

UNC NROTC Alumni Association Board Quarterly Meeting Minutes

11 June 2002 (Telephonic):

Board Members present: Jim Bailer '85 (*President*), Richard Cashwell '59, Don Ledford -staff '80-'87, Dan Rabil '86, Vicki Stephens '82 (*Secretary*), Mark Whitson (*Treasurer*)

Board members not present: Harold Brown '72, Pat Connelly '85, Bill Foster '80, Wade Phillips '45, Sam Richardson '92, Rob Gionfriddo '86, Jesse Tillman '86

Others present: Brant Burgiss '84 (*Webmaster*), Capt. Haines (*Current NROTC CO*)

The UNC NROTC Alumni Association Board met via teleconference to discuss Assn activities and update action items. The following is a summary of the meeting.

The President called the meeting to order at 2005 EDT.

1. Vicki Stephens gave a **membership update**. The latest Assn newsletter was mailed out end-May to dues-paying members and honorary alumni. She also purchased extra postage for newsletters to cover "second-chance" mailings to 64 members who have not renewed. The second-chance mailings will go out shortly. There are 250 dues-paying members for 2002 thus far, down from 303 in 2001. The Assn should get midshipmen addresses to send each a newsletter and try to recruit them.
2. About 32 alumni directories have been printed and mailed thus far this year, Vicki said. Don Ledford has provided Vicki with most of the permanent addresses for the class of 2002.
3. Vicki noted that the Assn needs to set up **elections** for new board members.
4. Current NROTC commanding officer Captain Haines gave a **unit update**. Fourteen new officers were commissioned this spring: 4 surface warfare officers, including one going straight to Naval Postgraduate school, bypassing SWOS; two aviators, six Marines; and two nurses. There were no submarine or nuclear officers. There should be about 22 entering freshmen in Fall 2002, above the median NROTC class size of 17, and Capt Haines was "pretty optimistic" on the unit's outlook. Charles Wolfe, a 1965 graduate, has set aside approx \$250,000 to be donated to the NROTC program on his passing. Wolfe is one of the candidates for fall election.
5. The situation regarding the Armory's future **destruction** and finding a new NROTC building was "not so good," Capt Haines said. The unit has received letters from the university provost and chancellor stating that building space for the unit will be accounted for in future plans, but right now there is "no definitive spot" identified. The problem is possibly university money problems; "They're not ignoring us," Capt Haines said. The state of North Carolina is facing budget problems, and confusion and hesitation reigns in the university's building and

expansion program, making it difficult to reach a decision on the new unit location.

6. Treasurer Mark Whitson gave a **budget update**. Mark noted that the life membership dues fund has taken a hit, due to the slump in equity markets. The money is invested in "moderate risk" stock funds and has lost about 15% (\$7,000) in value since July 2001. The board agreed that the finance committee should review the unit's current investment policy to determine the best course of action.
7. "We are going to go over budget" on expenses, said Whitson, particularly due to higher-than-expected bank fees (about \$30/month), coupled with smaller membership. Members discussed the **Midshipmen Support** budget. Don Ledford suggested the Assn could consider suspending a gift to the unit this year, given the weaker budget picture. He noted that the unit was given two computers last year, which may suffice for the time being. Vicki pointed that the Assn advertises that a portion of the dues it receives goes to supporting the unit, so a complete suspension of the Midshipmen Support program might not be an option.
8. Dick Cashwell spoke about the goal of **membership growth**, a key to financial health. About 500 people have historically been or are currently members. There are 83 former members in particular who would make promising contacts, Dick and Vicki agreed. They discussed the best options for getting the 83 to rejoin, including direct mail.
9. Mark Whitson said he would go ahead and invoice those life members who are paying on the installment plan, rather than wait until the fall mailing, in order to get earlier cash flow.
10. Members discussed the idea of advertising in Navy Times under the paper's reunion section. Don volunteered to check on the feasibility of advertising with Navy Times and Marine Corps Times and The Retired Officers Assn. Class agents have been mailed rosters to use for recruiting classmates and updating databases.
11. Dick said he had held discussions with a **professional management** company and plans to follow up and have a business proposal ready from the company by the October meeting.
12. Regarding Assn **scholarships**, Don Ledford said he can go through midshipmen records and applications after grades are received and expects to be able to name winners by the start of the new school year, in time for the reunion. Don sent Sam Richardson a draft form for a life membership certificate he created, but he has not heard back. Sam was in a motorcycle accident earlier and may have been delayed, Jim Bailer noted. Jim plans to contact Sam about the certificate's status.
13. **Fall Reunion**: Mark reported that he and Pat Connelly had contacted the UNC athletic staff seeking block seating for the UNC-NC State game. Since group tickets are allotted only after the "away" school is offered up to 5,000 tickets, UNC staff said there was no chance of getting a unified block of seats, but 50 seats should be available that would not be in a single block. Since the Assn is tight on money, Mark offered to pay for the tickets (an estimated \$1,100) until the Assn checking account is replenished and he can be repaid. The account had about \$1,400 and will likely have enough to cover the tickets with little to spare, the board concluded. Mark and Vicki plan to separately discuss the best way to

- handle the pig pickin' fees, including possible midshipmen management and any tax implications for turning a profit.
14. **Bylaws update:** It is "not necessary" to update the Assn's bylaws to reflect changing technology in the move to **teleconferencing**, proclaimed North Carolina lawyer Mark Whitson, answering a legal question that has intrigued the Board for months. However, it remained to be answered whether a possible switch to **electronic voting** requires a change to the bylaws.
 15. Since the board did not make a personal visit to the graduating midshipmen this year to encourage them to join the Assn, Vicki recommends the Assn develop a written letter inviting them to join and informing them of their free first year membership. A registration form would be included with the letter as a means of obtaining their mailing and e-mail addresses. Jim Bailer offered to draft the letter that Vicki could mail to the most recent graduates.
 16. For the next Board tele-meeting, Jim will send out an e-mail soliciting availability for future dates. Mid-August after the midshipmen return might work best, suggested Don.
 17. Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2146. Attending Board members were unanimously in favor, and the meeting was **adjourned** at 2147.

For the Board,
Daniel Rabil
11 June 2002