



## Baltimore Chapter Association of Graduates U.S. Air Force Academy



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## Chapter News and Updates

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### January 2019

*It's cold outside...*

The dark ages have truly arrived, along with the chilling temperatures, the blustery wind, and the engaging antics of individuals who apparently can't drive if a single flake of snow is in the air. On the other hand, the air is crystal clear, the colors intense, and the natural beauty of our region is on full winter display. And before you know it, the heat and humidity will return along with the ospreys and the rockfish.



*January's done, three months til May*

### **What's in this edition:**

1. AOG Elections
2. Results of January BCAOG Elections
3. Upcoming Events for the Chapter

### **AOG Elections**

The annual elections for our Association of Graduates is right on top of us. The dates for the election are, as printed on the AOG website, "from February 4, 2019, through noon Mountain Time on March 18, 2019". Sometime within six weeks, the vast majority of us should find the ten minutes needed to cast a vote. Please do. There are some awesome candidates running for the Board, which is reason enough to vote. The link to the AOG election page is <https://www.usafa.org/election>.

There is also the issue of the proposed Bylaws change. This is the proposal to streamline the operations of the AOG and the Endowment by combining the senior executive of both organizations into one position, a single CEO, which would report to both boards. In my opinion, there is a lot of merit to this proposal, but not everyone agrees. At the end of this discussion, links are provided to help you gather the data to form your own opinion.

The proposed change is not a new initiative; we've had this vote before. The last time around, a group of alumni who were opposed to the proposal to create a single CEO led a boycott of the vote, the effect of which was to prevent a quorum from being achieved. Little known problem: current Bylaws require 25% of eligible voters to participate in order to achieve a quorum. (If you are thinking, "that's nuts!", you would be right. Best practices for very large not-for-profit organizations is more along the line of 10%.) So the results last time were that the proposed change to a single CEO was overwhelmingly approved by the people who did vote (86% in favor) but the effect of the boycott was that only 19% of the eligible members voted, thus not reaching a quorum.

Doing a little math here, but using hypothetical membership numbers. Let's say that the total number of current members of the AOG is 30,000. A quorum, or 25% of that number, would be 7,500. The boycott value of 19% would be 5,700. Persuading 1,800 people not to vote might be considered pretty impressive, except for the fact that all that was needed was to sow enough doubt that the vast majority of them simply decided to sit this one out.

My initial reaction to the concept of boycotting an election because you don't think that your position is going to win was a whole bunch like cheating. I asked the organizer of the boycott that very question. Here's our conversation (edited somewhat for clarity) so you can consider the proposition yourself.

*ME: First and foremost, I can't help but think that this effort is somewhat problematic. We will not lie, steal, or cheat, and this feels like cheating. How? Well, the vote is a yes-no vote, but you're asking people to take a third path, designed to deny a quorum. That feels very much to me like, "I'm going to take my ball and go home".*

*REPLY: What you've called the third path, not voting, is an intentional part of the Bylaws. The membership 'owns' the Bylaws...the Bylaws belong to us, not the Board. They can't change them, only we can. And our Bylaws intentionally provides the third path, any proposed change should be done only if enough informed members vote. So to not vote is a rationale option. But if you feel like you should vote because you have enough information then you should do so (I probably will)...you would be doing the right thing.*

I must say that I came away from the conversation (which was much, much longer) with a more nuanced appreciation for the rationale of the Our Academy-Our AOG group.

You all need to decide for yourselves what the right answer is. To get more information about the issues and the perspective of the current Board of Directors, see these links:

FAQ about the upcoming elections: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/aog-websites/usafa-org/documents/aog/elections/FAQ8.pdf>

The difference between the AOG and the Endowment: <https://www.usafa.org/AboutUs>

Past minutes and other documents of the Board of Directors (including financials): <https://info.usafa.org/display/BD>

## **January BCAOG Election Results**

The results of the BCAOG elections for officers and members of the Board of Directors are listed below:

### **Officers**

Guy Walsh, '79, President

Todd Raines, '85, Vice-President

Steve Berger, '76, Secretary

Lou Nolan, '86, Treasurer

Jeff Kubik, '93, Networking Coordinator

### **Board Of Directors**

Jeff Kubik, '93, *Chair of the Board*

Mark Zablodny, '71

Mike Cunningham, '76

Steve Miller, '77

Bill Barry, '79

Timothy Collins, '82

Kirk Hunigan, '82

Julie Ryan, '82

Todd Raines, '85

Raul Cisneros, '86

David Halla, '87

Joe Morgan, '59, Emeritus

As you can see, we have a very nice distribution of classes in our leadership team. Please visit the BCAOG website (<http://baltimore.usafachapters.org/leadership.html>) to see photos and bios of the the leadership team (still in work). This will be updated to provide links to social

media accounts (if they exist: not everyone participates in social media). It's a pretty impressive (and good-looking) group!

## Upcoming Events

Remember, you can always check our website for what's coming up.

<http://baltimore.usafachapters.org>

**FOUNDERS DAY PLANNING:** We will also be proposing locations and dates for the April Founders Day Dinner. Once we provide a date to AOG they will begin looking for one of the USAFA Top 3 for possible speakers. I will coordinate/deconflict with Alex and the National Capital Region which may help for us to get the Sup or maybe the Chief or VCJCS, Paul Selva before he retires...will keep you posted.

**Service Academies Global Summit 2019:** Annapolis, Maryland. June 11-13, 2019 at the Westin in Annapolis. This is an awesome conference: I've heard great things from previous attendees. This year, having it near in Annapolis, gives us the possibility of playing some role. Plan on attending if you can and if you would also be up for a little volunteer activity, drop an email and we will put you on the list. Details: "The purpose of the Service Academies Global Summit (SAGS) is to develop, inspire and promote Fellowship, Leadership/Professional Development and Service for the "super-community" of graduates worldwide from the five U.S. Service Academies." Registration opened on December 26. Early bird goes through the end of February. <https://serviceacademiesglobalsummit.com/>

**JSACS:** Don't forget the Joint Service Academy Cyber Symposium will be held at the Air Force Academy in conjunction with the NSA Cyber Exercise.

The joint Service Academies Business Professionals group continues to have periodic meetings in various locations in our area. This is great for both professional networking and for getting exposed to what's going on in the community. Have you signed up to get the emails? The group was founded by Paul Fallace, USNA '91, and is hosted at <https://www.meetup.com/ServiceAcademyBusinessProfessionals/>. If you would like to host an event or sponsor a networking opportunity, let us know.

## **BCAOG Organizational Structure**

The BCAOG is incorporated as a **tax-exempt** nonstock corporation. The stated purpose of the corporation is:

“To further the principles and welfare of the USAF Academy and its graduates through service to the community, country, and to fellow graduates.”

The official address of the organization is 821 West Benfield Road, Suite One, Severna Park, MD 21146. The official name of the corporation is Baltimore Chapter of the USAFA Association of Graduates, Inc. The registered agent of the corporation is Steven Berger, '76, who also serves as Secretary. The following individuals currently hold leadership positions in the corporation.

**President:**            **Guy Walsh, '79**  
Vice-President:        Todd Raines, '85  
Secretary:             Steve Berger, '76  
Treasurer:             Lou Nolan, '86  
Networking Coordinator: Jeff Kubik, '93  
**Chairman of the Board:**        **Jeff Kubik, '93**

### Board Members

Mark Zabloutny, '71  
Mike Cunningham, '76  
Steve Miller, '77  
Bill Barry, '79  
Timothy Collins, '82  
Kirk Hunigan, '82  
Julie Ryan, '82  
Todd Raines, '85  
Raul Cisneros, '86  
David Halla, '87  
Joe Morgan, '59, Emeritus

Officers serve yearly. Members of the Board serve terms of three years.

### **To submit material to the Newsletter:**

simply email [julieryan@julieryan.com](mailto:julieryan@julieryan.com) or use the form on the BCAOG website.

<http://baltimore.usafachapters.org>