

Aug, Sept, and half of October 2018



Baltimore Chapter Association of Graduates U.S. Air Force Academy



Chapter News and Updates

Fall.... 2018

Yikes!

How did August, September, and October disappear so quickly? The dog days of summer are anything but slow around here. Lots to talk about, so let's get started. There is a special addition to this newsletter with the report on the Chapter Presidents Conference, which has a lot of thought provoking material. We're getting ready for an important Chapter meeting in November (our annual business meeting with elections), so if you have thoughts or ideas, that would be the time to share.

What's in this edition:

1. Chapter Business Meeting with elections
2. Chapter Presidents Conference Summary
3. Upcoming Events

Chapter Business Meeting with Elections

Save the date: November 15th (that's a Thursday — after the Veteran's Day weekend and before Thanksgiving) will be the date for our annual business meeting with elections. We are finalizing the details now (location, etc), but please put a hold on your calendar for that evening. Last year was a ton of fun — we met at Clyde's in Columbia on a chilly evening. The warmth of the camaraderie more than made up for the damp drizzle of the early winter evening.

What goes on at a Chapter Business Meeting? It's pretty simple: we review the year, talk about what we accomplished and our plans for the coming year, and hold elections for the officers and available Board positions. (The current list of officers and members of the Board

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are always included at the end of these newsletters for your ease of reference.) Oh: we also eat, drink and be merry in the best tradition of our Academy heritage. The tales that are told... the memories that are revived.... the friendships that are rekindled... the new friendships that are forged. It's a special time. Join us, won't you?

Chapter Presidents Conference Summary

A longer version of this summary is included in this email.

Every year, the USAFA AOG holds a conference for the Chapter Presidents. This conference is an opportunity for the AOG to provide information to the Chapters, foster the exchange of information between chapters, and get feedback on how things are going. The Distinguished Chapters, of which we are one, are recognized at the banquet. The annual conference for the Parents Clubs was also held during this time period, which gave the AOG Chapters an opportunity to interact with them. The USAFA Endowment also participated in the conference. What follows is a greatly abbreviated summary of the much longer report.

AOG and Endowment

The vision of the AOG is, first and foremost, to connect graduates. This includes not only connecting the people who have actually graduated with each other but also connecting graduates with people who have not yet graduated and people who are invested in the success of the graduate community, such as parents and family members. As such, there are many initiatives underway, such as the Class Legacy project

The goals and activities of both the AOG and the Endowment are to enhance all graduates' experiences with a focus on an informal motto: Our service never ends. Those of you who were at the BCAOG 2018 Founders' Day Dinner will recognize a refrain from Joe Morgan's reminder that there is no expiration date on our oaths of office.

The Endowment is working towards this by managing the money side of the equation. It is astonishing as to how much the donations from the alumni and others contribute to the Academy functions. There is a constant refrain of questions along the lines of "but the Academy is funded by the US Government — why do you need more?" It is true that there is a funding line for the Academy, but just like your local high school depends on donations to improve and expand programs, so does the Academy. Check out what the endowment has funded recently at this link: <https://www.usafa.org/Endowment/Impact>.

A pressing concern of the AOG and Endowment is the management of the current divide between the two organizations. Many of us remember the contentious days of yore when the decision was made to split the AOG from the Endowment and then the following efforts to

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reconcile the rift. While the vote to reconcile was overwhelmingly positive (86% of those who voted were in favor of the reconciliation), not enough people voted so a quorum was not reached.

You will have seen this issue addressed in the latest Checkpoints. The concept of the single CEO is that there would be one executive that reports to both Boards of Directors. There would be a set of Board Committees that would integrate the members of the two Boards to develop and communicate strategic direction to the CEO. The single CEO would then serve as the executive directing the activities of the AOG staff and the Endowment staff. This proposal is seen as a first step towards reducing redundancy while improving synergy.

USAFA Operations

There are two huge projects amongst all other other efforts going on to maintain the now 60 year old buildings that comprise the Academy. The Chapel will be deconstructed and rebuilt completely over a four year period of time. This construction will begin “soon.” The other big project is the development of a new Visitors Center Complex near the North Gate. As noted in the press release, “The entire project, covering 57 acres, will include hotels, office space, a theater, a parking lot, a gift shop, a food court, a museum and a tourist information center.” [<https://www.krdo.com/news/top-stories/air-force-academy-offers-first-look-at-design-for-new-welcome-center/727346169>]

Summary

The Academy has passed the transition from “start up” to “established”, and it shows. The AOG and Endowment personnel are dedicated, thoughtful, and capable. Great ideas are being tossed about. The Alumni Community is putting their money where their mouths are. Frankly, it’s an exciting time. Watching the changes, thinking about what has been accomplished, and seeing the maturity set in is all kinds of awesome. I took a ton of photos; they are available online at

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SrtkRgNJI9JnMpgSiyntXqn-EsQSBjZT>

Upcoming Events

Besides the Business meeting, noted above, there are plans to hold some winter events, such as a meet and greet at Aviation Museum located at Martin State Airport. <https://www.mdairmuseum.org> Details are still being worked out, but expect it to be sometime in the early new year.

The joint Service Academies Business Professionals group continues to have periodic meetings in various locations in our area. This is great for both professional networking and for getting exposed to what’s going on in the community. Have you signed up to get the emails? The group was founded by Paul Wallace, USNA ’91, and is hosted at <https://www.meetup.com/>

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ServiceAcademyBusinessProfessionals/. The next meeting is tomorrow at 7:30 am. It will be held at Praxis Engineering Technologies Inc (135 National Business Parkway · Annapolis Junction, MD) and will feature short talks by Jack Johnson (N'90) and Mitch Martin (A'97). These happen regularly, so consider attending one or more of these meetups.

Would you like to host an event or sponsor a networking opportunity? Let us know!

Contributing Material to the Newsletter

Do you have news to share? Looking for some collaboration? Want to host a party or get together? Let me know and I'll publish it here! You can email me at julieryan@julieryan.com.

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BCAOG Organizational Structure

The BCAOG is incorporated as a **tax-exempt** nonstock corporation. The stated purpose of the corporation is:

“To further the principles and welfare of the USAF Academy and its graduates through service to the community, country, and to fellow graduates.”

The official address of the organization is 821 West Benfield Road, Suite One, Severna Park, MD 21146. The official name of the corporation is Baltimore Chapter of the USAFA Association of Graduates, Inc. The registered agent of the corporation is Steven Berger, '76, who also serves as Secretary. The following individuals currently hold leadership positions in the corporation.

Acting President: **Guy Walsh, '79**

Vice-President: Todd Raines, '85

Secretary: Steve Berger, '76

Treasurer: Lou Nolan, '86

Networking Coordinator: Jeff Kubik, '93

Chairman of the Board: **Jeff Kubik, '93**

Board Members

Julie Ryan, '82

Bill Barry, '79

Joe Morgan, '59

Kirk Hunigan, '82

Raul Cisneros, '86

Mike Cunningham, '76

Steve Miller, '77

Mark Zlabotny, '71

Tim Collins, '82

Officers serve yearly. Members of the Board serve terms of three years.