

USNA NJ Parent's Club
Annual Fall Meeting – via Zoom
October 26, 2023

President Edward McCausland called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Present were Bernadette McCausland, Bill Asdal, Colin Bell, Larry Davis, Adrienne Register, Gary Mills, Michael Fernandez, Kimberly Trafford, Michael Tolen, Maria Vester, Gina Zaccaria. Bernadette took minutes.

Ed reviewed the events held by the NJPC since our last meeting as the VP Events, Ashish Malhotra, was not able to attend. Ashish has resigned due to his increasing work commitments and George and Ann Farrell will be taking over the position for the remainder of the Club year. We wish Ashish all the best and thank him for his time and for graciously hosting several events for the club. Events since our last meeting include:

- **Welcome Aboard Picnic** and the **Last Supper Dinner** hosted the evening before Induction Day (I-Day) and the **Membership Table at I-Day** in Annapolis, MD. Colin Bell, Larry and Chie Davis were integral in hosting these events in Annapolis for our club.
- **Summer Picnic** was a great event for parents to socialize and learn ways to support their rising Youngsters, 2nd Class and 1st Class midshipmen.
- **Mid Express Bus Ride** home for the Thanksgiving Weekend registration forms are available online.
- Sue Bessin will host the club's **Holiday Dinner** in the beginning of December 2023.
- The **Dark Ages Cookies** is a mid-winter distribution of fresh baked cookies and is a reminder that people are thinking of the midshipmen during the long days of the winter semester. Maria Vester is looking for 2 people to assist with the Dark Ages Cookies event. We experienced doubled participation for cookies distributed to midshipmen in 2023 and working together with the current committee chairperson is the best way to learn how the event is done.
- **Annual Spring Meeting** and elections of new officers will take place in the spring of 2024.

Next report from Kim Trafford, VP Membership. Academy nominations are announced beginning in January 2024. For 2023 we had 27 new members pay their lifetime membership dues. She hopes to encourage new parents to sign up on our website, at the Welcome Aboard event or at the I-Day table. Another method of encouraging membership is by word of mouth and an active search for new plebes. President Ed stated that Kim took over the membership task from Mike and Mary Alice Tolen and has does a great job with monitoring the membership radar during the year.

Next report from Colin Bell, our Treasurer. Since the spring meeting the event expenditures included the I-Day dinner, I-Day table, a Golf outing and some tailgate tent and site supplies. Revenues include prepaid MidExpress funds, donations from the summer golf outing, donations for the Last Supper Dinner to help defray the cost of paying for the midshipmen's meals. Various donations to the NJPC were received. Colin confirms that at this point of the club year we are in good shape to handle the remainder of the year's events. President Ed points out that options to host our Fall Meeting in person were limited and costs were increasing over prior years. Bill Asdal points out interest rates are increasing, and Colin agrees to ask the bank about interest bearing account opportunities. The preference for the Annual Spring Dinner is a formal dinner and Firstie recognition event but ticket costs need to be considered to permit all families to participate.

Report from the Tailgate committee includes a discussion that we ask for big commitment for families to participate in 4-6 tailgates at Navy Marine Corp stadium in Maryland. There was a reduction in food contributions at the tailgates this year. In 2023 we discontinued the themed food and encouraged more families to participate by recognizing a different Class year each tailgate. The final tailgate will recognize the Class of 2024 and alumni families.

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President Ed explains the 3 ways to participate 1) come with food, 2) place your contribution on the sign up sheet on our website and include your location city and phone but say that you wish to donate but cannot travel so someone can call you that lives near you and arrange to transport your contributions or 3) donate money for us to purchase food for the tailgate using the QR code.

To conclude, President Edward reports the club is strong and bringing in new members. The tailgates were faced with a year of crazy weather, but we powered through, and we had some great summer events. The event participation rates indicate a strong finish for the year. Club elections will take place in the spring and anyone who wishes to run for office or to support someone currently in office should step up with the goal of taking on that role in future years. The goal is to promote more people to stand for office and increase our core group of individuals that will help drive us into the future.

President Edward has been busy updating the operations manual and will distribute it to the executive committee members for their review and comment.

President Edward stated that the minutes from the last meeting were circulated by email. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Gina and seconded by Colin. All were in favor. Final announcement the Army Navy Basketball tailgate will be held at West Point, but we do not have a date at this time and the Army Navy Football Tailgate at the Gillette Stadium at Foxboro, MA will be a tailgate for the parents and Colin and Larry hope to set up 10-15 spaces in the parking lot. Dress warmly! Motion to adjourn made by Gary Mills and seconded by Larry Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. Respectfully submitted Bernadette McCausland.