

Council of Class Presidents Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting Minutes

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

New Presidents recognized:

- 1949 CAPT Richard ("Rick") A. Claytor USN (Ret)
- 1956 CAPT James ("Jim") M. Van Metre USN (Ret)
- 1957 VADM Daniel ("Dan") L. Cooper USN (Ret)
- 1970 CDR Edmund ("Ed") E. Moore USN (Ret)

Though no Class Presidents were lost, a moment of silence was held for lost alumni.

Previous meeting minutes were approved.

Paul McElroy from USAA was introduced. USAA is supporting Commissioning Week, new Plebes, and provided "gyms in a box".

Shipmate will ensure that all inputs that are received come from email addresses that are on a cleared data list

Class of 2006 Justin Freeh and Dan Runthimer provided a brief on a program to support the families of fallen heroes which provides tuition support to their children. The families supported are those with fallen heroes since 9/11. More info at fallenshipmate.org

VADM Sean S. Buck, USN 1983, Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy, briefed the group on the current state of USNA. Brief is attached

- Supe is optimistic that normalcy is returning to the Yard
- During the Spring semester, St John's College was not available to house Midshipmen, so 190 Midshipmen lived off the Yard by commuting from family or sponsors homes in order to make room in Bancroft for quarantine
- There was a spike in COVID cases after President's Weekend with 300+ cases of UK variant. The Yard was shut down for about a month (all classes conducted virtually, meals were eaten in rooms and all sports were shut down)
- Today there are no cases of COVID in the Brigade and 99% of the Brigade and 86% of faculty/staff/coaches are fully vaccinated
- Overnight liberty is granted again and no issues
- Spring athletics was a success story, despite having practice and games shut down for about a month due to the spike in COVID
- Commissioning Week will be in person. The only event being pushed to the Fall is the Ring Dance so that masks and social distancing are not required
- Plebe Summer Induction will occur on 29/30 June to give Medical time to process the Plebes. Plebe Summer will be one day shorter than the normal.

- Full Summer Training will resume for all Midshipmen this summer ... haze grey and underway!
- Next year in person academics will be conducted
- There was a significant hit to the budget to mitigate COVID. Still working through reimbursement with the Department of the Navy.
- Mental health, sexual assault, and destructive behavior continue to be concerns
- Supe thanked alumni for their philanthropy. Over \$530M raised. Alumni giving continues to provide the margin of excellence in multiple areas including diversity, cyber, international programs, Center for Academic Excellence, Project Based Learning and Leadership Excellence. Results include #1 Public Liberal Arts College in the Nation and Beating Army in the star series in the last 8 of 9 years.
- Questions and Supe's Responses:
 - Reunions on track? Yes!
 - How will Class of 21 compare to previous graduates? Supe thinks they are more resilient than any other Class due to their perseverance during COVID
 - Attrition in 23 and 24? 23 attrition may increase due to cheating on the Physics exam that is still being sorted. Also the NCAA portal process may cause some athletes to leave. Overall though, he does not think COVID will cause any significant increases
 - Is Midshipman Standage going to graduate and be Commissioned? He is undergoing remediation and if he passes that he will graduate and Commission with his classmates
 - Were any Mids seriously ill with COVID? Yes, there was a small handful that were seriously sick and they are all now back on the Yard.
 - What's the latest on rising waters? A formal engineering study will report out in December with a list of engineering solutions, costs and a schedule for execution over the next 25 years.
 - What is the latest on Critical Race theory at USNA? USNA does not teach critical race theory.
 - What's going on with the Youngster Physics Cheating scandal? USNA was tipped off by a Midshipman that an online site was used to find answers during the test. It may be easy to cheat electronically, but it is even easier with digital forensics to catch cheaters. Those Midshipmen involved are being adjudicated by Honor Boards.
 - When will the Yard open up? After 29 May, weddings, funerals and memorial services will resume. Visitor Center and tours will open up during Commissioning Week. Buildings on the Yard will start opening 29 May and continue to open throughout the summer.
 - Will STEM, Summer Seminar and Sports Camps be open this summer? We made the decision to not open Bancroft Hall for STEM, Summer Seminar or Sports Camps this summer. STEM and Summer Seminar will be virtual. Sports Camps will be day camps only.

Alumni Association and Foundation Panel provided briefs, which are attached

- Mr. Byron F. Marchant 1978, President/CEO update
 - Staff changes and new hires were briefed
 - Capital campaign was discussed
 - Elections for Mid-Atlantic and Western Region Trustee Representative announced: Mid-Atlantic: CDR Juliana R. Vida '94, USN (Ret.) and Western: CAPT Barbette H. Lowndes '80, SC, USN (Ret.). Congratulations!!!
 - The Alumni Survey is completed and results are being tabulated. There were 5,738 respondents, or 12% of alumni. Minorities and women were represented proportional to the numbers of graduates.
 - Class of 2020 DGAs will be recognized in a small ceremony on 2 September 2021. The Class of 2021 DGAs will be recognized in the Spring of 2022 and the Class of 2022 DGAs in the Fall of 2022.

- Mr. Bill O'Connor, EVP, Foundation update
 - Provided an overview of Capital Campaign and thanked everyone for their support
 - Provided an update on the budget and it is in the black
 - Provided an update on Alumni and Foundation Center project

- Craig Washington 1989: Vice President, Engagement and Communications
 - SACC is going strong virtually
 - Periodicals and media are all tracking
 - Virtual meetings have worked ... we have had more participants and have not missed a beat
 - Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP) now has over 4,000 Alumni enrolled as Mentors and Proteges. All Alumni please consider enrolling as a Mentor or as a Protégé or as both.
 - Alumni Center update
 - On schedule and budget
 - Open Fall 2022
 - The lowest point of the building is 10' above the 100 year flood plain

- ADM Samuel J. Locklear, III, USN (Ret.) 1977, Chairman, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees update
 - My last meeting with you. It has been fun.
 - Proud of how the Alumni Association weathered the storm of COVID and look forward to coming out of it
 - Proud of how we have worked together on cultural diversity to ensure every alumni feels welcomed in this Association
 - Will transition to ADM Mark Ferguson '78

Mr. Chester S. ("Chet") Gladchuk, Jr., Athletic Director, U.S. Naval Academy

- Priorities during the pandemic
 - Keep 33 Varsity Programs intact
 - Keep our superb coaches onboard
 - Come out of COVID ready to win!
- Lost 55% of revenue, but some expenses, like team travel was cheaper
- Thank you for supporting the Capital Campaign
- We are really looking forward to football resuming. Spring football camp just completed and went really well.
- Possibly another opportunity to go to Ireland for Navy - Notre Dame in 2023
- Homework assignment 1: Who are five athletes that stand out in your Class that are truly legends?
- Homework assignment 2: Consider a wall that has class plaques that support the physical mission in Terwilliger Center

Anthony Whalen, USNA Memorial Affairs Coordinator

- Replaced Sharon Moffat and is excited to be onboard
- Wants to make it easier for families to make arrangements for their loved one
- Columbarium will run out of space in ~ three years. Naval Academy Architect, Ms. Sarah Phillips, is working on an expansion project
- Close to 200 funerals being planned, so it's going to be a busy Summer
- USNA.edu/cemetery is a good place to start when looking for information
- He looks forward to working with us, but never wants to see us!

Decade Break-out Reports:

40's/50's Gordon Gerson: no gavel was passed down by any Class in the 40's, 12% participation on the survey even though computers were not invented when we were Mids!

60's Stephen Comiskey: 1 of 10 has gavel/sounding board; survey was discussed

70's Kevin Stone: 3/10 gavels, do any classes have liability insurance?, why are older classes cut off from supporting Ethics Capstone classes, concern about West Point race studies, discussion on the survey

80's Jim Schwab: discussions on reunions, fund raising, survey and diversity/inclusion

90's Bob Kuberski: discussed elections, bylaws, reunions, social media, class project,

Dave Foreman '98 talked about Objective Zero, which is suicide prevention for our heroes. Page 21 of the most recent Shipmate has an article on Objective Zero

20's Donnie Horner: discussed reunions, a Lucky Bag locker and getting back to normal

2010/20 John-Rex Spivey: support to Objective Zero, reunions, tailgates and events to get out of the COVID funk

New Business:

William Spencer Johnson '63 asked Craig Washington if the Alumni Association can archive Class websites. Craig will get back to us

Closing Remarks

Steve Comiskey said that we as Presidents are doing a great job and that he is honored to be the Chair of the COCP. Going forward: We need to continue to be welcoming to each other and to all alumni. We need to continue to educate all Alumni about our Alumni Association and our Foundation. And we each need to be willing to meet in the middle ground in all of our conversations and discussions concerning our hardest questions.

Stay healthy and safe.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Secretary, Council of Class Presidents