

**Annual Report of the Quantico Area Chapter of the**

**U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association**

**1 June 2020 – 31 May 2021 (Year 9)**

This annual report is compiled to record events and activities that have taken place during the ninth year of the Quantico Area USNA Alumni Chapter. The narrative is followed by the financial report prepared by the Chapter Treasurer.

Officers and Council Members (volunteers) (Approved in May 2019 by silent acclamation):

President: Phil Salinas ’82, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

Vice President: John Keenan ‘81, LCDR USN (Ret.)

 Secretary: Melanie Salinas ’09, Maj USMC

 Treasurer: Ron Diefenbach ’00

Council Members: ‘60s and Before: Walt Giraldi ’69

 ‘70s: Steve Ritacco ’73, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

 ‘80s: Don Schmieley ’81 CAPT USN (Ret.)

 ‘90s: Greg Lane ’94, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

 ‘00s: Kevin Barnard ’01, CDR USN

 ‘10s: Bob Taylor ’74, CAPT USN (Ret.) (At-large)

 Appointed Positions:

Senior Enlisted Advisor: J. D. Baker, MSgt USMC (Ret.), Honorary member of ’05

 Dave Mattingly, MCPO USN (Ret.)

Membership Committee: Bob Taylor ’74, CAPT USN (Ret.)

Area Blue and Gold Officer: Jim Ripley ’74, CAPT USNR (Ret.)

STEM Coordinator: Phil Salinas ’82, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

Website Coordinator: Jorge Esparza ’87

Associate Members:

1. Judd D. Baker – 2013
2. Dave Mattingly - 2018

 Honorary Members:

 1. The Honorable Rob Wittman (R-VA), who represents the first Congressional District in Virginia - 1 Mar 2013

 2. Mrs. Joanne MacMurray, widow of member Chris MacMurray ’74

Objectives/End of Year Status:

Chapter Officers, Board of Advisor members, and other interested Chapter members set the following goals with embedded intermediate objectives for the 2020-2021 Chapter year:

 **1. Continue to grow the Chapter Membership.** Last year, the Membership Committee implemented a Membership Campaign that resulted in a membership increase of more than 40 members. The goal this year is to increase membership by another 50% in order to utilize the additional dues to enable the Chapter to provide outstanding outreach programs and activities that positively promote the Naval Academy. The membership count at the beginning of the 2020 year was 88. Through a dedicated effort during the pandemic year, the starting membership count for the 2021 year is 86. We were able to avoid the traditional membership decline immediately following the end of a Chapter year primarily through a three-year dues program. Additionally, we offered an 18-month membership during the year, that complemented the three-year dues program, to those who opt for annual dues payments.

 **2. Improve QAC Branding and Increase Fundraising Activities.** We continued to appeal to the altruistic, service-oriented personalities typical of Academy graduates and maintained our theme of **“It’s not what you get, it’s what we give that matters,”** focusing on the intangible benefits of Chapter membership. We raised scholarship funds for the Naval Academy Summer Programs through the Run to Honor (RTH) Remembrance Run. The RTH Remembrance Run committee sold T-shirts emblazoned with the Chapter logo. The Chapter also donated to two veteran and service member-themed non-profit organizations: the Semper Fi Fund and the Sgt Mac Foundation. These activities contributed to Chapter “branding” advertisement. We will develop other opportunities to improve our “Branding Campaign” that will include establishing an online store where we can buy clothing and other items displaying our distinctive Chapter Logo.

 **3. Increase Member Participation in QAC Activities/Events.** Our activities included, but were not limited to, the monthly Guest Speaker breakfast series, watch parties for Army vs Navy sporting events at The Basic School and other locations spread throughout Northern Virginia, the RTH Remembrance Run, and a battlefield tour. Participation in the Quantico National Cemetery’s annual wreath laying and retrieval in December and February, respectively and participation in the flag-raising event at the Quantico National Cemetery during May was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. The goal was always to increase the number of participants at these and other events.

 **4. Establish a Creative Communication Plan.** We continued to communicate Chapter news to members though our website, emails, Facebook page, letters to membership, LinkedIn, face-to-face meetings, etc. We also made extensive use of Zoom meetings during COVID-19 restrictions.

 **5. Fun.** We continued to stress to Chapter Officers, Board Advisors, and activity leads that we are all volunteers striving toward a common goal of promoting the Naval Academy through actions, not words. Nobody ever felt like they were alone on an island, as Members always rallied to support activity leads. We encourage more members to participate in activities and to have fun when doing so. We are a diverse group and inclusive of all alumni who desire to participate in QAC activities.

QAC was also awarded another Distinguished Chapter Award during this period. We are proud to have been recognized twice in the past three years and will continue to be proactive and relevant for our members.



**Chapter Events**

5 Jun 20: Article published in the June Shipmate.

5 Jul 20: Article published in the July-August Shipmate.

20 Jul 20: QAC Council meeting.

4 Sep 2: Monthly breakfast via Zoom. Rear Admiral Charles Brown ‘94 USN, Chief of Naval Information, spoke about polls addressing the public’s perception of the Navy, communications during Great Power Competition and the effect of communications crafted for instances of peer competition. RADM Brown also discussed how information is honed to create different stories when real-world events occur. Attendance: 15

5 Oct 20: Article published in the October Shipmate.

16 Oct 20: Members gathered at 6 Bears and a Goat brewery in Fredericksburg to view the Navy-Air Force game. Though the game outcome was disappointed, all had a good time. Attendance: 16

19 Oct 20: QAC Council meeting conducted via Zoom.

6 Nov 20: Monthly breakfast via Zoom. MajGen Gregg P. Olson, ’85 USMC, gave a very interesting presentation on how wars will be fought in the future. General Olson discussed changes in the battlefield and how the ‘next war’ will resemble more of a World War II perspective. The effect of these changes are being considered for how Marines will have to live and fight in a new global information arena. General Olson also acted as our guest of honor for a cake cutting ceremony honoring the 245th birthday of the Marine Corps. Bob Sonnenberg ’70 was recognized as the oldest Marine present, and Melanie Salinas ’09 as the youngest. Attendance: 20

4 Dec 20: Monthly breakfast via Zoom. Congressman Rob Wittman, 1st District representative and honorary member of the QAC, gave a great talk about the looming approval of this year’s NDAA and the tremendous benefit it will provide to the Navy and Marine Corps. He also discussed future battlefields and addressed capability changes of our near-peer competitors in the world, particularly China and Russia. Attendance: 24

9 Dec 20: Article published in the November-December Shipmate.

12 Dec 20: QAC hosted its 4th Annual Army Navy Football Watch Party for the Lieutenants of The Basic School, Quantico, VA.  Nearly 50 Lieutenants gathered with Chapter volunteers to share in the camaraderie of the annual football contest.  The group had an enjoyable time, though COVID conditions limited the number of participants and forced the QAC volunteers to modify a few event protocols.  Singing Blue & Gold first was not on the program, but there's always next year!

25 Dec 20: The QAC President sent out his year-end message. Among other news, he announced that QAC was awarded its second Distinguished Chapter award.

8 Jan 21: Monthly breakfast via Zoom. Mr. Franz Sedelmayer, a German security consultant and CEO of the US-based Multinational Asset Recovery Company (M.A.R.C). His attempts, through legal proceedings in various jurisdictions, to win compensation for assets expropriated by the Russian state in the 1990s have been covered by the world media. He is the author of “Welcome to Putingrad” which details 20 years of experiences. He gave a very interesting talk not only of his relationship and experiences with Putin in Russia, but also of current world affairs, especially dealing with Russia and China. Franz was also able to answer several questions posed by attendees. Attendance: 23

11 Jan 21: QAC Council meeting via Zoom.

23 Jan 21: Army/Navy basketball watch party at Six Bears and a Goat Brewery in Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 4

5 Feb 21: Monthly breakfast via Zoom. VADM Robert Sharp, USN, provided his thoughts as the seventh Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. VADM Sharp leads and directs NGA under the authorities of the Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence. He became NGA’s director on Feb. 7, 2019. He provided an informative presentation on his background and his role in the current NGA. His presentation was illuminating for us, and we appreciate his willingness to address us early on a Friday morning. After his remarks, he entertained several questions from members present. Attendance: 27

9 Feb 21: Article published in the January-February Shipmate.

16 Feb 21: Kevin Barnard ’01 volunteered for and was selected as the ‘00s decade representative by the governing Council. He replaced the interim rep, Nancy Springer ’87.

20 Feb 21: Army/Navy basketball watch party at Six Bears and a Goat Brewery in Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 3

5 Mar 21: Monthly breakfast via Zoom. LTG Scott Spellman, USA, USMA ’86, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), spoke to the gathered members and provided a detailed brief on the Corps of Engineers and all the myriad tasks they perform. He also answered members’ questions and was well-informed with just over six months in the job. Once again, we appreciate people like the General who are willing to meet with us at 0700 in the morning. Attendance: 24

12 Mar 21: Chancellorsville Battlefield lesson via Zoom. J.D. Baker, MSgt USMC (Ret.), Honorary member of the USNA Class of 2005, Honorary member of the QAC and Sr. Enlisted Advisor to QAC, provided a virtual battlefield staff ride discussing leadership roles on both sides of the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863. The presentation was excellent, generating questions for attendees, and was appreciated by all. Attendance: 10

9 Apr 21: Monthly breakfast via Zoom. Col Brain ‘Willow’ Dryzga, USMC, spoke on his efforts as the Director, Marine Corps COVID-19 Cell at HQMC since March of 2020. He detailed how the cell was formed and the extensive effort put in to learn about COVID-19, keep track of Marine Corps’ status of testing and results, automating the effort, and challenges affecting vaccinations, which are still elective for Marines. He discussed readiness and training effects and how the Marine Corps has done well in maintaining readiness worldwide given the many challenges it faced. Col Dryzga gave an excellent, relevant and informative briefing. Attendance: 15

24 Apr 21: Members gathered at 6 Bears and a Goat brewery in Fredericksburg to view the Navy-Army Lacrosse game. Navy won a star, beating Army 6-4. Attendance: 4

26 Apr 21: QAC Council meeting via Zoom.

4 May 21: Article published in the May Shipmate.

7 May 21: The annual meeting of the QAC was convened via Zoom at 0700. The meeting was led by the current President, Phil Salinas ‘82. Phil discussed the success that QAC enjoyed even though challenged by the COVID pandemic. The various committee chairs discussed activities conducted during the year and suggested items for activities and increasing the membership during the next year. The Bylaws had been reviewed by the Council with no changes proposed. Those bylaws were sent to all members for any input. No issues were raised and the Bylaws will stand as is. The upcoming President laid out his plans for the beginning of his Presidency and discussed achievements of the current chapter’s past year. The slate of new Council members was announced and they were voted on via an email election during May. The outline of the schedule for next year was reviewed by the incoming President. The President of the Richmond Parents Club also attended. Attendance 20

12 May 21: QAC Representative attended the 2021 International Chapter Officers Forum (ICOF) virtually on LifeLink. Staff of the alumni association and from the Office of the Commandant of Midshipmen briefed those logged in on items of interest.

31 May 21:  Today (Memorial Day) we honored 1stLt David Nairn, Class of 1981 and the last of four alumni who perished in the 23 October 1983 Beirut Bombing.  We honored David as part of the Run to Honor (RTH) Remembrance Run event that the QAC has been organizing since 2018.  During the last two days we heard tributes and stories about David from his family members, company mates and classmates.  The past two days reminded QAC, particularly those who participated in the Zoom events that we live in a great country because of people like David who paid the supreme sacrifice defending our freedoms and values.  David’s legacy is paving the way for future Midshipmen.  This year, the RTH Remembrance Run generated almost $5,000 in donations that we will use to fund high school students to attend the Naval Academy’s STEM and Summer Seminar programs.  Over the last two years, the RTH Remembrance Run events have generated over $9,000 which is enough to pay for 16 students to attend the STEM and Summer Seminar programs, ensuring David’s and previous honorees’ legacies will have lasting impacts on future Midshipmen.

**2020-2021 Financial Report of the QAC**

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| **Quantico Area Chapter, USNAAA Financial Report** |
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| **1 June 2020-31 May 2021** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **Bank Debits** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Bank Credits** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Membership & Event Funds Collected & Deposited | **$3,947.02**  |  |  |
| Payments to Holiday Inn (and others) for Events |  | **$0.00**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **Other Debits** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Donations  |  | $250.00  | Semper Fi Fund (Chk #1007) - written in May, cleared in June |  |
| Birthday Cakes (USN & USMC) |  | $0.00  | USN & USMC Cakes and Ice Cream |  |
| Army-Navy Watch Party with TBS Officers |  | $925.00  | Food, drink & paper goods |  |
| State Corporations Commission  |  | $35.00  | Annual Registration Fee |  |
| Run to Honor (RTH) |  | $554.93  | Trophies, T-shirts, and other materials |  |
| NASS Donation |  | $300.00  | Flags, Poles, & Stands |  |
| Run To Honor (RTH) Insurance |  | $0.00  |  |  |
| RTH Marketing  |   | $0.00  |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| Nametags (Plastic) |  | $0.00  |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| USNA STEM Donation |  | $600.00  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Annual Zoom Dues |  | $188.88  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sub-Total |  | **$2,853.81**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Other Credits** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| T-shirt sales and RTH Registration | **$3,814.24**  |   |  |
| USAA Donation | **$500.00**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sub-Total | **$4,314.24**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Totals  | **$8,261.26**  | **$2,853.81**  |  |  |
| **Total Change** | **5407.45** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Starting Asset Value (1 June 2020) | $14,929.72  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ending Account Balance (31 May 2021) | $16,694.21  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Account Change | $1,764.49  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uncleared Check |   |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge, that this financial statement is accurate.  |  |

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