

DRAFT MINUTES

**U.S. Naval Academy
Council of Class Presidents
Fall Meeting – 17 Nov 2025
Fluegel Alumni Center, Annapolis, MD**

(Slide presentations are linked to presenter's name/title)

Chair Call to Order: Mr. Steve Comiskey '69, Chair, COCP

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Recognized active-duty members in the audience, and oldest and youngest (Classes of 1955 and 2027: 72 years of classes represented)
- Recognize new Class Presidents: RADM Larry G. Vogt, USN (Ret.) '59
 - and VADM William A. Earner, Jr., USN (Ret.) '63
- Class President lost since the last meeting: CAPT Thomas A. Boyce, SC, USN (Ret.) '51
- Minutes approved from the Spring 2025 meeting
- Statement of Purpose of COCP (representing all 69k USNA Alumni):

"The purpose of the Council of Class Presidents is to provide a forum for discussion and resolution of common issues among the Classes and to elect Class Presidents to the Alumni Association Board of Trustees. The Council of Class Presidents is an organization that is independent of, but supportive of, the US Naval Academy Alumni Association."

Charter, Council of Class Presidents, Article 1, Section 1.1.
- 2025 Thriving as Leaders (TAL) Awardees:
 - o Alumni Outstanding Achievement Professional Athlete – Robert K. "Bob" Kuberski, Jr. '93
 - o Alumni Outstanding Achievement Professional Non-Athlete: Robert D. "Bob" Ravener '81, Adrienne (Marks) Griffen '87, Joseph K. "Kevin" White '92, and Jacob R. "Jake" Harriman '98
 - o Alumni Outstanding Achievement Superintendent's Outstanding Alumni Performance Award: CDR Louis J. Giannotti '69, USN (Ret)
 - o Alumni Outstanding Achievement Amateur Athlete: John J. "Jake" Lawlor '75
 - o Volunteer Leadership & Service: Robert T. "Tom" Schram '69, Kerwin E. Miller '75, John M. Shmorhun '77, and Stefanie E. Goebel '80
- TAL Awardee, Bob Kuberski '93, is Class of 1993 Class President, and is also our COCP Secretary. Congratulations, Bob!
- **Supporting sponsors:**
 - o [GoNavyTravel.com](https://gonavytravel.com) for travel on the 7 continents, reunion events registration support, company rep module system. POC: [Dan Morio '91](#)

- [Armed Forces Reunions](#) – plan ship reunions, aviation, USMC reunions, based out of Norfolk, and class reunions – hotel selection, contracting, registration, on-site management. POC: [Charley Dey](#)
- [AXIA Time](#) – high-quality time pieces. POC: [John Kanaras](#)
- [Reunion.events \(formerly Signupnowevents.com\)](#) – reunion planning and more. POC: [Evan Barnet '91](#)
- Contributing Sponsor: [TownePlace Suites](#) - Top quality Annapolis accommodations. POC: Justine Dear

Mr. Mitch Henderson '65 and RADM Mike Stocks '72, USN (Ret.)

- Vision: to strengthen the foundation of support, awareness, and accessibility for the alumni community, ensuring resources they need for the lifelong well-being of mind, body, and spirit
- Mission: Promote the physical, mental, and emotional health of alumni, their families, and caregivers by advocating for and helping them implement education, resources and programs that foster their well-being.
- Alumni need: access to VA services, caregivers
- Ask a classmate to be the Class Healthcare Coordinator
- See attached hand-outs for more information.
- POCs: [Mitch Henderson](#) and [Mike Stocks](#)

LtGen Michael J. Borgschulte '91, USMC, 66th Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy

- Background: 8 deployments – 3 combat, 3 shipboard, Afghanistan tour. His father was in the Army. Entered USNA from NAPS, still has NAPS uniform, recruited for football.
- Served as Company Commander during USNA, his first experience leading peers. Became a USMC pilot and spent a lot of time on ships
- Previous experience before Superintendent tour included USMC Dep Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs
- 15 Aug was the Change of Command. “The Naval Academy is not a college – it is a crucible...victory in combat begins long before the first shot is fired. It starts here... In Bancroft Hall, in the classrooms, in the labs and on the athletic fields.” His mindset is based on operational environment and what it takes to win in combat. Will do his best to be apolitical, which is important for this institution
- Challenges since his arrival: government shutdown, a shooting in the Hall, and flooding.
- 30 Oct flooding – considered medium-level flooding but was substantial. Gate 8 was closed due to flooding. The plan is to keep the incoming funding going. Recent efforts: Triton light was raised.
- Forrestal lectures delivered by Secretary of the Navy John Phelan and Mr. Brandon Tseng, Shield AI Co-Founder and President.
- Navy Football – Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Caine, and an alumnus of VMI attended the VMI game on 30 Aug. VADM Davids attended the 15 Nov USF game. He tells the current team that they are Midshipmen first and athletes second.
- Infrastructure update:
 - YP Pier reconstruction was completed which will help with maintenance

- Road to be raised at Columbarium EDC Fall 2026
- Bancroft Hall center section EDC Spring 2026
- MacDonough Hall EDC Fall 2026. Contractors are assisting with moving the timeline to Spring 2026
- Navy Sports
 - Football – watching our defense hold USF’s offense was impressive
 - Sprint football at West Point – Army was undefeated until that game
 - Rugby - #1 in the country, just beat Army.
 - Women’s Basketball beat Florida Gators, Shaquille O'Neal’s daughter is on that team and the team was previously undefeated. Navy women’s basketball is #1 in the Patriot League
 - Squash is #15 in country
 - Men’s cross country earned a star (N*) for beating Army
 - Rifle team is #9 in the country
 - Navy has 36 Division 1 sports, among the most in the country along with Ohio State and Stanford University
 - Water polo doing well
 - 120 extracurricular activities (ECA’s)
- Rankings are good and helpful, but not our mission
 - U.S. News & World Report (2026): #1 Top Public School (National Liberal Arts Colleges), #3 National Liberal Arts Colleges, #5 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs
 - College Raptor (2026): #2 Top Public School, #38 of all U.S. Colleges and Universities
 - Princeton Review (2026): #4 Town-Gown Relations, #8 Students Love their School Teams
- Class of 2029 statistics:
 - 1,197 students from all 50 states and District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, 14 International Countries
 - 69% male, 31% female
 - 92% high school varsity athletes
 - 58% high school team captains
 - 54% high school student body leaders
 - 25% JROTC/ROTC/Sea Cadets
 - 8% College
 - 5% Prior enlisted
- Answers to questions:
 - Service assignments happening on Thursday, 20 Nov, no longer called “service selection.” 80% get first choice, 93% get first or second choice. A small percentage will be upset but will take care of the Mids in advance. USNA Leadership will talk to those who don’t get their top choices so that they are not surprised.
 - The Board of Visitors (they review morale, curriculum, fiscal affairs, and other matters) are coming back Dec.

- SECNAV Phelan is not prior service but loves USNA. He is a businessman and is aware Navy Installations Command infrastructure funding is under pressure. External funding, “Margin of Excellence,” helps with the lack of government funding.
- What alumni do to support the Supe: motivate their classes to stay connected, be USNA’s forward observers on talent to get the best that America has to offer (for admission), help the narrative on Congress supporting USNA, tell our story. In talking to some civilians, heard that West Point’s brand is considered stronger and more known in the public than USNA. We are competing with them for talent. The Thayer Institute is separate from West Point. Alumni should mentor current Mids and high schoolers, explaining how amazing it is at USNA compared to Ivy’s. Key influencers are coaches, church, parents, educators. They should know what it means to serve.
- During government shut down, 400 faculty were back the first week and later 800.
- NAPSters and performance comparison - he had a classmate at NAPS who had 1600 on his SAT who eventually failed out academically. One statistic has shown that those who graduated with a higher grade point average fail from flight school at a higher rate than those who had lower grades. There is a “grit factor,” about the fire in one’s belly that drives one to succeed and overcome adversity. NAPSters are diamonds in the rough, they have toughness and have been a crown jewel for USNA.
- Shipbuilding is a national security issue. Leadership is working hard; foreign partners will assist with shipping and our industrial base due to necessity. These abilities need to be brought back. Navy architecture courses increased, need to build interest early. National resourcing/Congress interest needs to be increased and focused on needs.
- Data is available but needs to be laid out - metrics on how some entrance groups (NAPS, etc.) do in the Fleet, how they performed at USNA, retention, and circle information back to admissions. Over the years, USNA has produced 28-30% unrestricted Ensigns, and we have 41% O6’s in the Navy. O5 command is needed to make O6 – USNA mentorship and training is impactful. An attendee mentioned that most of the CAG/CVN CO leadership are USNA grads. Metrics needed on such things: Reserve stats, post-service stats, involvement in government, and other analytics.

Dr. Samara L. Firebaugh, Academic Dean and Provost

- Event highlights: shipbuilding tour, brought department chairs to offsite in Norfolk to tour ships, talk to grads, and talk about needs of the Navy. The CEO of Hyundai visited with Mids, and student groups visited South Korea over spring break.
- Capstone Naval Architecture Program - groups designed ships with different mission sets. Operations Research majors used wargaming to define mission sets.

- Wargaming is a part of Sea Trials and there is a Maritime Warfare course. Saturday mornings were used to train Plebes using realistic scenarios. Professional development has included drones and robotics in the curriculum.
- The faculty has been 50/50 civilian/military throughout USNA history, but getting to 50/50 has been historically challenging. As of Nov 2025, faculty is 45.7% military. Recent initiatives to bring military up to 50%:
 - o Permanent Military Professor (PMP) and Permanent Military Instructor (PMI) authorization increase
 - o Expanded reserve recall
 - o Restoring the Graduate Education Plus Teaching (GE+T) program
- Educating all faculty on the mission of the naval service: strategic innovation and research partnerships, threat briefs, revision of promotion, awards, hiring precepts, Provost Professional Reading list.
- “A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.” President Theodore Roosevelt, 02 Dec 1902 message to Congress
- Answered questions:
 - o The Mids work with the Navy/USMC Fleet on real problems and use them for their capstones.
 - o Time is the most precious resource. Trident Period (“T-Period”) time in the middle of day is used for training activities between faculty and Mids. This saves the Mids time in the evening to move training to the middle of day instead of in the evenings, when “student mode” is important. Evening time is easily scooped up to do something else when it should be intended for study and personal wellness (religious groups, etc.)
 - o Some civilians are prior military, but they don’t count in the military category. Statistics not considered are instructors who are spouses or have family affiliations with military. Some faculty are drilling reservists.
 - o It is not instituted yet, but “micro credentials” would be helpful for Navy talent management. It has not been historically great at considering what grads’ majors were. Navy considers Additional Qualification Designators (AQDs), but if one has taken classes in Naval Architecture, shipbuilding, robotic systems, they should be considered having a micro-credential.
 - o The only Minors available are in languages. There is a small fraction of Mids (less than 50) doing double majors (Comp engineering/comp science, double engineering degrees, etc.)
 - o There are multiple programs, and we want to help Mids find those special areas where they will excel: Trident-scholars, double major, going abroad, service exchange, geo-political competence, company or sports leadership, etc.
 - o Protecting Midshipmen’s time – the core curriculum today versus 30-40 years ago hasn’t changed. Cell phones are a distraction. Engaging in multiple activities may have increased from 30-40 years ago, but they arrive at USNA with multi-tasking mindsets. They “go big or go home” in activities.
 - o Pros/cons CHATGPT challenges – AI is fascinating but most important thing to tell faculty is that they cannot ignore it and should cultivate the “why” in giving

assignments. If assigning a paper on 1812, Mids can get information from CHATGPT, but the reasoning on completing the paper is to make them better writers in preparation for becoming an Officer. Faculty is also encouraged to try new ways of doing things (google doc tracking changes to see what changed).

Mr. Michael Kelly, Naval Academy Athletic Director

- Previously at University of South Florida, VP for Athletics for seven years. Also, part of his professional journey: involvement in College Football Playoff, ACC, Superbowls, NCAA Final Four, Wake Forest, Carquest Bowl.
- Son of '67 grad who spent several tours in Vietnam, and he was born afterwards. He spent part of his childhood in Annapolis. The values of the institution have been his guiding force in his life, and returning has been a full-circle moment filled with pride and purpose. He has two daughters: University of Miami grad, and a University of Alabama senior studying to be a teacher like her mother.
- Thankful to Chet Gladchuk for 24 years of service, who led the privatization for corporate sponsorships, fundraising, and was the pioneer for having 36 varsity sports. He applied for Athletic Director 24 years ago and wanted to apply when the job became available again.
- Wants to ensure that alongside coaches, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters, we build on its extraordinary foundation and ensure Navy Athletics continues to represent excellence.
- By having a high number of varsity sports, Navy attracts elite high school athletes.
- Star series: Navy is 47-6-2 in the annual star series since 1969-1970.
- In 2024, Navy defeated AF 34-7 and Army 31-13. One more game until it's decided who will get the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for 2025.
- The NCAA Learfield Directors' Cup standings reflect the most success in all collegiate athletics: the 2024-2025 final standings: Navy 98, Army 103, AF 105. Learfield tallies all of each school's individual athletic team's successes and NCAA tournament involvement. Navy finished in 98th place (out of 365 schools) and ahead of the other service academies.
- Navy football is Bowl eligible.
- Army-Navy weekend events 12-13 Dec: Army-Navy gala celebration and game. Navy uniforms released this week
- Navy athletics – one of the biggest brands in college sports:
 - o National televised events: Armed Forces Classic, Veterans Classic, Army-Navy Football (In 2024, 9.4M viewers globally), CBS Sports Network (football, men's basketball, baseball, men's and women's lacrosse)
 - o Nationally televised interviews: Blake Horvath (NBC), Phil McConkey (Fox), Rayuan Lane (CBS), Hoke Smith/MarcAnthony Parker (ESPN)
 - o Overall record out of 17 home games: 2023 4-2, 2024 4-1, 2025 5-0
- Infrastructure improvements/developments:

- Brigade sports complex men's and women's golf locker room
- Farragut football practice field (leveled)
- Ingram Track resurfacing
- Wesley Brown Field House Nutrition Center
- Hubbard Hall Training Room
- Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium: Athletics & Scholarship Program Pavilion and Bruce and Bernadine Lakefield Pavilion
- Robert Corwn Sailing Center
- Navy Lacrosse Center: preparations for the season to start in January (facility, weight room, training room, theater, fueling station, wardroom)
- Terwilliger Brothers Field at Max Bishop Stadium will have a clubhouse renovation
- Golf course is the #15 college course, Class of '77 "19th Hole Grill Room" to open April 2026.
- Halsey Field House – new field turf
- Navy Letterwinners Association – honors all Navy varsity and club athletes Reconnects alumni with Navy Athletics, football and lacrosse tailgates, sports-specific alumni events, Letterwinner Reunion Series, monthly newsletters, letter sweater replacements, etc. The Letterwinners Association is in its infancy but starting strong
- Navy Athletics Giving Day on 02 Dec – contributions can be designated to each one of the 36 varsity sports or the Fund for Athletic Excellence
- Patriot League Presidents' Cup- Navy claimed the cup 11 times since 2011-2012.
- Conference championship 7th year in a row for cross country
- Army-Navy will be in Baltimore this year and is sold out, NY next year. Requests for Proposal (RFPs) will be received on Mar-Jun 2026 for following years.
- NAAA is 95% self-funded: 5% appropriated funding, 95% non-appropriated funding. Navy-Marine Corps Stadium activities are not on federal land.
- NAAA alignment with the Alumni Foundation: Strategic Plan, Capital campaign, Margin of Excellence. 36 sports must find ways to get funding
- Programmatic Needs: broadcast, sports technology (behind times on measuring metrics, research), sports psychology (find ways to ensure mental readiness), nutrition (education, balance, administration needs), recovery. Nutrition – 3 square meals, but need more fuel for world class athletes, staffing, additional food education. These options are a supplement and not a substitution for meals.
- The Athletic Excellence Legacy Fund – the physical mission is integral to Midshipmen education and experience. The fund has long-term importance and will support NAAA and physical mission in perpetuity. These gifts are through estate plans; will have permanent recognition in Terwilliger Lobby (The Ron Terwilliger '63 Center for Student-Athletes)
- Athletic success the past 20+ years: 251 conference titles, 352 All-Americans, 139 Academic All-Americans, 12 Commander-in-Chief Trophies, 16 Bowl Games, finished either first or second in the Presidents' Cup in the last 18 years, dominated Army to win the N* series 21 times over the past 24 years.

Questions:

- Soccer: needs to win Patriot league. Facilities are already good, recruiting in place, but need to find right leader and improve its strategy. It is never easy to make personnel changes, but USNA needs to perform better. Search so far: 6 candidates. The assistant coach will take the team through exam time, and there will be a new system next spring.
- Club teams: women's softball won the national club championship but does not get recognized much.
- There are 15 club sports, robust program.
- TBD on football championships: N. Texas, Tulane, and Navy are in discussion. Who the top 2 are will be considered for college football playoffs. Getting a ranked win was important, and it may be enough for the committee to consider, but it did not help to lose against N. Texas; their schedule was not as difficult.

LTGen W. David Beydler '81, USMC (Ret.), Vice Chair, Board of Trustees (no slides)

- 69,000 alumni are scattered across globe
- The Board of Trustees holds a strategic review meeting every February and the group look down range at the long-term, things needed for alumni in the future.
- For the last BOT meeting in May, alumni were invited to observe. 90 alumni signed up and were provided the opportunity to speak to the board of directors (2 minutes each). 9 people signed up. The board expected that they would have an axe to grind but instead they understood the challenges. There was a better understanding of the board's function
- The board aligned committees with staff functions, ensured the right people with the right expertise were placed on some committees (for example, businessmen and financial experts to review the budget). Members need to ensure they had availability to meet, as some committees (Joint Finance and Audit Committee) meets 6x/year. Moving forward, joint committees will aim to combine meetings
- \$10M spent on alumni support programs. From the generosity of the alumni, \$40M benefited alumni programs. Boston Consulting Group provides consulting services to the AA&F and the Naval Academy pro bono to better understand the Naval Academy brand. In plotting engagement and satisfaction on X-Y axes, the Women's Shared Interest Group (SIG) showed the greatest engagement and satisfaction with lower engagement and satisfaction were alumni less than 40 years, attributed to many of them being too busy and on active duty
- Ongoing discussion on how to make better use of Fluegel and increase its revenue stream
- Discussions on Enterprise Risk Management: cyber, finance, AI need to understand and use properly, markets, reputation risk. West Point had plans to publicly recognize Tom Hanks (duty, honor, country award) and were advised not to present it publicly and West Point agreed, which did not reflect well on the West Point Association of Graduates. Navy needs to be ready to respond (DGA and TAL recognitions for example)
- LTGen W. David Beydler will be replaced in May 2026. 20 alumni applied to be the Vice Chairman of the Alumni Association. After personal interviews, the number was reduced to 4, with eventual selection of MajGen Austin "Sparky" Renforth '88, USMC (Ret.)

Questions:

- Why only 4 Distinguished Graduates are recognized: ceremony length is/was a consideration. Thriving as Leaders award was developed to recognize a wider range of alumni who deserve recognition. The number of DGs selected will be discussed at the next meeting
- Need younger alums involved, need to survey them to capture the needs of younger grads. The creation of SIGs – minority association, Women’s SIG, etc. make people feel welcome and make them more engaged

USNA Alumni Association and Foundation Reports:

Mr. Jeff Webb '95, CEO and President, USNA Alumni Association & Foundation

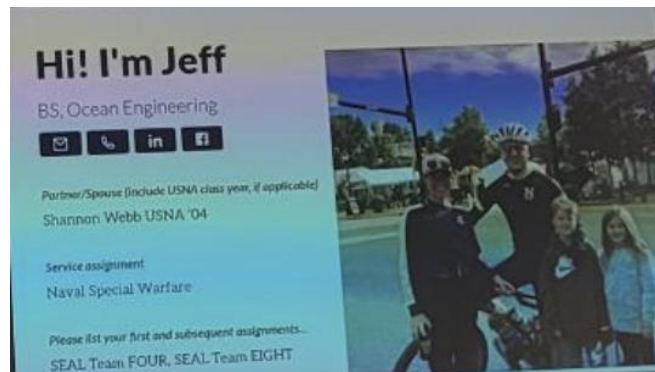
- Class organizations are the foundation’s secret weapons to determine the demand signals and gain feedback. Feedback is critical
- Thriving as Leaders (TAL) is a fairly new program
- DGA season is ongoing – Certain groups are not targeted; instead, nominees are looked at as individuals.
- Recent Gift Announcements: there will be another area that can be used for reunions within the N-MC stadium in the North End Zone called the Lakefield Pavilion (Bruce Lakefield '67), and Taylor Family Event Wing at the Fluegel Alumni Center (Michael Taylor '86)
- Email: jeff.webb@usna.com

Mr. John Coppola, EVP and CFO (no slides)

- Served in position for over a year now. Work that has happened in the last 6 months:
 - o Held a Joint Finance and Auditing Committee meeting
 - o Comprehensive RFP for outsourcing chief investment officer (OCIO) (\$350M long-term portfolio). Had an internal working group and brought in the Board of Directors. Brought in partner North Pier OCIO to research. Looked at 20 firms, invited 8 to bid, and narrowed to 4 firms. Each pitched partnership. Voted unanimously to transfer from TIFF investment management to Prime Buchholz. They manage \$80B overall, are based in Portsmouth, NH, and have offices in Boston and Atlanta. Prime Buchholz demonstrated a deep understanding of USNA and what it is trying to accomplish. Transition in progress through mid-Jan. \$250-260M will be under their management. There is a nominal cost during transition, but overall, fees will be lower working with Prime Buchholz with more transparency and streamlining.
- Email: john.coppola@usna.com

CAPT T. J. Grady '96, USN (Ret.), EVP, Alumni Association

- After receiving much feedback about the sub-standard alumni website, USNA.com was redesigned and launched in summer 2025. The website was overhauled so that alumni can find things more easily, along with finding different support services so that alumni feel more connected. Overall improvements:
 - o From 1000+ unique pages to 100+ unique pages
 - o From inflexible page builder to custom to user-friendly page builder/manager
 - o From many clicks to find buried information to open + easily navigated information
- The Columbarium was fully funded, goal achieved Fall 2025. This will help move forward with the design phase for future expansion and Ramsay Road to strengthen site resilience. This will also result in 600 new niches in the Columbarium, timetable TBD pending Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) contracting. NAVFAC is doing construction on the Yard for other projects. There is a small delta in new niches to be available compared to the waiting list. Looking at a 3rd Columbarium, again not government funded.
- Travel/Reunion eBooks piloted in Fall 2025. Members of reunion classes and those travelling on Alumni Association trips were invited to create a personal page. The pages show what classmates live in geographic locations, what classmates are up to, where they live (if provided), and where they served. 2700+ alumni pages were built. Stats as of Oct 2025: 38% average class participation, 80,000+ data points shared including job updates, service assignments, detailed service assignment notes, highest rank achieved, home numbers, mailing addresses, LinkedIn Profiles. Example:



- Events and Operations in Fluegel for reunions/memorials.
- Fluegel hosted 7 classes this year: '60, '65, '75, '80, '85, '90, and '95
 - o 30 Aug VMI game weekend: '60 dinner - 150 guests
 - o 20 Sep (no game): '85 reunion reception – 800 guests
 - o 04 Oct (AF game weekend): President's Circle, '90, '95 – 900 guests on night 1, 600 guests on night 2
 - o 25 Oct (FAU game weekend): '65 lunch – 210 guests, '75 – 600 guests; pre-game party 600+ guests
 - o 08 Nov (ND game weekend for away game): '80 – 200 guests

Email: thomas.grady@usna.com

CAPT Anthony Spinler '91, USN (Ret.), Director, Alumni Support Services

- Background: Prior nuke enlisted, sprint football, glee club.
- Career support (SACC, LinkedIn mentorship): becoming your own detailer, webinars, workshops, tools, resume support, look the part, compensation negotiation
- Continuing education (MOAA): individual development programs, programs and professional credentials, applying for scholarships, Yellow Ribbon programs, utilizing AI
- Reserve opportunities: retirement benefits, branches of service, designators
- Medical Facilitation: webinars and programs focused on VA-related topics, benefits & healthcare services, filing your claim, collaboration with alumni/family health and support committee
- Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs): capacity to support all alumni, personal assistance and advocacy
- Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP): by industry, designator, affiliation, aspiration, experience, location, etc., driven by the Protégé and free to all Alumni
- Networking (Entrepreneur Summit): events and platforms that facilitate alumni connections, collaborate on professional endeavors, exchange knowledge
- Email: Anthony.spinler@usna.com

Wendy Owen, Director, Alumni Class Programs

- Reunions– much feedback that it is too difficult to do each time.
- Reunions Advisory Council (RAC) reviewed West Point and Air Force models, surveyed reunion classes on pain points, identified areas where the RAC can help; classes want more hands-on assistance and overall planning support
- Reunion support in 2025: 15 reunions (3 spring, 12 fall), 4167 classmates, 7777 attendees.
- Digital “Cruise Books” trial for reunions – Alumni want to share life updates. Each classmate can create his/her own page to re-connect with others before, during and after the reunion; pages visible to all class members who created a page, editable until end of 2025 and viewable online forever. Providing a new avenue for connections. 12 classes participated: 275 pages created and 28,373 page views. Class of 2020 has the most pages (326)
- New this fall were Reunion Assistants, used by 8 classes. Up to 20 hours of on-site staffing at no cost to the classes. Average hours used: 13. Provided check-in assistance, swag distro, and King Hall access.
- Wendy is shifting to more defined role supporting Yard-focused events: memorials, class meetings, Supe’s briefings, Protocol contact, USNA access, King Hall brunch, class engagement strategy, Another Link in the Chain and Ring Program.
- Email: wendy.owen@usna.com

Ms. Naomi Storey, Alumni Reunion Manager

- New overall reunion planning and strategy assistance (no longer Wendy) 3 weeks on the job today
- Background: originally from Ipswich, England, veteran (operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Iraq War), became a US citizen in Jan 2025; husband was stationed at USNA. Links with USNA since 1997, currently sponsoring 4 Mids, graduated from Manchester University before attending Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth.
- Primary POC: overall Class reunion planning & strategy assistance, reunion dates, tailgate reservations, hotel/catering/transportation assistance, swag suggestions, Fluegel reservations
- Reunion Strategy Proposal: create a “Reunion Operating System” to streamline planning, Plan of Action and Milestones 2 years out through post-event, maximize benefits of Fluegel Alumni Center as “home port,” work to reduce costs, spread out reunions (spring/fall, max 3 classes per home game)
- Email: Naomi.storey@usna.com

Mr. Isaac Phillips '19, Director, Online Engagement & SIGs

- myUSNA website: class has complete control over the page, its members and privacy. Admins can take the job on personally or split the work among a team or delegate non-classmates to be webmasters, various class officer tools in one space (emails, event registration, custom informational pages, conversation boards, obituaries, etc.)
- Recently someone attempted an impersonation and the office worked to take care of that, working to protect security of the site
- Each class needs an Admin. Tutorials available to build pages, each class needs a webmaster. Classmates can find information on myUSNA, ask for assistance if needed. Email: Isaac.phillips@usna.com

Mr. John Schofield, Exec. Director, Communications

- New USNA Register of Alumni - project began Jan 2024 to confirm mailing addresses for cost savings and to provide a world-class directory for alumni.
- Daily Shipmate: supports print transition, smoother shift from 10 to 6 Shipmate magazine issues per year. Timely news: updates on U.S. Navy, USMC, USNA, Annapolis and DoD news within 24 hours. Engaged audience opt-in newsletter. Data: 4400 new subscribers since May, 80% open rate, ~12.3%/month average monthly growth rate
- New Podcast Fleet: Sing Second Podcast, Waypoints Podcast, Navy Football Podcast, Anchors Aweigh Podcast, Academy Insider Podcast
- Shipmate Portal: one-stop-shop, access anywhere to read Shipmate and submit content anytime, community engagement. The 2024-2025 Digital Shipmate opt-in campaign brought in 684 alumni choosing digital access only. At \$1.83/printed magazine, moving recurring content on the portal to save \$1,251. Alumni have already shown responsiveness to digital access.
- Modernizing the Shipmate Obituary: 20 pages dedicated to obituaries. Digital solution is for families/friends to submit obits directly through the portal, information accessible

via usna.com/obituaries and/or usna.com/shipmate. Overwhelming majority of alumni magazines only list names of passed alums; obits are more accessible online shared via Facebook and class page.

- Recommended future: names only printed on the back of the magazine, aligns with trends at other service academies and peer institutions. Honors alumni while meeting audiences where they are – online. Comms team is currently developing new Legacy/Obits website.
- Email: John.Schofield@usna.com

Wes Huey '87 Executive Director, Strategy & Legacy Programs

- 65 nominees for the Thriving As Leaders Awards.
- TAL and DGA programs are strong due to classmate submissions
- Honor Our Fallen – feedback that the event has pulled families together, a method to bring families together
- Email: Wesley.huey@usna.com

Ms. Amy Garwood, Director, Alumni Travel (no slides)

- Tours involving the WWII Museum, a non-profit museum in New Orleans. Also offering mini reunions with the WWII museum, they will do pickups at the airport. Higgins Hotel (Hilton property) accommodations, Hop-On Hop-Off bus stop outside the door. Three programs a year
- “Band of Brothers” tour through Europe program, travel with select actors.
- Normandy is also being offered next year
- Coming up in next few years: Pearl Harbor sunrise ceremony and Arizona Memorial on 07 Dec
- 2027 offering St. Andrews Golf Course and Arctic Circle
- 13 March travel showcase in Annapolis with tour operators, door prizes
- Email: Amy.garwood@usna.com

Ms. Jenn Macris, Director, Planned Giving

- POC for estate and legacy gifts
- Email: Jenn.macris@usna.com

Decade Reports

- **50s/60s Steve Comiskey '69:** VADM Yvette Davids became an honorary member of '65, wishing Spencer Johnson '63 well. Thankful to those who traveled from afar. '69 has submitted a number of unsuccessful USNA DGA nominations and for those '69 classmates who didn't get selected to be a USNA DG, individual '69 Class DGA plaques were created and given to those '69 Classmates at the '69 55th reunion.

- **70s: Kevin Stone '76:** Another Link in the Chain proposed to be called “A Link in the Chain” versus “Another Link in the Chain.” Re: presentation of Ensign/2nd LT bars at graduation, suggesting not calling them “butter bars.” Memorial Affairs - operational losses recognized in Memorial Hall. Number of DGs (4 per year) questioned, will bring concern to the committee head. The DGA ceremony is traditionally held in the spring but exception this past fall due to honoree in space; group consensus is to put back in spring to deconflict with football weekend. The Reunion Cruise Book is a good product. Yard tour guides receive \$18/hour, encouraging more grads to be involved as tour guides.
- **80s: Steve Fischer '83:** Group feels strongly about the Health Services initiatives. Reunion support for classes has been beneficial. Some classes have done reunions yearly, reunions on cruises, and events in the DC area and San Diego area at the same time with zooming capability so that the event is like one large room.
- **90s: Wags Wagner '97:** The AA Board of Trustees meetings involving decade reps are working meetings unlike the semi-annual COCP meetings. Wags chaired the AA nominating committee and reviewed 65 TAL nominees.
- **2000s: Donnie Horner '08** – suggested for COCP to take place over two days and suggested networking with Mids on the 2nd day.
- **2010s/2020s:** Will Roberts '14: Provided similar positive reunion feedback.

Mr. Justin Freeh '06 – Custodes Libertatis Memorial Foundation (CLMF)

- Mission: to provide educational scholarship grants for post-secondary degree from an accredited school; grants are available to children of USNA grads who have lost their lives in combat; unaffiliated with USNA or with Alumni Association or the Foundation.
- Founded by '06 grads. Charter drafted in 2016 filed with state of DE, provides for 100% volunteers without compensation. IRS granted 501(c)(3) status.
- www.fallenshipmate.org
- Identified 45+ eligible scholarship beneficiaries across multiple USNA classes.
- Supported families of the fallen from '85, '86, '87, and '94. 8 scholarship recipients.
- Affiliate Partner of Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, 6-time non-profit partner of Carry the Load
- Resources available: total assets in excess of \$500K as of Nov 2025.

LCDR Adrienne Maeser '06 – 50 Years of Women

Multiple events to take place April 2026 – conferences, gala, tables one can buy, or sponsor aspects of events such as sponsoring Mids' tickets to the gala. Key milestones and initiatives:

- 07 Oct – Anniversary of the signing of the legislation allowing women to attend the Service Academies
- 2026 – Shipmate magazine coverage highlighting the impact of women at USNA
- Podcast Collaboration – Sing Second, USNA Women, and the Class of 1980
- 50-year Gala & Celebration 16-19 Apr 2026 Fluegel Alumni Center

- Contact: Mary Brigden '81 marybrigden@usnawomen.com

VADM John B. Nowell Jr., '84, USN (Ret.), Pres. & CEO, U.S. Navy Memorial

- Not the same thing as the Navy Museum. Mission: Honor, recognize, and celebrate the men and women of the sea services, past present and future, and to inform the public about their service
- Vision: be a lifelong connection for the men and women of the sea services and gateway for the public through understanding and engagement, to foster a greater appreciation for the service.
- Execution: as a Naval ambassador, tell the stories of the men and women of the sea services, represented by the iconic Lone Sailor statue, through thought-provoking programs, unforgettable events, and immersive exhibit experiences.
- Located in Washington, DC, midway between Capitol Hill and the White House on Pennsylvania Ave with its own metro station and parking availability.
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, no funding from government
- 230-person theater for ceremonies, movie screenings, public and private receptions, wreath-laying ceremonies, concerts every Tuesday night in the summer, blessing of the Fleet. Also hosts an annual prospective Mids candidate information night for the Greater Washington, DC area. Also used for joint celebrations during Army-Navy week.
- Speaker series:
 - o Fantail Breakfast Series – invitation-only networking for corporate partners to hear from senior DoD leadership about current topics
 - o Bridge Wing Chat Series – engage senior Naval and sea services leadership on current topics that have strategic impact on national security and the Sea Services
 - o SITREP Speaker Series – live-streamed interview and audience Q&A and podcast, an opportunity for senior Naval leaders to update and engage audiences around the world
- Programs and Events: Lone Sailor Awards Dinner, Veteran Reunion & Group Visitor Program, interactive exhibits and Burke Theatre, Youth and Education programs, Stories of Service & Navy Log, Home of the Delbert D. Black National Chief's Mess, Worldwide Lone Sailor Statues
- Commemorative Opportunities:
 - o Commemorative plaque wall at the memorial to offer USNA reunion groups a meaningful way to preserve the legacy of classmates, mounted in a place of honor along the Visitor Center with custom designed plaque.
 - o Commemorative bench: create a legacy for USNA class with a bench in the Visitor Center made of teak and built by a veteran woodworker. Sponsorship would include a 2" x 7" engraved metal plate with the class year or a fallen shipmate's name.
 - o Burke Theatre Chair: front row tribute with a custom nameplate and memento engraved with the chair's row and number

- Celebrate the legacy of a Navy Chief: a tribute to Navy Chiefs who inspire, mentor, and lead. Share the story of a chief who made a lasting impact, each tribute is displayed in the exhibit within the Delbert D. Black National Chief's Mess.
- POC: Director of Major and Legacy Giving: kmccarthy@navymemorial.org
- (202)380-0782 and <https://www.navymemorial.org/>

RADM Ray Spicer '79, USN (Ret.), CEO and Publisher, U.S. Naval Institute (USNI)

- Mission: to advance the professional, literary, and scientific understanding of sea power and the critical issues shaping global security.
- Located on Hospital Point (previously our USNA hospital which closed in 1979, abandoned ~20 years).
- Jack C. Taylor Conference Center, named after naval aviator who served in WWII. Was initially in college and enlisted. Earned two distinguished crosses. Flew off ESSEX and ENTERPRISE. Founded ENTERPRISE rental cars.
- Lockheed Martin auditorium, and other rooms for hosting. Spaces are available for class reunion events, used for overflow if other buildings are not available. Can also do lunches or dinners.
- Engagement with the Brigade
 - Warfighter lecture series community leaders: author, CO of IKE, CO of CARNEY, Red Sea ops. CARNEY brought 2 JO's and Mids keenly interested in them.
 - Sponsored Student Program
 - Summer Internships
 - The Profession – Midshipman-written publication, edited and published by USNI
 - Annual Applied History Conference
 - Books, including digital textbooks
 - “Warfighter” lecture series 6 times per year
- Pictures are digitized from past proceedings. Historic leaders who wrote articles: Commodore Luce, Lieutenant King, Lieutenant Nimitz.
- Joining the Institute: [USNI.org/join](https://usni.org/join), start getting Proceedings magazine. Grads can sponsor Mids to receive Proceedings.

Closing Comments: COCP Chair, Steve Comiskey '69

COCP Meeting Adjourned

Singing of NAVY BLUE AND GOLD

BEAT ARMY!