

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
February 2001**

**MEMBERS ONLY--DARK AGES
APPRECIATION PARTY ON MARCH 25, 2001**

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

02/13 Chapter Board Meeting
02/16 February Luncheon speaker Chuck Bedo, Atlanta VA Medical Ctr
03/13 Chapter Board Meeting
03/16 March Luncheon
03/25 Dark Ages Members Only Party
04/17 Chapter Board Meeting
04/20 April Luncheon
05/04 Army-Navy Atlanta Golf Classic
05/15 Chapter Board Meeting
05/18 May Luncheon

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

First, an item of unfinished business. Back in the December Newsletter I wrote that I had contacted Senator Cleland, Senator Miller and Congresswoman McKinney expressing my concern regarding the reported failure to count military absentee ballots in Florida and elsewhere in the November national election. I promised to report back any responses I received. In early December I received a letter from Senator Max Cleland, who reports to share my concerns and stated:

"I have contacted the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to call for a public hearing to evaluate any discrepancies between the Department of Defense postal policies and the laws governing Florida's elections which may have prevented the counting of the votes of servicemen and women. I look forward to these hearings and will continue to review voting policies that affect service members to ensure that any existing barriers to their voting rights are removed."

Item #2 – the old "check's in the mail" routine – although in this case it's the long-awaited Year 2000 Chapter Membership Roster which you should have received if you were a Year 2000 dues paying member. If you haven't received your copy and think you should have, please let me know. Otherwise, for those of you coming aboard this year, there will be a Year 2001 Roster that will come out later in the year. Copies of the current edition are available for a nominal (\$10.00) charge.

Which leads me directly to Item #3 – the Year 2001 Dues Mailers – that should arrive in

the next two weeks. Please respond promptly to ensure your place in the prestigious Chapter Members section of the next roster. Also please notice that due to space limitations the response form in the mailer leaves out a lot of the information that is normally included in the Membership Roster. To do a complete job of updating your info, please go to the Chapter web page at www.usnaaaa.com and search out the data update form.

On the topic of membership, it is the policy of the Chapter that all Alumni living in our area, which essentially consists of the entire State of Georgia, are included in the Roster (to the extent that we have the information) and are invited to attend any Chapter function. Dues paying members are entitled to a copy of the Membership Roster as well as a printed Monthly Newsletter if desired. Additionally, dues payers get discount prices on some of our events, such as the Lobster Fest and last year's Tailgate Party at the GA Tech game, and of course they are entitled to vote in Chapter elections and other items of business.

In years past the principal purpose of the annual dues was to pay for the newsletter and roster printing and mailing. The roster is still a significant expense, but with the development of our web page – which is available to anyone who chooses to visit – the “electronic newsletter” option and our Chapter Email Service – it is no longer necessary to be a dues payer “to get the word.” I do believe it is important to join, however. The cost is nominal and yet I think it makes a statement of commitment to the Chapter, the Association and the Academy.

Additionally, as our printing and mailing costs have lessened somewhat, it has freed up money that has given us the ability to do things like make the donation we made to the USS COLE relief fund and the lunch we provided to the USNA Gospel Choir during their visit, a \$150.00 outlay that was very much appreciated.

It has been the desire, often expressed at Board Meetings, to do more for the membership, and one idea has been to hold a special “Members Only” dinner and annual meeting. We are introducing that event this year, and

while it is kind of short notice, Carl McCallum and Jim Ravenel have put together a special dinner to be held on Sunday evening, March 25th in the pavilion at the Lickskillet Farm Restaurant in Roswell. This is a very special place for what will be a very special evening. Please check the web site for details as they are posted, and plan to attend this celebration with us.

BEAT ARMY!!!

BobBush'65

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

This section in our chapter newsletter will make Chapter member announcements such as accomplishments by family members, special occasions (50-year anniversary), illnesses, and other appropriate information of interest to our members. Call me or e-mail it to me at jsolv@excite.com. If it is time sensitive give me the dates. This is neither an advertisement nor a marketing opportunity.

- The 5th Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic is planned for May 04, 2001 at The Commons Fort McPherson. This is a Friday with an 11:00 am Shotgun Start! Details to follow.

THE ACADEMY GOSPEL CHOIR

The Naval Academy Gospel Choir annual Atlanta-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day tour included performing at the historical site of Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church on Saturday afternoon. During this annual trip, the Choir celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by conducting various musical performances at local high schools and civic centers, in addition to ministering in song at churches in the local vicinity.

In addition to these activities, many Alumni joined the Choir members and staff for lunch. This was a joint effort between the Alumni Chapter, the Georgia Parent's Club and the local Navy League Council. The choir sang a warm-up for us after sharing BBQ sandwiches with us. The church singing was superb and

very well received by all who attended. The members were great ambassadors for our Academy.

LT EUGENE WRIGHT, USN, CLASS OF '96 **SPEAKER AT JANUARY LUNCHEON**

The Chapter played host to a direct representative of the Naval Academy at its January Luncheon at the Brookhaven Jocks & Jills. LT Eugene Wright, USN, is a member of the USNA Admissions Department who is permanently assigned to the Atlanta area as one of five Minority Admissions Counselors located in major cities across the country. While a dominant objective of LT Wright's job assignment is to find qualified minority applicants to the Academy, his ultimate goal is to support the challenge to the Academy of increasing applications from all sources. Accordingly, he can be called upon to assist with any and all qualified young people in the area.

A 1996 graduate of the Academy, LT Wright served on sea duty in USS COMTE DE GRASSE (DD 974) and USS THORN (DD 988) after graduation and completion of Surface Warfare Officer School. He assumed his current duties last November.

In pursuit of the applicants he seeks, LT Wright visits schools and Junior ROTC units around the area to let students know about the opportunities at the Academy and the career options that follow. He finds he has four hurdles to overcome when talking to most young people. First are the attitudes of the kids themselves who are often incredulous when he discusses the structure and discipline of Academy life. It is frequently difficult for them to see beyond the immediate to the opportunities that exist after graduation. Secondly, many of the same attitudes are shared by the parents who may have had little or no experience with the military or who see the military as dangerous or threatening. Too often, parents and students don't even realize that the Academy offers college degrees.

Additionally, the young people who could qualify for admission are being actively

recruited by other colleges and universities that offer a more "relaxed" lifestyle. And finally, those students who may be interested in the Academy are also being approached by the other Service Academies that also have convincing stories to tell.

On the topic of minority recruiting to the Academy, LT Wright made the observation that an objective of the Navy is to have the officer corps mix more closely match the mix of cultures in the enlisted ranks. Currently approximately 22% of enlisted personnel are minorities, with about 11% black and 7% Hispanic, while among the officers those numbers are 6.2% and 4.3% respectively.

LT Wright's number one problem is the dwindling awareness of the critical role the military plays in keeping our nation secure, and the valuable leadership experience that can be gained while serving. It is in promoting the Academy and the Navy in our community that we can best support his efforts, especially in our schools and other youth organizations.

LT Wright's offices are in the Naval Recruiting Depot in Marietta. He can be reached at (770) 612-4366, ext. 213, or on the web at usnasedet@hotmail.com.

The Chapter, especially the following attendees appreciated LT Wright taking time to join the Chapter: George O'Connell'35, Bill Wideman'35, Charles Hill'42, Bill Carver'42, Paul Smith'42, Art Warner'42, Bill Brewster'42, Jim Ravenel'45, Jim Hatch'47, John Stark'51, Walt Sheffield'51, Walt Coakley'54, Jim Todd'55, Bill Rentz'55, Frank Roescher'59, Charles Gardner'61, Art Butler'61, Dick Fitzgerald'62, Paul Hurst'62, Ted Healy'63, Lorie Moore'64, Bob Bush'65, Vernon Wright'67, Mrs. M. McQuinn ('67), Robert Schultz'71, Mitch Rowland'71, Lee Whitfield'71, Brit Watwood'72, Lynda and Bill Schenzel'75, Michael Hill'77, Gary Hoy'84, Eugene Wright'96, Elizabeth McQuinn'00

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON SPEAKER

The speaker for the February 16 Luncheon meeting will be Mr. Chuck Bedo. Chuck

graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland in 1986. He then completed a Masters degree in Health Services Administration from Georgia Washington University in 1988. He began his career in the Department of Veterans Affairs at Gainsville. In 1992 he was promoted to Asst Chief Human Resources Mgt. Services at Baltimore VA Medical Center. In July 1993 he was selected as Area Emergency Manager/Customer Services Coordinator at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.

He presently serves as Administrator, Medicine/Primary Care Service Line in Atlanta.

Members Only – Dark Ages Party

It is the Dark Ages, and in anticipation of spring, time to have a party! Your chapter Officers and Board have put together a party **just for you**, members of the USNAAA Atlanta Chapter and significant other. Sorry no Guests this time.

The Party will be held at the Lickskillet Farm restaurant in Roswell and will consist of a complimentary cocktail hour beginning at 6:00 pm followed by a buffet-style dinner from the

famous Lickskillet Farm menu at 7:00 pm. There will be entertainment – Atlanta’s own Jerry Farber comedian and musician extraordinaire, and music throughout the night by one of Atlanta’s best private DJ’s.

You must be a 2001 **dues paying member**, or an honorary member, to attend – space is limited...deadline for all reservations is March 17th (all checks must be received by this date). Your check is your reservation.

WHEN: Sunday evening, March 25th 6:00 pm

WHERE: Lickskillet Farm Restaurant
1380 Old Roswell Rd.
Roswell, GA 30077
(770) 475-6484

DRESS: Black tie optional

PRICE: \$60.00 per couple, \$30.00 for singles

Checks payable to: USNAAA Atlanta

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