

Dear Parents,

At our last meeting we met with Jim Tobin '77, President of the USMMA Alumni Association and Foundation. Jim came to answer our questions regarding the carbon monoxide poisoning. We met at the Museum and had a very large turnout of parents.

Jim acknowledged that the parents are rightly very upset with what happened, but stressed that their anger should not be directed at the National Parent Association as they have limited influence in these matters on campus. He mentioned that the Alumni website put out a FAQ page, which we have forwarded to you previously.

Jim said that there were no CO detectors installed when this event took place and that the Academy, as a Federal facility, did not have to comply with NYS building codes, which would have mandated CO detectors be installed within 15 feet of each midshipmen's room. Subsequently, each midshipmen's room now has detectors.

Jim did not know why CO detectors had not previously been installed and the Foundation is asking many hard questions regarding the entire episode. The Alumni are also concerned that there are other safety issues that exist that we don't know about. Marad, KP and the Federal Government are working to find out what went wrong here, including speaking to the Ass't Superintendent for Facilities at the Academy.

Jim explained, that luckily, the CO was mixed with other gases and some type of odor which did alert the students that something was wrong. Without that, CO is odorless, colorless and can be deadly without the detectors. We were told that there was some type of malfunction with the hot water heating system. The faulty equipment has been removed. It was mentioned that the students did a wonderful job getting everyone out and recognizing the danger and for that everyone is very grateful.

Jim stressed that the Foundation is seeking answers and that people will be help responsible adding, thank goodness, no one was hurt. CO detectors have now been hard wired into the mechanical rooms in all the buildings and on the first floors, in addition to the detectors given to the mids to plug into their rooms. The new CO detectors have been tested and are working.

All CO questions were asked/answered at this point and Jim opened the floor to any other questions. Jim also stressed that he would be willing to speak to any parent at any time in the future.

A question was asked about the search for the new superintendent. Jim admitted that the Alumni and other KP stakeholders are worried about who might want the job after the events of the last 3 years. He and the Alumni are actively trying to put forth names of individuals who would be aggressive advocates for the Academy and the students, but the Alumni is worried about who might be picked after what happened to Admiral Greene. Jim's opinion is that KP needs a strong leader who can deal with the ways of Washington, but will have Kings Point's students foremost in his or her sights. The Alumni were very disappointed to lose Adm. Greene and felt that he had all the components to lead the Academy forward. While the Alumni would love to see a Kings Pointer in the job, they would be willing to accept and help anyone with the right credentials and strength of will to take on the task. Jim reiterated that neither he nor the Alumni know why Admiral Greene was fired.

The closing of GMATS, the removal of the Kings Pointer, and the announced closing of Melville Hall in October were discussed. The Alumni Foundation is disappointed that MARAD (the Maritime Administration) has taken the legal position that certain activities on campus, such as GMATS, are contrary to the recommendations of the GAO financial report. The Foundation believes that MARAD's interpretation of the report is flawed, especially since the other academies operate with activities funded through Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentalities, also known as NAFI's. GMATS and Melville Hall were deemed not to be approved NAFI's. The Alumni Foundation is very opposed to closing GMATS, especially since they make money and pay their own expenses, according to Jim. In addition, GMATS raises the visibility of the Academy and brings much industry attention and involvement to the campus. The Alumni Foundation is working through supporters in Congress to get GMATS restored to Kings Point and have it operate as a 501 c (3) tax entity.

The issue of the Kings Pointer was discussed also. Acknowledging that the Kings Pointer was not cost effective to run, Jim stressed that no one has a real "Plan B" to make up for the loss of this training vessel for the students. A training tug was mentioned by Dr. Kumar according to Jim, but at this time nothing has been determined to replace the Kings Pointer. Marad has said that the Kings Pointer is getting some type of overhaul and will be going to Texas A&M to be used by their maritime school.

The replacement of Mallory Pier is supposed to begin in the Spring, but it is already at least one year delayed in starting.

While Kings Point has received an increase in its 2012 budget to \$85 million from \$74 million, it is still not enough to bring the facility up to the standard of the other academies, especially after years of underfunding. Jim stressed that parents and other interested parties must continue to seek support from their congresspeople and senators to build advocates for the Academy in Congress. Our strength, according to Jim, is in Congress and its ability to fund what is needed at Kings Point. Jim encouraged all parents to meet, if possible with their representatives and lay out the Academy's case. (See the Alumni Foundation website for input and "talking points".) Certainly, the recent CO problems and near tragedy underscore the lack of maintenance at Kings Point and is an excellent example to point out to legislators.

The Strategic Plan, which figured foremost in the "Red Sky At Morning" report is about to start. (The report can be read online - google the title and USMMA.) The Academy was unable to accept the funds for the Plan from the Foundation per MARAD's lawyers and their interpretation of the GAO report and the taxpayers will now have to foot the entire bill for the Plan said Jim.

Jim has requested that parents contacted by "Newsday" have no comment regarding the CO problem. Parent Liaison Catherine DeCoursey, who was a wonderful addition to the KP family, has decided to leave the Academy for personal reasons, mostly the long commute to Kings Point. Ass't Superintendent Rospars has assured the National Parents Association and the Alumni Foundation that Catherine will be replaced. The Parent Liaison is invaluable in passing information between the Academy and the parents.

Bob Leary then spoke and told the membership that the Holiday Party for the regiment went very well, as did the All Academy Ball. All first classmen received a "Challenge Coin" at the Ball which included their school ring design for 2012.

Parent Anne Garger has generously volunteered to keep up the NY Parents website. Please check the site for information. We are most grateful for her help.

In the past the NY Parents provided donuts for the entire regiment during exam week, but Delano Hall reported to us that the students did not leave the area where the donuts were served in good shape. Consequently, the staff has asked us not to serve the donuts. In lieu of the donuts, the Cookie Cafe parents have kindly agreed to add exam week to the CC schedule (usually there was no CC that week), so the students will be able to get their fill of "treats". In addition, the

membership agreed and voted to give Cookie Cafe \$ 600 toward their expenses, whether it be to purchase paper goods for CC or to buy additional cookies if not enough can be obtained through the regular bakers. Please check the Cookie Cafe website if you would like to help bake during exam week. Baking is done at your home and mailed to a "receiving parent" - NY mom Mary Jane Richardson. www.kpcookiecafe.com

Finally, Alumni Foundation President Jim Tobin encouraged all parents with any questions to contact him about anything. His contact information is:

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Respectfully submitted,

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