

2027 Gold Spirit Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Board Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2023; 1800 MST
Zoom

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bianca Pankau

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 30, 2023, minutes. Jenna Boonzaaijer name needs to be corrected on all documents. Motion to approve minutes made by Steve Piel, seconded, and carried unanimously at 1802 MST.

FINANCIALS

- A. No addition or changes to any financial institutions.
- B. Finalization of Website Decision:
 - a. Website name confirmed as usafagoldspirit.afaparents.org.
 - b. Monica Saenz to also have admin rights.
 - c. Discussion whether communication email was working correctly. Reported issues of PayPal link not working; could be because it is a demo site or spam blocker.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. DESIGN COMMITTEE
 - a. Recognition Coin design has been approved by USAFA and all processes can move forward.
 - b. Patron levels of donors discussed by Susan Blankenship.
 - c. Keychains are still an option for fundraising.
 - d. Steve Piel presented a summary slide regarding who should receive or be able to purchase a recognition coin; Limited vs Broader Distribution.
 - i. Vigorous and full committee discussion of the pros and cons of Limited vs Broader Distribution. Points included past precedent of limited distribution to class cadets only as more of an “earned” mentality. Reasons for broader distribution included new AF leadership principles of inclusion as well as fundraising opportunities.
 - ii. First vote yielded a vote of 9 for Option 1 (Limited Distribution) vs 3 for Option 2 (Broader Distribution).

1. Option 1: Jenna, Kim, Monica, Katie, Carrie, Susan, Elaine, Sherri, Betsy
2. Option 2: Paul, Steve, Stacey
3. Catherine sent a private vote to Paul, thus it was not recorded.
- iii. There was further discussion, particularly from Paul Ferguson and Steve Piel, to better explain the purpose of the Recognition Coins and why they should be available for broader purchase by family and friends of USAFA cadets. Several board members commented that they did not understand those things during the initial vote and suggested they wanted to change their votes.
- iv. Paul Ferguson noted the extensive discussion consumed too much time, suggested the meeting be continued and asked board members to consider their vote during the rest of the meeting, and suggested a revote (second vote) at end of meeting. Catherine seconded this.
 1. Jenna Boonzaaijer expressed concern in writing that allowing a second vote after a big discussion is counterproductive to a committee that follows Robert's Rules. Specifically, she cited "Are we going always to allow for revotes? Which vote counts going forward? Will we always be able to call for a revote in the future?"
 2. Paul noted "It's my fault — sorry for letting us vote before everyone was ready." Paul committed to do better in the future.

B. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

- a. Elaine DeBono presented new graphics for use in sweatshirts, t-shirts, stickers, keychains etc.
- b. Committee voted on favorites.
- c. Family and friends would be able to shop through website and order direct through vendor.
- d. Elaine to confirm if there is a minimum for orders, designs, etc.

C. VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

- a. Discussion of I-day coins and their sale through the 2027 website.
- b. Minimum 100 coins must be ordered.
- c. Kim Cheri to collect money for coins and will then pay AOG. Kim Cheri will also be responsible for mailing coins.
- d. Several board members expressed concern that the Shipping & Handling price was not high enough to cover expense. Most vocal were Paul Ferguson and Steve Piel. Kim Cheri said she would cover any shortages in Shipping costs.

D. SECOND VOTE

- a. The second vote regarding Recognition coins resulted in a vote of 4 for Option 1 (Limited Distribution) vs 9 for Option 2 (Broader Distribution).
 - i. Option 1: Kim, Monica, Jenna, Carrie
 - ii. Option 2: Katie, Catherine, Elaine, Stacey, Paul, Steve, Sherri, Betsy
 - iii. Susan did not provide a written vote.

- b. Recognition Coins will be available for purchase by family and friends through the 2027 Gold Spirit Committee website.

OPEN TABLE

There was no discussion during the open table.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Wednesday, October 25, 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 1906 MST.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Elizabeth Ryan