

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

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Why the AOG Does Fund-Raising ?

Every year about this time, the subject of AOG fund-raising seems to surface. Why does the AOG raise funds? What are the funds used for? Many people support the fund-raising effort while many do not. Some are quite vocal in their opposition which is often a result of a lack of answers to the preceding questions. Here are some reasons why fund-raising is necessary.

The Association of Graduates is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with three basic missions: support the graduate community; support the needs of cadets; support the needs of the Academy.

The AOG raises funds to support graduates. The AOG maintains records and a database on all graduates with addresses, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses. The AOG keeps graduates connected by publishing this information annually in the *Register of Graduates*. The AOG keeps graduates informed on the state of the Academy and activities of graduates by publishing a quarterly magazine, *Checkpoints*. The AOG provides chapter and class reunion support as well as ring replacement, career transition and other associated services. The AOG makes Doolittle Hall available to members and graduates and provides funeral support to families of deceased graduates. All these activities are funded primarily by membership dues and hence the need to encourage, sustain, and grow memberships.

The AOG raises funds to support the needs of cadets. Today, just like any other university, the needs and desires of the school exceed the capacity of the primary funding source. Simply put, *the Air Force is no longer paying ALL the bills*. Basic costs are funded including instructors, classrooms, books, and room and board. Every university works to provide the "extras" through private sources. What are the extras? Needs range from simple enhancements to daily life to major projects which will continue to keep the Academy in a world-class status. Remember all the cadet activities you had when you were a cadet? The Academy busses took us on ski trips, Air Force Reserve and ANG crews scheduled training flights to take clubs and teams on trips, and the entire Wing would go to Chicago for the Army or Navy game. Those days are gone. Cadet activities need private support today. Academic chairs need to be funded to acquire top flight visiting professors. World class

guest lecture series and nationally recognized academic symposiums enhance the cadet experience and require private support. Each year the Academy prepares its Gift Needs List outlining and prioritizing current desires and requirements. For Academic Year (AY) 98/99, the Academy needs over \$1 million for current operations, \$37 million for capital projects, and \$28 million for endowments to fund certain needs in perpetuity.

The AOG raises funds to support the needs of the Academy. Over the last few years, the AOG has given over \$2,000,000 which the Academy has used to buy sailplanes, a Cessna 150 for the flying team, parachute equipment, and to fund cadet leadership programs, engineering projects, academic seminars, cadet clubs, and squadron improvement projects. The Sabre Society (our top end donor society for those willing to contribute \$1,000 or more a year) has raised more than \$1,000,000 in three years and has given \$400,000 to permanently endow the Commanders Leadership Enrichment Seminars. The Sabre Society funded the top three priorities in the AY 97/98 Academy Gift Needs List. The society currently has 273 members and continues to grow rapidly.

The AOG raises funds to provide services to the Academy and the Cadet Wing. The AOG makes Doolittle Hall available for inprocessing to provide an inviting, pleasant introduction to the Academy for cadets and their families. Doolittle Hall was built and is maintained solely by private funds. The AOG provides free telephone calls on Inprocessing Day and Parents' Weekend to keep cadets connected with their families who are unable to be with them. Doolittle Hall is available to cadets for official functions throughout the year. The AOG hosts a reception for graduating cadets and at least one squadron uses Doolittle Hall for its commissioning ceremony on Graduation Day. Three years ago the AOG assumed responsibility for design and procurement of class rings. Our efforts have produced a long term contract which makes rings 20% less expensive, provides a substantial donation from the company to the class for their ring dance, and gives cadets a free synthetic stone, insurance against loss, and other significant benefits. The AOG has also supported activities such as Parents' Weekend, the Women In Motion activities which honored the 20 years of women at USAFA, and

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Admiral Kirkpatrick Made Honorary AOG Member

On February 7, 1998, the Association of Graduates Board of Directors was pleased to award Honorary Membership to Rear Admiral John E. Kirkpatrick. Honorary memberships are awarded only to those individuals who "have rendered outstanding and conspicuous service to the Air Force and/or the Academy" and are limited to 20 living per-



AOG President and CEO Richard M. Coppock, '61, at right, presents the AOG Honorary Membership plaque to Rear Admiral (Ret) John E. Kirkpatrick at the ceremony in May.

sons. Requiring nomination by a board member and a unanimous vote of the board, honorary membership is awarded for the lifetime of the individual and confers all the benefits and publications of the association. Admiral Kirkpatrick's selection makes him one of 14 current honorary members, joining such well-known honorees as Brig Gen (Ret) Robert E. McDermott. Senator Barry Goldwater was formerly an honorary member. The award was made to Admiral Kirkpatrick on May 1, 1998 at the Falcon Foundation Board meeting at Doolittle Hall.

A 1931 Naval Academy graduate, Admiral Kirkpatrick has served the nation in peace and war. After World War II, he formed the Kirkpatrick Oil Company and from his success established trust funds for each of the service academies. Earnings from the trust have enabled the Air Force Academy to fund projects which might not otherwise have been possible. His gift to Carlton House, the residence of Academy Superintendents, helped restore a national landmark and retain an important part of the Academy's heritage, and his support for the Falcon Foundation has provided scholarships to numerous deserving young people. In addition to service academies, Tinker AFB has benefitted from the Oklahoma City Community Fund which he founded and which will continue in perpetuity. The planetarium and Air and Space Museum which he founded in Oklahoma City have promoted interest in aviation and space exploration and inspired thousands of children and adults. The Air Force and the Air Force Academy alike have benefitted from his outstanding and conspicuous service and the Association of Graduates is proud to confer Honorary Membership to Rear Admiral John E. Kirkpatrick.