

Greetings Class of 96!

I have been meaning to send out an update for a while but I was always waiting for "one more thing" ...and therefore it kept sliding to the right. I decided to send out what we know today. There is a fair amount going on so bear with me.

Class Bylaws

These are nearly done and I will send them out when official. It will formalize our Executive Committee, assign responsibilities, and establish a 5-year cycle for elections.

Class Plan

We will tackle this next. It will be more fluid and lay out the plan for more day-to-day activities. Bill "BP" Pennington will take the lead on this so if you have ideas, please contact him.

Fundraising/Class Project

Normally classes have a 5 year cycle for a Class Project: Pick a project, set a fundraising goal, fundraise, and present the gift at the big reunion. We started a bit out of whack with the 5-year cycle so our plan is going to be a 9 year and we will present ours at the 30-year reunion.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to be the **Class Project Officer!** This would entail running all the activities for our project: selecting where the money will go, getting a MOU with USNA, fundraising, etc...This will be an at-large member of the Committee and preferably should be relatively close to USNA (but not required). Please contact me if interested.

The Superintendent is pushing things that benefit the midshipmen (sports, clubs, academics, etc...) he has no desire to add any new monuments or things that don't help develop mids.

All Academy Challenge!!

The fourth annual All Academy Challenge, a contest pitting Navy against our rivals at Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine (last year's champion), kicks off 31 May and continues for 7 days. The rules are simple: the service academy with the highest percentage of alumni making a gift in support of their alma mater wins. Last year, Navy—the all-time leader in All Academy Challenge dollars raised—brought in more than \$1 million.

You can donate as little as \$5 and counts even if you didn't graduate

All send out reminders on 31 May. You'll go to [onlinegiving]<https://www.usna.com/onlinegiving> and pick where you want to donate. Unfortunately, we don't have everything setup for our Class Project so it won't

count towards that....however, it still counts for the All Academy Challenge. In the future, you'll be able to donate toward our project.

Class Webpage

USNAAA can provide a free webpage for us to use and we are looking into it. This would offer several benefits over classmail or facebook. We would be able to customize as we like. You can check out the '82 page as an example. <http://1982.usnaclasses.net>

Company Reps

One of the new things we are establishing a company rep for each of the 36 companies. They would be responsible for establishing contact with everyone in their company and get them updated in the USNA database. Additionally, they would be a POC for anything dealing with their company (fundraising, general information, Shipmate submissions, memorial services, reunion planning, etc...

Shane "Bruce" McDonald has graciously offered to head that effort of getting a rep for every company and will be able to view/update the USNAA database. We have a lot of folks that don't have email/ mailing addresses or aren't on facebook so they didn't even know about the reunion. Please e-mail Bruce tonteauex@yahoo.com if you want to be your company's rep.

Reunion

Thanks for all the folks that took the reunion survey. We got a lot of great input and data to support decisions for the 25 year planning. I'll try to summarize the main points in the near future. Unfortunately, we won't be able to make everyone happy but we can at least try to make most happy. We even had people volunteer to run the 25 year reunion! Fantastic they stepped up to help. I'll reach out to them separately them.

Shipmate

You may have noticed the new look and feel of the magazine. This was a big effort by USNA to spruce it up and get more info in there while keeping the weight/size down. Next they are going to focus on teh USNAAA webpage. Keep those articles coming in to Cara.

Football Season

Another great season approaches! Please swing by the tailgate if you're ever at a game. Every one is like a mini-reunion. There's always more than enough food and drink for the whole family. We now have a satellite feed and can watch the game so you don't even need tickets There's no obligation to bring anything (especially if you travelled from out of town). There are a bunch of people that help out with the putting it together, cooking, setting up, and clean up. Thanks for the help.

Council of Class Presidents

I attended the COCP a few weeks ago and captured some of the highlights. This occurs twice a year. You sit with all the presidents from your decade (1990s), talk about various topics, and several folks come in to brief us.

1) Lessons Learned from others' reunions. What worked, what didn't work.

2) From Admiral Natter (Chairman, USNAAA's national Board of Trustees)

- Presented information regarding Senator Webb's nomination for Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA)

- The Senator's name was submitted by his class and routed to the selection committee. They are an independent board whose proceedings are closed.

- There were no women on this particular selection committee but there have been in the past.

- The committee is allowed to consider outside information but he was unclear whether they were privy to Senator Webb's controversial past.

- When the DGA board selected Senator Webb, USNA nor the USNAAA board was aware until his name was officially announced.

- Senator Webb withdrew his name to "not detract from the current or previous DGA recipients"

- There was no pressure directly applied to Senator Webb from USNA or any military that the USNAAA is aware of.

- They have just modified the DGA selection process. You should have seen that email come out from the Academy. Let me know if you want to get a copy.

- General guidelines: It is for a lifetime of service so generally much older people receive. You have to be alive and can't be active duty.

3) From the Superintendent (state of the Academy):

- He was headed up the next day to testify to Congress on an uptick this year in sexual assault/harassment.

- Some stats from this incoming class:

 - * Just processed ~16,500 applications

 - * Average SAT score ~1400

- The % acceptance rate (people that accept appointment) is highest in the country

- Graduation rate is about 90% (10% attrition over the 4 years)

- Current brigade makeup 26% female
- With high acceptance and graduation rate, they aren't taking alternates appointments
- Big push on Cybersecurity. USNA has the first accredited Cyber Program
- They are looking at Integrity/Honor Aptitude. Is it enough to graduate without an honor offense? How do they measure honor and integrity?
- LOTS of construction all around the yard.
 - * Hopper Hall is making progress (New Cyber building)
 - * The 2nd deck of the new garage was poured incorrectly and has to be removed.
 - * New HVAC in Rickover. The building has to be vacated for ~1 year
 - * Complete refurb of Ricketts
 - * Renovating Ward Hall
 - * Flooding is a huge issue. Happening more often and will get worse. They are looking at options.

Service Academy Career Conference (SACC)

I recently attended the one in DC and ran into a ton of classmates there (both job hunting and recruiting). It was a great event and I just wanted to take a second and plug for it. There is a perception by some that it's only for the young ones getting out after their commitment. Not true at all! They are also looking for people our age getting out to capitalize on our leadership. Consider going.

With that, I'll wrap it up for now. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Beat Army!!

Nagel

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