

2027 Gold Spirit Committee  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 30, 2023; 1800 MST  
Zoom

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Ferguson; Catherine Sanchirico; Elizabeth Ryan;  
Bianca Pankau; Steve Piel; Katie Hill; Susan Blankenship;  
Sherri Mahlik; Kimberly Cheri; Elaine DeBono; Carrie Hsu;  
Monica Saenz; Jenna Bo

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** N/A

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM / CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 1800 MST by Paul Ferguson.

**MINUTES**

The Board has reviewed the August 4, 2023, minutes. Monica Saenz asked her last name to corrected. Motion to approve minutes made by Kim Cheri, seconded by Susan Blankenship. Motion carried unanimously at 1802 MST.

Board also agreed that Monica Saenz will post minutes to Facebook Documents in the USAFA 2027 Parents Group and notify members.

**FINANCIALS**

Susan Blankenship has received the books from previous 2023 Gold Spirit Committee.

- WuFoo Forms (\$39/mos.); very powerful
- GoDaddy Account; do we keep?
- Do we want to utilize a different company for a 2027 Class website? Discussion postponed to end of meeting.
- Inherited a PayPal account.
- Received Certificate of Good Standing in Colorado
- Discussion of which local person will be listed as Agent for Service of Process.
- Need an address to be recognized as a non-profit organization; Use Paul's local address; that updates Articles of Incorporation which should be enough to open bank account.
- What bank? - Suggestion to use USAA as it is web based and has a local branch.
- How to gather donations?
- 2023 had levels of sponsorship.
- Discussion ended at 1814 MST.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### A. BYLAWS

There is 100% approval of bylaws. Monica Saenz to add to document area of USAFA Class of 2027 Parents Group Facebook page.

### B. DESIGN COMMITTEE

- Steve Piel described proposed Recognition coin; The intent is to present unity, acknowledgement of recognition, past class service.
  - Steve still working on second quote. Other vendors that have been contacted are not able to produce the exact coin design (chamfered edge, propellor).
  - Estimating purchase of 1100 coins.
  - Universal Pro Online: \$250 set up fee; \$5.25 per coin; no tax. This cost is in line with 2023 costs. Payment not required until delivered.
  - 5 weeks to produce and ship. Suggested completion date of December 15, 2023, to guarantee delivery by end of January 2024.
  - Ship to Paul Ferguson's home in Colorado Springs.
  - Coin must be approved by AOG.
  - Company can do keychains for fundraising purposes. Covered under same design fee.
  - Recognition Coin description:
    - o Standard coin size.
    - o Front of Coin:
      - [REDACTED]
  - Back of Coin:
    - [REDACTED]
- Discussion on if making coin available to family and others lessens the emotional value of coin to cadets. As a graduate, Paul does not believe it marginalizes the value of coin. Decision has been postponed to next meeting.
    - o Class of 2023 Fundraising had a level that if parents gave \$2023, they received all four Challenge Coins for their cadet years.
  - Certain USAFA staff and Spirit Committee receive a coin.
  - Motion to approve coin design made by Catherine Sanchirico, seconded by Kim Cheri. Motion carried unanimously at 1838 MST.

### **C. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

- Three Fundraising Ideas:
  - o I-Day Coins: AOG has agreed to order more I-Day coins with a minimum order of 100. AOG would charge \$21.25/coin. Suggested committee sells them for \$50.
  - o What is interest? Not great margins.
  - o Poll on FB has 100+ interested but there was no discussion of cost of coin.
  - o Spirit Motto Items: Stickers / T-Shirts / Hoodies
  - o Could be an interest in more “customizable” items instead of standard names (ex. Poppy vs Grandpa)
  - o Challenge Coin Keychains
- What is the dollar amount the committee is working towards to cover the cost of four challenge coins over next four years?
- Keeping donation amount under \$50,000 makes financial reporting much easier for non-profit organization.
- Unanimous decision to move forward with Spirit Motto Items.
- Discussion ended at 1853 MST.

### **D. VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

- Committee Slide provided:
  - o 2027 Spirit Committee members can attend all parent liaison conferences.
- Parent Liaison provide exact number of coins to order.
  - o ~50-60 Exchange students to consider.
  - o ~175 Leadership & Legacy Club persons (nice to have but not required).
  - o Authorized to use envelopes with cadet names.
  - o Tracking Accountability - Deadlines to squadron leadership regarding delivery
- Historically, AOG holds excess coins. Suggestion that coins be held by AOG after 2027 Spirit Committee disbands. Discussion of having local parent (Paul Ferguson) hold until then. There is no opposition from committee if AOG does not approve.
- Parent Liaison team recommends NOT selling coins as it diminishes the value of honor. Paul Ferguson does not concur. This discussion has been tabled until next meeting.
- Parent Liaison group will meet at beginning of each semester.
  - o Outreach Parent Liaison will meet Jan/Feb for current squadron leaders.
- Discussion ended at 1858 MST.

### **E. OPEN TABLE**

- Susan Blankenship: Are we fundraising through FB or website?
  - o Catherine: FB is parents only making it difficult to share with family and co-workers. Prefers website.
  - o Monica and Jenna also prefer a website.
  - o Susan willing to head website.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 1800 MST via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Paul Ferguson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded and favored by all, motion carried at 1902 MST.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Elizabeth Ryan