

Council of Class Presidents Fall 2020 Virtual Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting opened at 1230 by Chair, Mr. Stephen Comiskey - 1969

New Presidents recognized:

- 1952 CDR Robert H. ("Bob") Schulze, USN (Ret.)
- 1960 RDML Peter G. ("Pete") Chabot, USN (Ret.)
- 1990 Mr. Frank Bendik
- 2003 LtCol Lisa D. Cordonnier, USMC

Note that we have Class Presidents that cover eight decades! (1942 to 2022)

Recognized Active Duty and Reserve Members.

Recognized the outgoing and incoming COCP Board Members.

Held a moment of silence for the Presidents lost.

- 1943 CAPT Leslie R. ("Les") Heselton, USN (Ret.)
- 1945 RADM George F. Ellis, Jr., USN (Ret.)
- 1949 CAPT Robert R. ("Red") Tolbert, Sr., USN (Ret.)

Previous meeting minutes approved.

Alumni Association and Foundation Panel provided briefs

- ADM Samuel J. Locklear, III, USN (Ret.) 1977, Chairman, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees update
 - Following the issue in Jacksonville, FL last Spring, the BOT established a Special Committee to examine the business practices and governance of the Alumni Association. The goal was to establish a framework to ensure racism, sexism and bigotry have no place in our Association and to ensure we are inclusive.
 - LtGen Dave Beydler, USMC (Ret.) (One of three co-chairs of the Special Committee on Alumni Culture, Diversity and Inclusion provided an update)
 - Since established in July, the Special Committee conducted weekly two-hour meetings and took countless inputs from alumni over this Summer and Fall. Inputs received from alumni include:
 - the Alumni Association has attempted to encourage greater engagement of minority alumni by the formation of Shared Interest Groups (SIG)
 - diversity and inclusion is the most important topic that the Alumni Association should now be focused on and it can't wait for the 2030 Strategic Plan
 - as alumni we need to trust one another
 - Younger/ diverse alumni want to see improved transparency and inclusion
 - everyone wants to see the final report
 - Special Committee on 30 September made 27 preliminary recommendations to the BOT. Those preliminary recommendations all support three outcomes:
 - greater appreciation of each other
 - greater transparency

- expand diverse participation and engagement
 - The Special Committee wants to collect data from all Alumni in order to further refine its recommendations but has delayed sending out the all-Alumni survey during the current politically and socially charged time out of concern the returned data may not be reflective of alumni opinion.
 - COCP will get a heads up before that survey is sent out to all Alumni
- Mr. Byron F. Marchant 1978, President/CEO update
 - Provided an update on Alumni Association and impacts of COVID
 - Alumni and Foundation buildings are closed to visitors
 - Fundraising has slowed, but is picking up
 - Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA) ceremony to be held Spring 2021
 - DGA submissions for 2021 are due between December 2020 and February 2021
 - Alumni Center groundbreaking April 2021
 - Other updates
 - Chapel Dome memorabilia sales are > \$1.26M. Profits go to the Midshipman Activities Fund
 - Alumni Association is growing: 2,315 new members this year!
 - Hopper Hall - Cyber Security Center
 - Ribbon cutting was held on 15 October
 - First new academic building since 1975
 - First building at a Service Academy named after a woman (RADM Grace Hopper USN)
 - Classes supporting the Center for Cyber Security to date (\$100k or more): 1959, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1976, 1980, 1982, 1989 and 1990
 - The Naval Academy Campaign closed in September with > \$500M raised!
 - \$53M for class projects alone in *Called to Serve Daring to Lead*; \$32M restricted and \$21M to the Naval Academy Fund
 - \$5.5M to Class Projects in last 12 months
 - Classes supporting the Alumni Center: 1949, 1955, 1966, 1967, 1974, 1978 and 1984
- ADM Robert J. Natter, USN (Ret.) 1967 former Chairman, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees provided an update on the new Alumni Center Project
 - 68,855 square foot building
 - 100 staff work spaces
 - 300+ person main level conference center
 - 110 seat upper level multipurpose room
 - 100 person lower level bar/multipurpose room
 - On-site or nearby parking for > 100 vehicles
 - Project cost \$36M with \$29M funded
 - Class giving opportunities at the \$250k and \$100k levels
 - Individual plankowner opportunities for those that pledge \$12,500 total and sign up by 31 December 2022 (total pledged can be paid over several years)
 - Individual and class naming opportunities still available from \$500k to \$1.5M
 - Expected Project completion Summer/Fall 2022
 - Project is on budget

- Kristin Pironis, EVP Communications and Marketing
 - Discussed the various media used by the Alumni Association to reach alums
 - Discussed Army-Navy Game virtual initiatives
 - Trivia contest the week before the game
 - Puppy bowl in conjunction with Army-Navy game
 - Virtual tailgates. Classes holding events should contact Kristen to get shipped swag boxes to support the game watch events
- Craig Washington '89: Vice President, Engagement and Operations
 - Discussed Service Academy Career Conference
 - Despite the virtual environment, we saw a 20% increase in alumni attendance
 - SACC Central offers the opportunity to post singular jobs between SACC Career Fairs if a company has a singular or urgent fill
 - This is the most important thing we can do for our alumni
 - Alumni Mentoring Program
 - Developed by '69 as a 50 year legacy gift
 - Over 4k alumni participating as Mentors and Proteges
 - This is a critical retention tool, to help alumni at critical decision points in their career, or for those wishing to remain in the service but perhaps consider a different career path
 - Alumni Business Networking
 - The AA website hosts contact information for alumni owned businesses across the country.
 - If you are in need of service, please consider looking on the website to see if the service you need may be offered by an alum. Another critical tool for alumni to support alumni.
- VADM Sean S. Buck, USN 1983, Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy, briefed the group on the current state of USNA
 - Brigade fully reformed in late September, but it took three months to get there. Because of an abundance of caution, Midshipmen were brought back in 300 MIDN increments
 - Strict social distancing protocols continue in place on the Yard
 - The second wing of Bancroft Hall has approximately 130 isolation rooms set aside. To accommodate loss of rooms in Bancroft Hall – and the required social distancing permitting less Midshipmen in many rooms - there are 372 Midshipmen sleeping in eight dormitories at St John's College (SJC has none of its students on its campus)
 - Weekly, 10% of the population at USNA (Midshipman, Staff and faculty) are randomly tested for COVID under a Sentinel Testing protocol

- Faculty are conducting classes virtually, in person, or a hybrid combination of both
- Numbers of positives are closely monitored. There have been numerous weeks with 0.0% positives. Currently the percentage is 0.8%
- Midshipmen have been allowed to go on overnight liberty within 25 miles of the Yard. That can be pulled back if rates in the local Annapolis area go up
- Thanksgiving liberty will consist of Wednesday and Thursday night liberty within 100 miles. Friday after Thanksgiving all Midshipmen will return back and will be a study day for all at the Academy as exams start on 4 December
- Midshipmen will start winter break after the Army Navy game and will return in groups starting 5 January, with classes resuming on 19 January
- USNA is a Tier One Naval Activity and will receive COVID vaccine when Navy operational units receive it
- USNA rankings in U.S. News and World Report
 - #1 in Top Public Schools (Liberal Arts Colleges)
 - #6 in National Liberal Arts Colleges
 - #5 in Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs
 - #5 Aeronautical Engineering
 - #9 Mechanical Engineering
 - #10 Electrical Engineering
 - #43 in Best Undergraduate Teaching
- Diversity
 - Racism is not systemic at USNA, but there is some degree of racism, discrimination and bigotry on the Yard. No Midshipman comes to USNA on an equal footing or background identical to all other Midshipman and they each have different values when they each arrive here. Supe is trying to get all Midshipman to listen and to understand each other to become better leaders
 - Established a Task Force to take a Top Down look
 - Midshipman provide a Bottom Up look
 - Midshipman Diversity Team
 - Navy Football Players Counsel for Racial Equality
 - Diversity and Inclusion Training. Formal DoD/DoN institutional training at an “all stop” per Executive Order and DON & DoD Guidance. No training has, or will include “critical race theory”
 - The names of Maury Hall, Buchanan House (Supe’s Quarters) and Buchanan Road have been questioned and Navy (not USNA) is decision-maker on names at USNA
 - MIDN 1/C Standage case. Supe has been instructed that he shouldn’t discuss any issue or matter that is currently in litigation in the courts
 - Tecumseh Statue
 - Temporary pause on painting Tecumseh due to feedback from Midshipmen Diversity Team
 - Columns on either side of T-Court are being painted by 9th Company to continue to show spirit
- Mr. Chester S. (“Chet”) Gladchuk, Jr., Athletic Director, U.S. Naval Academy

- Working through COVID
- Despite loss of revenue we still need to do all that we can to sustain our 33 Varsity programs, many Club Sports Teams, and Intramurals
- Alumni have always been great supporters of Navy Athletics and we need that continued support from all Alumni as we work our way through this current severe revenue loss to keep supporting our Midshipmen and maintain and preserve our very successful Navy Teams which are led by some of the Nation's best coaches
- Football Team had no COVID positives for seven games
 - However, this week a few Navy football players tested positive and because of contact tracing, dozens of players are now in isolation and the home Football Game scheduled for this Saturday has – we hope – been postponed to a later date, and hopefully not cancelled
 - Army Air Force Game scheduled for this Saturday was today, likewise, postponed because of positive tests by some Air Force football players
 - Army Navy will be played on December 12th at West Point because Philadelphia medical protocols won't allow it to be played in Philadelphia and because Army is the home team this year

Decade Break-out Reports:

1940's and 1950's - Diversity, format of COCP, how to make up for lost football revenue, and proposed letter of commendation from COCP for the retiring Sharon Moffatt (USNA Memorial Affairs Coordinator). Council Chair will take letter from COCP to Sharon for action.

1960's - Consider a proposal that several USNA Classes join together as their joint Class(es) Gift to USNA to financially support a solution for the Columbarium capacity issue and the rising sea level issue at the Columbarium. We appreciate the Alumni Association's support on getting reunion hotel deposits back for rescheduling caused by the Pandemic. COCP format - keep full day meetings. None of the 60's Classes have any women and only a few minorities as Classmates, so inclusivity and diversity within each Class (and all Classes – not just the 60's Classes) should also include reaching out to Classmates with little or modest means to see how we can help them (economic diversity), and reaching out to Classmates with physical disabilities, and affirmatively implementing geographic diversity on Class Boards and as Class officers.

1970's - It is not worth collecting money for reunions until schedules are firm. Diversity is a key topic; we are looking forward to hearing from Supe and ADM Locklear on culture, diversity and inclusion.

1980's – Class of 80/85 Reunion pushed to Army/Navy Lacrosse game. Class of 81/86 Reunion is on track. All of us in the 80's Classes are ready to support diversity and inclusion. We do not want to lose any edge on fundraising because of Pandemic.

1990's – At our Decade Breakout we talked at length about diversity, inclusion, and making a difference. '91 has done some Class calls on racism, bigotry, COVID, networking, executive leadership, and they are working on their 30th. '93 has creating formal By Laws as a current agenda item and is in early planning for their 30th. '95 is working on rescheduling their 25th. '96 has had Class calls on Diversity, and inclusion, Networking, Professional Development and COVID, and there is a '96 women's group that has also been active. '98 is very interested in the Alumni Association Board's actions and efforts on inclusion and diversity with an eye on “really making a difference.” '99 noted that respects were finally able to be paid to PC Hudson at Arlington Cemetery following his death surrounding his involvement in the Australian wildfires.

2000's – At our Decade Breakout we talked about reunions and that we all believe that diversity and inclusion are important. 2005 is looking at writing a book. We also wanted to know the procedure to remove a classmate. We encourage Classes to participate in Midshipmen Capstone Projects. Andrew Lukich, 2006, discussed (both at our Breakout and at this COCP Meeting) the 2006 Class Foundation to support educating the children of KIA Alumni from all Classes. It's called the Custodes Liberatis Memorial Foundation. Please consider donating to it. The link for that '06 Foundation is Fallenshipmate.org.

2010's – Each of our Classes believe that diversity and inclusion are positive things and the Special Committee is doing great work. COVID has encouraged virtual meetings across decades, which is awesome. For one example, 1963 and 2013 Link in The Chain Classes have had calls with each other on leadership, culture, inclusion, and diversity. Each of our Classes is standing by to implement the Alumni Association's recommendations on improving culture, diversity and inclusion.

New Business:

Perry Martini 1971 would like these minutes to include the Alumni Association Bylaws language on how to remove a member of the Alumni Association. (Included below)

AA Bylaws for removal of members:

“Section 2.2 Term and Termination of Membership. Generally, the term of membership shall be for life; provided, however, that: (a) any member may resign at any time by written notice submitted to the Secretary of the Association; (b) any member may be suspended or expelled for cause, after a hearing, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Board; (c) any person eligible for membership who is terminated from the military or federal service of the United States under conditions other than honorable, or who is convicted in a court of law of a crime of moral turpitude, shall be disqualified from membership or, if a member, shall be expelled from membership; and (d) any member in default in the payment of dues or fees assessed by the Association shall be suspended from all privileges of membership, including in the case of regular members, the right to vote, and will be notified of the suspension and deemed to be not in good standing. If such payment default is not cured within ninety (90) days after notice of suspension, the membership of such member will terminate without further action by the Association.”

Mike Novak 1970 wanted to know if there is a definition of a “Classmate” somewhere and does it include someone who was kicked out of USNA due to an honor or a conduct offense. Mike also said it was a pleasure to have served on the COCP Board.

Many Classes suggested that the COCP - as well as individual Classes - should consider doing something for Sharon Moffatt since she has done so much for so many Classes and individual Alums. Council Chair will take this for action from the COCP and encourages each Class to consider sending its own note or letter to Sharon, as well.

Many speakers and individual Classes and Decades honored Dave Church 1967 in their remarks thanking Dave as he retires after his decades of service: to the Academy, to the Alumni Association, to the Athletic Association, to his Class of 1967, to his Decade of the '60's, and to the COCP. The SACC has been one of Dave's most significant legacies to all Alumni. We all owe Dave a debt of gratitude for first standing the SACC up and then for making it one of the crown jewels of the Naval Academy Alumni Association. We all wish Dave “Fair Winds and Following Seas” on his retirement and look forward to his continuing as the Class of 1967 Class President.

Virtual Meeting Adjourned at 1645 by the Chair

Stay healthy and safe.

Respectfully submitted,

CAPT David M. Jackson, USN (Ret.) - USNA 1979

Secretary, Council of Class Presidents