



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



Chapter News and Updates

November 2018

It's the most wonderful time of the year.

The warmth of Thanksgiving over, we move into the holiday and traveling season, as families and loved ones gather to celebrate and enjoy the ties that bind. We remember those who went before, cherish those who are with us now, and anticipate the promises of the future. One of the traditions of the Baltimore Chapter at this time of year is to participate in the Wreaths Across America charity, which sponsors wreaths to be laid on graves at Veterans Cemeteries nationwide. You, who are the Chapter, sponsored 96 wreaths this year! And many of us will gather on December 15th to participate in the laying of the wreaths. In this act, we honor and remember our veterans while living in the now and looking to the future. Join us if you can; be with us in spirit in any event.

A Joyous (and Safe) Holiday Season to All

What's in this edition:

1. Chapter Website
2. Chapter Business Meeting with elections (Update)
3. Getting Out to Enjoy Maryland
4. Upcoming Events

Chapter Website

The dream has become a reality: we have a website. <http://baltimore.usafachapters.org>

It has long been a desire to have a Chapter website but when to find the time to build it? Not to mention maintain. The AOG has taken steps to make it easy, including having a staff member

who understands layout, has an artistic eye, and is willing to spend hours on the phone. A big shout out to Devin Bertelsen (who officially is the Young Alumni Engagement Coordinator for the AOG) for all of her help in finalizing the Baltimore Chapter website. And a big thank you to Mike Hammond, '88, for sanity checking the design implementation.

What's needed: your input. Now that we have the site up and operational, we need content. Our job is to network, exchange info, and help each other. If you have material to provide, please do so. Things like celebrations, community affairs, employment opportunities, restaurant reviews, advance notice of serious construction, training events, etc, are all fair game. Email julieryan@julieryan.com with your input. **Or** you can simply use the "contact us" form that is on the website: no need to remember anyone's email address. When you think of something, just surf on over to the website, plop your idea into the form, and hit send. The content of the form will be delivered to both Jeff Kubik (Chapter Networking Coordinator) and Julie Ryan.

Chapter Business Meeting with Elections

So we missed November 15th. In retrospect, that was pretty predictable, what with Thanksgiving and all. Next year, we're going to try for October. But in the meantime, we still need to have the meeting. Guy Walsh, '79, Chapter President, is working to arrange a venue in January. Stay tuned for details, which will be replicated on the BCAOG website.

What goes on at a Chapter Business Meeting? It's pretty simple: we review the year, talk about what we accomplished and our plans for the coming year, and hold elections for the officers and available Board positions. (The current list of officers and members of the Board are always included at the end of these newsletters for your ease of reference.)

Do you know someone who should be considered for a position with the Chapter, either officer or board member? Maybe yourself? If so, please email Steve Berger, our Chapter Secretary. His email is [steven.m.berger <at> outlook.com](mailto:steven.m.berger@outlook.com).

Oh: we also eat, drink and be merry in the best tradition of our Academy heritage. The tales that are told... the memories that are revived... the friendships that are rekindled... the new friendships that are forged. It's a special time. Join us, won't you?

Getting Out to Enjoy Maryland

This area of the country can be a nightmare of work and commuting, with family and community needs layered on top of all that. It is also an amazingly beautiful area of the world, filled with wonders, both natural and man-made. One of the really nice things about Maryland is the commitment to parkland and wildlife reserves. Chances are that there is a park fairly near to where you live or work that you may not even know is there. Popping in for a little bit of tree-

cleaned fresh air and a bit of only slightly maintained nature can be a 15 minute break that can make all the difference in the world to your mental health and appreciation for the goodness that life brings. There are the bigger state parks, like Sandy Point, but the smaller county parks are real gems that deserve your attention. Here's a little inspiration to get out and explore.

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County has four regional parks, many paths and trails, and a variety of community parks. The county offers a frequent visitor pass for regional parks. It only costs \$30 per year and covers all four of the regional parks. You can buy them at the gates to each park, but you can also give them as gifts. Learn more at <https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/annual-park-permits>.

A lesser known but absolutely amazing county park in Anne Arundel is Fort Smallwood Park, which is one of the four regional county parks. It gets less attention than Downs Park, which features concerts in the summer, or Quiet Waters Park, which hosts many community events, but it features some amazing views of Baltimore and rich fishing grounds. There is also a very large pavilion that can be reserved for group affairs. To get to Fort Smallwood Park, simply drive to the end of MD 173 (aka Fort Smallwood Road).

To find a park near you, including the amazing Patuxent Wildlife Refuge or Thomas Point Park, check out this resource: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/parks/index.html>

Howard County

Howard County apparently has a thing for trees. Specifically for champion trees. Not only is there a list of where you see award-winning trees, but there is also a process for you to nominate a tree for an award. Check out more at <http://www.howardcountyforestryboard.org/index.cfm?objectid=994CD6D0-7D46-11E4-98CE0050560F037A>.

Howard County also has 38 parks. One of the most intriguing is the Patapsco Female Institute, located in Ellicott City. As noted on the website:

Situated on a hilltop overlooking the Patapsco River Valley, The Patapsco Female Institute was founded in 1837 as an academy of higher learning for young women in a time when it was uncommon for girls to learn math and science, subjects that were emphasized here. The stabilized ruins of the Greek revival structure are open for tours, and serve as a beautiful setting for special events including weddings, receptions, camps, and open-air theatre.

Find out more about Howard County parks at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Recreation-and-Parks/Parks-and-Planning/Park-Directory>.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County seems to make the news more often than not for a limited supply of soccer fields. While this may be true, more conventional parks abound. A gem hidden in plain sight can be found at Beret Neighborhood Conservation Area in Aspen Hill. It is 3.6 acres of unspoiled nature with woods, a stream, and walking paths. There are also a variety of activities, ranging in structure from very to not very much, offered through the county park system. Find out more at <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/special-events/>

Prince George's County

PG County seems to specialize in very large parks. Consider the 150 acres that comprise Fairland Regional Park in Laurel. Or the 690 acres that comprise Cosca Regional Park in Clinton. If you want room to roam, clearly this is the place to go. There are also more than 90 miles of trails you can hike or bike, and in some cases trot, in PG county. Find out more at <http://www.pgparcs.com/186/Our-Story>

Calvert County

Calvert County is home to one of the most interesting museums in the area. The Calvert Maritime Museum (<https://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com>) is a definite must-go if you have kids: they can touch live horseshoe crabs there, as well as see a prehistoric shark jaw of epic proportions. Calvert County is home to cliffs along the Chesapeake Bay that are renown for the fossils that are stored for eventual discovery, many of which make their way to the museum. It's a plus to visiting Solomons Island, which is fun in its own right.

Upcoming Events

Right now, we are focused on the Business meeting, noted above, but it is also time to start thinking about stuff to do this year. Anyone interested in a potluck picnic in February?

Or dinner at Hemingway's? <http://hemingwaysbaybridge.com>

How about a no-host social at Nick's? <http://www.nicksoysterbar.com>

Also, we need to think about Founders' Day. Who wants to be on the committee? Email!

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/>

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ServiceAcademyBusinessProfessionals/. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 11, at 7:30 am. It will be held at US Naval Academy Alumni Association and will feature short talks by Joe McInerney (N'91) and possibly someone else. These happen regularly, so consider attending one or more of these meetups.

Would you like to host an event or sponsor a networking opportunity? Let us know!

Contributing Material to the Newsletter

Do you have news to share? Looking for some collaboration? Want to host a party or get together? Let me know and I'll publish it here and/or on the website. You can email me at julriyan@julriyan.com.

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.

Acting 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

Julie Ryan, '82
Bill Barry, '79
Joe Morgan, '59
Kirk Hunigan, '82
Raul Cisneros, '86
Mike Cunningham, '76
Steve Miller, '77
Mark Zlabotny, '71
Tim Collins, '82

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