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**Army-Navy 2015! Mark Your Calendars!**

December 12<sup>th</sup> marks the 116<sup>th</sup> meeting between the Naval Academy Midshipmen and the West Point Black Knights. The rivalry has Navy well in the lead with 59 wins, 49 losses, and 7 ties. Let's see about getting that 60<sup>th</sup> victory under our belts...



Join the USNA Alumni Chapter as we look to extend the current Navy winning streak to 14. As a bonus, a win over Army would also clinch the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for Navy.

This year's celebration will be held at the Sky Deck Sports Grille in the Mall of America. Here's 4 reasons why you and your family should attend:

1. \$20 a head gets you an all-you-can-eat buffet
2. Kids 6 and under eat free; reduced price for ages 7-12
3. Free bowling and games for the kids
4. Spouse not interested in the game? Let her shop while you watch the game on a wall of TVs

For more information or to register, go to <http://usnaaumw.com/Army-Navy-Football>



**Alumni Chapter Board Nominations Open**

Put your experience and leadership to work as a Upper Midwest Alumni Chapter Board member.

- President
- VP of Events
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Blue & Gold Liaison Officer
- Director, South Dakota

For more information or to submit your name, send an email to Craig Benson at [Treasurer@usnaaumw.com](mailto:Treasurer@usnaaumw.com).

Deadline is November 15, 2015 Elections

## Fun Facts about USNA Class of 2019

On 8 October 2015, Craig Washington (USNA '89) and Elizabeth Beedenbender, Engagement Ops, visited the Upper Midwest Alumni Chapter to give us an update from the alumni mother ship back in Annapolis. During their talk, they shared a profile of the USNA Class of 2019 profile. It's pretty impressive.

### USNA Class of 2019 Profile

- 17,125 applicants
- Starting class size of 1170 + 12 internationals
- 92% had a varsity letter
- SAT scores – highest in history
- 27% female – highest in history
- 36.5% diverse – highest in history
- Every congressional district was represented – first time ever

## 240th Navy Birthday Ball

October 17<sup>th</sup> marked the Twin Cities celebration of the U.S. Navy's 240<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Twin Cities Chapter of the Navy League—as they do every year—sponsored a fantastic celebration at the Airport Marriot Hotel with over 300 people attending. Navy and Marine Corps active duty and reserve units, including the Naval ROTC Unit from the University of Minnesota, the Navy Operations Support Center, Navy Recruiting District – Minneapolis, Marine Corps Recruiting Activity – Minneapolis, and many other organizations were well-represented.



In addition to a number of your Upper Midwest Chapter's board members showing the flag for Annapolis, the ball was also joined by the CO and members of the crew from the USS MINNESOTA, as well as Congressman Tom Emmer from Minnesota's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The keynote speaker and guest of honor for the evening was Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Policy, the Honorable Ms. Jodi Greene, a native of Northfield, Minnesota.

Ceremonies during the Navy Ball were marked by paying honor to those we've lost in conflict throughout the history of our nation, and for those who remain missing to this day. As always, the traditional cake-cutting ceremony was performed by the oldest and youngest navy members present: Don McCarthy, USNA '44, who will turn 94 next February, and Alison Skon, daughter of Brian Skon, Navy League President, who enlisted in September 2015.

## Let's Talk About That Survey

You may recall your USNA Alumni Chapter sent out a 10-question survey a few months ago to gather information about how to better serve you and your interests as alumni. 71 chapter members participated, from a pool of roughly 285. That's about twice the average response rate for an external survey, so we owe a huge "thank you!" to everyone who provided us their thoughts.

The survey results are being used to craft a Three-Year Strategic Plan for the Upper Midwest Chapter. More to follow on the Strat Plan in the January 2016 newsletter edition.

For now, visit the website to [see the full survey results](#).

## DUES—What Are They Good For?

It's that time of year again, DUES TIME.

Before you answer the title question by saying, "absolutely nothing." Let's take a look at what your \$25 in USNAAA dues paid for in 2015:

- **First-ever Annual Picnic** - Beer, soda, and catered food from Famous Dave's. We even gave away door prizes! All absolutely free for alumni and their families. This event alone is worth \$25!
- **Tri-Service Employment Hub** - At some point in your career you'll probably be looking for a job. There's a resource for that. Paid for in part by your dues.
- **USNAAA Website** - While all of your Board members work for free, it costs money to host a website and send out email notifications of all those alumni events. Your dues at work.
- **MN Student Leadership Seminar** - Every year, the West Point Society of Minnesota runs a day-long leadership event for hundreds of Minnesota students. This year, your chapter provided funding for the all-important Values Exercise.
- **Receptions** - We recently hosted a visit from the USNA Alumni Association to raise awareness of the USNA recruiting activities. Your dues paid for that meeting. Remember when you were applying to the Academy and attended an information reception—who paid for that? Probably an alumni group.

Bottom line: Every single penny of your dues is used to support grads or to recruit and develop the next generation of Naval Academy leaders.

[Go here to pay your 2016 dues!](#)



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Chapter President

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## Upcoming Events

November 12: [UnitedHealth Group Military and Veterans Career Fair](#)

November 15: Upper Midwest Chapter Board nominations due to [Craig Benson](#).

November 16: Minnesota Naval Services Leadership Summit. State-wide gathering of all naval organizations to coordinate how to advance public awareness of the naval services. Contact [JR Olson](#) for details.

December 12: Army-Navy Football Celebration at Mall of America

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## An Anthology in Support of a Veteran's Cause

Here's a way your reading habit can help support rescue dogs and veterans. *Tails of the Apocalypse*, an upcoming short story anthology, is donating a portion of their profits to Pets for Vets. Pets for Vets is a national non-profit that trains rescue dogs to act as companion animals for veterans with mental health conditions, such as PTSD.

Find out more at: <http://bit.ly/buy-tails-for-vets>



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