

Draft
USNA Council of Class Presidents (COCP)
Spring 2022 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 0745 by USNA 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:

- Dale Reed - '42
- Jim Minderlein - '65 (Re-elected)
- Kevin Haney - '81

Active duty and reserve members in attendance were recognized:

- LtCol Lisa Cordonnier, USMC - '03
- LCDR Adriane Maeser, USN - '06
- LCDR Micky Matus, USNR - '09
- LT John-Rex Spivey, USN - '13

The oldest and youngest president in attendance:

- Rick Claytor - '49
- Luke Philips - '19

There was a moment of silence for Class Presidents lost:

- Jack Crawford - '42

The minutes for the Fall 2021 minutes were approved

Chair opening comments

- New venue today in Akerson Tower. Much nicer vista overlooking the Stadium
- Thank you for all of the support provided by Wendy Owen and Craig Washington of the Alumni Association
- USNA COCP = Welcoming, Communicating, and Educating
- We need to always be welcoming – welcoming to all
- We need to communicate – both to and from our Classmates
- We need to educate ourselves and our respective Classmates. Besides the brief from the Supe and the Alumni Association/Foundation, today we will learn a lot about the various organizations and special interest groups that our alumni can participate in
- USNA COCP is part of a three-legged stool. The seat of that stool is the Naval Academy itself and all three legs support the Naval Academy. The Alumni Association is one leg of that stool and it is funded by the Foundation. The Naval

Academy Athletic Association (NAAA) is another leg of that stool and the NAAA is funded by the Athletic & Scholarship Programs (A&SP) (among other sources). And finally, the third leg of that stool is the USNA Council of Class Presidents (USNA COCP). The USNA COCP is not funded, has no property, no Treasurer and no Treasury – so no development or fund-raising issues – and USNA COCP represents all of our constituents – all USNA Alumni

- The search for Byron Marchant's replacement is still in progress. Expect a relief to be named by the end of next week.

Brief on Class of 1969 USNA Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP), Mr. Stephen Leaman '69

- AMP is a gift provided by Class of 1969 for all classes to help alumni that are seeking advice
- It is a "gift" – free to all alumni – free to all Alumni mentors and free to all Alumni proteges
- AMP is for all USNA Alumni – whether on active duty, in the reserves, or in civilian life
- Alumni Mentoring Program first collects career and personal info to help link mentors and proteges and then an algorithm matches proteges with proposed mentors according to what that protégé is looking for in a mentor
- The protégé then selects the prospective mentor that the protégé thinks will work best and if that mentor doesn't work out for that protégé, then the protégé selects another prospective mentor – AMP is all protégé-driven
- Over 4000 USNA alumni participate in AMP
- 78% of the proteges are on active duty
- The program has continued to grow by hundreds of more USNA Alumni each year
- Go to this link if you want to be a mentor or a protege:
<https://amp.mywisdomshare.com/Wisdom-Share-Login?returnurl=%2f>

USNA Alumni Association and Foundation provided briefs

- LtGen Dave Beydler '81, USMC (Ret.), Vice Chair, Board of Trustees
 - Announced outgoing and incoming Board of Trustee members
 - Discussed regional elections. Call for nominations will be in July - October 2022
 - Distinguished Graduate Award
 - 2023 nominations will be accepted from July - October 2022
 - Selection on 6 December 2022
 - Presentation Spring 2023
 - Alumni Survey Results/Conclusions/Recommendations
 - Improve communications
 - Improve how we engage young alumni
 - Most important engagement vehicle is the local chapter

- 2257 write in comments were provided by alumni; interestingly 73.8% of the written comments were provided by alumni that were self described as non engaged or slightly engaged. Conversely only 6% of the engaged provided written comments
 - Some comments included:
 - Not aware of the mission of the Alumni Association
 - Alumni Association is money-driven, not value-driven
 - Too much energy is devoted to diversity and inclusion
 - Board of Trustees (BOT) is reviewing the survey results this Spring, Summer and Fall to develop a way forward
 - There have already been actions taken by Alumni Association to increase communication, reach out to younger alumni, improve tools for volunteers, and reach out to new graduates
 - Alumni Association Strategic Plan 2030
 - An Ad Hoc committee from BOT will be formed. COCP will be able to provide input
 - Alumni survey will be used as an input and possibly other specific surveys, as required
 - Expect that the Alumni Association Strategic Plan 2030 to be developed within the next 12-18 months
 - The Alumni Association Strategic Plan 2030 will be drafted, in part, to support the now-completed USNA Strategic Plan 2030
[https://www.usna.com/Beydler COCP Spring 2022](https://www.usna.com/Beydler_COCP_Spring_2022)
- CDR Craig Washington '89, USN (Ret.), Exec. Vice President of Engagement & Operations, USNA Alumni Association
 - Discussed 2021 and 2022 DGA recipients
 - Provided an update on the Alumni Association and Foundation staff
 - myUSNA is a new connection support platform using Hivebrite. It is being rolled out to Chapters, Classes and SIGs
 - Expect to be more strategic with communications, engagement, events and hires
 - The Alumni Association needs to work harder promoting Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP), Alumni Business Network (ABN), and Service Academy Career Conferences (SACC)
 - New Alumni Center project
 - Site demolition began November 2021
 - Project is on track with expected completion Spring 2023, with Alumni and Foundation staff moving in during the Summer 2023
 - Live camera of progress: <https://www.usna.com/news/alumni-center-camera>
 - [https://www.usna.com/Washington COCP Spring 2022](https://www.usna.com/Washington_COCP_Spring_2022)

- Mr. Bill O'Connor, Exec. Vice President of Development, USNA Foundation
 - Discussed Foundation Board leadership
 - Foundation continues to express gratitude for the successful campaign
 - Class giving was essential to the campaign with funds provided to academic, leadership, admissions, athletic excellence, the USNA unrestricted fund and the alumni center
 - Alumni Center project
 - \$38.2M has been raised to date; \$7.7M from classes
 - \$4M of the funds will be used for operations
 - 389 plankowners
 - Renderings of the donor wall are expected to be available in May 2022 and specific Class projects are expected to be available 2-3 months before opening
 - Donations will close out on December 31, 2022
 - Class Challenge is 16-20 May and replaces the All Academy challenge. This year it's a competition between the Classes. Top three classes will be recognized
 - <https://www.usna.com/OConnor COCP Spring 2022>
- Mr. Bob Gast, CFO USNA Foundation
 - There are currently three separate Alumni Association/Foundation enterprises
 - Therefore, there are three separate budgets: Operating Budget, Campaign Budget, and Long-Term Project Budget (Alumni Center)
 - \$1.5M will be provided as unrestricted funds to the Supe each year
 - All salaries have been benchmarked; and the head count has been fairly stable across the Alumni Association/Foundation enterprises for many years even though the complexity of the enterprises has increased substantially
 - Executing a \$17M budget that is projecting a budget surplus of ~ \$557k
 - <https://www.usna.com/Gast COCP Spring 2022>

Brief by USNA Superintendent, VADM Sean Buck '83, USN

- Provided a Spring semester update
 - Life is back to normal on the Yard; USMC is back recruiting, Brigade is back on squad tables in King Hall, Service and Ship selection occurred, had very successful Leadership and Foreign Affairs conferences and even dialed-in to International Space Station for a 45 minute Q&A session with LCDR Kayla Barron - '10
 - Navy is 18 - 2 in the N star series. There are four Army-Navy sporting events this weekend that will close out the competition
 - Class of 2022 graduation will be in the Navy Marine Corps Memorial

- Stadium with President Biden speaking – MIDN 1/C will again have unlimited guests allowed
- This Summer Mids will be traveling all over the world once again
 - Sea level rise continues to be a problem.
 - From 1929 - 1969 USNA flooded 40 times. In the decade of the 90's it flooded 40 times. Last year it flooded 40 times in one year alone.
 - Supe has a 40-year plan to address the problem and is requesting funding to start executing
 - Columbarium
 - We are running out of space in the Columbarium; and it is subject to flooding
 - There is space on top of the hill for a new Columbarium that will soon be built but just to cover the next three years. Current expectation is that the old Columbarium will eventually be moved to that site, or to another higher site, but no final plans as yet: stay tuned
 - Operational and facility budget
 - Operating budget has been flat since 2010. Happy to report that our budget has been restored and is fully funded
 - Facility/infrastructure budget is still a struggle
 - There is signed legislation that allows Midshipmen to have parental rights
 - Apparently Mids that had a child were required to give custody of the child to a guardian. The challenge is that that guardian did not always release the child after graduation. This law will attempt to fix that problem and is awaiting DoD policy
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Is not a hot button issue ... it is an opportunity.
 - We continue to ensure that we are inclusive across the Yard
 - Naming Commission update
 - Some portions of the report have been released, but nothing on USNA, as yet
 - We expect at some point that Buchanan House, Buchanan Road and Maury Hall will probably be renamed
 - USNA 2030 Strategic Plan
 - The USNA Strategic Plan 2030 is on the street
 - The Alumni and Foundation Strategic Plan 2030 are in development and are needed to help USNA execute our USNA Strategic Plan 2030
 - Your USNA is in great shape and we are graduating leaders that are doing a great job in the Fleet. Thank you.

[https://www.usna.com/Superintendent 2022 Spring COCP](https://www.usna.com/Superintendent%202022%20Spring%20COCP)

Naval Academy Athletic Association (NAAA) update by Mr. John O'Neill - '85, Sr.
Associate Athletic Director/Admissions & Academics

- We kept the NAAA enterprise operating during COVID and we are still recovering from the lost revenue
- Student athletes are performing on the field and in the classroom
 - USNA Varsity athletes graduate at a higher rate than non-athletes
 - 12 USNA Academic All-Americans this year

USNA Rugby update, Maj. Murph McCarthy '00, USMC (Ret.)

- Great USNA Rugby pitches and facilities, thanks to the support of our alumni
- Women's Club Rugby is 25 years old ... and are this year's national club champions! BZ to the Women's Rugby Club Team and to Murph – The Women's Rugby Club Coach
- Thanks to philanthropic support and generous USNA Alumni donors, Men's and Women's Rugby will both become varsity sports in May 2022

Brief on Foundation Athletic and Scholarship Programs (A&SP), Mr. Sam Marrone '66

- Mission is to provide funding for prep schools and to also provide funds to the Athletic Director to execute the physical mission at USNA
- There are 250 A&SP Trustees
- Scholarships are provided to approximately 50 prep school students each year
- 95% of NAAA budget is from non-appropriated funds, ticket sales, and donations to the Athletic Excellence Fund
- Athletic Excellence provides the margin of excellence needed to run varsity, Olympic and club sports' programs at USNA
- Each Class can support the physical mission of USNA, for example, by including Athletic Excellence in their 20th, 30th, 40th, and 50th Class giving campaigns

Brief by Class of 1976 President, Kevin Stone '76

- Class of 1976 is suggesting some tweaks to the Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) program
- Add an interaction with NAPS
- Include the 25-year Class in their ALITC program. The 25th year Class does not pay to play, just participate, if they can
 - Provides currency with active-duty grads
 - Provides female presence

<https://www.usna.com/ALITC 2022 Spring COCP>

Sponsor- Brief introductions: Annapolis Waterfront Hotel, USAA, iTrip, Navy Mutual, Graduate Hotel, SignUpNow and Westin. Thank you for supporting the COCP!

Decade reports were provided:

- 50's Gordon Gerson '58:

- What is going to happen to the hospital?
 - Is there any plan to expand the USNA museum?
 - Is there a plan to move the Tripoli monument indoors? It is falling apart
- 60's Steve Comiskey '69:
 - Discussed the Alumni Center
 - desire that it be welcoming to all alumni whenever they are in town ... not just reunions
 - Want to ensure that there is parking for visitors or a shuttle from stadium, and perhaps a shuttle to the Academy, as well
 - Want to encourage Classes to work with other Classes on projects
- 70's Kevin Stone '76:
 - The 70's Decade supports altering the Supe's ALITC instruction to include going to NAPS and adding a 25 year partner
 - Talked about DGA and the need for quality inputs that are Navy, USMC and Civilian
 - We cannot sell Hawaiian shirts via class emails. BTW, the Hawaiian shirt solicitor was issued a cease-and-desist letter from the Alumni Association
- 80's Jim Schwab '88:
 - Looking at options for Navy-Notre Dame tailgate options
 - Looking to create a template of the strategic planning tools that each Class is using
 - Having an active Company Rep for each Company supporting the Class President is essential
- 90's Tom Wagner '97:
 - Discussed reunion planning and Alumni Center
- 00's Donald Horner '08:
 - Some Classmates are having issues with time of service and retirement. Check it early.
 - Craig Washington and Wendy Owen were asked and they will provide a copy of the COCP directory to all Class Presidents
- 2010/20 John-Rex Spivey '13:
 - Great turn out
 - Discussed Decade of 20's representation at USNA COCP and BOT. More to follow.

- Reunions discussion and partnering with Link in the Chain Class
- Kudos to the Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP)

Brief on Hivebrite/Shared Interests Groups (SIGs), Dr. Sofi Loomis '99, USN (Ret.)

- New platform for interconnecting alumni (Chapters, Classes and SIGs)
- One chapter and all three SIGs are currently using Hivebrite (myUSNA.com)
- May - September 2022 is when classes will onboard into Hivebrite
- Benefit is that it is private and is only for classmates
- There's a tab on usna.com for you to get to myUSNA.com
- Volunteer tools on USNA.com will still work until the end of the year and then each Class will need to use myUSNA.com
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a process by which a group of 25 or more alumni can be formed and then recognized by the Alumni Association

Brief on Run To Honor SIG: Mr. Dave Paddock '77

- Began by Class of 1995 to honor fallen Classmates during USMC marathon
- Each of us has a responsibility to keep the memories of our fallen classmates alive
- The run continues to be held at USMC 10k and Marathon to recognize all of the USNA fallen heroes that are memorialized in Memorial Hall. Other Memorial Day races can also be used to honor our fallen heroes
- Go to runtohonor.com for more
- Looking at branching out from runs to rows, to swims, etc.
- <https://www.usna.com/RunToHonor2022SpringCOCP>

Brief on Naval Academy Minorities Association (NAMA) SIG: VADM DC Curtis '76, USN (Ret.)

- Initially started as a chapter and has since grown to 312 members
- Purpose is to attract minority alumni that may not otherwise participate as alumni in order to keep the long blue line going
- NAMA partners with Midshipmen minority ECAs (Ex: Chinese Culture club, Black Studies Club, Filipino-American Club, etc.)
- Engaged and networking
- Provide support to admissions, philanthropy, and Navy outreach
- COCP should make plans to attend the Leadership Summit on 29 April at USNA
- <https://www.usna.com/NAMA2022SpringCOCP>

Brief on Service Academy Careers Conference (SACC): LtCol Joe Fagan '89, USMC (Ret.)

- SACC schedule was provided.

- Next SACC is 5-6 May at Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, VA. 115 companies are signed up
- COCP please get the word out to those hiring or looking to be hired
- SACC has 700 jobs posted at sacc-jobfair.com/jobs/joblistings
- You can post a job at sacc-jobfair.com/Jobs/PostAJob

<https://www.usna.com/SACC 2022 Spring COCP>

Brief on Naval Junior Officer Counsel (NJOC): LT John-Rex Spivey '13, USN

- Provides a venue to share good JO ideas with peers, juniors and seniors alike
- “Counsel” is used intentionally – as opposed to “Council”. The NJOC is all about sharing good ideas
- Codified by Chief of Naval Research and Chief of Naval Personnel

Brief on USNA Women SIG: COL M. J. Pallotta '94, USMCR

- Established in 2017
- Provides, mentoring, networking, sharing, perspectives and offering assistance and promotes issues of importance to women Alumni
- Activities include
 - Town Hall Meetings
 - Book Club
 - Sisterhood of Mother B podcast
 - Sponsored Reunions
 - DGA Nomination Committee
 - Summer Seminar Support
- Open to all alumni ... not just women!

<https://www.usna.com/Womens SIG 2022 Spring COCP>

Chair Closing Comments, Steve Comiskey '69

- **Fall meeting will be Friday, 2 December.** Make reservations and see you there!

Meeting adjourned

Singing of Navy Blue and Gold

BEAT ARMY!

Respectfully submitted,

CAPT David M. Jackson, '79 USN (Ret.)

USNA COCP Secretary