COCP meeting; BZ to Chet Gladchuck on keeping all Navy Varsity and Club Sports going during COVID, look forward to the results of the Alumni survey with as much as possible of those survey responses being released to all Alumni in an unweighted format
- 70's Kevin Stone: consensus was to continue virtual Decade Rep breakout sessions, reunions on USNA are stymied by NABSD taking a cut of profit and having a required list of vendors, Foundation transparency on funding for projects, DGA selection and the need to have an advocate for civilian leaders.

- 80's Tony Verducci: virtual Decade pre-meeting breakout preferred, discussed reunion preparations and look forward to hearing lessons learned from other decades, discussed having virtual memorial services at Chapel ... possibility was appreciated by Classmates and families that could not make it. But the current technology at the Chapel did not support virtual broadcasts. Many Classes discussing possible future Class Projects.
- 90's Tom Wagner: it's hard to predict when to hold a reunion due to the American Athletic Conference Football Schedule coming out so late. COCP may want to take more of a role in assisting Classes in their reunion planning.
- 00's Murph McCarthy: reunion discussion, we like in person breakout sessions, still sorting out DGA.
- 2010/20 John-Rex Spivey: how to leverage USNA network between SACCs, and somehow combining the benefits of both SACC and USNA Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP); 2014 has started a networking site; great to be seeing Navy Football live, Classes of 20/21 being COVID classes will need help ramping up on how to be alumni, we should recognize Alumni volunteers that have made significant contributions of time and effort (not money) to USNA.

Chair Steve Comiskey '69 comments:

- We will have live Decade breakout sessions at the COCP meeting. If Classes want to meet virtually beforehand, then they are welcome to do that, too.
- Education, communication and welcoming:
 - Education: We are insiders and we understand the different organizations that support USNA. Our Classmates may not. Picture a stool. USNA is the seat of the stool and it is supported by three legs: Alumni Association with Foundation at its base is one leg; Athletic Association with Athletic & Scholarship Program at its base is the second leg; and the third leg of that stool is the Council of Class Presidents and the Classes and the USNA Alumni - all USNA Alumni - that we all represent. COCP is the conscience of the Classes and of the Academy and of the Alumni Association and of the Athletic Association. COCP exists to ensure that the other legs are strategically supporting USNA. Our responsibility as the USNA COCP is to ensure that the Academy, the Alumni Association, and the Athletic Association each stay on course and that our constituents are supported and that their voices are heard.
 - Communication: We send the messages to our Classes and in turn know what our Classmates think is important. As the COCP and as Class Presidents we have the most effective and the most efficient and the best communications system to transmit and receive information and we need to do our best to always have accurate information on that system.
 - Welcoming: We need all Alumni to always feel welcome. Everywhere and in everything that we do. We especially need all of our younger Alumni to

always feel welcome. We are a family of ring knockers that needs to embrace all other Alumni. Each of us are all already in the family. Do not assume that others are welcome. Or that they should feel welcome. Be proactive. Reach out and be aggressively welcoming.

ADM Mark E. Ferguson III, USN (Ret.), '78, Chair, Alumni Association Board of Trustees provided remarks

Alumni Association and Foundation Panel highlights:

- Alumni Association does not raise money, it spends it. We provide programs and communications for Alumni.
- Campaign concluded and \$540M was raised. We are in a 12-18 month pause before the next campaign
- There's a new communication tool being tested, called Hivebrite. Craig Washington will provide more info as it rolls out.
- Survey. 70's decade had the highest participation with 26%. The survey vendor needed to be changed and that has resulted in a late rollout of results. Expect results in January with a goal of transparency. Early high level observations:
 - confusion as to Alumni Association, Foundation and A&SP mission and intersection
 - opportunities to increase engagement with younger alumni
 - continued demand signal for Alumni Service Support (Career services, mentoring and business networking)
- ADM Ferguson's focus over his three year term: clarifying mission, deploy Hivebrite, to deliver the Alumni Center and provide better support to Chapters

Alumni Association and Foundation briefs

- Mr. Byron F. Marchant '78, President and CEO
 - New hires and promotions were briefed
 - Campaign report was provided. Thank you for your generosity and participation. \$541.4 M raised. The report will be posted online.
 - Investments made in Alumni Association by the Campaign included: Alumni Center, communications, Career and mentoring programs and technology investments.
- Mr. Bill O'Connor, Executive Vice President, Development
 - We are in a year of gratitude to thank everyone for their support to the Campaign, so THANK YOU!
 - Academics received 35% of the Campaign funds, followed by Athletics at 21%, unrestricted giving at 17%, Leadership and Ethics was 9%. More details will be on USNA.com website.
 - 79% of the money came from Alumni, 6% from corporations, 6% from friends, 5% from parents, 2% from organizations, and 1% from foundations and 1% from non-grad alumni.

- A key point is that every gift that was received can be tied to the 2020 USNA and Alumni Association Strategic Plans
- If you are purchasing from Amazon, you can use AmazonSmile to donate a percentage of your purchase to USNA
- CDR Craig J. Washington, USN (Ret.), '89, Vice President, Engagement and Operations
 - Alumni Association Board and leadership positions have grown more diverse and younger. Median age of all Alumni is Class of 1992. 40% of Alumni are millennials
 - 59,000 living graduates and 85,000 living alumni. 53,000 are members of the Alumni Association, which is a huge number compared to similar undergraduate schools.
 - Class of 2024 has only 31% membership (Classes sign up during I-day and 2024 did not have a live I-day) There's still time to fix this.
 - You need to ensure that your USNA.com profile is up to date if you want to get emails from Class President or Alumni Association.
 - We need to make sure a spouse profile is there so that when the member dies, the spouse still gets emails
 - Service Academy Career Conference is doing well ... and going back live. If you have jobs to post, put them on SACC ... and there's no pass through!
 - Shared interest groups are part of alumni outreach. They help with minority and women admissions, mentoring and philanthropy. Byron recommended that they attend the next COCP meeting.
- Bob Gast, Jr., VP, Finance and Operations (Byron briefed the slides)
 - We are in sound financial shape. Investments achieved a 26% return and we have increased reserves to protect against a downturn
 - Demand signal from USNA was down due to COVID, but they are ramping up and the costs (which are accounted for in the budget) will increase
 - 85% of fundraising went to the need, 15% is overhead of staff, communications and other fixed costs. This is a great number. Foundation will provide a one pager that summarizes

Alumni Center construction site brief by Craig Washington '89. Old buildings are almost gone. Foundation will be laid in March and expect 18 months from now to move in. The Alumni Center will accommodate up to 1100 for a reunion. Scheduling reunion space is through the USNA special events office. A link to a virtual tour of the building was provided.

Hopper Hall and tour building, ending at the spectacular Volgenau Conference Center on 5th Floor for box lunches

- Toured the basement with it's tank for testing UUVs and 4th deck with it's SCIF, MQ25 Stingray control stations and the War Gaming space

- Midshipmen that have a need to know and have signed their 2 for 7 can be cleared up to a Poly TSCI
- The SCIF is huge, with four 30 person classrooms, a 110 person conference room and a research space. Other outside agencies are using the space on a not-to-interfere basis with USNA academics
- Midshipmen in the Cyber major are able to see the Dark Web in the War Gaming space
- Box lunch on the 5th floor with a fantastic view of Severn River
- Copy of handout attached

Terwilliger Center – Akerson Theater

- Brief by Superintendent VADM Sean S. Buck '83
 - Please get the accurate word out. There's a bunch of misinformation out there. Please be my disciples for accuracy.
 - Thank you again for your support during the Campaign
 - Fall update
 - USMC came to the Yard to inform future prospective Marines. COVID had prevented that over the past 18 months
 - Forrestal and all other USNA normal lecture series have resumed. SECNAV, SPACECOM visited and so have other senior leaders
 - Midshipmen are marching again in Parades
 - All 33 Division 1 sports, 116 Club and intramural teams are all competing again
 - It's great to be back to normal!
 - Commandant has been charged by the Supe with Professionalism, Accountability and Esprit de Corps (return pride in the Academy and remind them why they came here). These three things were most negatively impacted by COVID
 - There were pockets of bad culture throughout the Brigade that had developed when the Brigade was not all living together in Bancroft Hall. The solution was to totally scramble ("shotgun") individual company assignments for all 2/C and 3/C Midshipman. That has worked out well. We are in a good place now.
 - 75% of 1st Class selected Navy; 95% of which are Unrestricted Line.
 - International programs for our Midshipmen while they are at USNA are still a priority because that's where we will serve. We were the only Service Academy to find a way to keep sending Midshipmen overseas during COVID
 - We are 6 and 1 against Army this Fall. Beat Army next week!
 - Physics exam final cheating update. All involved Class of 2023. 105 Midshipmen were alleged to have cheated. 4 found not guilty during their Honor Board. 100 were found guilty. 18 separated. 82 undergoing remediation. Considerations behind remediation
 - Model of attrition vs. development at USNA. Development model is that Midshipmen get a second chance.

- 2023 had spent more time off the Yard due to COVID than on the Yard.
 - Just like we do as parents, we don't kick kids out of the house after doing something wrong. We grow them
 - 18 discharged were either 2nd time honor offenders, had significant and additional conduct issues, or did not take responsibility for their actions
- Standards of conduct. We need to have Midshipmen that are gentlemen and gentlewomen. They need to know the rules, abide by the rules and enforce the rules.
- Diversity and inclusion
 - Military continues to pride itself at being a leader on diversity and inclusion
 - We can be diverse, but if we aren't inclusive we fail
 - Females make up 29% of the Brigade and are in 42% of the current Midshipmen leadership positions ... because they earned it.
- Naming commission
 - Tasked by law for DoD to review all buildings, ships, etc., that are named after a Confederate general or admiral
 - Need to be renamed by 2023. Only three things at USNA need to be renamed: Buchanan House, Buchanan Rd and Maury Hall.
 - The Service Chief has the responsibility for naming buildings. SECNAV has the authority to name ships
- New majors: Foreign Area Studies (2021) and Data Science (2022)
- Chapel dome project is complete.
- McDonough Hall renovation has started. \$45M for an internal, frame up restoration to be completed in 2.5 years.
- Rising sea level
 - 4th worst flooding event happened a month ago
 - in the 60s 41 flooding events every ten years ... today 41 events every year ... by 2050 every day there will be flooding
 - the plan to mitigate flooding is in progress
- About a year and half of capacity left at the columbarium and those spots are on the lower level that are subject to flooding. As part of rising sea level we are looking at options to mitigate flooding and expand columbarium capacity
- Midshipmen will go on cruises this Summer that are on ships based around the world and will last four weeks long (last year they were on CONUS-based ships and 2.5 weeks in duration).
- CRT will not be taught at USNA on the Supe's watch. We did a deep dive and found one class that had it in its curriculum about six years ago. That course is no longer taught at USNA and that professor is not at USNA.
- Tecumseh
 - The real name of the Indian chief depicted in T-Court is Tamanend, who was Chief of the Delaware tribe ... he was all about peace.

- Name was changed to Tecumseh as he was an aggressive Indian chief
 - painting Tamanend has a rich tradition, but many did not like the idea; and the painting and then the spray-washing the paint off has been damaging the statue and the base.
 - compromise: weather proof panels have been designed, built and installed that are mounted to the granite base and they are now being painted for each game
 - What would Supe like to get done in the years left on his Tour as Supe?
 - fix parking
 - put in place a plan to mitigate flooding
 - begin executing on a solution for the Columbarium issues (both running out of space and rising water)
 - put in place a proper stable budget
 - What can we do to help? Answer: Be my disciples
- Brief by Mr. Tim Ford, Asst AD
 - Look at the Class of '65 Legends of Sports exhibit. If you do not see your Class represented, it's in progress. Please continue to send in Class Legends' designees.
 - Thank you for the \$111M raised during the campaign for the Physical Mission
 - Upcoming capital projects
 - Dyer Tennis facility (2022)
 - Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium - Gardens (behind the Class of '53 Pavillion) (2022)
 - Men and Women' Lacrosse Facility (will be adjacent to the Glenn Warner Soccer Facility)
 - Naval Academy Golf Course - Additional 18 holes towards Greenbury Point under consideration
 - COVID reduced revenue 62%, but NAAA kept all 33 Division 1 sports competitive by other reductions and generosity of Alumni. We continue to regularly win the Patriot League Presidents Cup and N* series due to our expect to win attitude.

U.S. Naval Institute at Hospital Point for briefing by VADM Peter Daly at new USNI auditorium

- USNI has been on the Yard since 1873
- Purpose of the Jack C. Taylor Conference Center is to engage
- Two year project funded by a few corporate donors, but mostly individuals
- USNI is reaching a younger audience through various forms of media, to include podcasts and live streaming on Youtube Channel
- Still publishing books. 85 new titles so far in 2021. Still publishing Blue Jackets Manual and Reef Points. This Fall their first graphic novel will be published.
- If you are a member you can access Proceedings articles back to 1873

- Played Top Gun intro ... awesome surround sound system!
- Handout provided
- Another excellent venue for all Classes and other USNA-related organizations to consider for events
- VADM Daly and USNI generously hosted all Class Presidents and all USNA and Alumni Association staff assisting COCP at an end of the COCP Meeting event and a tour of its new Jack C. Taylor Conference Center

USNA COCP FALL MEETING ADJOURNED

NAVY BLUE AND GOLD

BEAT ARMY

Campaign Results – Gratitude Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugn2eO-FBVM&t=10s>

Alumni Center Update: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/165dLlyOie2NR/>

Alumni Center live camera link: <https://www.usna.com/news/alumni-center-camera>

Become a plankowner link: <https://www.usna.com/support/plankowner>