QUANTICO AREA CHAPTER

US NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20 DECEMBER 2022

### President Robin Dreeke opened the Council meeting on Zoom at 3:06 pm with five other Council members in attendance (Steve Ritacco, Bob Taylor, Ron Diefenbach, Nancy Springer and Walt Girardi). Bob Sonnenberg also attended. At the outset of the meeting, Robin announced that George Williams is still searching for a January guest speaker. Nancy offered that George is awaiting a response from LtGen Wissler, USMC (ret.), Distinguished Chair of Leadership, Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, regarding his availability. Accordingly, Robin will decide by week’s end if the Chapter will conduct the January breakfast. Ron also reminded everyone that The Hampton Inn is booked on our June 2023 meeting date (6/2/23). After discussing the options, the group decided to delay the breakfast to the following Friday (6/9/23), contingent upon The Hampton Inn’s availability, rather than conduct the meeting at The Holiday Inn.

Of note, USNAAA recently selected QAC for its 4th Distinguished Chapter (DC) award. One meeting agenda item focused on analyzing the winning DC package and strategizing how to best represent this Chapter year’s accomplishments in the next submission. The other topic was a discussion about the QAC Strategic Plan (SP), including overlaps between the SP and the DC data elements and a cursory, initial review of SP tasks. Bob Taylor led the DC discussion and Nancy led the SP portion. Nancy recommended that Robin establish a working group or committee to conduct a more detailed SP review. She will also include an annual SP review deadline in the Chapter bylaws during the annual bylaws review.

The DC package discussion included the following actions: 1) initiating a virtual, new member training session highlighting the Chapter’s history, purpose, goals, and current leaders; 2) expanding the Chapter social media presence with an Instagram account, 3) soliciting a list of USNAAA Chapter “best practices” from the Board of Trustees, 4) adding a “Dark Ages” event, possibly including Midshipmen, 4) contacting Joe McGettigan, USNA STEM outreach representative, to inquire about STEM gaps in the Chapter area, 5) confirming Jim Ripley’s current association with the Blue and Gold Officer program, 6) confirming the definition of “extracurricular activities” in the context of the DC package (Bob Sonnenberg suggested Another Link in the Chain [ALITC] may be an example of an extracurricular activity), 7) connecting with area Midshipmen during their academic year leave periods (in-person or over Zoom), 8) recognizing Founder’s Day on QAC social media, 9) contacting local school officials, through a letter from the Chapter President, to inform them of the Chapter and to coordinate mutually beneficial activities (e.g. classroom guest speakers, support for JROTC students/units, etc.), 10) contacting adjacent USNAAA Chapters and parents’ groups (e.g. Greater Washington and Central Virginia Chapters and nearby parents’ clubs) for collaborative activities, 11) contacting and inviting the Washington DC-area West Point society and USAFA association of graduates to events of mutual interest (e.g. sports watch parties, Run To Honor, etc.), and 12) ensuring local (e.g. Fredericksburg Freelance Star) media coverage for Run To Honor (and other Chapter events, if possible). During this discussion, Robin volunteered to 1) contact Sofi Loomis to obtain the judges’ scoring of our package (if releasable), 2) contact Joe McGettigan, 3) contact the Northern Virginia (NOVA) parents’ club, 4) establish a Strategic Plan Committee and an Activities Committee and solicit chairpersons and members, 5) inform the Chapter of one major event per breakfast meeting, and 6) search for guest speakers to fill vacancies through June 2023. In a Chapter email, Robin will also broach the establishment of the two committees and encourage participation. Nancy will contact the Washington DC-area West Point and Air Force alumni groups and gauge their interest in mutual events. She will also provide contact information for the Greater Washington Chapter president and local JROTC units.

In support of the Strategic Plan discussion, Nancy displayed a matrix correlating strategic plan tasks with DC data elements. After agreeing to keep the current SP objectives, the group discussed the retention/modification/deletion of selected tasks. Specifically, the group talked about Quantico National Cemetery involvement (retain, but solicit a Chapter member to interface with QNC and spearhead the events), aid to widows and widowers (retain, but re-word the task to specify widows/widowers of Chapter grads versus USNA grads), applying for a Board of Trustees (Other Chapters) seat (retain; QAC will be eligible in 2024), expanding interaction with The Basic School and other Quantico professional military education schools (retain, but expansion is contingent upon each School’s director), and offering more formal networking and career transition opportunities (retain but charge the Strategic Plan Committee to discuss in more detail and gauge Chapter member interest before proceeding).

There being no further agenda items, Robin wished everyone a Merry Christmas/Happy New Year and adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

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N. A. Springer, QAC Secretary