

From: Southern Arizona AOG soazaogpresident@gmail.com
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SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Hello Southern Arizona AOG,

A lot has changed in the world since the February newsletter hit the streets, to put it mildly.

This morning, as I was leaving to go to work, I walked to the other side of the house to say goodbye to our son Erik ('21). I found him in the office in ABUs, clean shaven, sitting in front of his laptop preparing to check in with one of his instructors for guidance on how the rest of the semester is going to play out.

USAFA, like most if not all other universities in the country, has emptied the campus in order to finish the semester online. The firsties stayed behind so that they can finish up and commission on the Hill as well as a handful of stragglers who had no other suitable options. The rest of them split to the four corners of the world to be participants in what is now a big experiment to see how difficult it is for a school that has zero experience with distance learning to create a program for it on the fly in the middle of a semester.

As for Erik, since I was wearing my uniform as well, I took it upon myself to give him an impromptu inspection to help ease the transition. You don't want to change too much too fast.

Founder's Day: I've been hyping Founder's Day for months, and right up until

about a week ago, I was still holding out hope that the 1st of May would be far enough into the future that we'd be on the back side of the virus curve and it could still go on. Unfortunately, I received word a few days ago that our guest speaker was cancelling all of her spring TDY travel plans. Although it's a completely moot point now, the speaker was going to be Brig Gen Michele Edmondson, the Commandant of Cadets, and the venue was going to be the Pima Air & Space Museum. Next year...

Class Reps: A big thank you to the following folks who have volunteered to be Southern Arizona AOG chapter class representatives:

Leigh Hunt '59

Chuck Kennedy '66

Warren Priddy '74

Bill Senn '78

Dom Domkowski '83

Jim Taylor '85

John Masee '86

James Thompson '94

Julian Pacheco '96

I've been updating the chapter's contact list based on the new list we received from the AOG for 2020. A big part of that was that I was cleaning out bad e-mail addresses, adding new people and soliciting class reps.

I got off to a running start, but then life got busy and it fell off my plate. Now that the virus is upending our lives, I'll crank up that effort again because it's more important than ever for folks who might be at risk to have a lifeline to call as a last resort. The class rep might wind up being that lifeline.

If you'd like to volunteer to be a class rep, please respond to this e-mail to let me know. If you forget, you'll see an e-mail from me sometime soon with a direct ask.

Food Bank: Warren Priddy ('74) is the chapter liaison with the Community Food Bank. As you can imagine, the Food Bank is a valuable resource for the community right now. If you'd like to volunteer to help them out, please e-mail

Warren directly at wfpriddy@gmail.com. He'll let you know what they need based on your availability, and he can tell you what rules they're operating under for COVID-19.

Habitat for Humanity Veteran's Build: I mentioned this in last month's newsletter. I don't have current information updated for the virus situation. Please e-mail Len Summers ('76) at cctscwbys@aol.com. He's the liaison with Habitat and can point you in the right direction.

Service Before Self: Jim Hogan ('71) e-mailed me earlier today and indicated that he's prepared to help out if someone needs it. He specifically mentioned delivering groceries or medicine if you're stuck in the house and can't get out. You can contact him at benhog6@yahoo.com. You can also simply reply to this e-mail and I'll make sure to put you in touch with someone who can help you out if I can't do it personally.

I'll close by cutting and pasting the body of a message Karina Ross sent to all of the chapter presidents today. Karina's title is Director of Constituent Relations at the AOG. She makes some good points and provides some excellent resources.

Take care of yourself, physically and mentally, and don't be afraid to reach out if you need help.

Dear Chapter Presidents,

The AOG continues to [monitor the Coronavirus](#). Our main priority is making sure everyone stays safe and healthy. We appreciate how patient everyone has been.

This situation is different than anything we have experienced. While you will be limited on what you can do for your Chapters, you can still keep everyone connected, support your local graduates and their families, and be a force for service. Below are some resources and ways you can help and stay connected during this time.

- Second, Third, and Fourth class cadets have been sent back to their

home towns. Due to this decision many cadets are navigating being back home and online school. During this time where we are practicing social distancing, we still want to support our grads and cadets virtually. If you haven't sign up on [ZoomieLink](#) we highly recommend you and your chapter members to sign up. On this platform cadets are being encouraged to reach out to grads in their community to make sure they have someone to talk to, get advice from, stay connected, etc. while they're away from USAFA in upcoming weeks or months. Attached is a guide to help you get signed up on ZoomieLink and how to connect with grads and cadets virtually.

- Many people are now quarantined. It certainly gets lonely staying home. Many, especially your most vulnerable graduates, could be secluded for a long period of time. They could really use a call to check in on how they are doing. Think about splitting up your Chapter roster and check in on everyone.
- While we urge you not to visit with each other, offering to drop off groceries, supplies, or medications on the front step for some of your more vulnerable constituents is okay as long as you take precautions and you are not sick.
- This is a great opportunity to get your Chapter more involved with your community and be a force for service. Collect canned foods or supplies for the local food banks (keep your distance when dropping off) – this would be consider hosting a service related event for Distinguish status.
- Many schools are closing, but the parents are still working. Homeschooling and working is not going to be easy! You can help virtually assist them by video tutoring the kids through their schoolwork while the parents make dinner, or in some rare instance, helping with childcare.
- Small business owned by graduates are taking a huge hit during this time. Please visit [ZoomieLink](#) or the [USAFA Careers and Networking Facebook Page](#) to see what businesses are struggling and how we can help. Also please post any information on grad owned businesses that need support as well.

For resources on healthcare, Tricare, mental health, and so much more please visit the ZoomieLink discussion board. [Click Here](#). Also attached to this email

VISIT THE ZOOMMEETING DISCUSSION BOARD. [CLICK HERE](#). ALSO ATTACHED TO THIS EMAIL ARE SOME SOCIAL MEDIA IMAGES YOU CAN SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS.

Please contact us if there is anything we can do for you!

Karina Ross | Director of Constituent Relations
Association of Graduates | U.S. Air Force Academy



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