

Winter 2016

Chapter Officers

President
Jon Olson ('90)
jonolson1967@gmail.com

Vice President, Events
Chip Sharratt ('74)
sharrattcr@aol.com

Vice President, Membership
Chris Bentley ('79)
c.bentley@comcast.net

Vice President, Communications
David Bruns ('88)
david@davidbruns.com

Treasurer
Craig Benson ('91)
micra110@yahoo.com

Secretary
Peter Nickitas ('82)
peterjnickitaslawllc@gmail.com

Chapter Trustee
Ray Witter ('64)
raycwitter@gmail.com

The Supe is Coming to Minneapolis

On 5 March, your Chapter will host a breakfast discussion with Vice Admiral Walter E. "Ted" Carter, 62nd Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy. This is a rare chance for educators, candidates, parents and alumni to meet the man leading one of the premier institutions of leadership development in the country.



Today's Naval Academy - Focused on the Future

Saturday, March 5th 0830 - 1100

Minneapolis Golf Club

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Register at <http://usnaaumw.com/breakfastwithadmiral>

USNA Recruiting Update

It's that time of year again when appointment letters are being sent out to future midshipmen. In the Class of 2020 hopefuls, Minnesota had a total of 73 candidates, 27 of which "triple-Q'd" that is qualified academically, medically and physically. As of this writing, 12 offers have been issued by the Academy as well as one offer to attend NAPS. Seven candidates have accepted to date.

Q: What's the best way to recruit for the Naval Academy?

A: Have the prospective candidate meet an actual midshipman.

One way to meet a mid is through OPINFO, a program where midshipmen volunteers come home the weekend before Thanksgiving break in order to host information sessions about the Academy in their hometown. Minnesota had nine mids participate in OPINFO last November, including five from the Twin Cities and four out-state.

Three Minnesota mids were also on the radio with WCCO talk show host Al Malmberg, a former Blue and Gold Officer, to talk about their Academy experiences and career aspirations. For more information, contact Minnesota Blue & Gold Officer Mark Salmen (mjsalmen@aol.com)

Your Dues Dollars at Work

Why should I give the Naval Academy Alumni Association \$25 for annual dues?

Admit it. You've thought it.

Last month we talked about how the Annual Picnic was 100% FREE to all alumni and their families—surely worth the mere \$25 we're talking about—but let's suppose you're not able to attend the picnic because you don't live nearby or picnics just aren't your thing.

Here's another reason:

Whether you were a Navy lifer or five-and-out person, the common thread of our time at the Academy was leadership development. For most of us, leadership has defined our military and post-military lives.

We all know that the lessons of leadership need to start early and often. That's why your Chapter was so proud to be part of the Minnesota Student Leadership Seminar. Developed and run by the West Point Society, the MNSLS is a one-day intensive seminar that introduces Minnesota students and educators to what leadership development means to a service academy graduate. The eighth annual MNSLS, held last November, hosted over 100 students and faculty from 20 Minnesota high schools.

Your Chapter contributed \$1000 to sponsor the Values Exercise, which uses a deck of cards to help participants zero in on their core values.

Just another example of what your \$25 supports.

Minnesota
Student Leadership Seminar
www.minnesotastudentleaders.org

For more information about the MNSLS, please contact Doug Baden, West Point '88 at dabaden@gmail.com.

Upper Midwest Chapter Membership

- 650+ Alumni in the Upper Midwest region (Minnesota, North & South Dakota, Iowa)*
- 490 Alumni in Minnesota*
- 285 Active chapter members

* We recognize that if you don't live near Minneapolis, your opportunity to participate in chapter activities is limited. **That's why a Long Distance Membership is only \$10.**

Renew your membership today at

<http://usnaaaumw.com/Join-or-Renew>



The Minnesota Submarine League is Growing Their Board

The Minnesota Submarine League is seeking two new members for their Board of Directors, including a member of the USNA Upper Midwest Alumni Chapter.

The Sub League was formed to take ownership of the sail of the decommissioned *USS Minneapolis-St Paul* (SSN-708) for use as a local US Navy memorial. The group is partnering with Air Space Minnesota, a non-profit coalition vying to develop the Fort Snelling upper post as a museum and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educational site. Initial discussions include having the *USS Minnesota-St Paul* artifacts included in a life-sized Bow Wake Pool exhibit outside the museum.

For further information, contact Tom Weisen at tom.weisen@minnesotasubmarineleague.org.



Army-Navy 2015

The Twin Cities members of Upper Midwest Chapter gathered at the Mall of America Sky Deck Sports Grille & Lanes to witness this year's nail-biting win over Army. Nearly 60 people, including 29 grads, attended including representatives from the Navy League, the Minnesota Submarine League, Air Space Minnesota and USNA Parent's Association of Minnesota.

Brad Gawboy '81 (bottom right) even made the trip to Philly to see the game in person and visit his son, MIDN I/C Zack Gawboy.



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A Message from the Chapter President

The USNA Alumni Association – Upper Midwest Chapter has seen a significant transition over the course of the past few years, and I am honored to have been a part of that effort. Our chapter board redrafted a proposed set of new Bylaws, which were unanimously approved by our chapter's voting members, and we've expanded and enhanced our board representation as a result.

We now have not only the Minnesota Parents' Association president as a voting board member, which connects our chapter directly to the Midshipmen from our chapter's four-state region at the Naval Academy, but also with the parents' associations in Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

We also created board positions for individual state directors to represent the interests of our alumni in Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Our hope is that we can work with the state directors to craft events and provide other support which will be meaningful to our graduates in those states.

We've also incorporated the Chapter Trustee onto our board, a position we earned as a result of the national association's most recent triennial chapter census, which placed us as the 7th largest among all alumni chapters.

Finally, we've created a Blue and Gold Program Liaison Officer position to afford us direct connection with the Naval Academy's recruitment program – something few other chapters have created. In fact, the national association commented on the many initiatives we're pursuing, saying we're on the forefront of very creative thinking with regard to what alumni chapters should stand for, and how we operate.

It is always good to be the organization that is setting the standard for others to emulate!

The Trustee position is one I think we should strive to retain, and to do so, we need to increase our voting membership. Retaining a seat on the National Board of Trustees ensures we can influence what happens at Annapolis, and based on our chapter size - roughly 650 graduates in our four-state region - having such influence is a reasonable expectation. Keeping that seat is but one goal we've outlined in the Strategic Plan which the board just approved and is now on the website.

As the incoming president taking over from Alex Plechash, I'd like to end by taking this opportunity to thank Alex for his unwavering commitment to our chapter's mission and his exemplary leadership over the past eight years. Alex may be leaving the president's position, but he will remain on the board and be a trusted advisor to our new leadership team as we begin implementing our Strategic Plan over the course of the next few years.

I look forward to meeting all of you and I welcome your input at any time on how your chapter board can improve our service to you, to our community, to the Naval Academy, and to our nation.

Sincerely,

JON R. OLSON ('90)
Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret)
President, Upper Midwest Chapter