VFMA&C ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
General Meeting Minutes
20 June 2015
Secretary Report: Juan Santana ’79, 81C

Meeting: AABOD General Meeting
Date / Time: 20 June 2015, 9:30-11:33 AM
Location: Sarah Crawford Room, Mellon Hall

Officers Participating: David Esqueda (on line), Chairman, Joe Bartasius, President, Roque Schipilliti Ex.Vice President, Mark Woolley(on, Treasurer (on line), Juan Santana Secretary- (Excused).

Members Participating: (at VFMA) Bob Shapiro, Joe Klump,, David Martin, Glenn Horsky, Gordon Hanscom, Joseph Klumpp,Jr., Niles Dally, J.T. Hughes, George, Scott Bartlett, George Cressman, Guests: Tom Goldblum, Doug Hasbrouck, Gordon Hanscom, On Line: Sean Condron, Pete McLallen, Al Heyer, Scott Bartlett, Fred Betman, Tom Merman, Justin Mahwikizi, Carlos Lorenzo, Jack Deber, Dan Mc Sweeney, Rich Bucks, Paul Lee, Robin Lahiri, John Rapp, Dave Haugh, Tom Macellus, Ed Macay (some names may be miss-spelled.. sorry about that!

AABOD President’s Agenda:

a. Regarding Joe’s draft ”VFMAC Corps of Cadets Roles and Responsibilities”: He shared this document with members and guests attending the last AABOD meeting reporting that a copy was furnished to select senior VFMAC staff. Joe again stated that we need to identify those important traditions which need retained. He plans to work with the Commandant’s office and /or other responsible senior staff until satisfactorily completed. His intent is to complete this revival of important traditions as soon as possible.

b. Intent of this document is to: (Repeated from the last meeting)

1. Assist in the development at the start of the Leadership Detail to initiate the re-development of a self- governing Corps that has been lost over several decades.
2. Assist in the development of Plebe training.
3. Assist in the re-implementation of Corps standards of leadership including customs and traditions.
4. Joe appointed John Hughes as a AABOD Training Officer / Liaison representing the AABOD to work with the Commandant’s Office regarding the intent and implementation of this document.

Treasure’s Report: Mark Woolley reported that the Associations monthly starting balance was $36,493.55. With expenses of $2,548.14, the ending balance for the month is $33,945.41. For more details refer to Mark’s report for this AABOD meeting. Mark remains firm on the Association developing a budget.

Committee Reports Reflecting Activities: (Highlights)

Committees:

1. Admissions: Robin Lahiri reported that the committee will lend support to the UN recommendations regarding new students.

2. Forgeway/Special Events: Tom Merman reported that more precise including rationale for award nominations will be developed and distributed in a new form so that the Awards Committee will sufficient information to base their decisions from. He also reported that greater participation from the AABOD and Alumni at large is important to facilitate support to VFMAC special activities throughout the school year.

3. Career Development Day: George Cressman reported that he or Jeff Kreuer will meet with representatives of the Academy and College regarding the up-coming Career Day event/s. He still wants to emphasize providing counselors that represent the careers the students are interested in. He intends to use a Career Fair format.

4. Regiments: Sean Condron said that a Honor Guard was provided to the Wendal funeral.

5. Governance: Dave Martin reported that every effort will be made to obtain interviews from professionals representing as many careers as possible for the ACPS project. Contact for this project is Justin Mahwikizi (267-252-3305 or email: Justin.mahwikizi@push54.com)

6. Homecoming: Paul Lee said the committee is looking for volunteers to assist in preparing for working at Homecoming 2016. This assistance can come from Alumni, their wives / husbands or friends. Please contact any one on the Homecoming Committee.

7. Nominating: No changes reported.

8. Museum: JT reported that a architect’s drawing of a good museum would be helpful. Perhaps a alumni with this profession/ability could assist. A security system protecting the museum 24 hours per day has been purchased. Once set up, JT and select others will be notified of a problem.

9. Alumni Communications: No changes to previous reporting.

10. Alumni / Parents Association Relations: No changes to previous reporting.
Additional Comments from Directors:

1. Joe Klumpp wants to put together a plan to improve the Boodle Shop.
2. There was a Question and Answer session at the end of the meeting where those who questions were to submit them in writing for review and the responses provided by conference call during the meeting. Thanks to Tom Goldblum, attached are notes from this part of the meeting.

Chairman’s Closing Remarks (David Esqueda):

1. Thanked all those who have supported the various activities of the AABOD,

Next AABOD Meeting: Saturday, 18 July 2015 @ 9:30 AM, will be a conference call. The NEW conference call number is: 610-829-9266

Strength & Honor,

Robert O. Shapiro
Robert O. Shapiro ’60

For / Juan Santana ’79, 81C
AABOD Secretary
Questions for the AABOD

John R. Rapp, 74JC, Band

1. How many Alumni, not including Honorary, work at VF? What are their names?
2. Who teaches School of the Soldier to new faculty and staff?
3. Are any Alumni employees involved in preserving the traditions, customs and ceremonies connected to awards, medals and honors to cadets?
4. Was the OAW induction conducted in Chapel as a stand-alone ceremony in front of the entire Corps of Cadets? If not, why not?
5. Traditionally, various Cadet Awards are given out during Friday second mess and Saturday parade of Alumni Homecoming Weekend. What happened to the Gold/Silver Miniature Swords on Friday and the Rylski Sword on Saturday?
6. I observed a Cadet NCO over Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Upon questioning him about his rank, he stated that he was a Master Sergeant. Yet, he was wearing a Cadet Sergeant Major’s rank insignia and told me that it was given to him by the press shop. Who is instructing the press shop personnel on cadet ranks and insignia?
7. Since this meeting is limited to 1 hour, will all submitted questions be posted online (VF website and/or Facebook) with final answers?
8. VFMAC held a Field Day, complete with dunk tank that included members of the administration. Does VF still hold Military Stakes Weekend?
9. Is a banner still awarded to best company of Military Stakes Weekend?
10. Are all banners still awarded to cadet companies during Graduation Parade? Is there still a Graduation Parade?

Possible Answers for Mr. Rapp’s questions:

1. This is an HR question. (might not be wise to release names of employees, but there are the ones I know). 9 Alumni
   a. Tom Goldblum ’69, ’71C
   b. Bryan K. Geiling ’94, ’96C
   c. Todd Davis ’99
   d. Natasha Ingram ’12
   e. Alfredo Gonzales ’97
   f. Joe Jacobs ’01C
   g. Tim Tinker ’11C
   h. Alex Robbins ’95
   i. Michael Muscella ’86

2. No one until the Customs and Traditions Committee does for next semester in the School. The Training officer is responsible for teaching it to the TAC Staff.

3. Yes

4. No. Different scheduling and time limits for College and Academy. Ceremony for the College was conducted in Eisenhower Hall prior to the last
week of Classes. The Academy was presented in the Chapel on Parents Weekend and was part of the Academy Awards convocation.

5. The Gold and Silver Sword awards to the best new cadets from each company were presented at the Saturday Chapel Service. There is no College F Company at this time, however there are 3 different College Companies. The Rylski Sword is being held in Museum and is not in good condition at this time.

6. This is a matter for the Commandant’s Department. Chart of ranks is in the Press Shop and if it was done wrongly maybe the individual should have questioned it.

7. Yet to be determined.


9. No Military Stakes weekend.

10. Since College and Academy Graduate at different times there is no Graduation Parade. Best Companies Banner were awarded over Parents Weekend Parade. FM was Best Company.

Richard Buxbaum ’56

1. At the last meeting I suggested via conference call that the VF Traditions, Practices and Traditions book/manual (?) That Col Bartasius has developed be codified into a Standing Committee of the AABOD to assure that it receives continuing review and action.  I think I heard some verbal support for the idea. Can someone formally move for the adoption of this? I am happy to do so hereby in order that it is formally discussed and appropriate action taken.

Sean Little ’00

1. What plans are there for the Future of the JROTC/ROTC programs at Valley Forge and at what point are those plans in their execution?

2. What is the current status of the role of Commandant of Cadets?

3. What is the status of Civilians in the school and their level of involvement in school activities i.e. why are they allowed to represent the school in extracurricular activities when they are not full time students and in accordance with the uniform standards?

4. What is the status of the Grounds of the School after Alumni weekend when many concerns were voiced?

5. It has been stated by the leadership of the AABOD, and Alumni Director, that all PNG’s, but one have been removed. However, according to those who are PNG’d they are not aware of this status, and have been advised by counsel, all PNG’s remain in place. Could AABOD please advise the status of the PNG’s of our Alumni brothers? As it appears a majority of Alumni want this issue to dropped, like the Federal Law Suit was dropped by the institution. What is the AABOD’s intention to have this distraction removed from a united Alumni progressing forward? Isn’t it time to heal, and take this platform
away?

I believe question 5. From Sean Little is an BOT question. It also seems to be more of a lecture than a question.

Fred Betman ’74

1. Will JROTC be reinstated? We are on the list for re-instatement however there is a long list of schools ahead of us. We are hopeful.

Mark Wooley ’76

1. What percentage of alumni give? Approximately 5% on any given year.
2. What percentage of total donations does alumni giving represent? Approximately 8% of the operating budget is covered by Alumni Donations.

Jeff Brown ’88

1. Can I get a current and updated copy of Alumni Board of Directors (AABOD) By-laws or per can you post them?
2. Can we have the monthly meeting notifications/announcements published on social media sites, as it appears they are easier to locate?
3. Is it or correct that the Alumni Board of Directors Officers, Chairman, and President accordingly, are recommended for appointment to represent the interest of the Alumni to the Board of Trustees for Valley Forge Military Academy and College by the spirit of the current By-Laws? Could you please advise of the process for appointment/vetting to the Board of Trustees, and to the Alumni Board of Directors?
4. Do these Officers represent the respective interest/voices of ALL alumni? Or those which seem proper in their respective personal judgment?
5. Do they feel confident AABOD Chairman, and President, can democratically speak, and advise of Alumni position to the Board of Trustees, even if it is not popular?
6. Are there any restrictive covenants which prevent AABOD representatives to the Board of Trustees, which prevent their respective discussion of Alumni issues freely, and or voting restrictions placed on representatives?
7. Given the recent announcement by the President of Valley Forge Military Academy and College indication of introduction a Civilian program within the college, side by side, with the current Military program, she announced the Board of Trustees unanimously approved this action. Did the Alumni Board Representatives (Chairman and President) to the Board of Trustees advise of Alumni concerns, and what is their respective position on this issue?
8. Can those respective Leaders of the AABOD, Chairman and President, advise why they voted for this approval? So that their respective Alumni constituents understand accordingly?

9. Based on feedback from ALL their respective constituents, does AABOD leadership, believe the Alumni Body as a whole supports the move to a civilian program?

10. Is Transparency from the AABOD to the Alumni body as whole a high priority? Or is Transparency evaluated on topic by topic basis?

Answers for Jeff Brown ’88 questions:

1. Yes we will post them.
2. Yes, Tom would be glad to do it.
3. The AABOD has 2 representatives to the BOT, both of which are vetted by the BOT. All members of the BOT represent the school, which includes the Alumni association. The Officers and Directors are elected by the Alumni Association at the General meeting of the Alumni in May and they serve a 2 year term. All Directors and Officers of the AABOD are vetted by the Nominating Committee of the AABOD which is appointed by the Chairman. It will consist of 2 members who are Directors (not up for re-election), 2 members of the Alumni Association (not on the Board) and the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The BOT has its own Vetting Process.
4. They represent the best interests of the school in their judgment.
5. Yes
6. BOT would have to answer
7. Yes
8. No
9. No
10. Yes, the AABOD is a support organization for the school. We are not part of the decision making process or the operational process of the schools. We post all things that we do and are planning to do within the newsletter from the Director of Alumni Relations and we also try and get information through digital media. There is no reason for the AABOD to be anything but transparent.