QUANTICO AREA CHAPTER

US NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 NOVEMBER 2022

President Robin Dreeke opened the Zoom meeting at approximately 3:05 pm with five Council members in attendance (Robin Dreeke, Steve Ritacco, Bob Taylor, Ron Diefenbach and Nancy Springer). The group primarily discussed the following topics: membership database reconciliation, the annual Army-Navy football game watch party at The Basic School, USNA summer program scholarship funding, and a Chapter strategic plan review.

Currently three membership databases exist: a 460-member list compiled by USNAA, a nearly 1000-member list (historical origin unknown) that Steve maintains, and an approximately 600-member list loaded in evite that Ron uses to send out evite invitations. The goal is to develop an accurate “master” database used for all Chapter business (membership, dues, invitations, etc.). While comparing the various databases, Bob noticed there are an additional 31 alumni who routinely attend Chapter events but who are not listed in the USNAAA database. Similarly, Steve discovered 15 area alumni, who paid dues, but are not included in the USNAAA database. Both proposed that we add these 46 people to a database dubbed “USNAAA DB++,” so named because it includes the USNAAA 460-alumni list plus the additions Bob and Steve uncovered. Bob and Steve also proposed that the Chapter use the USNAAA DB++ database as the authoritative membership roster and evite database, starting with the January breakfast evite. All present concurred with both proposals.

Bob suggested that the Chapter invite Ryan Steenberge to join the Board of Advisors as the ‘10s decade representative. Robin will contact Ryan and gauge his interest and availability.

The annual Army-Navy TBS watch party is scheduled for Saturday 10 December between 2:00 pm (arrival of the set-up crew) and end of the game/clean-up (approximately 7:00 pm) at the Hawkins Room, TBS. Ron, Dennis Lister, Steve, Bob Taylor, Robin and Nancy volunteered to coordinate food support, set-up/clean-up and conduct the event. The TBS point of contact, Captain Ferrez, volunteered to give Nancy an estimated head count on 2 December (to help plan the food support). USAA partnership is unlikely this year since they have not successfully negotiated a sponsorship agreement with Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) including watch parties (according to an 8 Nov 22 email from USAA representative, Keith Long to Nancy). The group then discussed possible partnerships with NFCU and the MCX. Nancy offered these partnerships are unlikely for this year’s party due to the significant time required to negotiate the sponsorship agreement with MCCS, though partnering with either of these institutions (or others) may be feasible for the 2023 event. However, Bob volunteered to approach MCX and the Marine Corps Marathon office in the near future. The group then discussed contacting other entities, such as companies that have donated to the Chapter’s Run To Honor event, for possible sponsorship of the Army-Navy watch party (or other events, yet to be determined). Steve asked the goals of the event, in the context of soliciting partners. Nancy offered camaraderie with newly commissioned officers and an opportunity to interact with an active duty military unit. Additional input included promoting the USNA/QAC “brand” to all the officers and conveying the benefits of the alumni association to our newest alumni, many of whom may not realize them at this point in their careers.

Nancy recommended that the Council determine, in the near future, how many USNA summer program scholarships the Chapter intends to fund for the 2023 season. Run To Honor proceeds (T-shirt sales and donations) are a prime revenue source for these scholarships. Robin stated that the Council will consider and vote on this topic at its next meeting.

Ron also gave a summary of the current status of the Chapter’s financial account, and informed the group that the Chapter’s annual income is approximately $2000.00.

Bob informed the group that Marie’s departure from The Hampton Inn may prompt hotel management to re-negotiate our breakfast agreement.

The final topic was a discussion pertaining to the grading criteria for the Distinguished Chapter (DC) program and a review of the Chapter’s strategic plan. There could be overlap between DC criteria and strategic plan objectives. In the near term, Robin will send out the current strategic plan to the membership and solicit their input. Nancy will include a review timeline for the strategic plan in the next Chapter bylaws review (planned for April 2023).

Robin adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00 pm.

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N. A. Springer, QAC Secretary